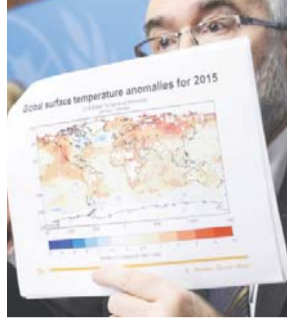




New mechanism
to handle
absconding
reports soon



2015 set to
be hottest
year on
record: UN



The Real Fouz:
Alarming
increase in
negativity



Suarez, Messi
hit doubles
as Barca
rout Roma



150 FILS
NO: 16709
40 PAGES

GULF BRACES FOR AUSTERITY AS OIL INCOME SLUMP BITES

GCC STATES FACE RECORD DEFICIT OF \$180BN IN 2015



Min 10°
Max 25°
High Tide
12:40 & 23:33
Low Tide
06:12 & 18:10

OPEC TO STAY THE COURSE DESPITE FEARS OF \$20 OIL

LONDON/DUBAI: OPEC is determined to keep pumping oil vigorously despite the resulting financial strain even on the policy's chief architect, Saudi Arabia, alarming weaker members who fear prices may slump further towards \$20. Any policy U-turn would be possible only if large producers outside the exporters' group, notably Russia, were to join coordinated output cuts. While Moscow may consult OPEC oil ministers before their six-monthly meeting next week, the chances of it helping to halt the price slide remain slim.

"Unless non-OPEC say they are willing to help, I think there will be no change," said a delegate from a major OPEC producer. "OPEC will not cut alone." When the exporters' group last met in Vienna in June, Saudi oil minister Ali al-Naimi and those from other wealthy Gulf states could barely hide their jubilation. OPEC's historic decision in Nov 2014 - to pump more oil and defend its market share against surging rival suppliers - was working, they proclaimed as crude traded near \$65 per barrel. Six months later, it has hit \$45, down from as much as \$115 in the middle of last year.

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DUBAI: A worker fills up a car at a petrol station on Tuesday. — AFP

KUWAIT: Faced with heavy losses from low oil prices, Gulf states have embarked on belt-tightening measures to cut spending and boost non-crude revenues, but analysts warn much more needs to be done. After more than a decade of abundant surpluses thanks to high oil prices, the six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states are projected to post a combined record budgetary shortfall of \$180 billion in 2015 and the drought is expected to continue for years. Some countries have already cut subsidies, while others are considering measures to reduce their spending.

International Monetary Fund chief Christine Lagarde told GCC finance ministers in Qatar this month that "global energy prices could remain low for years" and urged them to adjust their budgets. Lagarde warned that the GCC, which has relied on energy income for 90 percent of their revenues, should reduce dependence on oil and gas. In 2014, GCC states - Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates - posted a small surplus of \$24 billion, down from \$182 billion the previous year, according to IMF figures.

Each of Bahrain, Oman and Saudi Arabia ended 2014 in the red for the first time since the global financial crisis in 2009. World oil prices have dropped by more than 50 percent since June 2014 and the IMF has projected that it will result in a \$275 billion drop in GCC revenues this year. But having amassed a wealth of around \$2.7 trillion over the past decade, the IMF advised GCC states to take a gradual approach to implementing reforms and diversifying the economy.

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RAINS BRING QATAR TO NEAR STANDSTILL FLOODS HIT SAUDI ARABIA

DOHA: Qatar was hit by more than a year's worth of rain in several hours, while in neighboring Saudi Arabia one person was killed during flooding yesterday. Roads in Doha were blocked as overnight rain made many near impassable for commuters. Schools and malls

closed as the rain even forced the US embassy in Qatar to shut down. Worst hit seemed to be the area around Doha's Hamad International Airport, where almost 80 mm of rain fell, according to the Qatar Meteorology

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RIYADH: Vehicles are seen submerged in water on a flooded highway in western Riyadh following heavy rainfall across most of Saudi Arabia yesterday. — AFP

OBAIDI OVERSEES KEY HEALTH INITIATIVES



KUWAIT: Health Minister Dr Ali Al-Obaidi meets British Ambassador to Kuwait Matthew Lodge during a joint steering committee meeting yesterday.

By Dr M Ziad Al-Alyan

KUWAIT: Health Minister Dr Ali Al-Obaidi attended a joint steering committee meeting yesterday, which is part of a government-to-government agreement between Britain and Kuwait to increase collaboration in trade between the two countries in multiple sectors including healthcare. In an exclusive interview with Kuwait Times, Dr Obaidi stated that his attendance was to personally follow up on the progress of certain projects.

One of the most exciting of these is the electronic linking and management of patient data

between the health office in Kuwait and more than 200 clinics and hospitals around the world including those in the UK, US, Germany and France. This system will allow for rapid referrals to be made between Kuwait and any centre in the world. The system will also allow for patients' reports and data to be shared by the relevant sides securely and quickly.

This will greatly reduce loss of files and bank guarantee letters along with vital diagnostic reports, which lead to significant delays in admission and treatment. The project will significantly improve the experience of patients and relatives and will significantly reduce costs.

Dr Obaidi insisted that such projects are vital for providing a better journey for the patients. The minister also discussed several other collaborations with reputable British health organizations.

The minister's bold approach in improving the health sector in Kuwait is laudable. The UK is an old friend of Kuwait and is known to have some of the best medical facilities in the world. This along with the easy access Kuwaitis have to Britain and the shared language makes UK the perfect partner. Most people in Kuwait hope to see many of these endeavors come to life in the near future.

DEMAND SURGES FOR US WEAPONS

WASHINGTON: The US government is working hard to ensure quicker processing of US foreign arms sales, which surged 36 percent to \$46.6 billion in fiscal 2015 and look set to remain strong in coming years, a top Pentagon official said. "Projections are still strong," Vice Admiral Joe Rixey, who heads the Pentagon's Defense Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA), told Reuters in an interview late on Monday. He said the agency was trying to sort out the impact of a much stronger-than-expected fourth quarter as it finalized its forecast for arms sales in fiscal 2016, which began Oct. 1.

The fight against Islamic State militants and other armed conflicts around the globe were fueling demand for US missile defense equipment, helicopters and munitions, Rixey said, a shift from 10 years ago when the focus was on fighter jets. "It's worldwide. The demand signal is coming in Europe, in the Pacific and in Centcom," he said, referring to the US Central Command region, which includes the Middle East and Afghanistan.

Continued on Page 15



DOHA: A general view shows the entrance to the Doha City Center shopping mall in the Qatari capital on Tuesday. — AFP

'BACHELOR BAN': QATAR MULLS FAMILY MALL DAYS

DOHA: Qatar's only directly elected body is to discuss introducing family-only days at major shopping malls in a move dubbed a "bachelor ban" that is likely to restrict access for foreign laborers. What sounds like an innocuous idea is proving highly contentious and threatens once more to expose the 2022 football World Cup host's fraught relationship with its vast foreign workforce. The proposal, which will be discussed by the Central Municipal Council (CMC) on Dec 1, would restrict entrance to the country's eight biggest malls to families only on one day each weekend, either Friday or Saturday.

Many blue-collared male workers who have moved to Qatar alone, sometimes leaving behind families, would in effect be banned from entering the nation's most popular malls, potentially on the only day of the week they get to relax. The proposal is being championed by a CMC member, Nasser Bin Ibrahim Al-

Mohannadi, who claims the presence of the male laborers in the malls is intimidating for locals, especially women.

"Qatar is a family-based society, and it is the right of families to have a day especially for them," he told AFP. "Malls are not just for shopping but also for entertainment and family gatherings." Mohannadi represents the coastal city of Al-Khor, around 50 km north of the capital, Doha. He said locals there had complained to him about the "large number" of laborers gathering in one of the city's malls.

His solution was to revive the idea of a "family day", a policy previously in place but which had fallen out of favor because it was not enforced. Mohannadi has the backing of one of the two women who sit on the 29-member CMC, Sheikha Al-Jufairi, who described it as "an absolutely essential requirement". "Families are complaining that they cannot enter the big

Continued on Page 15

SYRIA CRISIS AGGRAVATED BY TERRORIST GROUPS: FM

KUWAIT: First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah yesterday spoke of tremendous challenges that resulted from the Syria crisis. He said that the crisis was extended beyond Syria at the hands of terrorist groups such as the Islamic State (IS) that came to pose a real threat to the region and the world at large.

During a meeting with the chairman and members of the Federation of Arab News Agencies (FANA), Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled stressed that there is no other way but a political solution to the crisis to preserve what remains of Syria.

Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled pointed to the deteriorating humanitarian situation resulting from the crisis, with huge numbers of the Syrian internally displaced, or have already fled the country. He said that Kuwait hosted the First, Second and Third International Humanitarian Pledging Conference for Syria, to help the Syrian people. Up to \$8 billion was collected through the three events.

A fourth conference will be held in London soon, co-chaired by Kuwait, Britain,

Germany and Norway, seeking to get the world involved in seeking a solution to the Syria crisis. In a reply to a question on the recent downing of a Russian jet by Turkey, the First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister said that Russia's intervention has further complicated the situation in Syria.

For Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled, what happened was expected, and further complicated the situation in the region. Yet, he hoped wisdom would be triumphant, urging directing all efforts to assist the Syrians. Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled referred to recent talks by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and Russian President Vladimir Putin, saying that the Syrian issue featured high on the agenda of the talks. They focused mainly on the necessity of a peaceful solution, to avoid a collapse of Syria which will be "devastation for all."

The Syrian people have been facing five years of destruction but they insist on determining their own future, he said. The Foreign Minister urged more efforts to implement what has been agreed upon during the recent Vienna talks on Syria. — KUNA



KUWAIT: His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets Nicaragua's Vice-President General Moises Omar Hallelevens Acevedo. — KUNA

CROWN PRINCE VISITS NICARAGUAN VP

KUWAIT: His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah visited Nicaragua's Vice-President General Moises Omar Hallelevens Acevedo at the guests' residence at Bayan Palace yesterday. During the meeting, both sides reviewed bilateral relations between the two countries and ways of enhancing them in addition to issues of common concern.

The meeting was attended by the Advisor at His Highness the Crown Prince's Diwan and head of the mission of honor Dr Humoud Mohammad Al-Otaibi, the Crown Prince's Diwan Chief Sheikh Mubarak Al-Faisal Al-Saud Al-Sabah, the Crown Prince's Protocol Chief Sheikh Mubarak Sabah Al-

Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah, and Assistant Foreign Minister for the Americas, Reem Al-Khaled. Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown Prince received Minister of Commerce and Industry Dr Yousef Al-Ali accompanied by former Qatar's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Energy Abdullah bin Hamad al-Attiyah, Qatar's Minister of Energy and Industry Mohammed Bin Saleh Al-Sada, Saudi Minister of Commerce and Industry Tawfiq bin Fawzan Al-Rabiah and Oman's Commerce and Industry Minister, Dr Ali bin Masoud Al-Sunaidi, on the occasion of holding the 15th industrialists' conference, themed "foreign investment and direct impact on GCC

industries'. His Highness the Crown Prince warmly welcomed the ministers and eminent guests, wishing them a pleasant stay in Kuwait and further success in the conference.

Also yesterday, His Highness the Crown Prince received His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah, as well as Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah. — KUNA



KUWAIT: First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah is pictured during a meeting with the chairman and members of the Federation of Arab News Agencies. — KUNA

SCIENTIFIC CENTER RELEASES FOUR TURTLES INTO THE SEA



KUWAIT: Kuwait Scientific Center's Board Chairman and CEO Mijbil Al-Mutawa participates in the campaign. — KUNA

KUWAIT: Kuwait Scientific Center, affiliated to Kuwait Foundation for Advancement of Sciences (KFAS), has recently released three green turtles and a hawksbill turtle into the sea, putting the animals back in their natural habitat in the Kuwait waters.

Board Chairman and CEO Mijbil Al-Mutawa said in a press release yesterday that re-introducing the turtles to their natural habitat serves the prime goal to support and preserve the Kuwaiti marine envi-

ronment. "The operation for caring and curing turtles dates to three years ago when marine environment activists and fishermen brought those injured turtles to the center," Mutawa explained.

He added that since the opening of the center in 2000, it has provided treatment for many injured or sick turtles, birds and other animals. Turtles have an essential role in maintaining the marine eco system. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah and several European ambassadors in Kuwait discussed yesterday the current regional and international developments. Several senior officials of the Foreign Ministry were present in the meeting. — KUNA

GCC TOP LEGISLATORS CONCLUDE 9TH MEETING

FIGHTING TERRORISM REQUIRES 'BATTLE OF IDEAS': GHANEM

RIYADH: The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Speakers of Shura, House of Representatives and National Assemblies concluded their 9th regular meeting yesterday. The final communique embraced many decisions, most importantly: combating terrorism, which will be the focal point of discussion in future meetings.

Participants in the meeting unanimously expressed a strong condemnation of terrorism everywhere, stressing the importance of protecting the sovereignty of the GCC nations. The communique also tasked GCC parliamentary committees to study a number of laws and legislations regarding commercial agencies in order to promote industrial projects.

It also approved a work plan to enhance ties with the European Parliament, as well as parliaments of Latin America in the year 2016. The meeting saw the participation of Speaker of Kuwait National Assembly Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem, MPs Ahmad Suleiman Al-Gudaiibi, Ahmad Al-Enezi and National Assembly's Secretary General, Allam Ali Al-Kanderi.

Positive results

Meanwhile, Ghanem described the meeting as "replete with positive results." Numerous issues were discussed in the final meeting where it was agreed that GCC heads of legislative bodies would deal with these issues in concert with GCC leaderships, Ghanem told reporters after the meeting. "We wish that ideas arrived at in



RIYADH: National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem attends the 9th GCC Speakers of Shura, House of Representatives and National Assemblies meeting. — KUNA

the meeting would find grounding in reality enabling the average GCC citizen to eventually benefit from them," he said.

He praised the solidarity tangibly felt among

GCC chief lawmakers. Asked about decisions the chief lawmakers made regarding the fight against terrorism, he said "there is no firm answer to the question of terrorism except that it must be confronted. As to how, this requires discussion and study." "Fighting terrorism cannot be solely done through military action but requires a battle of ideas where results might pay off over the long run," he said.

Parliamentary diplomacy

Earlier during the meeting, Chairman of Saudi Shura Council Dr Abdullah bin Mohammad bin Ibrahim Al-Sheikh emphasized the importance of "parliamentary diplomacy" for resolving regional issues, namely by backing political efforts at other levels for boosting security and stability in the Gulf.

The region is witnessing various developments that require an active role at the level of parliamentary diplomacy, he said, alluding in particular to violations against the Holy Aqsa Mosque, fight against legitimacy in Yemen, conflicts in Syria and Iraq, besides terrorist operations in many parts of the world.

He expressed his appreciation for the efforts of GCC countries' leaders and their keenness on developing their countries, besides defending causes of the nation. He also hailed role of GCC in enhancing cooperation and coordination in all fields, as well as strengthening ties among the GCC peoples. — KUNA

KUWAIT SUPPORTS PALESTINIANS IN THEIR STRUGGLE FOR INDEPENDENCE

EU, ARAB LEAGUE LAUNCH STRATEGIC DIALOGUE

VIENNA/BRUSSELS: Kuwait on Tuesday reiterated its support to the Palestinian people's struggle to get back their legitimate rights and to establish their own independent state on the pre-June 4th, 1967 borders. Speaking at a meeting of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, held at the UN premises in Vienna, First Secretary of Kuwait's Embassy in Vienna Abdullah Al-Obaidi stressed that the Israeli occupation's irresponsible practices are defying the international community and undermining the two-state solution. The Israeli practices against Palestinian people are increasing tension in the Middle East and keep the region in a state of war, he warned.

Obaidi cited as example the recent escalation in the Palestinian territories after the Israeli government's decision to restrict Muslims access to Al-Aqsa Mosque, the Muslim world's third holiest place of worship. He also recalled the devastating Israeli war on Gaza Strip in which over 2,000 people were killed and nearly 10,000 injured in addition to complete and partial destructions of thousands of houses, institutions and infrastructure in the densely-populated territory.

Obaidi censured the international community inaction in face of the Israeli breaches to relevant international laws and resolutions. He underlined Kuwait's full support to the Palestinian people in their struggle to restore their legitimate rights and to establish their own independent state on the pre-June 4th, 1967 borders with East Jerusalem being its capital.

Meanwhile, Arab League Representative Wael Al-Assad said that Israel's expansion in settlement activities on usurped Palestinian land, efforts to Judaize the occupied Jerusalem and random detention of thousands of people are illegal activities in face of the UN laws. He pointed that desperate Palestinian people are in need of international forces to protect them against the Israeli abuses.

In 1977, the General Assembly called for the annual observance of 29 November as the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People. On that day, in 1947, the Assembly adopted the resolution on the partition of Palestine. The observance of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People also encouraged member states to continue to give the widest support and publicity to the observance of the Day of Solidarity.

Strategic dialogue

In other news, the Arab League and the European Union launched yesterday a political and strategic dialogue to deepen their cooperation in a number of related sectors. Kuwait's permanent representative to the Arab League in Cairo, Ambassador Ahmad Abdul-Rahman Al-Bakr, told KUNA ahead of the meeting that the launch of the

strategic dialogue was decided during the last EU-Arab League ministerial meeting.

Yesterday's gathering was also the fourth meeting of the Arab League and the EUs political and security committee on the level of ambassadors. The strategic dialogue working areas include crisis management, humanitarian assistance, counter terrorism weapons of mass destruction and transnational organized crime.

Bakr noted that the meeting took place under unprecedented conditions through which the Arab region and Europe are facing linked with the scourge of terrorism. "This meeting is also a message to Europe from the Arab states to underline their cooperation in the fight against terrorism," he said. Bakr noted that the two sides were set to discuss issues of mutual interest led by the Palestine question and the atrocities being committed by Israel against the Palestinians. — KUNA

KUWAIT, SCOTLAND ENJOY TRADE PROSPECTS: KCCI

KUWAIT: Scotland and Kuwait enjoy many trade and investment opportunities, especially in developmental projects' management and technology, Board Member of Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) Wafa Al-Qattami said yesterday.

Qattami said, during a meeting with a visiting Scottish delegation, that the two countries aspire to achieve more cooperation, particularly since Kuwait is investing \$110 billion on developmental, infrastructural and housing projects. The Kuwaiti private sector is also seeking to collaborate with Scotland in the realms of tourism and real estate, she pointed out.

Meanwhile, head of the Scottish delegation stressed the importance of his visit to enhance foreign investment in both countries, noting that Scottish companies are looking forward to partnering with its Kuwaiti counterparts in order to create trade environment to benefit the two countries. He extended an invitation to Kuwaiti businessmen to visit Scotland to explore many trade and industrial opportunities. The Scottish delegation consists of 18 representatives from different Scottish companies specialized in investment, real estate, security and safety systems, marketing, automotive industry and education. — KUNA



Ibrahim Sattout, Partner at ASAR

ASAR HIGHLIGHTS KEY PPP LAW AMENDMENTS

KUWAIT: ASAR - Al Ruwayeh and Partners (ASAR), Kuwait's leading and most prominent corporate law firm, and one of the region's top tier firms participated in the recently concluded 'MEED Kuwait Projects 2015' conference which was promoting international participation in Kuwait's USD 230+ billion potential project market. The conference, which took place at the Regency Hotel in Kuwait, provided an update on the status of the mega projects in the pipeline in Kuwait in the various sectors, including Kuwait's oil, gas, electricity, water, transport, housing and infrastructure sectors, and focused on providing in depth solutions to challenges faced by said projects. The conference also addressed the increased confidence in Kuwait's mega projects which is confirmed by the various new private partnership (PPP) projects tendered and the number of foreign investors shortlisted to bid to these projects.

ASAR's involvement in the ground breaking Az Zour North Phase 1 independent water and power producer (IWPP) project provided the back drop of the firm's contribution to the conference with respect to the lessons that had been learnt from this PPP project and the numerous other PPP projects that the firm is currently involved in, in various capacities.

Ibrahim Sattout - a Partner at ASAR participated in the panel which discussed the new developments in the procurement, award and implementation of the PPP projects in light of the amendments made to the PPP projects' legal framework in Kuwait.

Sattout noted: "The new PPP law is part of a number of recent, positive legislative developments in Kuwait's investment sector designed to encourage foreign investors as well as align it with international best practices. With the implementation of the new PPP Law, Kuwait should

witness significant progress in the successful implementation of its projects, attracting new investors into the market and achieving its development goals.

Al-Zour North

During the panel discussion, Sattout emphasized on the key lessons learnt from the Al-Zour North 1 project and which were taken into consideration in the drafting of the new PPP law which while not sector specific, intends to transfer these lessons to all the other sectors as well. Additionally, the PPP Law holds a lot of promise with respect to facilitating the acceleration of procurement and implementation of PPP projects.

With dedicated offices in Kuwait and Bahrain coupled with its associated offices and relationships, ASAR provides clients across an extensive range of industry sectors with comprehensive legal advice and support for their business activities in Kuwait, across the GCC and beyond.

The firm has been consistently rated as the leading corporate and commercial law firm in Kuwait by reputable legal guides such as the Chambers Global Guide, International Financial Law Review (IFLR) and the Legal 500. In 2015, ASAR was awarded with the IFLR National Law Firm of the Year Award; an award which ASAR has been delighted to receive for the 7th consecutive year. The firm also won the "Best Restructuring Deal in the Middle East" award by IFLR in 2014. Further, the firm won the prestigious "2014 Commercial Litigation Law Firm of the Year" and the "2014 Best Banking and Finance Legal Team -Kuwait" awards from Acquisition International Magazine in 2014. ASAR lawyers have also received multiple awards under different categories in the Fourth Edition of 'Best Lawyers' in Kuwait.

KUWAIT: GCC states are attracting industrial investments mainly in petrochemical industries, according to Kuwaiti Minister of Commerce and Industry Yousef Al-Ali. GCC's share of direct foreign investments rose from \$27 billion in 2013 to \$29.5 in 2014, said the minister in a speech at the GCC's 15th industrialists' conference held under patronage of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah yesterday.

Ali stressed the importance of focusing on foreign investments in the Gulf to achieve development and face the economic challenges, adding that the GCC must exert great effort to expand the industrial sector. He also said that GCC states are working on providing more facilities and establish new legislations to encourage foreign investors.

FDI flow

Meanwhile, Secretary General of the Gulf Organization for Industrial Consulting (GOIC) Abdulaziz Al-Aqeel said that the flow of foreign direct investments (FDI) to the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) rose from \$84.3 billion in 2005 to \$416.3 billion in 2014.

The six-member bloc is seeking to enhance the flow of FDI to sup-

port the industrial sector, variate sources of income and reduce reliance on oil, which still constitutes 47 percent of their GDP, Aqeel told the GCC's 15th industrialists' conference. Last year, the GCC states recorded an accumulation of \$53 billion from FDI, which helped provide up to 302,000 jobs in the Gulf markets, he said.

According to the GOIC official, further flow of FDI into the GCC will

bring in various benefits, namely giving a push to economic development and support national economies to keep pace with the world's technological progress.

In addition, foreign capital will boost economic variation and the gradual shift from the consumption economy to production economy, besides consolidating competitiveness of local products to help them have a more share of domestic mar-

kets, which will consequently offer a remedy for the chronic deficit in the trade balance, Aqeel noted.

Favorable environment

He urged the GCC states to exert more efforts to develop a favorable environment to attract foreign capital. Aqeel underlined the need to take a multitude of measures, mainly promoting the existing policies and regulatory and legal frameworks on foreign investment, and developing new ones, in addition to carrying on with efforts to abolish obstacles, and offering more incentives and exemptions.

He noted that GOIC has always been hard at work to streamline the flow of foreign capital into the Gulf markets through several programs, referring to one for industrial investment. It is also working on a study on the promising investment opportunities in countries of the region.

GCC's 15th industrialists' conference is held for two days with the participation of the Kuwaiti Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the Public Authority for Industry, the GCC Secretariat, the Union of the GCC Chambers of Commerce, the Industrial Bank of Kuwait and GOIC. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Kuwaiti Minister of Commerce and Industry Yousef Al-Ali speaks at the event. — KUNA

KDIPA ATTRACTS \$1.2 BN WORTH FOREIGN INVESTMENT: SHEIKH MESHAL

KUWAIT: Chairman of Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA) Sheikh Dr Meshal Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah said Tuesday the authority succeeded in attracting \$1.2 billion worth of foreign investment, especially in technology.

Kuwait's huge oil wealth, high per capita income, low risks and low companies' tax are attracting the foreign investment to the country, Sheikh Meshal said in a speech before a conference, themed "Kuwait projects and development motivation," organized by Meed for economic studies. He said Kuwait has huge 30 investment opportunities in sectors of oil and gas, health, tourism and education.

The investment environment in

Kuwait are lucrative, said Sheikh Meshal, who pointed out to tax exemption on foreign companies which could extend to 10 years, coupled with waiver on custom duties. Sheikh Meshal said attracting huge investment in a short time showed that "Kuwait is in the right direction." Sheikh Meshal, who said private and public sectors' cooperation was essential for the national economy, Kuwait really needed to attract technology to create jobs.

Adel Al-Roumi, head of the Partnership Technical Bureau (PTB), overseeing private-public sectors partnership (PPP) programs, said the government would be executing the metro project and the GCC railway through PPP. — KUNA

ZOUR PLANT'S SHARES PLACED FOR PUBLIC SUBSCRIPTION IN 6 MONTHS

KUWAIT: Al-Zour power plant will be placed for public subscription in six months, said Adel Al-Roumi, head of the Partnership Technical Bureau (PTB), which is overseeing private-public sectors partnership (PPP) programs. Once Al-Zour plant reaches its maximum operation capacity in six months, shares would be placed for Kuwaitis to buy, he said.

Roumi was speaking to KUNA on sidelines of a conference, themed "Kuwait projects and development motivation," organized by Meed for economic studies. He said PPP programs would be placed for public subscription for Kuwaiti citizens, including the second Al-Zour plant, Al-Khairan and Um Al-Haiman projects. He said the value of PPP programs in Kuwait was around KD 10 billion.

Roumi said the private sector was contributing to the rapid accomplishment of the PPP projects, citing Al-Zour power station which took 18 months to operate. He said there were five giant projects awaiting completion. Two are waste recycling, two major power stations and solar energy station. — KUNA



ANNOUNCEMENT

- Since the beginning of 2015, the Government of the Republic of Indonesia has been repatriating overstayers Indonesian Citizen (WNIO) overseas, including those who reside in Kuwait. Currently the Indonesian Embassy work closely with the related authorities in Kuwait have repatriated 335 WNIO in Kuwait where all of them are Indonesian women domestic workers who run away from their employer due to one reason or another. Now the Embassy are processing another 147 of them.
- In line with the policy of the Government of the State of Kuwait to deport overstayers and the implementation of sanction and punishment for those who are employing undocumented workers, we urge those who have been employing the undocumented Indonesian domestic workers to persuade and convince the workers to register in the Indonesian Embassy for the repatriation process.
- The Indonesian Embassy in Kuwait would like to remind everyone that the registration for this program will be closed on December 5, 2015. The Government of Indonesia will bear all the expenses including airline tickets, accommodation, transportation, and all necessities during the repatriation process. Furthermore, please be informed that The Government of Indonesia will also provide varieties of training and entrepreneurship programs for those who return to Indonesia so that they could become self-sufficient. For further information, please contact the Indonesian Embassy in Kuwait in Daiya Block 1, Rashed Ibn Ahmed Al-Roumi Street Building No. 2 phone number 22531021, 22531025 or our hotline 97206060 or email kuwait.kbri@kemlu.go.id.

The Government of Indonesia would like to express its high appreciation for the kind attention and cooperation from all parties for the success of our effort to repatriate Indonesian overstayers in Kuwait.

Kuwait, 25 November 2015

KOC EAGER TO PLAY LEADING ROLE IN RENEWABLE ENERGY

KUWAIT: Kuwait Oil Company (KOC), a subsidiary of the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC), is eager to play a leading role in the renewable energy domain, an official said yesterday. Speaking to KUNA, KOC Deputy Chief Executive Officer Emad Sultan said the company will work with government bodies to pursue more options with in the renewable energy sector.

Regarding KOC's efforts in this regard, the official noted that KOC will host Kuwait sustainable energy conference, next Sunday, under the slogan (achieving Kuwait's energy vision for 2030). The event is organized by the KOC in cooperation with the Ministry of Electricity and Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR).

The conference will aim at contributing to Kuwait's plans to increase energy supplies by 15 percent in 2030 and also to focus on spreading awareness on the necessity of sustainable development, said Sultan. An exhibition will be held on sidelines of the event for oil experts and companies to exchange views and expertise on sustainable and renewable energy, said the official. — KUNA



DUBAI: Deputy Editor-in-Chief of Al-Anbaa Adnan Al-Rashid (second from right) receives an award during the Pan Arab Application Awards. — KUNA

KUWAIT'S INDUSTRY AUTHORITY, DAILY WIN EXCELLENCE AWARDS

DUBAI: Kuwait's Public Authority for Industry and the Arabic-language Kuwaiti daily newspaper Al-Anbaa were granted the Pan Arab Application Awards, at an event held by the Excellence Awards Academy in conjunction with the Arab Organization for Social Responsibility.

Deputy Editor-in-Chief of Al-Anbaa Adnan Al-Rashid expressed his happiness for earning the award in magazine and newspapers' category. He also expressed his sincere gratitude to the United Arab Emirates and the organizers of the event.

Meanwhile, the Director of Information and Decision Support Center at the Public Authority for Industry, Ahmad Sadiq Mohammad Sadiq, expressed his happiness in a statement to Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) for winning the golden award under the name "Pan Arab for the best application on smart phones," for the best application on the smart systems in Kuwait. He said that win is added to a series of accomplishments achieved by the authority, pointing out that this would have direct impact on advancement of the industrial sector in Kuwait. — KUNA

MABROOK COMPANY JOINS HORECA AS DIAMOND SPONSOR

KUWAIT: Preparations for the Horeca Kuwait 2016 exhibition are steadily progressing and attracting more companies to take part in the event, which provides a golden opportunity to exchange expertise that meet the local market's needs and future expansion plans. The exhibition is due to be organized by Leaders Group in collaboration with Hospitality Services Company at Badriya Ballroom, Messilah Jumeriah Hotel in the period of January 18-20, 2016.

In this regard, Mabrook Hotel Supplies Company's General Manager Ali Farhat recently announced the company's intention to take part in the exhibition as a diamond sponsor, especially after the remarkable success Horeca had achieved over the past number of years.

Farhat added that his company was so keen on taking part in local and regional specialized exhibitions to display its latest products, such smart kitchens using modern technology to provide companies and hotels and central kitchens

with their needs of tools, kitchens and equipment. "Horeca Kuwait has major economic impact in view of the constant development in hospitality, and building new hotels and restaurants to cover the urban expansion Kuwait is currently witnessing," he stressed, noting that the total number of restaurants in Kuwait was over 5,000 and that of hotels was over 60 including 45 percent classified as four and five star hotels.

Furthermore, Farhat expressed Mabrook's pride in the status it has so far achieved in the Kuwaiti market and stressed that developing it and meeting the demands of its clients was on top of its priorities as a leading company with a long record of achievements ever since its foundation 57 years ago.

In addition, Farhat explained that during its participation in the previous Horeca exhibitions, Mabrook had displayed its latest products and that it would also present new products this year, namely Stainless Steel kitchens and ovens the best international quality standards for both central or household kitchens. He added that Mabrook also intends organizing a chocolate festival to display its latest chocolate equipment.

Farhat added that Mabrook also provides a variety of hotel, restaurants and central kitchens' needs manufactured in Mabrook's factory in Sabhan and exports them to some GCC countries in addition to Lebanon and Jordan.



Ali Farhat

'SHOP BAHRAIN' SHOPPING FESTIVAL OPENS DEC 24

By Nawara Fattahova

KUWAIT: The second edition of the Bahrain Shopping Festival 'Shop Bahrain', the largest event in the kingdom, will be held from December 24, 2015 to January 23, 2016. A delegation from Bahrain is visiting Kuwait as part of a roadshow to promote the festival. "The 30-day nationwide festival will celebrate various elements from the culture, tourism, and rich hospitality that the kingdom is renowned for, along with a unique shopping experience filled with promotions and prizes," said Shop Bahrain Director Nawaf Al-Koheji during a press conference held yesterday at the Jumeirah Hotel and Resort.

Attractive prizes and special activities are awaiting visitors. "During the festival, shoppers will be able to benefit from the special deals offered by the registered retail outlets. They will also be able to avail the opportunity of winning fabulous prizes by entering a weekly raffle draw. For every purchase worth BD 10 or more, shoppers will be electronically registered in a loyalty scheme. They can also increase their chance of winning prizes based on their shopping frequency," Koheji said.

Activities

Reem Tawfiqi, Marketing and Communication Director, spoke about the activities at the fest. "The year's festival will focus on three main events. The most important of them is the 'VIVA Shop and Skate', which is the largest outdoor ice-skating rink in the region located at Al A'ali Shopping Complex. It will be open to the public throughout the duration of the festival, with special offers during the weekend," she explained.

The other event is Al Riwaq's 'The Nest' in the heart of the capital Manama. "The local bazaar will feature upcoming and prominent businesses and latest talents from Bahrain and the region, in addition to 'The Taste Tour' held in Block 338 in Adliya. Next on the festival's calendar is the 'Family Fair', a two-day carnival held during the New Year's Eve weekend at Prince Khalifa bin Salman Park, which will bring together an array of fun family activities. The festival, held on Dec 31, 2015 and Jan 1, 2016, will feature games, entertainment activities and mouth-watering cuisine," added Tawfiqi.

"Other fun-filled attractions include in-mall activities such as bungee jumping at Al A'ali Shopping Complex, a cinema event dedicated for children as well as the 'Kamikaze Fireflies' show among other entertainment activities. A weekly and grand raffle draw will also be held offering visitors and residents the opportunity to win big and amazing prizes," she concluded.

Visa procedures

According to Koheji, authorities in Bahrain have also recently eased the process and procedure of obtaining a visa to the kingdom, including



KUWAIT: Shop Bahrain Director Nawaf Al-Koheji (right) and Marketing and Communication Director Reem Tawfiqi attend the press conference. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

visas for tourists and businessmen along with residents of Gulf countries. "Nationals from over 103 countries can now obtain a visa either online via the eVisa website (www.evisa.gov.bh) or on arrival at Bahrain International Airport. It should take around seven days to issue the visa online," stated Koheji.

Last year, Bahrain welcomed 10 million visitors, out of which around 8 million were from the GCC. "Our key focus is to attract visitors from the Gulf region. We look forward to welcoming visitors to the kingdom and encourage them to spend a few extra days to enjoy our exciting line-up of events, which embodies the spirit of fun and celebration.

Last year we witnessed a 16 percent increase in tourists, and we hope this year will see an even higher number," Koheji said.

"The national event aims to promote links between the public and private sectors while focusing on energizing the retail and tourism sectors by bringing together an array of events and activities for the whole family to enjoy. Shop Bahrain will mirror the kingdom's position as a welcoming, accessible, family destination with an incredibly diverse range of retail experiences from luxury malls to traditional souks to luxury boutiques coupled with unbeatable bargains and promotions," stressed Koheji.

KD 70 MILLION CULTURAL CENTER TO GRACE AHMADI GOVERNORATE

KUWAIT: The National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL) is set to establish a community cultural center in the governorate of Al-Ahmadi at a cost of KD 70 million, said secretary general of NCCAL Ali Al-Yoha yesterday.

The center, when soon constructed, will boast among its variety of amenities a museum displaying its artifacts and relics in a state-of-the-art approach involving interactive presentation that should dazzle the visitor, Yoha told KUNA.

He revealed that NCCAL is also planning to establish two more such centers to be named Abdullah Al-Salem cultural center and Jaber Al-

Ahmad cultural center. These two should see the light in a few years' time, he said.

More museums are urgently needed at this time as there are vast numbers of artistic pieces (more than 1600) that need to be housed and cared for and displayed appropriately for the public, he said. Within the next four years, the public should expect seeing numerous art galleries, theaters, and music concert halls, he promised. On a different note, he said NCCAL was putting the last touches on the upcoming event celebrating Kuwait as the 2016 capital of Islamic culture, whose list of activities will be announced at the start of next month. — KUNA

MINISTRY DENIES RESHUFFLE RUMORS

KUWAIT: The Ministry of Commerce and Industry yesterday denied media reports which suggested that Minister Dr Yusef Al-Ali intends to refer one of his assistant undersecretaries to early retirement. The rumors also speculated that the official's liabilities would be frozen within two weeks.

The ministry said in a press statement that the assistant undersecretaries' administrative

structure has been recently updated by reshuffling some of the officials in accordance with work's needs, as well as the ministry's strategy in developing its sectors' performance. "There is no current intention to change or refer any of the senior officials to retirement," stressed the statement, pointing out that minister Ali supports all ministry officials out of his strong belief in their role.

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Canada delays influx of Syrian refugees

RUSSIA SAYS JET DOWNING 'PROVOCATION'

PILOT DENIES WARNING • ANKARA SEEKS TO EASE TENSIONS • MOSCOW SENDS MISSILES TO SYRIA

MOSCOW: Russia yesterday accused Turkey of a "planned provocation" over the downing of a warplane on the Syrian border as a rescued pilot claimed that no warning had been given. As the diplomatic fallout from Tuesday's incident raged on, Ankara sought to play down tensions and its allies in NATO issued urgent appeals for restraint. Moscow said Russian and Syrian special forces had rescued one of the two pilots who ejected from the bomber as it plunged to the earth in a fireball but confirmed the second airman and a soldier sent to rescue him died.

In his first interview, rescued pilot Konstantin Murakhtin told Russian state media there had been no warning before his plane was shot down by Turkish fighter jets. "There was no warning, not by radio exchange nor visually. There was no contact at all," Murakhtin said at Moscow's base in Syria, with his back to the cameras. Turkey insists it gave 10 warnings in the space of five minutes, an account backed up by its NATO ally the United States which spearheads a coalition against Islamic State jihadists in Syria.

The downing has threatened ties between two major rival players in the Syrian war and raised fears it could escalate into a wider geopolitical conflict. "We have serious doubts about this being an unpremeditated act, it really looks like a planned provocation," Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov told reporters after speaking to Turkish counterpart Mevlut Cavusoglu by phone in the first contact between the two over the incident.

"We do not plan to go to war with Turkey, our attitude toward the Turkish people has not changed," he added, but warned Moscow would "seriously reevaluate" relations with Ankara. President Vladimir Putin

on Tuesday branded the incident a "stab in the back committed by accomplices of terrorists", and told Russians not to visit Turkey, a key tourist destination.

'Friend and Neighbor'

Turkey, however, has sought to turn down the heat, with President Recep Tayyip Erdogan insisting Ankara was simply defending its border. "We have no intention to escalate this incident. We are just defending our security and the rights of our brothers," Erdogan said in a speech in Istanbul. Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu called Russia "our friend and our neighbour" and said Ankara did not want to further strain ties. Turkey says the Su-24 bomber violated its airspace 10 times within a five-minute period, despite warnings each time. Turkey's ambassador to the UN Halit Cevik said in a letter to the Security Council that two planes were involved. He said both had flown 1.36 miles (2.19 km) into Turkish airspace for 17 seconds in a final violation at 0724 GMT and that one was shot down while the other left Turkish airspace.

According to a recording of the communications aired in the Turkish media: the Turks said: "This is Turkish air force speaking - on guard. You're approaching Turkish airspace." But Russia insists the plane never strayed from Syrian territory. The shooting also risks derailing efforts to bring peace to Syria that were gaining tentative momentum following the Nov 13 Paris attacks claimed by Islamic State extremists who control swathes of northern Syria. French President Francois Hollande flies to Moscow today to meet Putin, with both struggling to make good on demands for a broader coalition to fight IS. Lavrov backed a call by Hollande to close the Turkey-Syria border to

stem the flow of jihadist fighters.

Moscow Sends Missile System

Ankara and Moscow are already on starkly opposing sides in the four-year Syrian civil war, with Turkey wanting to see the ouster of President Bashar Al-Assad while Russia is one of his last remaining allies. Assad's other key ally Iran also slammed Ankara. Turkey's behaviour "sends the wrong message to the terrorists" in Syria, its Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif told Lavrov.

In an apparent response to Turkey's action, Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu said Moscow would send its most hi-tech S-400 air defence system to its airbase in Syria. The Moskva guided missile cruiser will be stationed near the Syrian Mediterranean port of Latakia, the defence ministry said. There has been fears of such a mid-air incident since Russia launched air strikes in Syria in September, to the consternation of nations already involved in the US-led coalition. Turkey had protested that Russia's campaign was aimed at hitting Syrian rebels and buttressing the Assad regime rather than hurting IS jihadists.

Putin said Murakhtin would be given a medal, along with those involved in the rescue operation and the second pilot who was shot dead by rebels after parachuting out. Russia said another soldier had been killed in a first failed bid to rescue the pair. In Moscow several hundred activists hurled stones and eggs at Turkey's embassy and brandished anti-Turkish placards in a brief protest over the jet downing. Europe's main stock markets rebounded from losses Tuesday over the downing, but the spiking geopolitical tensions continued to dominate investor sentiment. — AFP



MOSCOW: Protesters hold placards and shout slogans as they take part in an anti-Turkey picket outside the Turkish embassy yesterday. — AFP

IS CLAIMS DEADLY TUNISIA BOMBING

TUNIS: The Islamic State group yesterday claimed the suicide bombing of a busload of presidential guards in Tunisia's capital, the latest attack in a country plagued by Islamist violence. President Beji Caid Essebsi and other members of the National Security Council met to discuss more crisis measures, after imposing a nationwide state of emergency following Tuesday's blast. IS said a Tunisian, named as Abou Abdallah Al-Tounissi, had boarded the bus wearing an explosives belt only a few hundred metres from the interior ministry as it picked up guards on their way to work. Twelve of them were killed and 20 other people wounded, including four civilians, according to the health ministry.

IS said in a statement shared on jihadist social media that 20 people had died. It published a photo of the attacker dressed in white and wearing an explosives vest, his head and face covered with a scarf. The interior ministry said 10 kilos of Semtex explosives were used. It added that a 13th body "is believed to be that of the terrorist who caused the explosion", and that DNA tests were being conducted to identify the person. After the blast Essebsi ordered a 9:00 pm to 5:00 am curfew for Tunisia and a state of emergency throughout the country, less than two months after a previous one had been lifted. That was imposed in June after an IS gunman massacred 38 foreign tourists at the popular Mediterranean resort of Sousse. In March, two IS jihadists stormed the National Bardo Museum in Tunis, killing 21 tourists and a policeman. And just days ago, a jihadist group claimed the beheading of a young Tunisian shepherd on behalf of IS, accusing him of having informed the army about their movements.

Some presidential guards expressed concern that not enough was being done to protect them from attacks, noting that the bombing took place where they are routinely picked up to go to work. "As usual, we got on the bus," one wounded guard said on national radio. "Just as the driver started to head off, the explosion occurred." "For years this place has been our gathering point but they didn't think to change it, although we are the first to be targeted," another one said. The site of the explosion was cordoned off, with forensic experts at work around the burnt-out shell of the bus. Behind the barricades set up, dozens of ordinary citizens demonstrated in support of Tunisia's security forces, some carrying the national flag. Meanwhile, plainclothes policemen prohibited journalists from gathering at the site and assaulted a number of them who did, an AFP correspondent said. Reporters Without Borders denounced the "abuse" of what it said was around 30 journalists. — AFP

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SYRIAN REFUGEES IN US FEAR FOR THOSE LEFT BEHIND

CHICAGO: Sitting on a donated couch in her modest Chicago apartment, Safa Mshymish knows she is among the lucky ones: A Syrian refugee welcomed into the United States before the tide of public opinion turned. It hurts, she said, to hear politicians are trying to stop families just like hers from finding a safe haven, branding all Syrians a security threat in the wake of the Paris attacks. "Just like any mother who loves her children and wants to see them sleep peacefully, so do I. Just like any mother wants to feed her children, so do I," she said. They must not realize, she said, that like her these are people forced from their homes - consumed with worry for the loved ones left behind. This is what she would tell them all, if she could. As her American neighbors prepare to celebrate Thanksgiving with their families on Thursday, Mshymish, 27, longs for a homeland that no longer exists. They had a good life before the war began. They were comfortable, safe and happy, surrounded by family and friends.

Her husband went to a couple of demonstrations in the early, peaceful days of the protest movement against President Bashar Al-Assad's regime, but mostly stayed out of the intensifying conflict. Until a car full of "thugs" drove up and opened fire as he sat at a cafe with five friends in Homs on Oct 15, 2011. "I was the only one who survived. Everybody else was killed," Ismil Alrifé, 38, told AFP.

Watching his friends die on the street was just the beginning, as fear came to shadow their days. Now that Alrifé was injured - the

bullets severed the main nerve in his right leg and he needs a cane to walk - they were afraid he would become a target for the regime, indiscriminate in rounding up potential "troublemakers". Trying to leave was also dangerous. So they stayed, even as the war intensified, making it impossible for their three children to go to school and difficult to even buy groceries. Then a missile struck their apartment building. As the walls crumbled around them, they flung their children under the bed and prayed. They escaped with their lives, and little else.

'Moonlight Escape

The family of five joined a steady stream of refugees weaving their way through the war-torn country, reaching the border with Jordan in July 2012. They waited for darkness to fall and walked 40 km through the mountains in hopes of avoiding Syrian patrols. After more than two years in Jordan, they were given clearance to emigrate to the United States, arriving in Chicago during one of its coldest winters ever. The children - now aged 11, 9, 6 and 20 months - have had an easier time adjusting to the new language and culture.

They are learning English at school and, like generations of immigrants before them, sometimes act as interpreters for their parents. "We feel very happy to be here and be safe, but at the same time it's not easy for anyone to leave home," Mshymish said. The United States has admitted fewer than 2,180 Syrian refugees out of the nearly 4.3 million who have registered

with the United Nations since the conflict began in 2011. President Barack Obama pledged to resettle 10,000 more in the next year, but Syrian refugees have become a political football in the wake of the Nov 13 attacks which killed 130 in Paris.

More than half of state governors oppose hosting any more Syrians and the House of Representatives voted to ban refugees from either Syria or Iraq without tougher screening measures - to prevent jihadists posing as refugees from slipping into the West to stage attacks.

'Despicable' Backlash

Suzanne Akhras Sahloul, director of the Syrian Community Network non-profit group, called the backlash against refugees "despicable" - coming against a backdrop of anti-Muslim rhetoric from several Republican presidential candidates. "I'm very disappointed in our country," said Sahloul, whose group helps refugees adjust to life in the United States. "What happened to us that we are now closing our doors to people who are escaping terrorism, trauma and death?"

Chicago - one of the nation's largest, most diverse cities - has welcomed just 18 families of Syrian refugees. Most live within walking distance of the Alrifé family in a bustling immigrant neighborhood where shopkeepers speak Arabic and sell the thick, strong coffee that reminds them of home. Abdullah Taha, 44, arrived with his wife and three children in September. The former taxi driver was impris-



CHICAGO: Syrian refugees Safa Mshymish and Ismil Alrifé sit with their children Rama, Noor, Malath and Ameer in their apartment on Nov 20, 2015. — AFP

oned for a month after driving some customers into the wrong neighborhood of Damascus in Dec 2011.

He said he was tortured by the regime while his desperate family, fearing the worst, searched the streets for his body. Taha fled to Lebanon soon after his release, but found life there too "chaotic". He said he was grateful to the kind people who made his family feel welcome in Chicago. But his days are filled with fears for his parents, siblings and all those

trapped in Syria. And he struggles to contain his anger when he hears refugees branded as terrorists.

"I get very upset when some people or candidates for the US election, they invent anything to use it during the election, anything, and they tarnish our image," he told AFP. "It's not the reality, we're not like this," he said. "I would give my life to them just to prove that those millions of Syrians are innocent and have nothing to do with terrorism." — AFP



CHICAGO: Protesters shut down a street during a protest for 17-year-old Laquan McDonald early yesterday. — AP

CHICAGO ON EDGE AFTER POLICE SHOOTING VIDEO

COP'S LAWYER SAYS VIDEO 'DISTORTS IMAGES'

CHICAGO: Racial tensions soared in Chicago Tuesday as officials released a graphic video of a police officer shooting a black teen 16 times, shortly after he was charged for the death. The "chilling" video is the latest in a string of police shootings caught on camera that have sparked mass - and sometimes violent - protests and engulfed the United States in a debate over racism and the use of deadly force by police.

Dozens of demonstrators marched through the city's busy streets, but there were only small scuffles with law enforcement and three arrests reported by the early hours of yesterday morning. The dashcam video shows officer Jason Van Dyke open fire on Laquan

McDonald, 17. "It is graphic, it is violent, it is chilling," Cook County State's Attorney Anita Alvarez told reporters after charging Van Dyke with first degree murder. "To watch a 17-year-old young man die in such a violent manner is deeply disturbing and I have absolutely no doubt this video will tear at the hearts of all Chicagoans."

Shot from an approaching police vehicle, it shows McDonald run down the middle of the street towards a cruiser, hitch up his pants and then start to walk away from Van Dyke and his partner. His body then spins and strikes the pavement. McDonald lifts his head, moves an arm and then a cloud from another gunshot rises up from his chest

as he lays in a fetal position. He does not move as an officer enters the frame for just long enough to kick a knife away from his prone hand. None of the officers approach McDonald to try to help him as he bleeds out on the street, writhing once in the remaining minute of video.

Prosecutors said Van Dyke opened fire just 30 seconds after his cruiser pulled up to the scene and six seconds after stepping out of it. McDonald - who was holding a knife when he was shot and had earlier slashed the tyres of a police cruiser - made no threatening gestures to justify the use of deadly force, Alvarez said. It was the first time a Chicago police officer has been charged with first-degree murder for an on-duty fatality in more than 30 years, the Chicago Tribune reported.

'Build bridges'

City officials, who had tried to block the video from going public, were ordered by a judge to release it no later than yesterday. Alvarez said she had planned to wait until a federal investigation was complete but decided to press charges against Van Dyke prior to the video's release "in the interest of public safety". Mayor Rahm Emanuel appealed for calm and said he hoped the city could use the incident as an opportunity to "build bridges of understanding" between police and young men like McDonald. "We as a city must rise to this moment," he told reporters. Police Superintendent Garry McCarthy said that while "people have a right to be angry" and to protest peacefully, his officers would be "intolerant of criminal behavior". McDonald's family joined community leaders and city

officials in appealing for calm. "No one understands the anger more than us but if you choose to speak out, we urge you to be peaceful," they said in a statement released to local media. "Don't resort to violence in Laquan's name. Let his legacy be better than that." The city approved a \$5 million settlement for McDonald's family in April. Police had initially said McDonald was high on PCP, acting erratically and lunged at the officers with a knife.

Cop Feared for his Life

Van Dyke's lawyer said yesterday his client feared for his life and that the dash-board camera footage released by police is unreliable because video "distorts images". Daniel Herbert told CNN that Officer Jason Van Dyke arrived at the scene 18 minutes after a suspect carrying a knife was reported to have threatened businesses and vandalized police cruisers. "The reason my client Jason fired his weapon that evening back in October 2014 is that he truly was in fear for his life as well as the lives of his fellow police officers," Herbert said.

Herbert told CNN his client was afraid McDonald was going to attack him with a knife, adding the video was not an indicator of his client's guilt. "Video by its nature is 2-dimensional. It distorts images. So what appears to be clear on a video sometimes is not always that clear," Herbert said. Chicago Alderman Emma Mitts told MSNBC yesterday the video does not show anything that would justify the shooting and said Van Dyke's conduct was "just unacceptable". Mitts said McDonald's family had not wanted the video made public but now wants action taken. "There's a pain that the family is feeling," she said. "The family don't want to relive that pain over again. We expect change."

The release of the video itself has been controversial. Civil rights activist Al Sharpton criticized Chicago city officials for blocking the video, which was made public only after an independent journalist filed a Freedom of Information Act lawsuit. Sharpton, speaking on MSNBC's "Morning Joe" program, called for a special prosecutor to handle the case "because the politics here needs to be investigated." The Chicago Police Department had argued that releasing the video would taint multiple investigations. — Agencies

CANADA DELAYS INFLUX OF SYRIAN REFUGEES

OTTAWA: Canada remains committed to taking in 25,000 Syrian refugees but only 10,000 of them by year's end, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's government said on Tuesday. The Liberal administration, which had pledged to take in the full number of refugees from camps in Turkey, Jordan and Lebanon this year, said 15,000 would now arrive in the first two months of 2016. The delay was announced as the deadly Paris attacks stir fears in Europe and North America that jihadists could seek to blend in with refugees in order to strike later. Recent polls showed 54 percent of Canadians support slowing down the operation to host refugees if it meant avoiding possible security lapses. "Canadians have said do this right and if it takes a little longer to do it, then take the time," Immigration Minister John McCallum told a press conference. "And so essentially this is what we are going to be doing." Officials said communities across Canada where the refugees will be resettled also need more time to prepare for their arrival, McCallum said. "We want them to have a roof over their head," he said. "We want them to have the right supports for language training and for all the other things that they need to begin their life here in Canada, and it takes a bit of time to put all of that in place."

Single Males Turned Away

Under the plan, all 25,000 refugees would be identified by Dec 31 from lists prepared by the UN refugee agency and the government of Turkey, and invited to apply for relocation to Canada. A text message will direct them to Canadian visa offices in Amman, in Beirut and one in Turkey where 500 government staff have been dispatched to process applications. Officials said only whole families, women in vulnerable position, or single men who are gay - therefore deemed at risk of persecution - or accompanied

by parents as part of a family will be accepted. Other single males old enough for military service would be turned away.

Trudeau's government has sought to reassure the White House over the safety aspect of its plans, as President Barack Obama faces a barrage of opposition to his own scheme to resettle 10,000 refugees in the coming year. "We will not compromise the quality of the security work that must get done," said Public Safety Minister Ralph Goodale. "Safety and security have always been at the very top of our priority list," he said. The first refugee flight is expected to take off in early December, but a precise date has not yet been set. "We have a responsibility to significantly expand our refugee targets and give more victims of war a safe haven in Canada," Trudeau said in a statement. "The resettling of vulnerable refugees is a clear demonstration of this." Before boarding chartered flights to Toronto or Montreal, the refugees would undergo security checks, which include the verification of documents, iris scans, fingerprinting and photographing, among other measures. They will also receive a medical examination.

Defense Minister Harjit Sajjan said Canadian military transports also stand ready to assist in the massive airlift. Upon arrival in Canada, most of the refugees are expected to transit straight through to the 36 communities that have offered to sponsor them. The Canadian military is making 6,000 beds available on its bases to temporarily accommodate others. The cost of the operation could reach up to Can\$678 million over six years, officials said. Canada takes in an average of 250,000 refugees from around the world each year. The UN refugee agency estimates that more than four million Syrians have fled the civil war ravaging their country which has killed more than 250,000 people. — AFP

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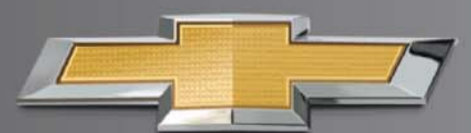


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In this November 19, 2015 NASA handout photo, three WB-57 aircraft photographed from a Navy T-6 aircraft fly in formation over Houston, Texas and the Johnson Space Center (JSC). This was the first time that all three WB-57s were aloft simultaneously since the early 1970s, when the US Air Force had an operational squadron of WB-57s. — AFP

RAINS BRING QATAR TO NEAR STANDSTILL

Continued from Page 1

Department, causing reports on social media of leaks at the estimated \$17 billion building, which opened just last year. However, Hamad International said that flights were operating normally, despite the weather conditions. The World Bank calculates that Qatar receives, on average, 74 mm of rain each year. The US embassy said that the weather had forced it to shut yesterday and the offices would not open again until next week. "Due to inclement weather, the US Embassy in #Qatar will be closed today," it said on Twitter. The rainwater flooded streets and shut down some stores and malls in Doha. Local media reported some schools and daycare centers closed early because of the downpour. At 4 pm, the temperature was a cool 24 degrees Celsius. The interior ministry pleaded for drivers to take care in the rainy conditions. Ashgal, the public works authority, denied rumors that the rain had caused structural problems at a major Doha intersection. Football World Cup 2022 host Qatar is well-known for its fierce summer temperatures, which will force the tournament to be played instead in November and December.

GULF BRACES FOR AUSTERITY AS OIL INCOME...

Continued from Page 1

Although the measures may not be easy to enforce in countries that have long offered generous welfare systems, analysts believe this time fiscal consolidation, diversification and reforms must be deeper, long-term and sustainable. "The magnitude of the problem is much larger this time because subsidies and salaries have immensely increased in the past few years - together they form 90 percent of current expenditure," said the head of economic research at Kuwait Financial Center (Markaz), M R Raghu. "They cannot roll back on salaries because this is too sensitive," Raghu told AFP. Spending in Gulf states, mostly on salaries and subsidies, almost doubled to \$550 billion between 2008 and 2013, according to IMF statistics. The six nations have a population of 50 million, half of them foreigners, and pump around 18 million barrels per day. The steep rise in expenditures greatly increased the breakeven price for oil, to \$106 a barrel in the case of Saudi Arabia from under \$70 a few years ago. It is higher for Bahrain and Oman. IMF and the World Bank estimate that the direct cost of energy subsidies in the GCC was \$60 billion last year. Steps taken by the GCC states to cut spending and raise non-oil income have been modest so far. The UAE took the lead by liberalizing fuel prices in June and raised electricity charges in Abu Dhabi. Both measures are expected to save billions of dollars. Having the most

Meanwhile, in Saudi Arabia, schools were closed for a second day as rain continued to fall on Riyadh, flooding some streets and forcing drivers to abandon their cars. About 10 cars were submerged under about two metres of water in a highway underpass in the Labban district on the capital's western outskirts, an AFP photographer reported. Workers were trying to drain the floodwaters into tanker trucks as a light rain fell from gloomy skies. The Civil Defence agency reported that 72 vehicles had been rescued in the Riyadh region with their occupants unharmed. One person died in Rimah, northeast of the city, the agency said. Roads in the city centre were unaffected, although traffic moved along the main King Fahd Road even more slowly than usual. Some side streets were partly flooded elsewhere in the desert city of 5.7 million, which is dry and sunny for most of the year. Other parts of the kingdom have also been soaked this week. At least eight people died in flooding last week in the Madinah and Jeddah areas of western Saudi Arabia. In Dubai, clouds darkened the skies and rain fell across parts of the city and elsewhere in the United Arab Emirates. At Dubai's Burj Khalifa, the world's tallest building, the temperature stood at 22 C at 4 pm. — Agencies

diversified economy in the Gulf, the UAE said it has earmarked more than \$80 billion for projects away from oil. Kuwait began selling diesel and kerosene at market prices at the start of 2015. It has cut spending by 17 percent and is in the process of raising petrol prices and charges on electricity and water. However, it has still awarded projects worth a record \$30 billion so far this year, according to officials and experts. Saudi Arabia, for its part, said it was considering delaying "unnecessary" projects and studying energy subsidies reforms. Gas-rich Qatar said it is also considering some spending cuts and reducing subsidies. Oman and Bahrain, the poorest members of the GCC in terms of energy wealth, have announced similar plans. "This is not enough. They have a long way to go," said Shanta Devarajan, World Bank chief economist for the Middle East and North Africa. "This is just the beginning ... the measures must focus on reforms, unemployment and diversification. Much more steps are needed," Devarajan told AFP. The IMF said reforms should include comprehensive energy efficiency and price alterations, expanding non-oil revenues, reviewing capital and current expenditures and reducing the government wage bill. The IMF said Saudi Arabia, Oman and Bahrain will spend all their fiscal reserves in under five years if they fail to take additional austerity measures. "GCC states must be serious this time ... The \$100 a barrel days are gone and they have to live with a \$40-\$50 price," Raghu said. — AFP

DEMAND SURGES FOR US WEAPONS

Continued from Page 1

US companies and some foreign countries have expressed growing frustration in recent months about delays in arms sales approvals. They argue that the US government has not expanded its capacity to process arms deals despite a big spike in such transactions. Jeff Kohler, Boeing Co's vice president for international business development, said earlier this month he and his Gulf customers were "a little frustrated" with delays in getting US approvals for fighter jet sales. A \$3 billion deal for 28 Boeing F/A-18E/F fighter jets for Kuwait, and a separate Qatari deal for F-15 fighters, have been delayed for some time. Rixey said DSCA was keeping up with surging arms sales requests largely through process improvements and better training, but he warned that potential cuts in Pentagon headquarters funding could pose a problem. DSCA is handling a total of 13,500 cases with a total value of \$461 billion. Last year's total was the biggest yet, outside of a spike caused by Saudi fighter jet sales in 2012.

Rixey said his agency was coordinating more closely with the US State Department, the US Commerce Department and other Pentagon agencies and leaders to advocate for US arms sales as a key instrument of US foreign policy. He said requests from countries that were "well-behaved" and protected US technology were generally processed quickly, but the US government would take its time vetting sales to countries with weaker records on human rights and technology. DSCA had increased training and was working on a variety of initiatives, Rixey said, including pre-processing reviews and stockpiling some munitions and other weapons that were in high demand by using a special revolving defense acquisition fund. Congress has authorized the agency to spend up to \$400 million from the account since it was reconstituted in 2011, about \$75 million of which remains available, said Pentagon spokesman Lieutenant Colonel Joe Sowers. Rixey said some munitions had also been sold from US military reserves to ensure that they were available to allies quicker. — Reuters

'BACHELOR BAN': QATAR MULLS FAMILY MALL DAYS

Continued from Page 1

malls on weekends because of the huge number of laborers," she said. "Families suffer and we want to allocate one day, either Friday or Saturday, and the rest of the week is open to laborers. Moreover, there are many other malls they (laborers) can use on that family day." She added, however, that the proposal was not aimed specifically at blue-collar workers. "It is not a matter of laborers. It is a matter of singles and families from all nationalities, even single Qataris. We do not discriminate against anyone." The CMC does not have the power to enforce the ban, but has asked the economy and commerce ministry to intervene to ensure malls comply. An official from that department will attend December's meeting. Malls play a central role in the day-to-day life of people in Qatar, especially during the baking hot summer months. On most days throughout the year, the biggest malls will be full, used by Qataris and expats, including many laborers. There are about 1.8 million foreign workers, mostly male, who make up about 90 percent of the population in the tiny Gulf state. Many work on major infrastructure projects directly or indirectly related to the

World Cup. The proposal has already caught the eye of human rights groups, which have been quick to warn the policy could further impact on Qatar's reputation, which has been savaged since being awarded football's biggest tournament. "This looks like discrimination by stealth," says Nicholas McGeehan, Gulf researcher at Human Rights Watch. "It will certainly have a detrimental effect." McGeehan says he "doesn't buy" the explanation that the proposal is motivated by family concerns and says it raises the prospect of "segregation." "When you are receiving so much criticism on workers' rights, why would you add racial discrimination to the mix?" It also comes on top of a recent map published by the country's urban planning ministry showing which areas in Qatar, including large parts of Doha, were designated "no-go zones" for laborer accommodation. George, a pipe-fitter from Ghana who lives in Qatar but has a wife and two children back home, told AFP while in the popular City Center Mall in Doha that any shopping restrictions would cause a "big problem." "This is bad news. Friday is when I do my shopping," he said, adding: "We are treated as second-class citizens here." — AFP

OPEC TO STAY THE COURSE DESPITE FEARS...

Continued from Page 1

Now some member states are talking about a return to twenty-dollar-oil, last seen at the turn of the millennium. They point to Iranian confidence that international sanctions on its economy will be lifted by the end of the year. "Iran is announcing its production is going to increase as soon as they lift the sanctions and we need to do something. We (OPEC) cannot allow going into a war of prices. We need to stabilize the market," Venezuelan oil minister Eulogio del Pino said on Sunday. Asked how low prices could go next year if OPEC failed to change course, he said: "Mid-20s." Goldman Sachs said this year it saw a possibility of crude going even below \$20 because of the huge global oversupply, a strong dollar and a slowing Chinese economy. Most analysts doubt the Iranian sanctions will be lifted before next spring under its nuclear deal with world powers, but sooner or later its output will rise. Already the collapse in prices has partly achieved OPEC's goals. It has boosted global demand and curbed growth in supplies of US shale oil, which is relatively expensive to produce. Non-OPEC supply is also expected to fall for the first time in almost a decade next year as struggling producers cut back on capital spending. But the world is still producing much more oil than it needs. Russian output has unexpectedly set new records and global stocks are ballooning. Even the finances of Saudi Arabia, which led OPEC's policy shift, are under more strain. Standard & Poor's rating agency forecasts its budget deficit will rocket to 16 percent of GDP in 2015 from 1.5 percent in 2014. Riyadh describes this year's deficit as manageable. However, Bank of America Merrill Lynch said on Monday it believed the pressure was so high that the Saudi government would be forced either to devalue its dollar-pegged currency or cut oil output. Such a cut would mean executing an about-face that many rivals would interpret as a strategy failure. Keeping the taps open while hoping for a longer-term payoff still appears to be the choice of Riyadh and its wealthy Gulf allies - Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait. Russia

may attend informal consultations with OPEC before the Vienna meeting on Dec 4 but there is little likelihood Moscow will change its stance and work with OPEC on cutting output, sources said. OPEC kept policy unchanged at the June meeting apparently with no major dissent. But this time, the opposition from OPEC hawks and poorer members, such as Venezuela, is more visible and the criticism is getting stronger. "I don't think anything will happen because the Saudis do not want to reduce production. They are shooting themselves in the foot. And they are shooting everyone else," said a second OPEC delegate, who asked not to be named. Illustrating the growing divisions, OPEC was unable to agree in November on an update of its Long-Term Strategy. Iran and Algeria, in comments on a draft OPEC document seen by Reuters, suggested the group should resume defending prices and controlling supply through quotas for member states. But even some of those in OPEC who support such steps see little chance of their being agreed. "I believe that OPEC will not reach an agreement to control production rates and the Saudis will stand by their strategy," said a third OPEC delegate. "No quotas will be reached." OPEC ditched quotas when it set its overall output target at 30 million barrels per day for 2012. This has been exceeded all this year, driven by record Saudi and Iraqi output. According to OPEC figures, production was 31.38 million bpd last month. Ministers might consider raising the ceiling to 31 million bpd to accommodate Indonesia, which pumps about 900,000 bpd and is rejoining OPEC after a seven-year break, delegates say. A big unknown for 2016 is how much extra oil Iran can produce quickly. Gulf OPEC delegates predict a modest 100,000-200,000 bpd, while Tehran says it could pump another 500,000 bpd within a few months of the lifting of sanctions. "At present, I can't see any indication that Saudi Arabia will seek to alter its market-share oriented strategy," said David Fyfe, head of research at trading firm Gunvor. "The resilience of the strategy will be tested over the next 12-18 months by any production increases that emerge from Iran, Iraq and Libya." — Reuters

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NAGPUR: India's wicketkeeper Wriddhiman Saha (C) and captain Virat Kohli (R) appeal unsuccessfully for a stumping against South Africa's Imran Tahir (L) during play on the first day of the third Test cricket match between India and South Africa at The Vidarbha Cricket Association Stadium in Nagpur yesterday. — AFP

MORKEL, HARMER SKITTLE INDIA ON DICEY PITCH

NAGPUR: Morne Morkel and Simon Harmer bamboozled India with pace and spin on a tricky wicket but South Africa also suffered early blows in the third Test in Nagpur yesterday. Off-spinner Harmer claimed four wickets for 78 and fast bowler Morkel took three for 35 as the Proteas bowled India out for 215 in the post-tea session of the first day's play.

South Africa, seeking a series-leveleving win, had plodded to 11 for two by stumps, setting the stage for an exciting battle ahead on a dusty and dry pitch at the VCA stadium. Off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin had opener Stiaan van Zyl caught in the slips for a duck before nightwatchman Imran Tahir was bowled by Ravindra Jadeja for four.

At stumps Dean Elgar was unbeaten on seven and skipper Hashim Amla had yet to score. India were reduced to 125-6 after winning the toss, before the last four wickets added 90 runs that included a 48-run stand for the seventh wicket between Jadeja (34) and wicketkeeper Wriddhiman Saha (32). Opener Murali Vijay top-scored with 40, but none of the other five specialist batsmen crossed 22 on a first-day pitch

that already shows cracks and continues to deteriorate fast.

Morkel made up for the absence of his unfit speed partner Dale Steyn to negate India's initial advantage of batting first, but then himself limped off the field while bowling his 17th over in the final session.

'Test won't last five days'

Harmer said he was happy to bowl on a pitch that helps slow bowlers and predicted the Test would be over before the fifth day. "This wicket is not prepared to last five days, there is bound to be a result," the off-spinner said.

"In South Africa we prepare pitches that suit our type of cricket. So this does not surprise us at all. But being a spinner, I like bowling on such wickets." India's batting coach Sanjay Bangar said it was too soon to predict the outcome.

"This is a challenging wicket to score runs on," said Bangar. "This has been a low-scoring series, but it is too early to say how this match will go. "There is a lot of time left in the match, so anything can happen." The Proteas, who would have batted had they won the toss, removed openers

Shikhar Dhawan and Murali Vijay in the morning session which ended with India on 85 for two.

Dhawan and Vijay put on 50 for the first wicket before South Africa hit back to remove both batsmen in the space of 19 runs. Left-arm spinner Dean Elgar took a low return catch to dismiss Dhawan for 12 before Morkel got rid of the settled Vijay for 40. Vijay smashed Harmer for the first six of the match and also hit three fours before he was trapped plumb in front of the wicket by a full-length delivery from Morkel.

Cheteshwar Pujara, who was unbeaten on 18 at lunch, added just three more after the break before playing back to Harmer to be leg-before. Ajinkya Rahane brought up India's 100 with a six off Harmer but his off-stump was sent cart-wheeling by Morkel when he reached 13. Morkel then had skipper Virat Kohli caught behind by Dane Vilas for 22 and Harmer had Rohit Sharma caught at short-leg for two to leave the hosts reeling on 125-6. The tourists, who lost the first Test in Mohali before the rain-hit second game in Bangalore was drawn, need a win to take the series into the decider in New Delhi starting December 3. — AFP

SCOREBOARD

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

India 1st innings		South Africa 1st innings	
M. Vijay lbw b M. Morkel	40	D. Elgar not out	7
S. Dhawan c&b Elgar	12	S. van Zyl c Rahane b Ashwin	0
C. Pujara lbw b Harmer	21	I. Tahir b Jadeja	4
V. Kohli c Vilas b M. Morkel	22	H. Amla not out	0
A. Rahane b M. Morkel	13	Extras	0
Ro. Sharma c de Villiers b Harmer	2	Total (for 2 wickets, 9 overs)	11
W. Saha c Duminy b Harmer	32	Fall of wickets: 1-4 S. van Zyl, 2-9 I. Tahir	
R. Jadeja b Rabada	34	To bat: A. de Villiers, J. Duminy, D. Vilas, K. Rabada, S. Harmer, M. Morkel, F. du Plessis	
R. Ashwin b Tahir	15	Bowling:	
A. Mishra lbw b Harmer	3	I. Sharma	2-1-4-0
I. Sharma not out	0	R. Ashwin	4-2-5-1
Extras (b-15 lb-3 nb-1 w-2)	21	R. Jadeja	3-1-2-1
Total (all out, 78.2 overs)	215	Referees	
Fall of wickets: 1-50 S. Dhawan, 2-69 M. Vijay, 3-94		Umpire: Ian Gould	
C. Pujara, 4-115 A. Rahane, 5-116 V. Kohli, 6-125		Umpire: Bruce Oxenford	
Ro. Sharma, 7-173 R. Jadeja, 8-201 W. Saha, 9-215		TV umpire: Anil Chaudhary	
R. Ashwin, 10-215 A. Mishra		Match referee: Jeff Crowe	
Bowling: M. Morkel 16.1-7-35-3(nb-1); K. Rabada 17-8-30-1(w-2); S. Harmer 27.2-2-78-4; D. Elgar 4-0-			

STARC IN THE PINK FOR HISTORIC DAY-NIGHT TEST

ADELAIDE: Mitchell Starc looms as Australia's big weapon with the all-new pink ball as Test cricket ventures into the unknown with the first ever day-night Test against New Zealand in Adelaide starting tomorrow.

The performance of the ball, and the success of Test cricket under floodlights, will be closely watched in what could be a breakthrough in attracting more fans to the struggling five-day format. Ticket sales have been promising, with a first-day crowd of up to 40,000 expected-compared with 16,000 the last time the two sides met in Adelaide in 2008. TV audiences should also be higher with play continuing until 9:00 pm local time.

The first day-night match in 138 years of Tests is one of cricket's rare innovations, and follows the advent of one-day internationals in the

1970s and the glitzy Twenty20 format in the last decade.

Tactics are expected to be dramatically affected with the new ball, coloured pink to help visibility, expected to swing freely during the night session-conditions which should bring Starc to the fore. Starc, Australia's premier paceman since Mitchell Johnson retired after the second Test in Perth, grabbed three wickets with lively swing in an evening session of a domestic Sheffield Shield match in Adelaide earlier this season. Starc also bowled the fastest ever Test delivery of 160.4kilometres per hour (99.7 mph) during the drawn second Test, and he could be crucial as Australia look to seal the three-Test series.

'Can't see the seam'

"It usually swings with the new

ball and also under lights it tends to swing a little bit more," Australia spinner Nathan Lyon said of the pink ball. "I'm a big fan of bowling with the pink ball because they (batsmen) can't see the seam so it's going to be interesting times." Australia hold a 1-0 lead after winning by 208 runs in Brisbane, meaning the Kiwis can level the series if they win in Adelaide. Black Caps coach Mike Hesson said both sides will be keen to bowl at night, something which will affect strategy including declarations. "There's definitely something to that (declaring to bowl at night), if you think that's the best chance to take a few early wickets," he said. "There'll definitely be some tactical plays throughout the Test." Australia are contemplating playing two spinners with Stephen O'Keefe's record in Adelaide bringing him into con-

tention alongside Lyon. O'Keefe has taken 18 wickets for New South Wales in three pink-ball Sheffield Shield games at the Adelaide Oval, and he has no doubt the third Test will produce a result.

"In my opinion this is the best ground to play with the pink ball," O'Keefe said. "I think that is a result wicket out there, without a doubt."

AC/DC

David Warner, who hit twin centuries in Brisbane and a maiden double-ton in Perth, believes a switch to the pink ball and a likely grassy Adelaide Oval pitch may tilt the balance to the bowlers.

"The last two wickets have been very batter-friendly," Warner said. "It's going to be a different story playing here and I think you'll see the ball move around a bit off the wicket." Ground staff have had their work cut out after a rock concert by AC/DC at the Oval on Saturday, putting a drop-in pitch in place and replacing some 800 square metres (8,600 square feet) of outfield.

James Pattinson, who has struggled with injuries, is expected to play his first Test since March 2014, while Shaun Marsh has another chance to prove his worth at Test level as he replaces injured batsman Usman Khawaja. New Zealand have Neil Wagner in line to replace Trent Boult if the key paceman succumbs to a back injury.

Teams

Australia (from) - David Warner, Joe Burns, Steve Smith (capt), Shaun Marsh, Adam Voges, Mitch Marsh, Peter Nevill, Mitchell Starc, Josh Hazlewood, James Pattinson, Nathan Lyon, Steve O'Keefe, Peter Siddle. New Zealand (from) - Tom Latham, Martin Guptill, Kane Williamson, Ross Taylor, Brendon McCullum (capt), BJ Watling, Mark Craig, Doug Bracewell, Matt Henry, Tim Southee, Trent Boult, Neil Wagner. — AFP



Phillip Hughes

A YEAR ON: HUGHES AND THE DELIVERY THAT CHANGED CRICKET

MELBOURNE: Cricket has changed in Australia in the 12 months since Phillip Hughes was felled by a rising delivery that ultimately led to his death. Hughes, who played 26 tests for Australia, died three days short of his 26th birthday of a brain hemorrhage on Nov 27, 2014, two days after he was struck under the rear of his batting helmet by a short-pitch ball while playing for South Australia against New South Wales at the Sydney Cricket Ground.

His death stunned the international cricket community, causing an outpouring of grief from players, officials and from the general public - tens of thousands of fans around Australia showed solidarity in mourning by putting their cricket bats on display outside their homes as a tribute.

While new safety measures such as improved batting helmets are the obvious legacy of Hughes' passing, others are more subtle but affect the very culture of cricket. Fast bowlers, by and large, tend no longer to aim to intimidate batsmen with head-high bouncers, and spectators no longer rejoice in pacemen serving up "chin music" or cheer when a batsman is hit.

Recently retired strike bowler Mitchell Johnson, one of cricket's most feared pacemen, told Australian Broadcasting Corp. television that Hughes' death made him question the way he played the game.

"I had that (2013-2014) Ashes series where I was really aggressive and bowling a lot of short balls and I did hit players," he said, reflecting on the summer before Hughes died. The death, he added, "made me think, was I doing the right thing? You know, was I playing in the spirit of the game?"

While Johnson eventually came to terms with his intimidating style, his former team-

mates agree the game is different now. A number of senior players have since retired from international cricket, Johnson being the most recent of a line that includes former skipper Michael Clarke, allrounder Shane Watson and wicketkeeper Brad Haddin - who all played in provincial and national teams with Hughes.

"The game has changed for me forever. It's not what it was," said recalled spin bowler Steve O'Keefe, who was who was fielding for New South Wales when Hughes was struck.

Emotions

O'Keefe told a news conference in Adelaide, where Australia will take on New Zealand in the first day-night cricket test match starting tomorrow, that his perspective changed. "You're playing a game that's supposed to be fun and you're supposed to be in a great contest, and then in the blink of a ball it completely changes on you," he said. "I just hope in my lifetime that I never have to see anything like that again, and we can remember Phil Hughes for what he was, which was a great bloke and an even better player."

The schedule for Australia's 2014-15 home series against India was redrafted in the wake of Hughes' death, with the emotional opening test played at Adelaide Oval, the same venue where the Australia vs. New Zealand test will start on the first anniversary of the batsman's passing. In that match last year, Australia players wore No. 408 - Hughes' test cap number - with black armbands on their shirts. Hughes was 63 not out late on Nov. 25, 2014 when fatally injured at the SCG. The Adelaide Oval crowd offered 63 seconds of applause in his honor before the start of play in the next test match, and a large number 408 was painted on the field in tribute.—AP



ADELAIDE: Australia's Peter Nevill, right, reaches for a ball during training at the Adelaide Oval ahead of their cricket test against New Zealand in Adelaide, yesterday. The test starting tomorrow will be the first ever day/night cricket test match. — AP

TISSOT THE TOP PLAYER IN THE WORLD OF BASKETBALL

LE LOCLE: In 2008, Tissot became the Official Timekeeper of the International Basketball Federation (FIBA). More recently, on October 5, 2015, it signed the biggest contract of its history and became the first Official Timekeeper of the National Basketball Association (NBA). Today, to add to this impressive list, Tissot renews its partnership with the Chinese Basketball Association (CBA), which positions the Swiss watch brand as the top player in the world of basketball timekeeping.

Tissot's initial commitment to basketball was in 2008. It signed a deal with the International Basketball Federation (FIBA), which is the world governing body for basketball and organiser of the FIBA Basketball World Cup. The French NBA star Tony Parker was then added to the equation as one of the brand's main ambassadors. The partnership was already starting to grow. Today, Tissot is the first ever to be the Official Timekeeper and Watch of

the NBA, Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA), and NBA Development League (NBA D-League). To complete the picture, it renews its contract with the CBA, the pre-eminent professional basketball league in Asia, of which it was already Official Timekeeper in 2007. These deals make Tissot the global actor in the field of Basketball Timekeeping.

Francois Thiebaud, Tissot President, said: "We are very proud to play an active role in one of the most popular sports worldwide. We are a global brand and a global association in the world of basketball seemed only fitting. The next step for us is to bring our innovative spirit and expertise time-keeping to the game to improve the experience for everyone involved."

It's the Swissness at the very heart of Tissot that makes the brand such a distinguished one. The + in the Tissot logo is the same as the Swiss flag, symbolising the quality and the reliability

that watchmakers have proudly demonstrated since 1853. The innovative brand remains in its home in Le Locle in the Swiss Jura Mountains, keeping its Swiss identity at its core. Tissot watches are authentic and accessible, using special materials, advanced functionality and meticulous design detail to create pieces that are both precise and stylish. The high calibre of the brand has been repeatedly recognised, as in its illustrious history Tissot has been named Official Timekeeper and Partner of the NBA, Moto GPTM, FIM World Superbike, FIBA, AFL, RBS 6 Nations Rugby and the World Championships of cycling, fencing and ice hockey. Tissot, which sells its timepieces in more than 160 countries round the world, is a member of the Swatch Group, the world's largest watch producer and distributor of Swiss watches. As it continues to create pioneering creations, Tissot stands by its signature, "Innovators by Tradition."



NBA Commissioner Adam Silver, Tissot President Francois Thiebaud, FIBA President Yvan Manini, InFront Basketball Director Benedikt Von Dohnanyi.



OAKLAND: Stephen Curry #30 of the Golden State Warriors shoots over Jordan Clarkson #6 of the Los Angeles Lakers during their NBA basketball game at ORACLE Arena on Tuesday in Oakland, California.—AFP

WARRIORS THRASH LAKERS FOR BEST START IN NBA HISTORY

OAKLAND: The defending champion Golden State Warriors set the record for best start in NBA history at 16-0, as Stephen Curry had 24 points and nine assists in a 111-77 rout of the Los Angeles Lakers on Tuesday. With their coach sidelined, the Warriors surpassed the 15-0 starts by the Washington Capitals of 1948-49 and 1993-94 Houston Rockets. Confetti streamed down when the final buzzer sounded, but Golden State's players barely celebrated. Kobe Bryant shot 1 of 14 for just four points, matching the worst-shooting performance of his career in a game where he had at least one basket. The Lakers dropped to 2-12 with the second-worst record in the NBA.

PACERS 123, WIZARDS 106

Paul George scored a season-high 40 points and made seven 3-pointers, part of a franchise-record 19 by Indiana in a victory over Washington. C.J. Miles added 32 points, his most since joining the Pacers before the start of last season, as Indiana

won for the ninth time in 11 games. Miles was 8 of 9 from beyond the arc, and George also missed only once from deep. The Pacers finished 73.1 percent (19 of 26) from 3-point range, crushing their previous season high of 44.4 percent (12 of 27). Gary Neal scored 23 points off the bench for the Wizards, whose three-game winning streak was broken.

GRIZZLIES 110, MAVERICKS 96

Mike Conley scored 21 points, Jeff Green added 19 and seven Memphis players reached double figures in a victory over Dallas. Marc Gasol had 15 points and 10 rebounds for Memphis, which won its fifth in the last six games. Matt Barnes and Mario Chalmers added 14 points apiece, and JaMychal Green contributed 13. Raymond Felton and J.J. Barea each scored 16 points and tried to pull the Mavericks back into the game in the fourth quarter. Dirk Nowitzki finished with 14 points and Zaza Pachulia had 13, both also grabbing 10 rebounds.

Wesley Matthews had 11 points and Deron Williams finished with 10 as Dallas lost its second straight.

HAWKS 121, CELTICS 97

Paul Millsap scored 25 points, Jeff Teague added 16 and Atlanta beat Boston. Atlanta had dropped four of five and was coming off a loss Saturday at Cleveland in which coach Mike Budenholzer was ejected and subsequently fined \$25,000 for bumping into referee Ben Taylor. The Hawks essentially put the game out of reach with an 18-3 run that made it 100-80 with 6:20 remaining on Teague's three-point play. Avery Bradley had 15 of his 25 points in the first half for Boston, which has dropped three of four. Isaiah Thomas scored 14 points as the Celtics, who began the game ranked ninth in opponent scoring, allowed a season high in points.

BULLS 93, TRAIL BLAZERS 88

Jimmy Butler scored 22 points, Derrick Rose added 17 in his return to the lineup and Chicago held off Portland. Rose had missed two games with a left ankle injury. His floating jumper stretched Chicago's lead to 78-65 early in the fourth quarter, but Portland rallied within 78-76 on Ed Davis' tip shot. Damian Lillard missed a 3-pointer to tie it for Portland with 2:25 left, then missed the second of a pair of free throws with 20.7 seconds left that would have also pulled the Blazers into a tie. Lillard finished with 19 points, 10 rebounds and eight assists, but shot 4 of 22 from the field. CJ McCollum added 18 points.

CLIPPERS 111, NUGGETS 94

Blake Griffin and DeAndre Jordan each scored 18 points as Los Angeles beat Denver to end a three-game losing streak. Jordan finished with 11 rebounds and four blocks, while Griffin had 10 rebounds. Chris Paul had 15 points and 10 assists to give the Clippers (7-7) three players with double-doubles. The Clippers, who hadn't been under .500 this far into a season under coach Doc Rivers, made eight 3-pointers after coming into the game at 31.3 percent. Danilo Gallinari led Denver with 20 points and had a career-high 18 rebounds.—AP

NBA Results/Standings

Indiana 123, Washington 106; Atlanta 121, Boston 97; Memphis 110, Dallas 96; LA Clippers 111, Denver 94; Chicago 93, Portland 88; Golden State 111, LA Lakers 77.

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division

	W	L	PCT	GB
Toronto	9	6	.600	-
NY Knicks	8	7	.533	1
Boston	7	7	.500	1.5
Brooklyn	3	11	.214	5.5
Philadelphia	0	15	0	9

Central Division

Cleveland	11	3	.786	-
Chicago	9	4	.692	1.5
Indiana	9	5	.643	2
Detroit	7	7	.500	4
Milwaukee	6	8	.429	5

Southeast Division

Miami	9	4	.692	-
Atlanta	10	6	.625	0.5
Charlotte	8	6	.571	1.5
Washington	6	5	.545	2
Orlando	6	8	.429	3.5

Western Conference

Northwest Division

Oklahoma City	9	6	.600	-
Utah	6	7	.462	2
Minnesota	6	8	.429	2.5
Denver	6	9	.400	3
Portland	6	10	.375	3.5

Pacific Division

Golden State	16	0	1.000	-
Phoenix	7	7	.500	8
LA Clippers	7	7	.500	8
Sacramento	5	10	.333	10.5
LA Lakers	2	12	.143	13

Southwest Division

San Antonio	11	3	.786	-
Dallas	9	6	.600	2.5
Memphis	8	7	.533	3.5
Houston	5	9	.357	6
New Orleans	3	11	.214	8

HAMILTON READY TO WRAP UP SEASON ON A HIGH

ABU DHABI: Lewis Hamilton will find his number is up in lights in Abu Dhabi, and that can only be a good omen as the triple Formula One world champion seeks to end another dominant season on a high this weekend. The number 44, the one the Briton has on his Mercedes, figures prominently on roadside illuminations as the United Arab Emirates celebrates the 44th anniversary of its founding on Dec. 2, 1971.

The return to Yas Marina will also bring back fond memories for the 30-year-old who clinched his second title by winning at the circuit last season and can take his 50th career pole position this weekend.

"Last year, this place brought probably the most intense weekend of my life. I didn't sleep much

through nerves and not knowing what was ahead," the race favourite recalled. "But this time around there's no pressure, so I'll be well-rested and aiming to go out on a high. "A lot of British fans come out to Abu Dhabi so it's like another home crowd for me. To win for them and show how grateful I am for the fantastic support I've had all year would be the best way to end an incredible season," he added. Another win would also be his 11th of the season, matching his 2014 tally. For Mercedes, regardless of who wins, a 12th one-two finish from 19 races would also be the icing on the cake by breaking their own record set last year. With first and second assured in the championship for the second year in a row, and the construc-

tor's title retained, there is also the hope of seeing both Mercedes drivers battling wheel to wheel.

Entertaining battle

There was none of that in Brazil two weeks ago, or in Mexico, as Mercedes made clear that their priority was to secure second place for Nico Rosberg. "We will not be backing off and an entertaining battle at the front between our boys for one last time in 2015 will be the ideal way to show that," said motorsport head Toto Wolff. Rosberg will be aiming to continue two sequences of his own, the German chasing his third win in a row and sixth successive pole to go into the winter with at least some bragging rights.—Reuters

MURRAY THE KEY AS BRITAIN, BELGIUM CONTEST DAVIS FINAL

GHENT: Belgium host Britain in the Davis Cup final in Ghent this weekend in a matchup no-one expected and an atmosphere no-one wants. The picturesque Flanders city is just 55 kilometres (35 miles) from Brussels, still reeling from the fallout of the terrorist attacks on Paris that killed 130 people and injured hundreds more.

The Belgian government has declared the highest level of terror alert in the capital city as the hunt for those responsible for the Paris atrocities continues.

Both teams, though, are in Ghent and saying that, despite all the fears and anxiety, the focus is fully on tennis and history-making. Britain are seeking their 10th Davis Cup win in all, but first since 1936 when Fred Perry ruled the roost. Belgium's only previous appearance in the final came 111 years ago when they lost to what was then the British Isles.

The central figure in the Friday to Sunday clash at the 13,000-capacity Flanders Expo is undoubtedly British number one Andy Murray.

Ranked second in the world, he has been the inspiration behind his country reaching the Davis Cup final for the first time since 1978, winning all eight rubbers he has played-six singles and two doubles-against heavyweights United States, France and Australia.

Should he win both his singles-as he is heavily favoured to do-he would be just the third player after John McEnroe and Mats Wilander to win all eight Davis Cup singles matches in the same year.

Murray, who will finish the year ranked second in the world behind Novak Djokovic, is on a crash course to get himself adapted to playing on indoor clay after a week spent on a hardcourt in London for the World Tour Finals.

But the 28-year-old Scot, who is likely to team up again with brother Jamie in what could be a key doubles rubber on Saturday, said he was confident he would be up to scratch by Friday.

"To win the biggest team competition in

tennis, having beaten the other three Grand Slam nations, I think it would be a huge victory for everyone in the team," he said.

"It would be well-deserved, as well. It's taken a lot of time and hard work from many of the players, many of the staff, coaches, physios, everyone. It's taken like five years.

"I know when you win like a slam or a big competition, it's years, obviously, in the works. But this is a bit different. "The last five years it's been a progression from a pretty low place in world tennis to playing for the biggest team competition. It would be big for everyone involved, for sure."

Lucky Belgium

Belgium's astonishing run into the final had much to do with good fortune and three home ties. In the first round they came up against defending champions Switzerland, but neither Roger Federer, nor Stanislas Wawrinka elected to play.

In the next round, Canada's top two players were both missing through injury and they then edged a mediocre Argentina side 3-2 in the semis. Home hopes rest with their top player David Goffin and number two Steve Darcis both taking points off the second British player, possibly 20-year-old debutant Kyle Edmund, and also winning the doubles.

Ranked 16th in the world, Goffin recently felt the full force of the Murray firepower, winning just one game as he lost in straight sets in under an hour at the Paris Masters.

It was, he said, a chastening experience, but one which he said he has fully put out of his mind.

"I think the day I played Andy in (Paris) Bercy, it was just a day off for me. I didn't play really well. But Andy was really aggressive. He played an unbelievable match there," he said.

"The conditions here, it's a completely different match, another surface. I just have to forget this match and to think about the matches of this weekend." — AFP



GHENT: Great Britain's Andy Murray practices during a training session two days ahead of the Davis Cup World Group tennis final between Belgium and Great Britain, yesterday, at Flanders Expo in Ghent.—AFP

Sports

Coe under fire for support of Eugene world championships



Bayern crush Olympiakos to book knockout place



THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2015

STARC IN THE PINK FOR HISTORIC DAY-NIGHT TEST

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BARCELONA: Barcelona's Brazilian forward Neymar (C) kicks a ball during the UEFA Champions League Group E football match FC Barcelona vs AS Roma at the Camp Nou stadium in Barcelona on Tuesday. —AFP

SUAREZ, MESSI HIT DOUBLES AS BARCA ROUT ROMA

BARCELONA: Lionel Messi scored his first two goals after a two-month injury layoff and Luis Suarez netted a brace in a 6-1 rout of Roma on Tuesday as Barcelona advanced to the Champions League knockout rounds for a 12th consecutive season. Suarez got Barcelona rolling at Camp Nou in the 15th minute. Three minutes later Messi scored his first goal in his second appearance since returning from a left-knee injury. With Roma in disarray, Messi netted the hosts' fifth after Suarez and Gerard Pique scored.

Adriano capped the demolition before Edin Dzeko got Roma's consolation. Messi showed no rust from his time on the sideline recovering from a ligament he tore on Sept. 26. On Saturday, he played a little more than half an hour as a second-

half substitute in Barcelona's memorable 4-0 win at Real Madrid, looking threatening as ever despite not scoring.

Frighteningly enough for opponents, Barcelona's all-time leading scorer said despite his strong return, he has yet to recover his peak form.

"It's tough to get back up to full speed," said Messi. "I prepared well and trained but it's not the same as going out on the pitch and lasting 90 minutes. I will take it with calm and get my pace back."

Barcelona had already qualified for the next phase before kickoff after Bayer Leverkusen was held 1-1 at BATE Borisov, but the victory moved the defending champions onto 13 points and the top spot in Group E with a game to spare.

Roma was left with five points along with

Leverkusen, while BATE has four. "Right now Barca is unstoppable, it's not a coincidence that it beat Madrid 4-0," said Roma coach Rudi Garcia. "For us the good news arrived before the match. The draw between Leverkusen and BATE keeps our options alive."

Messi's goals were his first in the Champions League this campaign (he has only made two appearances) and 78th and 79th in competition history, second only to Cristiano Ronaldo's record of 83. Suarez, meanwhile, continued his scoring streak with his ninth and tenth goals in his last six matches taking him up to 17 for the season. Both Suarez and striker partner Neymar, who missed a late penalty, also excelled at playing a part in their team's goals with their passing.

"We are in a sweet moment and hope to keep it going as long as possible," said Barcelona coach Luis Enrique, whose team also leads the Spanish league. "I see my team very focused, with everyone motivated."

Barcelona was soon in front after Neymar drifted back into midfield and sent forward a perfect pass to meet Dani Alves' run from the flank. The right back only had to square the ball for the unmarked Suarez to steer it in.

Messi doubled the lead moments later after he finished off a series of one-touch passes before Suarez lobbed him the ball, leaving Messi to dink the ball over Szczesny.

Barcelona continued to dominate both possession and the initiative, and Suarez blasted a right-

foot volley of a cleared ball that fell to him just inside the far post right before halftime.

With Roma still in disarray, Pique got on the scoresheet after Messi was played through by Suarez and passed for the defender to tap home in the 56th. Suarez was again playmaker four minutes later after Neymar found him in the area to set up Messi, who finished off his own rebound for this second goal.

Neymar earned a penalty from Salih Ucan but had his spot kick saved by Szczesny, only for substitute Adriano to rush in a fire in the rebound in the 77th. Dzeko also had a penalty saved by Marc-Andre ter Stegen in the 82nd after being fouled by Thomas Vermaelen but got the Italian side a consolation goal just before the final whistle. —AP

SANCHEZ DOUBLE KEEPS ARSENAL'S HOPES ALIVE

LONDON: Alexis Sanchez scored twice and Mesut Ozil headed the other goal as never-say-die Arsenal beat Dinamo Zagreb 3-0 on Tuesday and kept alive their hopes of reaching the Champions League last 16 for a 16th straight season.

The Gunners, whose chances of advancing looked remote after defeats by Dinamo, Olympiakos Piraeus and Bayern Munich in their opening four matches, were given a huge helping hand by Bayern Munich who thrashed the Greeks 4-0 in the other Group F match. Those results mean that Bayern are through to the knockout round and Arsenal will join them if they beat Olympiakos by two clear goals in Greece on Dec. 9.

Bayern have 12 points, Olympiakos have nine, Arsenal are on six and Dinamo have three. If Olympiakos gain at least a point against Arsenal they will go through instead of the London side while Dinamo are already eliminated and will finish bottom. Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger told reporters he was pleased his side now had their fate back in their hands. "It was important we did not concede the first goal because they (Dinamo) were quite dangerous going forward. "We had to come out of the game tonight with a chance to qualify—we needed to do the job and Bayern needed to do the job and it happened—and now I believe we can do it. "We have to go there (Olympiakos) and win, and if we are winning 1-0, then we can win 2-0."

Dinamo coach Zoran Mamic agreed, telling reporters: "I think they can go through, they have more quality than Olympiakos and are a better team and I think they will reach the next stage." There was nervous apprehension from the home fans on a chilly night but that eased as Arsenal weathered early pressure before taking control with excellent quick-passing football. Ozil, Sanchez and Santi Cazorla were dominant in midfield and the German playmaker made the breakthrough when he scored with a stooped header after Sanchez had run more than 50 metres with the ball as Arsenal broke on the counter. Sanchez scored the second after poor defending by Leonardo Sigali, whose weak clearance inside his area was intercepted by Nacho Monreal who set up his Chilean team mate for a tap-in. The second half followed much the same pattern and, although Dinamo weaved some nice moves in midfield, they hardly created a chance to trouble Arsenal keeper Petr Cech. Cazorla, Olivier Giroud and the excellent Joel Campbell kept Eduardo busy in the visitors' goal, with Sanchez netting the third goal by rounding the keeper, leaving Arsenal believing they can complete the job of qualifying in two weeks' time. — Reuters



LONDON: Arsenal's Chilean striker Alexis Sanchez in action during their UEFA Champions League Group F football match between Arsenal and GNK Dinamo Zagreb at The Emirates Stadium in London on Tuesday. — AFP

CHELSEA REPEAT DRUBBING OF MACCABI TO MOVE IN ON LAST 16

HAIFA: Chelsea enjoyed their second 4-0 Champions League victory over 10-man Maccabi Tel Aviv this season to move into prime position to reach the knockout stages of the competition from Group G on Tuesday.

With Dynamo Kiev winning 2-0 at Porto, however, the qualifiers for the last 16 will only be determined in the last round of matches when Chelsea host Porto and Kiev welcome Maccabi. Goals by Gary Cahill, Willian, Oscar and Kurt Zouma secured the victory for Chelsea whose task was made easier when Maccabi captain Tal Ben Haim, a key player in the heart of the defence, was sent off five minutes before halftime.

After five games, Chelsea, who only need to draw their final match to progress, and Porto each have 10 points with Kiev on eight, while Maccabi are bottom without a point.

Cahill had put the visitors on the scoresheet in the 20th minute with a close-range effort after mounting Chelsea pressure as Maccabi's spirited start faded after about 15 minutes.

Maccabi kept up their attempts to penetrate the Chelsea defence but their cause was undermined when Ben Haim was shown a red card for a wild kick on striker Diego Costa. The Israelis maintained their efforts after the break but the result was sealed when Willian scored in the 73rd minute with a perfectly-executed curling free kick that beat the Maccabi wall and left goalkeeper Predrag Rajkovic stranded.

Oscar made it 3-0 in the 77th from close range as Maccabi's defensive shield was breached again before Zouma pounced on a corner in the first minute of added time to seal the win.

Chelsea coach Jose Mourinho said the result flattered his side. "I think we played very well in the first half, the pitch didn't help," Mourinho said. "In the second we slept a bit for the first 15-20 minutes waiting for the second goal to come and only when we were again in danger did we react well. No doubt about the victory but I think Maccabi deserved a bit more than that."

Maccabi coach Slavisa Jokanovic said the sending off made it impossible for his players to overcome technically superior opposition.

"Playing 11 against 11 is hard enough in the Champions League and when it's 10 against 11 Chelsea players it becomes pretty much impossible," he said.

Moments before the second goal, Chelsea captain John Terry had to be substituted after injuring his ankle, an incident which Mourinho said occurred as a result of the poor playing surface.

The extent of the injury was not initially known but Mourinho looked worried and suggested Terry may not be available to play against Tottenham Hotspur in the Premier League on Sunday.

"This is such a beautiful stadium and a wonderful crowd but the surface was really bad. They deserve better than this," he said. — Reuters

Kuwait Times BUSINESS

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**Etihad celebrates arrival
of its first A380 flights in JFK**

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**Zain Group to host technology
conference in Bahrain**

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**NBK-Egypt reports EGP
445.6m in net profits for
9-month 2015**

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UK BACKS OFF CUTS TO TAX BREAKS FOR LOWER INCOME HOUSEHOLDS

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LONDON: A 'picker' worker collects items from storage shelves as she collates a customer order inside an Amazon.co.uk fulfillment centre in Hemel Hempstead, north of London, yesterday. Shops could be seeing the effect of consumers postponing purchases until "Black Friday" tomorrow, a day of sales in the United States that has become increasingly popular in Britain. — AFP

US CONSUMER SPENDING SHOWS SIGNS OF SLOWING BUSINESS SENTIMENT IMPROVES, WEEKLY JOBLESS CLAIMS FALL

WASHINGTON: US consumer spending barely rose in October as households took advantage of rising incomes to boost savings to their highest level in nearly three years, pointing to moderate economic growth in the fourth quarter.

Anemic consumer spending will probably do little change expectations that the Federal Reserve will raise interest rates next month as other data yesterday showed a surge in business spending plans in October and a drop in new applications for unemployment benefits last week.

The Commerce Department said consumer spending edged up 0.1 percent after a similar increase in September. When adjusted for inflation, consumer spending rose by the same margin.

That suggests consumer spending, which accounts for more than two-thirds of US economic activity, has slowed from the third quarter's brisk 3.0 percent annual pace. The tepid rise in consumer spending could combine with an anticipated drag from an ongoing inventory reduction to hold the economy to around a 2 percent growth rate in the fourth quarter. The government reported on Tuesday that the economy expanded at a 2.1 percent rate in the third quarter.

The economy could get support from business spending. In a separate report, the Commerce Department said non-defense capital goods orders excluding aircraft, a closely watched proxy for business spending plans, increased 1.3 percent last month after rising 0.4 percent in September.

The report came on the heels of data this month showing a solid increase in manufacturing output in

October, and was the latest suggestion that the worst of the drag from a strong dollar and deep spending cuts by energy firms was over. Fed officials had held off raising rates at their last two meetings as they assessed the degree to which a stronger dollar and a slowing in economies overseas would weigh on the United States.

Manufacturing, which accounts for 12 percent of the economy, has been slammed by the dollar strength and the spending cuts in the energy sector. The dollar has appreciated 18.1 percent against the currencies of the United States' main trading partners since June 2014. The pace of appreciation, however, is gradually slowing. Economists also believe that the bulk of spending cuts by oil field firms like Schlumberger in response to lower crude prices have already been implemented. US Treasury debt prices pared gains after the reports, while the dollar hit an eight-month high against a basket of currencies. US stock index futures slightly extended gains.

WAGES RISING

Economists speculate that rising rents are diverting money from discretionary spending. But as the labor market continues to tighten, there is optimism that wage growth will pick up and encourage consumers to loosen their purse strings and boost spending. A third report from the Labor Department showed initial claims for state unemployment benefits declined 12,000 to a seasonally adjusted 260,000 for the week ended Nov. 21.

Claims have now held below the 300,000 threshold for 38 consecutive weeks, the longest stretch in

years, and remain close to levels last seen in the early 1970s. Strengthening labor market conditions are gradually lifting income. The Commerce Department said personal income increased 0.4 percent last month, accelerating after a 0.2 percent gain in September. Wages and salaries shot up 0.6 percent, the largest increase since May.

Savings increased to \$761.9 billion last month, the highest level since December 2012, from \$722.9 billion in September. Higher savings could over time buoy consumer spending.

There was still no sign of inflation, which has persistently run below the Federal Reserve's 2 percent target. A price index for consumer spending ticked up 0.1 percent after declining in September for the first time since January. In the 12 months through October, the personal consumption expenditures (PCE) price index was up 0.2 percent after a similar rise in September. Excluding food and energy, prices were unchanged after rising by 0.2 percent in September. The so-called core PCE price index rose 1.3 percent in the 12 months through October, for the 10th straight month.

Home sales

Sales of new homes recovered in October after suffering a steep drop in September, indicating a return to stability in the housing market.

The Commerce Department says new-home sales climbed 10.7 percent last month to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 495,000. This rebound followed a 12.9 percent plunge in the sales rate during September. Americans recovered much of their



A customer (at left) pays for produce at a stand at the Atlanta Farmers Market. The Commerce Department released a report on consumer spending and income growth for October yesterday. — AP

appetite for owning new homes this year. Purchases have surged 15.7 percent year-to-date, benefiting from the solid hiring gains and low mortgage rates.

The new-home sales report tends to be volatile from month to month. Home-buying surged 135.5 percent in the Northeast in October, while rising less

aggressively in the Midwest and South. Sales dropped slightly in the West. But prices dipped last month despite other industry reports indicating that real estate prices have eclipsed income growth. In October, the median new-home sales price fell 8.5 percent from a year ago to \$281,500. — Agencies

AUSTRALIA-LED GROUP WINS \$7BN ELECTRICITY DEAL OVER CHINA BID

SYDNEY: An Australia-led consortium of investment funds from Canada and the Middle East won the bid for electricity transmission network TransGrid yesterday, beating a Chinese challenger in a deal worth Aus\$10 billion (\$7.3 billion).

China's State Grid was considered a frontrunner but the New South Wales state government said the strongest bid belonged to the locally led NSW Electricity Networks consortium. "The transaction will deliver gross proceeds of Aus\$10.258 billion which will help fund a raft of infrastructure projects across the state," NSW Premier Mike Baird said in a statement.

The winning consortium includes Canadian pension fund Caisse de depot et placement du Quebec (CDPO), the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority's Tawreed Investments Limited, and a wholly owned subsidiary of the Kuwait Investment Authority (KIA), Wren House Infrastructure.

The consortium is led by investment fund Hastings as manager of Utilities Trust of Australia, while locally listed Spark Infrastructure, which owns and manages energy assets, is also part of the group.

The Chinese bid had generated concerns given TransGrid is a critical piece of national infrastructure underpinning the NSW economy and a key part of the country's electricity market.

State Grid's loss comes just days after national Treasurer Scott Morrison blocked the sale of one of the world's largest cattle estates to foreign entities, ruling it

was not in the national interest. Chinese companies Genius Link Group and Shanghai Pengxin had reportedly been in a bidding war to secure the S. Kidman and Co Ltd pastoral empire for up to Aus\$350 million ahead of that ruling.

And last week a decision by the Northern Territory to lease the Port of Darwin to a Chinese firm prompted a review of the rules that allow Australian states to sell strategic assets to foreign firms without federal scrutiny.

Morrison welcomed the awarding of the 99-year lease for TransGrid to the consortium. "The Foreign Investment Review Board has been in extensive consultation with the NSW government for over 12 months to ensure that national interest considerations are addressed," he said.

"This consultation has also included relevant... agencies that have an interest in the acquisition of critical infrastructure." Once the transaction is finalized, the state government will retain significant influence over TransGrid, including as regulator.

Morrison said he had asked for further safeguards that were "more stringent than any previous conditions imposed on acquisitions of critical infrastructure". These include an insistence that foreign consortium members hold no more than a 50 percent share in TransGrid and that 50 percent of TransGrid's boards comprise Australian citizens and residents.

"Australia continues to be open for business and we welcome foreign investment when it is not contrary to the national interest," Morrison said. — AFP

GULF MARKETS FLAT, EGYPT BOUNCES BACK

MIDEAST STOCK MARKETS

DUBAI: A bounce in shares of Commercial International Bank (CIB) helped Egypt's stock market rebound from near technical support yesterday, while most Gulf markets were little changed.

CIB, a traditional favourite of foreign investors, had tumbled 22 percent over the past three weeks ago, hit by concern that Egypt might soon devalue its currency because of the blow to tourism revenues from last month's apparent bombing of a Russian passenger jet over the Sinai Peninsula.

Devaluation worries have not gone away, but some investors bought back into CIB at Wednesday's lows. The stock climbed 3 percent to 42.57 Egyptian pounds, helping Cairo's main share index gain 1.1 percent to 6,391 points. It has minor chart support at last week's low of 6,302 points. According to Thomson Reuters data, 12 analysts rate CIB a "buy" or

"strong buy", four rate it a "hold" and none a "sell". Their median target price is 64.00 pounds. Most Gulf markets fluctuated narrowly as low oil and gas prices, and a lack of positive corporate news, deterred many buyers. The Saudi stock index edged up 0.1 percent. After gaining for seven straight days, leading petrochemical producer Saudi Basic Industries rose in early trade but closed flat. Saudi Automotive Services gained 1.2 percent after saying it had repaid early 20 million riyals (\$5.3 mln) of a loan from Arab National Bank. The company said it had paid the debt, which had been due in February 2017, with internal resources in order to reduce financial costs.

Qatar's index fell 1 percent as the most heavily traded stock, Gulf International Services, slid 4.1 percent. MSCI will delete the stock from its emerging markets index at the end of this month. Dubai edged up

0.2 percent as builder Arabtec, the most heavily traded stock, rebounded 2.7 percent after sliding 4.3 percent on Tuesday. Abu Dhabi rose 0.3 as Abu Dhabi National Energy Co (TAQA) soared to its 15 percent daily limit to touch 0.46 dirham in its heaviest trade since April 2013.

The company posted a big third-quarter loss and its shares have been trending down this year because of low oil prices, but in recent days they have bounced from a record low of 0.36 dirham. TAQA said on Wednesday that it had filed with US regulators for the sale of its stake in the Lakefield wind power plant in the United States, aiming to complete the deal in the first quarter of 2016. The company said earlier this year that it had decided to sell the asset, given a "carrying value" of 147 million dirhams (\$40 million); it said that amount was expected to be surpassed in the sale. — Reuters

NBK-EGYPT REPORTS EGP 445.6M IN NET PROFITS FOR 9-MONTH 2015

TOTAL ASSETS GREW BY 60.6% Y-O-Y TO EGP 36.7 BILLION

KUWAIT: National Bank of Kuwait-Egypt (NBK-E), reported net profits of EGP 445.6 million for the first nine months of 2015 compared with EGP 273.5 million for the same period last year, an increase of 62.9 percent year-on-year (y-o-y).

As of end of September 2015, NBK-Egypt total assets increased by 60.6 percent y-o-y to EGP 36.7 billion compared to EGP 22.9 billion as of end-September 2014. Customers' deposits grew by 56.1 percent y-o-y to EGP 30.9 billion compared to EGP 19.8 billion in 2014.

Executive Officer and NBK-Egypt Chairman, said "The solid growth achieved affirms NBK-Egypt's successful strategy in better-positioning itself in the Egyptian market, offering best-in-class products and services to its customers. This is also a testimony to NBK Group's successful regional expansion strategy where Egypt is one of its main pillars considering the strong outlook and promising growth opportunities that the Egyptian market offers".

Dr. Yasser Hassan, Managing Director of NBK-Egypt highlighted the solid performance



Isam Al-Sager

Yasser Hassan



of the Bank, delivering strong growth in all financial indicators despite the challenging operating environment in Egypt. This strong performance is attributed to the bank's conservative strategy as a member of the NBK Group. This strategy mainly focuses on diversifying the loan portfolio and providing the best financial solutions tailored for clients, reflecting thorough analyses of customer needs and market conditions.

NBK-Egypt (previously Al Watany Bank of Egypt) is a member of National Bank of Kuwait Group and was established in 1980. The Bank has a network of 39 branches situated at strategic locations within the various Egyptian governorates and cities including Cairo, Giza, Alexandria, Delta, Sinai, and the Red Sea as well as in industrial areas such as Sixth of October and Tenth of Ramadan cities.

National Bank of Kuwait was founded in 1952 as the first indigenous national bank and financial institution in Kuwait and the GCC and is one of the largest and most prominent Arab banks. NBK continues to enjoy collectively the highest ratings among all banks in the Middle East from the three international rating agencies Moody's, Fitch Ratings and Standard and Poor's. NBK was also named among Global Finance's list of the 50 safest banks in the world for the tenth consecutive time topping all Arab commercial banks and ahead of major international banks. The National Bank of Kuwait Group has a wide presence of branches locally and internationally in the most important financial centers such as London, New York, Geneva, and Singapore in parallel to branches in Bahrain, Lebanon, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Iraq, Turkey and China.

News

in brief

US dollar firms against Kuwaiti dinar at 0.304

KUWAIT: US dollar stabilized vis-a-vis the Kuwaiti dinar yesterday trading at KD 0.304, the euro rose to KD 0.324, as compared to Monday's rates, the Central Bank of Kuwait said. Sterling pound dropped to KD 0.459, Swiss franc climbed to KD 0.299 while the Japanese yen firmed at KD 0.002.

Qatar riyal sinks in forwards market

DUBAI: Qatar's riyal fell sharply in the forward foreign exchange market yesterday because of concern about the country's progress in obtaining a syndicated loan of up to \$10 billion from banks, traders said. One-year US dollar/riyal forwards rose as high as 312 points, their highest level since February 2009 during the global financial crisis, from 250 points on Tuesday. Earlier this month, bankers said Qatar was in talks with banks for a loan of up to \$10 billion to help cover its expenses. Qatar is one of the wealthiest of the Gulf Arab energy exporters, but its income has been pressured by low oil and gas prices. The five-year loan was expected to carry a margin below 100 basis points over the London interbank offered rate, one of the bankers said at the time. Qatar was aiming to complete the deal by the end of this year. Yesterday, senior traders at two major Gulf banks said there was talk in the market that banks were having trouble agreeing with Qatar on the pricing of the loan.

East Port Said side channel to be completed by June 2016

CAIRO: Egypt plans to complete a side channel in East Port Said, near the Suez Canal, that would speed up shipping and allow ships direct entry into the port by the end of June 2016, Mohab Memish, head of the Suez Canal Authority, said yesterday. The new channel will cost \$36 million, of which \$7.5 million will be financed by the Suez Canal Container Terminal (SCCT), Memish said. SCCT is 55 percent owned by APM Terminals, part of Maersk Group. "We are building the side channel which will allow the ships to enter from open waters directly into East Port Said," said Memish at a news conference in Ismailiya. Currently vessels that come through East Port Said have to be coordinated with the Suez Canal convoy. "There was a problem with the ships that enter East Port Said which have to wait between seven to 10 hours to enter the port," Memish said, adding that he expects the new channel to increase traffic at the port by 2020 to reach 12 million containers.

Egypt's GASC receives offers in wheat tender

ABU DHABI: The lowest offer in Egyptian state buyer GASC's wheat purchase tender that closed yesterday was \$195.54 a ton free on board (FOB) for French wheat, traders said. The offer was made for 60,000 tons, they said, adding that no purchase has yet been made and results are expected later yesterday.

TAQA files for sale of US wind power asset

ABU DHABI: Abu Dhabi National Energy Co, or TAQA, has filed with US energy regulators to sell its stake in the Lakefield wind power plant in the US state of Minnesota to a Qatari company. TAQA, which reported a net loss of 416 million dirhams (\$113.3 million) for the quarter ending Sept. 30, said earlier this month it was aiming to develop local oil and gas projects, leveraging on its overseas expertise and signalling a shift in strategy. A filing made last week sought authorisation for the sale of the Lakefield plant to Nebras Power Co by the end of this year, so the deal can be completed in the first quarter of 2016. TAQA, majority-owned by the government of Abu Dhabi, bought a 50 percent stake in the 205.5 megawatt project from a subsidiary of France's EDF in early 2013. It is the only wind power holding in TAQA's portfolio and the company said earlier this year it had decided to sell the asset, given a "carrying value" of 147 million dirhams (\$40 million) which it said was expected to be surpassed in the sale. A TAQA spokesman confirmed the filing but declined to give further details.

OIL FALLS AS SPOTLIGHT RETURNS TO GLUT, DOLLAR UP

LONDON: Crude oil futures fell back towards \$45 per barrel yesterday as the dollar gained and investor focus shifted back to a deep global supply glut. Brent was down 94 cents at \$45.18 a barrel at 1241 GMT, having touched a low of \$45.11.

The benchmark hit its highest since Nov. 11 at \$46.50 on Tuesday after Turkey shot down a Russian jet. It had risen for five consecutive days, its longest run of positive sessions since April.

US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) futures fell 78 cents to \$42.09 a barrel, having gained \$1.12 to \$42.87 on Tuesday. Data from industry group the American Petroleum Institute (API) on Tuesday showed that U.S. crude stocks rose by 2.6 million barrels in the week to Nov. 20, more than double analysts' expectations for an increase of 1.2 million barrels.

"Inventories surprised on the upside and it will draw back attention to the supply that hangs over the market," said Hans van Cleef, senior energy economist at ABN Amro in Amsterdam.

A gain in the dollar, which rose to an eight month high against a basket of currencies, also weighed on prices as oil, priced in the US unit, became less affordable to holders of other currencies.

The API data came ahead of figures from the Energy Information Administration, due at 1530 GMT (1030 EST) and expected to show crude oil stocks rose for a ninth consecutive week.

OPEC is determined to keep pumping oil vigorously despite the resulting financial strain-even on the policy's chief architect, Saudi Arabia-alarmed weaker members who fear that prices may slump further towards \$20. President Tayyip Erdogan said yesterday that Turkey did not want any escalation of tension over the downing of the Russian warplane, and that it had acted simply to defend its own security and the "rights of our brothers" in Syria. — Reuters

MOROCCAN REFINERY'S DEBTS POINT TO OIL SECTOR LENDING WOES

LONDON: When Morocco's only oil refinery suspended production in early August due to financial difficulties, it owed \$450 million to trading houses, including Glencore, Vitol and BB Energy, according to traders and refinery sources familiar with the situation.

While the amount is relatively small compared with the balance sheets of large trading houses, it underscores simmering trouble in high-risk, high-margin developing regions that did not insure themselves against the steep decline in oil prices. The idled refinery - the 200,000 barrel per day (bpd) Societe Anonyme Marocaine de l'Industrie du Raffinage refinery, known as Samir - is a further sign of emerging risks now that oil prices appear set to stay lower for longer.

"They had a very large inventory of crude oil at a very high price," said Mark Elliott, chairman of Africa-focused consultancy CITAC. "And they were not hedged."

Samir reported a first-half loss of roughly \$223 million this year, following a \$354 million hit it took at the end of 2014, due primarily to losses on inventory when crude oil prices plummeted.

Elliott said that the bulk of the African oil industry, from refineries to major producers such as Nigeria and Angola, also do not hedge to protect themselves against price fluctuations.

The structure of the debt owed by Samir was not immediately clear.

Sources said some traders were owed oil products, while others had given Samir a mix of their own money and money borrowed from banks - shielding the trading house from cash flow problems related to the fallout.

Glencore, Vitol and BB Energy all declined to comment. Sources at Glencore and Vitol said the two companies had necessary risk procedures in place when dealing with Samir.

But Samir's unexpected idling underscores a problem for these types of prepayment deals through which companies and countries who need cash upfront get their financing from traders and banks while pledging exclusive access to oil or refined products.

PRICE SHOCK

Last month, Vitol's Chief Executive Ian Taylor told the Reuters Commodities Summit he was worried about the rise of non-performing oil industry loans and government obligations in the volatile commodities environment.

"I am actually increasingly concerned by that," Taylor said. "The stress of \$40, or \$50 (oil), takes time to come through the system. And it's starting to come through the system."

"This is an area where the industry has got to be really careful," Taylor said, adding that he expected banks to become "much tougher" on emerging markets. As Morocco's only refinery, Samir would have appeared

to be a safe bet, with a captive market that consumes some 300,000 bpd of petroleum products.

But the refinery, controlled by Saudi's Corral Petroleum Holdings, overextended itself with a \$1 billion upgrade to produce better quality fuel, traders said. Then crude oil prices crashed, which was good for refineries in nearly every other region - but less so for Samir.

Samir itself did not return requests for comment. Elsewhere, importers, many backed by trading houses, are owed some \$2 billion by Nigeria's government in back payments for gasoline subsidies.

Other countries, such as Venezuela, are relying on trading desks of oil majors such as Statoil, Shell and Total and traders like Vitol, to import crude oil.

As for Samir, three months after announcing their imminent restart, a cargo of crude oil that arrived in August remained parked off the shores of Mohammedia, according to traders and Reuters vessel tracking. The roughly \$5 decline in oil prices alone since the cargo arrived in mid-August means the cargo lost nearly \$4 million in value - not counting the cost of the parked vessel itself.

Samir is working on a fresh infusion of capital, and has said it will restart. But Morocco's tax administration seized its bank accounts in pursuit of a \$1.3 billion tax claim, making a restart or debt repayment even more difficult. — Reuters

EXCHANGE RATES

AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

ASIAN COUNTRIES

Japanese Yen	2.491
Indian Rupees	4.600
Pakistani Rupees	2.893
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.142
Nepali Rupees	2.879
Singapore Dollar	217.590
Hongkong Dollar	39.348
Bangladesh Taka	3.863
Philippine Peso	6.488
Thai Baht	8.512

GCC COUNTRIES

Saudi Riyal	81.363
Qatari Riyal	83.812
Omani Riyal	792.490
Bahraini Dinar	810.280
UAE Dirham	83.070

ARAB COUNTRIES

Egyptian Pound - Cash	37.900
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	39.013
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.424
Tunisian Dinar	149.120
Jordanian Dinar	429.660
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.033
Syrian Lira	2.174
Morocco Dirham	30.803

EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES

US Dollar Transfer	304.950
Euro	326.300
Sterling Pound	462.000
Canadian dollar	230.320
Turkish Lira	105.960
Swiss Franc	301.190
Australian dollar	223.070
US Dollar Buying	303.750

GOLD

20 gram	220.51
10 gram	112.95
5 gram	57.16

UAE EXCHANGE CENTRE WLL

CURRENCIES

Australian Dollar	204.98
Canadian Dollar	233.02
Swiss Franc	304.26
Euro	328.08
US Dollar	305.15
Sterling Pound	463.25
Japanese Yen	2.53
Bangladesh Taka	3.870
Indian Rupee	4.602
Sri Lankan Rupee	2.143
Nepali Rupee	2.876
Pakistani Rupee	2.890
UAE Dirhams	0.08304
Bahraini Dinar	0.8110
Egyptian Pound	0.03888
Jordanian Dinar	0.4340
Omani Riyal	0.7924
Qatari Riyal	0.08413
Saudi Riyal	0.08134

TELEX TRANSFER PER 1000

DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

Rate for Transfer

US Dollar	305.200
Canadian Dollar	231.580
Sterling Pound	461.650
Euro	326.430
Swiss Franc	311.325
Bahrain Dinar	810.045
UAE Dirhams	83.390
Qatari Riyals	91.430

Selling Rate

US Dollar	305.200
Canadian Dollar	231.580
Sterling Pound	461.650
Euro	326.430
Swiss Franc	311.325
Bahrain Dinar	810.045
UAE Dirhams	83.390
Qatari Riyals	91.430

Bahrain Exchange Company

Saudi Riyals	82.110
Jordanian Dinar	430.055
Egyptian Pound	38.866
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.143
Indian Rupees	4.595
Pakistani Rupees	2.890
Bangladesh Taka	3.862
Philippines Peso	6.480
Cyprus pound	581.315
Kenyan Shilling	3.485
Syrian Pound	2.615
Nepalese Rupees	3.865
Malaysian Ringgit	73.430
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	48.110
Thai Bhat	9.530
Turkish Lira	106.125

Bahrain Exchange Company

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
Europe		
British Pound	0.453387	0.462387
Czech Koruna	0.004001	0.016001
Danish Krone	0.039466	0.044466
Euro	0.319300	0.327300
Norwegian Krone	0.031255	0.036455
Romanian Leu	0.072881	0.072881
Slovakia	0.009125	0.019125
Swedish Krona	0.031040	0.036040
Swiss Franc	0.293252	0.303452
Turkish Lira	0.102861	0.113161

Australasia

Australian Dollar	0.213251	0.224751
New Zealand Dollar	0.194044	0.203544

America

Canadian Dollar	0.223880	0.232380
US Dollars	0.300850	0.305350

US Dollars Mint

	0.301350	0.305350
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	Asia	
Bangladesh Taka	0.003516	0.004116
Chinese Yuan	0.046338	0.049838
Hong Kong Dollar	0.037258	0.040008
Indian Rupee	0.004355	0.004745
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000018	0.000024
Japanese Yen	0.002405	0.002585
Kenyan Shilling	0.002978	0.002978
Korean Won	0.000256	0.000271
Malaysian Ringgit	0.068787	0.074787
Nepalese Rupee	0.002922	0.003092
Pakistan Rupee	0.002706	0.002986
Philippine Peso	0.006417	0.006697
Sierra Leone	0.000067	0.000073
Singapore Dollar	0.213610	0.219610
South African Rand	0.015703	0.0242203
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001771	0.002351
Taiwan	0.009263	0.009443
Thai Baht	0.008218	0.008768

	Arab	
Bahraini Dinar	0.801994	0.809994
Egyptian Pound	0.037507	0.040337
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000086
Iraqi Dinar	0.000204	0.000264
Jordanian Dinar	0.426122	0.433622
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000152	0.000252
Moroccan Dirhams	0.022185	0.046185
Nigerian Naira	0.001262	0.001897
Omani Riyal	0.785657	0.791337
Qatar Riyal	0.083051	0.084264
Saudi Riyal	0.080683	0.081383
Syrian Pound	0.001293	0.001513
Tunisian Dinar	0.145433	0.153433
Turkish Lira	0.102861	0.113161
UAE Dirhams	0.082045	0.083194
Yemeni Riyal	0.001378	0.001458

PARAGON'S FY PROFIT UP 9%; BUYBACK RAISED

LONDON: British lender Paragon Group of Companies PLC reported a 9 percent increase in full-year pretax profit and raised its share buyback program by up to 50 million pounds (\$76 million) after extending it into next year.

The company, which owns Paragon Bank, said its buy-to-let lending doubled to 1.33 billion pounds in the year ended Sept. 30, while its pipeline at year-end was up 72 percent at 713.7 million pounds.

Buy-to-let is a form of investment in which people buy a property, typically with a mortgage, to rent out. Increasing house prices, brought about by restricted supply and an uptick in demand, have made such investments more attractive.

Paragon said its banking unit, which reported a loss of 8.6 million pounds in 2015, is expected to make a profit in 2016.

Paragon launched the retail-funded lending bank last year to enable it to diversify beyond the mortgage market. Chief Executive Nigel Terrington said the bank would not earn enough in 2016 to come under a proposed banking tax - an 8 percent surcharge on banks' profits above 25 million pounds.

"In one sense, it will be good news to pay the extra 8 percent tax because that means it (Paragon Bank) will be profitable,"

Terrington told Reuters.

Sky News reported on Sunday that Chancellor Osborne would this week extend the Funding for Lending Scheme (FLS), a programme aimed at increasing lending to small businesses, beyond its intended expiry in January.

Terrington said Paragon, which is not currently a part of the scheme, could consider joining if there were such an extension. Paragon said last month it had bought SME lending-focused Five Arrows Leasing from Rothschild & Co.

The asset finance business would contribute about 10 million pounds to the group's profit this year, with about 3 million pounds expected to go towards transaction costs.

Paragon also raised its dividend by 22 percent to 11 pence per share. The lender said Idem Capital, its loan portfolio acquisition unit, made net investments of 104.4 million pounds, down from 175.7 million pounds a year earlier. Paragon Group's shares were down 2.7 percent at 389.2 pence at 1040 GMT, after rising as much as 5 percent in early trading on the London Stock Exchange.

The fall was in line with a decline in Europe's banking sector, with the Stoxx 600 Banks Index down 1.5 percent. — Reuters



LONDON: A video grab from footage broadcast by the UK Parliament's Parliamentary Recording Unit (PRU) shows British Prime Minister David Cameron (R) listening as British Chancellor of the Exchequer George Osborne delivers his Autumn Statement and Spending Review in the House of Commons in London yesterday. — AFP

UK BACKS OFF CUTS TO TAX BREAKS FOR LOWER INCOME HOUSEHOLDS

OSBORNE ACCEPTS CONCERNS OF MINIMUM WAGE EARNERS

LONDON: Britain's Treasury chief abandoned controversial cuts in tax credits for the working poor and refrained from slashing funding to the police yesterday as he updated Parliament on the government's tax and spending plans. George Osborne said improvements in public finances made it possible to back away from the unpopular credit cuts his government had proposed earlier. As members of his party cheered, Osborne said he accepted the concerns of those who feared the impact on people making minimum wage.

"I've listened to the concerns. I hear and understand them," he said. "And because I've been able to announce today an improvement in the public finances, the simplest thing to do is not to phase these changes in, but to avoid them altogether."

The move was made possible by higher than

predicted tax receipts and lower interest rates. The Office for Budget Responsibility, an independent agency, estimated that public finances would be 27 billion pounds (\$40 billion) better off next year than it had forecast in July. The 4.4 billion in cuts had been blocked earlier in an unusual move by the upper house of Parliament, the House of Lords, in April.

Despite the U-turn on tax credits, Osborne promised to keep in place 12 billion pounds of cuts from the welfare budget over the next five years. The cuts were promised by the Conservative Party during the last election. He also announced plans to boost property ownership as he delivered the so-called Autumn Statement, one of two showpiece budget updates.

Osborne announced plans to help build 400,000 affordable homes, a decision that had

prompted British newspapers to print images of him in a hard hat and describe him as "George the Builder." The move will be popular because of strains throughout the country on property prices. "We are the builders!" he said to cheers.

But the statement also detailed deep cuts in public spending on social care, renewable energy and local government. In a surprise move, no cuts were made in policing, though they had been anticipated. Osborne also pledged that the 15 million raised each year from taxes on feminine hygiene products would be used to fund women's health and support charities. Women have been protesting the tax, arguing that such products are not a luxury item. In accompanying economic forecasts, the Office of Budget Responsibility predicted economic growth of 2.4 percent in 2015, 2.4 percent in 2016, and 2.5 percent in 2017. — AFP



KLAIPEDA: Andrius Petraitis, 34, his wife Jurga and nine-month-old daughter Laisve are in their kitchen in Klaipeda, Lithuania. Since last year, a floating gas terminal called Independence has protected thousands of Lithuanians from the risk of sudden cutoffs in gas supplies from Russia, a regional heavyweight that has long used its near monopoly on energy in Eastern Europe as a political weapon. — AP

VANISHING CHINA EXECUTIVES A VEXATIOUS MYSTERY FOR HK MARKET

HONG KONG: The chairman of the Hong Kong arm of one of China's biggest securities companies goes missing. The head of another firm resurfaces after months of incommunicado. An executive at a film studio is detained for allegedly taking bribes. They're not plot outlines for crime novels but real life cases lifted from the normally dry Hong Kong stock exchange filings of Chinese companies over the past year.

The latest example came Monday when Guotai Junan International Holdings Ltd., the Hong Kong unit of a Chinese securities company, said it was unable to reach its chairman and chief executive Yim Fung since Nov. 18, sending its shares plummeting 12 percent.

Speculation swirled in local media that his disappearance was related to a recently launched investigation into a senior official at China's securities regulator. That probe is part of a broad crackdown on the finance industry following China's stock market meltdown over the summer. The company said it would appoint temporary replacements for Yim but declined further comment.

Such cases would be highly unusual for other global financial centers, but have become commonplace in Hong Kong, where the city's stock exchange allows international investors to access an increasing number of mainland Chinese companies. They highlight some of the risks of investing in China's public companies, which operate in an opaque political and legal system, and face additional uncertainty because of President Xi Jinping's ongoing and wide-ranging assault on corruption.

"It shows on one level that investing in some of these companies is quite risky," said Jamie Allen, secretary general of the Asian Corporate Governance Association. "It also says a lot about the legal and political system in China. China doesn't have a system of law like Hong Kong. In China you can disappear." Hong Kong is a former British colony that's now a specially administered Chinese region with legal and financial systems that are separate from mainland China's.

Among the Hong Kong-listed Chinese companies that have reported missing executives this year:

Under surveillance

Waste disposal company Dongjiang Environmental Co. last month suspended its shares from trading because it

couldn't reach Chairman Zhang Weiyang before a scheduled board meeting.

The company said it later found out from Zhang's family that he was being investigated "by the relevant authority" in China, although it didn't say why. Shopping mall and department store operator Century Ginwa Retail Holdings said in September that its chairman, Wu Yijian, who went missing in mid-May, had resurfaced and gone back to work. He explained to the company that he was "assisting the relevant department" of the Chinese government with an investigation while he was away, without disclosing further details.

China Aircraft Leasing Group said in June it was not able to reach its CEO, Mike Poon, after he submitted his resignation while he was in the middle of his annual vacation. The company said

Poon didn't give any reason for his departure in his resignation letter. Nor did he make any reference to news reports in Hong Kong and mainland China that said he might be caught up in a Chinese government investigation into China Southern Airlines, which is a customer of China Aircraft Leasing.

Aside from disappearing executives, much more clear-cut announcements of alleged wrongdoing are a recurring theme at Hong Kong-listed Chinese companies. Among the slew of cases this year, Alibaba Pictures Group Ltd., the film arm of the Chinese e-commerce giant, said one of its directors, Patrick Liu Chunning, was detained by the Public Security Bureau in connection with an investigation into the "alleged receipt of bribes" while Liu worked at Internet company Tencent Holdings. The company said the charges were unrelated to his employment at Alibaba.

A Chinese investigation is not always the only reason for an executive's disappearance. Pearl Oriental Oil Ltd. said in late September it was unable to contact Chairman Wong Kwan, who had been due in a Hong Kong court on fraud charges. In October, police in Taiwan freed him from a gang of kidnappers who had been holding him captive for more than a month and demanding a ransom of HK\$70 million (\$9 million).

This story has been corrected to show that the missing chairman in the first paragraph worked for the Hong Kong unit of the Chinese securities company, not the parent company. — AP

EXHAUSTION OF AUSTERITY MEETS MAXED-OUT MONETARY POLICY

LONDON: There won't be any press conferences, fireworks or tears to mark its passing, but the latest wave of austerity worldwide may well have had its day. While that may sound peculiar to Greeks still struggling to meet stiff budget targets set by creditors or even Britons faced with another round of spending cuts by finance minister George Osborne this week, a turn in post-crisis government retrenchment looks to be under way.

With monetary policy virtually maxed out in many parts of the world, fiscal policy is again forecast to act as a marginal net stimulant rather than a drag on world growth over the coming year. Even in the region that epitomises post-crisis government budget cuts, the euro zone, the heavy lifting looks to be over. What's more, the so-called 'bond vigilantes' in the debt markets have barely blinked. Their growing ambivalence about how austerity affects debt sustainability, growth and investment amid the anaesthetic of zero interest rates, quantitative easing and a global savings glut means there's no sign of a tantrum. Framing the shift, Edinburgh-based Standard Life Investments reckons the average country in the 34-nation Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development will structurally loosen fiscal policy next year for the first time since 2010.

That relaxation - where 'structural' refers to what the fiscal balance would be if you strip out the ebb and flow of spending and taxation associated with a normal business cycle - is forecast to be just 0.2 percentage points of output.

But it's a big moment after the eye-watering tightening of the three years through 2013 when the average OECD member structurally squeezed fiscal policy by 1.3 points per annum.

"There have been tentative signs that this 'austerity consensus' is breaking down," SLI told clients, pointing to a new mood across the world on how a lack of investment is depressing the already dour

world growth outlook. Economists at the firm cited changes of direction such as the infrastructure spending platform that helped the new Liberal government in Canada to power last month and Australia's new prime minister promising to lift government investment.

Budget caps

Others point to last month's US government deal loosening strict budget caps through 2017, moves that allow an additional \$80 billion in spending on military and domestic programs over two years. Some cite expected new fiscal stimuli from Beijing as it pursues growth targets from China's new five-year plan.

But the eye-catcher has been the euro zone, where spending projections have been catalysed by the conflict in Syria.

Spending plans by European governments are rising as they settle the hundreds of thousands of migrants that have streamed in since the summer and France's outlay on defence has been boosted in response to the Nov. 13 attacks in Paris. At least seven of the 19 euro members are set to loosen budget policy next year even if European Commission forecasts show the aggregate budget deficit falling slightly. And sands are clearly shifting. Germany, Italy, Austria, Finland and Belgium included the financial impact of the refugee crisis in draft budgets for 2016 but the full cost may be far higher. French defence spending plans have already been blessed by the Commission as exceptional.

'EXHAUSTION OF AUSTERITY'

"The idea that austerity's not exactly the perfect recipe is gaining momentum. This is a theme across the West," Pascal Blanque, chief investment officer at Europe's biggest asset manager Amundi. "Since monetary policy has approached its limits, the

ball is now back in the fiscal camp."

Pictet Asset Management's head of multi-asset strategy Percival Stanion described it as the "exhaustion of austerity" with a clear realisation in Europe at least that enough was enough - even if large-scale stimulus is still off the table.

The public and private sector rethink of fiscal policy is driven in part by fears that the world economy could be heading for another recession with monetary policy levers at full tilt, and how central banks can't do it all. But Deutsche Bank says its projection of an easing in 2015 of euro fiscal policy for the first time in five years hinges on QE and what has been such a sharp drop in interest payments. Together these will see public debt ratios peaking at 94.4 percent of output this year and down to 93.7 percent next.

"We imposed on central banks the need to keep economies growing without giving them an explicit mandate to do so or forcing governments to sort the rest out," said Anne Richards, Chief Investment Officer at Aberdeen Asset Management. "We need to link fiscal and monetary policy a bit more closely." Public policy bodies such as the OECD now urge governments to re-examine their budget spending - echoing long-standing concerns among many liberal and left-leaning economists that austerity for its own sake was self-defeating over time.

"One reason for weak potential output growth at present is weak investment growth. This has implications for the composition of fiscal packages," the OECD said this month. "Cutting public investment...could result in higher debt ratios and harm both actual and potential output growth."

Investors are listening. "With interest rates close to all-time lows, other governments should join Canada and shift to a more growth-friendly spending mix," SLI said. "In the process, they might even find that the higher spending pays for itself." — Reuters

EUROPE MORE VULNERABLE TO EMERGING MARKETS: ECB

BERLIN: European financial markets are increasingly vulnerable to turmoil in large emerging economies, the European Central Bank warned in a report yesterday. It said the eurozone financial system had proved "resilient" through brief periods of volatility in recent months, linked to Greece and China.

However, the ECB stressed that the "occasional bouts of financial market volatility suggest that vulnerabilities stemming from emerging markets are increasing."

Of particular concern was the outlook for China, given its growing role in the world economy, the ECB said in its Financial Stability Report, published twice a year. "Turmoil in Chinese and other emerging market economies' equity markets in August led to a strong and broad spillover around the world, including to the euro area," it said.

"This strong global co-movement of equity prices does not appear to have been solely driven by macroeconomic fundamentals," it said, suggesting markets tend to overreact to developments in China. "Developments in China and other large emerging market economies have become important drivers of global confidence," the Frankfurt-based bank warned.

It said a "rapidly growing" eurozone investment fund industry had been gradually broadening its exposure to emerging markets, also including Brazil and Russia.

The report said that with interest rates at near zero and as the eurozone goes through "a weak economic recovery", many investors are tempted by more high-risk, high-return investments in emerging markets. — AFP



PARIS: French Economy minister Emmanuel Macron answers journalists questions as he visits the christmas outdoor market in La Defense Business district, near Paris, yesterday. — AFP

EUROPEAN EQUITIES REBOUND, ASIA RETREATS

LONDON: Europe's main stock markets rebounded yesterday from the previous day's losses, but spiking geopolitical tensions continued to dominate investor sentiment. The region's equities had fallen Tuesday with airlines and hotel groups hit by a US travel warning and the downing of a Russian jet by Turkey.

Asian markets retreated yesterday, also mirroring a sell-off in tourism-linked firms in the United States overnight. The incident also sent oil prices up on concern about supplies in the crude-rich Middle East region.

"European equities are positive this morning, having fully rebounded from their geopolitical tension-fuelled lows of yesterday after Turkey shot down a Russian military jet on the Turkey-Syrian border, heightening worries about the region even further," said Accendo Markets analyst Mike van Dulken.

At about 11:30 GMT, London's benchmark

FTSE 100 index added 0.9 percent, boosted ahead of a British government budget update. In the eurozone, Frankfurt's DAX 30 won 1.4 percent, the Paris CAC 40 index was also up 1.4 percent compared with Tuesday's close, while Milan gained 1.1 percent.

In foreign exchange activity, the euro nudged down to \$1.0604. European markets rose "after the escalation of tensions between Russia and Turkey proved short-lived", noted Rebecca O'Keefe, head of investment at stockbroker Interactive Investor.

Delight for homebuilders

British homebuilders topped the FTSE 100 risers' board. The sector won a major boost as finance minister George Osborne prepared to unveil a scheme to build 400,000 new homes deemed by the government to be affordable.

The plan will form part of Osborne's latest

autumn statement, or budget update, which will be delivered before parliament at 12:30 GMT.

Ahead of the update, homebuilders Taylor Wimpey and Persimmon surged by more than six percent in value. Meanwhile, the Russia-Turkey incident has ratcheted up tensions between the rival players in the Syrian war, and with NATO backing its member Turkey there are fears the crisis could escalate beyond the Middle East. "A spreading and escalation in recent terror attacks and now the downing of a Russian warplane by Turkey are raising concerns of the possible unforeseen spillover impacts of Middle East conflicts," Con Williams, a rural economist at ANZ Bank New Zealand, said in a note to clients.

"The accumulation of these events is now beginning to have an influence on global markets," he added, according to Bloomberg News.

Worries about global security and its effect on the economy were already playing on deal-

ers' minds following the Paris attacks this month and the bombing of a Russian passenger plane in Egypt.

The losses tracked a sell-off in tourism-linked firms in the United States and Europe as already delicate nerves were frayed on trading floors after Turkey shot down the Russian warplane on the Syrian border. The incident also sent oil prices up on concern about supplies. While Ankara said it acted after the jet entered its airspace, Russian President Vladimir Putin called it a "stab in the back" and warned of serious consequences. Moscow insists the plane was in Syrian territory.

The incident has ratcheted up tensions between the rival players in the Syrian war, and with NATO backing its member Turkey there are fears the crisis could escalate beyond the Middle East.

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The city of Brussels will stay at the highest security threat level for another week over fears of an imminent attack.


'Increased terrorist threats'

On Monday Washington issued a world travel alert, warning Americans of "increased terrorist threats" and saying they should "exercise vigilance when in public places or using transportation".

Airline shares fell in Asia. Sydney-listed Qantas was down 1.6 percent, Cathay Pacific in Hong Kong shed two percent, ANA lost 1.7 percent in Tokyo and Seoul-listed Korean Air Lines was 0.7 percent off.

The losses came after a sell-off in travel firms during New York and European trade. Expedia, TripAdvisor and United Continental sank in the US, while Lufthansa and British Airways' parent IAG fell in Europe. London, Frankfurt and Paris all ended in the red but edged higher in early trade yesterday. Wall Street enjoyed a positive close, as energy firms were boosted by an uptick in crude prices. Both US benchmark West Texas Intermediate and European benchmark Brent surged more than a dollar Tuesday. However, they reversed slightly in Asia, with WTI down 0.5 percent and Brent dipping 0.3 percent. Among Asian stock markets, Tokyo, Sydney and Hong Kong were down, but Shanghai ended higher for a second straight day. The dollar stepped back against emerging-market currencies after a dip in US consumer confidence and despite an upward revision of economic growth.

The South Korean won rose 0.9 percent, Indonesia's rupiah was 0.2 percent up and the Malaysian ringgit jumped 0.9 percent, helped by the uptick in oil prices. The Australian, Singapore and Taiwan dollars also advanced. — AFP



Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report

Wednesday 25 November 2015

Index	Change	Closing	Last Closing	High	Low
Price Index	▲ 7.62	5,772.66	5,765.04	5,778.75	5,766.65
Weighted Index	▲ 0.35	393.43	391.07	395.95	392.58
KSX 15	▲ 0.09	838.93	836.59	849.88	837.85

Volume	Value (KWD)	Number of Trades
131,598,251	1,478,324	3,443

Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KWD)	Trades	Last	Change
MARIN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	114	▲ 0.0
KARLUS	87	87	95,000	8,255	4	87	▼ -2.0
IPG	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	250	▲ 0.0
NAFESOH	600	590	4,000	2,370	4	590	▼ -30.0
ENERGYH	44.0	41.5	33,653	1,423	6	44.0	▲ 0.0
GPI	59	56	16,140,845	1,005,223	345	56	▲ 1.0
ABAR	114	104	11,000	1,153	5	114	▲ 10.0
Oil & Gas	16,284,486	1,062,467	364	731.65	▲ 6.72		

Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KWD)	Trades	Last	Change
SOLOUK	47.5	46.5	546,579	25,731	27	47.5	▲ 0.5
KRE	61	60	48,635	2,924	5	61	▲ 1.0
JRC	54	50	2,684,348	240,316	15	54	▼ -1.0
NRE	54	53	6,583,283	352,465	154	54	▲ 6.0
SRE	340	330	56,000	19,515	8	335	▼ -10.0
TAV	600	580	205,530	122,245	8	600	▲ 10.0
AREEC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	182	▲ 0.0
WASALEH	63	63	100	6	1	63	▲ 3.0
ARABEC	32.0	31.0	75,065	2,354	5	32.0	▲ 1.0
ERESCO	64	63	2,585	162	7	64	▼ -1.0
WABANEE	960	950	1,091,195	1,306,872	45	950	▲ 10.0
NJAZZAT	84	80	111,386	8,915	9	80	▼ -1.0
INVESTORS	33.5	30.0	6,865,628	203,466	108	30.0	▼ -0.5
IRC	32.5	31.5	1,303,550	41,737	44	32.0	▼ -1.0
ALTUNJARA	84	83	154,156	15,289	11	83	▼ -1.0
SANAM	47.0	47.0	1	0	1	47.0	▲ 1.5
ASYANRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	80	▲ 0.0
AGAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	80	▲ 0.0
ALQADIA	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	21.5	▲ 0.0
WAZAYA	108	108	352,530	38,070	17	108	▲ 0.0
AZONC	28.5	27.5	8,118,239	227,029	84	28.0	▼ -0.5
THEMAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	90	▲ 0.0
TUARA	42.0	42.0	90,000	2,520	2	42.0	▼ -0.5
TAMJER	25.5	25.0	333,330	8,522	8	26.0	▼ -1.5
ARKAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	119	▲ 0.0
ARGAN	188	180	23,510	4,236	4	180	▼ -8.0
ARGANR	31.0	30.5	1,284,575	38,533	22	30.5	▼ -0.5
ALNSHAAT	86	85	121,430	10,339	15	86	▲ 1.0
FIRSTDUBAI	62	61	850,231	33,521	27	62	▼ -1.0
KBT	45.0	44.5	1,102,740	49,375	56	45.0	▼ 0.5
REALM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	133	▲ 0.0
VENK	27.0	26.5	120,850	5,031	5	27.0	▲ 0.5
ALMLDON	33.5	35.0	3,307,500	120,078	48	36.0	▲ 1.0
WARAGEZ	25.0	25.0	150	4	1	25.0	▲ 0.0
REHAL	39.0	38.5	120,430	4,638	14	38.5	▲ 0.0
WASHAER	114	106	44,100	4,804	8	114	▲ 8.0
Real Estate	38,241,256	2,950,967	736	973.28	▲ 0.83		

Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KWD)	Trades	Last	Change
KYN	100	100	2,000	200	1	100	▲ 0.0
FACIL	188	184	201,050	37,305	16	185	▲ 2.0
IFA	33.0	33.0	1,885,648	62,542	56	33.0	▼ -0.5
NNV	105	104	177,456	18,456	21	104	▼ -2.0
KPROJ	600	580	555,735	333,354	51	580	▲ 0.0
COAST	34.0	33.5	856,534	30,544	26	34.0	▲ 0.0
SECH	48.0	47.0	1,822,609	86,295	51	47.5	▲ 0.0
SDC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	118	▲ 0.0
ARZAN	39.5	39.0	46,300	1,777	4	39.0	▼ -2.0
MARKAZ	102	102	13,282	1,355	2	102	▲ 0.0
OMFIC	33.5	29.5	114,250	3,412	16	30.0	▼ -1.0
ALAMAN	58	58	150,532	11,587	7	58	▼ -1.0
ALOLA	66	66	510,550	33,983	16	66	▲ 0.0
ALMAL	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	33.5	▲ 0.5
QBH	35.0	33.5	2,242,619	78,079	58	34.0	▲ 0.5
AAKAN	52	51	2,134,888	110,200	42	52	▲ 0.0
SAYANINV	39.0	37.5	2,414,760	82,156	66	38.0	▲ 0.0
OSOLU	35.0	35.0	2,543	260	2	35.0	▲ 0.0
KFC	41.5	41.0	854,436	28,534	16	41.5	▼ -2.0
KAVCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	112	▲ 0.0
NH	63	61	251,010	15,452	11	63	▲ 2.0
SKAN	33.5	33.5	200,730	8,733	10	33.5	▼ -0.5
WADAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	20.5	▲ 0.0
ALDEERA	35.0	33.0	86,287	3,007	17	34.5	▼ -1.0
ALSALAM	39.5	39.0	707,848	27,580	17	39.5	▲ 0.5
EKTITAB	33.5	32.5	358,520	11,729	11	33.5	▲ 0.5
QURAINHLD	8.0	8.0	508,175	2,628	4	8.0	▲ 0.0
ALMADINA	45.5	45.5	1,800,580	82,596	72	45.5	▼ -1.0
NCOOR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	55	▲ 0.0
TAVINV	355	346	130,030	45,200	9	355	▲ 10.0
ECHK	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	130	▲ 0.0
TABA	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	88	▲ 0.0
KSHC	27.5	27.5	5,565	100	2	27.5	▼ -0.5
STRATEGIA	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	33.0	▲ 0.0
ASIVA	37.5	36.5	159,430	7,368	13	37.0	▲ 0.5
QNAHC	32.5	31.5	1,145,200	38,409	21	33.0	▼ -0.5
AMWAL	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	31.0	▲ 0.0
ALMIAZ	79	78	833,573	68,529	12	78	▲ 0.0
WANAZEL	25.0	23.5	5,115,400	124,351	53	24.0	▼ -1.0
YND	140	138	801,942	135,881	41	140	▲ 1.0
S-BC	35.0	33.0	2,482,694	84,139	64	34.5	▲ 0.5
SEMERBY	14.0	13.5	1,821,100	13,516	21	14.0	▲ 0.0
AQHC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	83	▲ 0.0
QPPC	68	67	1,181,716	67,358	26	67	▲ 0.0
TAHSSALAT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	80	▲ 0.0
JERRANH	64	63	550	35	2	63	▼ -1.0
EKHO-DING	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	180	▲ 0.0
GRH	35.0	34.0	11,494,515	401,967	162	35.0	▲ 0.5
NCVEST	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	66	▲ 0.0
Financial Services	42,311,160	2,950,834	1,938	631.02	▼ -0.30		

Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KWD)	Trades	Last	Change
ASC	330	330	157	52	1	330	▲ 10.0
OSOS	82	82	139,910	11,473	3	82	▲ 0.0
FUTURE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	122	▲ 0.0
HAYATCOMM	47.5	47.5	500	24	1	47.5	▼ 8.5
Technology	140,597	11,558	5	876.64	▲ 0.45		
BAREEQ	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	194	▲ 0.0
AFAG	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	182	▲ 0.0
ALSHAMEL	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	180	▲ 0.0
SAFRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	16.5	▲ 0.0
ARWAN	29.0	27.0	248,809	6,842	10	27.0	▼ -0.5
WASKEN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	48.0	▲ 0.0
DALGAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	350	▲ 0.0
ALEO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	95	▲ 0.0
MDAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1,320	▲ 0.0
FLEX	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	43.5	▲ 0.0
THURAYA	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	150	▲ 0.0
KLNBIC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	33.0	▲ 0.0
AMAR	0.0	0.0	0				

ETIHAD AIRWAYS CELEBRATES ARRIVAL OF ITS FIRST A380 FLIGHTS IN JFK

NEW YORK FIRST US PORT OF ENTRY FOR ETIHAD'S AIRBUS 380 DESTINATIONS

ABU DHABI: Etihad Airways, the national airline of the United Arab Emirates, celebrated the highly-anticipated arrival of its award-winning Airbus A380 service at New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport (JFK), welcoming and thanking guests travelling on the first flights between two of the world's top travel destinations.

Yesterday marked the US debut of the airline's exclusive A380 service, including The Residence by Etihad(tm), the only commercially available three-room suite in the sky, luxurious First Apartments, comfortable Business Studios and Economy Smart Seats. The A380 now serves guests travelling on one of the airline's two daily flights between Abu Dhabi and New York. "The arrival of our A380 service at JFK International Airport is an important milestone for Etihad Airways as we respond to increased demand from our guests travelling between Abu Dhabi and New York and it represents the significant growth our airline has undergone in just 12 years of operation," said James Hogan, Etihad Airways' President and Chief Executive Officer. "Etihad Airways has stayed ahead of the competition by providing our guests with the luxury, comfort, and hospitality they expect and deserve when they fly

with us, and by remaining focused on continuing to transform the air travel experience across all cabins of service."

Hogan continued: "The revolutionary products found onboard Etihad Airways' fleet of A380s completely reimagine commercial aviation standards and we are proud to bring them to our guests travelling between the US and Abu Dhabi."

The introduction of the airline's signature A380 travel experience comes just in time for the busy holiday travel season, as well as to serve guests travelling to the 2015 Formula 1 Etihad Airways Abu Dhabi Grand Prix taking place from 27 to 29 November 2015. The inaugural Abu Dhabi to New York A380 flight EY 103 landed at JFK International Airport yesterday. The return JFK-AUH flight EY102 arrived into Abu Dhabi this afternoon.

Guests staying in The Residence by Etihad enjoy the ultimate in luxury travel, both on the ground and in the air. From a chauffeur-driven limousine service to Concierge Service and private check-in at the airport, every part of the travel experience is seamless and discreet. Guests of The Residence will also enjoy the airline's newly opened First and Business Class Lounge, featuring a dedicated area for their exclusive

use. Located on the forward upper deck of the A380, The Residence is available for \$32,000 one way between Abu Dhabi and New York - for either single or double occupancy. The ultra-private, three-room suite features a living room with a 32" LCD monitor, bedroom with a double bed, separate ensuite shower room, and dedicated Butler trained at the Savoy Academy in London to look after the needs of its discerning guests. The revolutionary cabin also comes with a private chef ready to custom-create menus to order.

The nine First Apartments in First Class are private living spaces featuring a reclining Poltrona Frau leather lounge chair and ottoman, which opens up to become a separate 80.5 inch long fully-flat bed. This marks a 74 per cent increase in space from Etihad Airways' current award-winning First Class Suites. Each Apartment features a 24-inch flat-screen television, a chilled mini-bar, personal vanity unit, and wardrobe. A fully equipped shower room is available for the exclusive use of First Class guests.

A total of 70 Business Studios, set in a 1-2-1 configuration, are located on the upper deck of the A380, all offering direct aisle access, a fully flat bed of up to 80.5 inches long and an increase of

20 per cent in personal space. The Lobby, a Luxurious lounge located between the First Class and Business Class cabins, features two comfortable leather sofas and a staffed bar serving a wide selection of hot snacks and refreshments, perfect for relaxing and socialising.

The main deck features 415 Economy Smart Seats which offer unique ergonomic fixed-wing headrests, lumbar support and an 11-inch personal, high-definition monitor screen to enjoy over 750 hours of on-demand movies and series, improved gaming and live TV programming via the state-of-the-art Panasonic ex3 entertainment system.

Also unique to Etihad Airways, the airline offers a dedicated inflight child care assistance program for families, led by a Flying Nanny available onboard long-haul flights and trained by the world renowned Norland College. Since its launch in 2013, the Flying Nanny has become a key feature on Etihad Airways' long haul flights, providing a 'helping hand' to families and children and creating fun and memorable moments with games and activities.

The Residence by Etihad is exclusive to Etihad Airways' fleet of A380s, which



Etihad Airways' A380 pilot waves flags from the United Arab Emirates and the United States to celebrate A380 inaugural service between New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport and Abu Dhabi.

currently serve London's Heathrow, Sydney and now New York's JFK, with services to Mumbai and Melbourne scheduled to begin on 1 May 2016 and 1 June 2016, respectively. The airline's A380 fleet will grow to a total of 10 aircraft. Guests on all Etihad Airways flights from Abu Dhabi International Airport (AUH) to the airline's six US ports of entry, including New York's JFK Airport, are processed

through the US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Pre-clearance facility, which allows them to clear all US immigration and customs checks in Abu Dhabi and arrive at their US destination as domestic passengers. Other US airports served by Etihad Airways include Chicago (ORD), Dallas-Fort Worth (DFW), Los Angeles (LAX), San Francisco (SFO) and Washington's DC (IAD).



The flight crew of Etihad Airways' inaugural A380 flight after arriving at New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport from Abu Dhabi, including the Butlers who exclusively serve guests of The Residence by Etihad, the only three-room suite in the sky. The crew is joined by Martin Drew, Senior Vice President, The Americas; Pieter Nel, Airport Manager, JFK; Vincent Frascogna, Vice President, Eastern USA; and Suzanne Alipourian, Area Manager, Airport Operations, The Americas (executives from left to right).



Etihad Airways' inaugural A380 flight arrives from Abu Dhabi at New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport on 23 November 2015. New York marks the first US destination for Etihad Airways' network of Airbus 380 destinations.

BRAZIL SENATE LEADER, BTG PACTUAL CEO ARRESTED

SAO PAULO/BRASILIA: Brazilian police arrested the ruling party's leader in the Senate and the chief executive of Latin America's biggest investment bank yesterday on suspicion of obstructing an investigation into corruption at state-run oil company Petrobras. André Esteves, the CEO and controlling shareholder of BTG Pactual SA, was arrested at his home in Rio de Janeiro and television images showed him arriving handcuffed at federal police headquarters there.

Documents were seized from his home and the bank's main office in São Paulo, a source with knowledge of the situation said on condition of anonymity. In Brasilia, police arrested ruling Workers' Party senator Delcídio do Amaral, a veteran lawmaker who is close to former president Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva.

Amaral is chairman of the Senate's economic affairs committee and a key

figure in trying to push President Dilma Rousseff's unpopular austerity measures through Congress.

He is among 50 Brazilian politicians under investigation for allegedly taking bribes in the massive kickback scandal at the state-run oil giant known as Petroleo Brasileiro SA, and is the first sitting senator ever arrested in Brazil. Supreme Court Justice Teori Zavascki said he authorized the arrest because prosecutors presented evidence that Amaral had planned the flight of Petrobras' former international director, Nestor Cerbero, in return for his silence.

Cerbero was sentenced in August to 12 years in prison for corruption and money laundering in connection to bribes paid during Petrobras' controversial 2006 purchase of a refinery in Pasadena, Texas. Another defendant in the case said in a plea bargain statement that Cerbero had passed bribe money to Amaral.

Police entered Brazil's Congress to search for documents in connection with Amaral's arrest. They also searched his home in Campo Grande, in the state of Mato Grosso.

BTG Pactual confirmed the arrest of its chief executive and said the bank was available to cooperate with the investigation. Units of the bank tumbled 20 per cent in early trading on the Sao Paulo stock exchange. Court representatives said Esteves had been arrested temporarily for five days, with a potential extension of five days. Amaral was arrested for an indefinite period. Esteves, a 47-year-old billionaire, has steered BTG Pactual through turbulent times in Brazil's capital markets as the economy plunged into its worst recession in a quarter of a century.

He is worth about \$2.2 billion, according to Forbes Magazine. BTG Pactual is Brazil's sixth largest bank and the largest independent investment bank in Latin America. — Reuters



BRASILIA: Brazilian Minister of Finance Joaquim Levy (second left) arrives for a public hearing at the National Congress in Brasilia on Tuesday. Levy keeps negotiating with pro-government and opposition parliamentarians for the approval of the fiscal adjustment proposed by the government. — AFP

NIGERIA GOVT FACES SEPARATIST PRESSURE OVER OIL WEALTH SHARING

LAGOS: When Boko Haram captured territory in Nigeria's northeast last year and declared a caliphate, there were real fears for the sovereignty of Africa's most populous nation.

A deadline is looming for the military to end the six years of violence, with signs that troops have wrested back control of most of the towns and villages lost to the Islamists. But now President Muhammadu Buhari is facing another potential headache with the revival of separatist sentiment in the country's southeast and renewed debate over the sharing of oil wealth. Recent weeks have seen a wave of protests calling for an independent state of Biafra, 45 years after the end of the brutal civil war sparked by a previous declaration of independence.

Now, campaigners in the oil-producing Niger delta are demanding total control of resources to develop the region, which remains under-developed despite billions of dollars earned from crude. Last Friday, the Niger Delta Self-Determination Movement (NDSDM) lobby group, declared the current agreement, whereby oil revenue is divided among Nigeria's 36 states, was unfair.

"The 13 percent (share for the Niger Delta) enshrined in the 1999 constitution by the military is depriving us of our God-given resources," the group's convener Annkio Briggs told reporters in Lagos. "We want 100 percent control and ownership of our oil so that we can control our future."

Northern 'dominance'
Nigeria's crude-reliant economy has been battered by the fall in global oil prices, hampering government spending and

even the payment of state-sector salaries. Crude accounts for 90 percent of Nigeria's export earnings and 70 percent of government overall revenue. In 2014, the country earned \$77 billion from oil exports, according to the US Department of Energy, down from \$84 billion in 2013 and \$94 billion in 2012. How much each state in the federation gets from the sector has long been a thorny issue, exposing barely concealed regional and ethnic rivalries.

Demands for a greater share of oil revenue were a factor in the violence that gripped the delta in the 2000s until a government amnesty program, which ends this year, bought off militants.

Briggs' group argues Nigeria's political architecture, with 19 states classed as northern and 17 in the south, unfairly penalizes the southern states where oil is found. "Of the 774 local government areas (administrative divisions within each state), the north is given almost 70 percent," she said, calling it "manipulations for... socio-economic and political dominance." She blamed a succession of northern-dominated military governments for forcing through the revenue-sharing agreement down the barrel of a gun "without our free, prior and informed consent."

Briggs denied calling for a break away from the federation but argued every region instead should use its own natural resources to develop itself. The NDSDM was founded last year during a national conference convened by former president Goodluck Jonathan at which delegates recommended the delta region received 18 percent of oil revenue.

The recommendation was not implemented before Jonathan left office.

'Politically motivated'
Nigeria is almost evenly split between a Muslim-majority north and largely Christian south and the sharp division informs most aspects of political debate. But the argument for so-called "fiscal federalism" is seen by some as unrealistic, with sectors such as agriculture and manufacturing not sufficiently developed yet to be sustainable.

Anyakwee Nsirimovu, of the Niger Delta Civil Society Coalition pressure group, said demands from southern pressure groups were predictable now Buhari, a northern Muslim, was in power.

"Why is it after the defeat of Jonathan you see the likes of Annkio Briggs, MASSOB (Movement for the Actualisation of the Sovereign State of Biafra) and IPOB (Indigenous Peoples of Biafra) asking for resource control and self-determination?" he asked. The complaints in fact exposed the failure of Jonathan, from the oil-producing Bayelsa state, to help his southern kinsmen during his six years in power, he argued.

"Those who lost out in the power equation are behind the crisis," he claimed. But Tony Nnadi, of the Movement for New Nigeria, said every ethnic group had the right to either belong to or pull out of Nigeria, nearly 102 years after the country was formed. "In 1914, the so-called Nigeria came into being through an amalgamation of southern and northern protectorates by the British colonial power," he said.

"By the provisions of the amalgamation, we have the right since 2014 to renegotiate the basis of our continued existence. The experiences of various ethnic groups "in the last 100 years have shown we cannot continue in the marriage," he added. — AFP

SHOPPERS RESCUING EURO-ZONE GROWTH AS EXPORTS SLOW: AGENCY

PARIS: US rating agency Standard and Poor's said yesterday a budding euro-zone recovery was gathering steam thanks to consumers loosening their purse strings. In a report entitled "Hangin' In There Despite Weak Foreign Demand", it said domestic demand had emerged as a main driver for growth, offsetting export weakness.

"The latest indicators show that stronger domestic demand is overcoming soft exports, which suggests that the eurozone upturn continues to forge ahead," it said. Consumers in the eurozone had provided "a welcome boost" to growth, most pointedly in powerhouse Germany, but shoppers were starting to spend more elsewhere, too. Recent developments may be overtaking the European Central Bank's more gloomy analysis of the eurozone economy, Standard and Poor's said, recommending that the ECB refrain from hasty monetary easing in its

fight against the spectre of deflation. The central bank is widely expected to expand its quantitative easing (QE) program, which pumps cash into the banking system in the hope that it will find its way into the real economy, stimulating demand. "The ECB is putting too much pressure on itself too soon, as QE programs typically need time to produce some effects," Standard and Poor's cautioned. The agency said, however, there was still much uncertainty concerning any sustained recovery in corporate investment, which it identified as the "main way for the eurozone to lower its stubbornly high unemployment levels."

Growth in the 19-nation eurozone slowed to 0.3 percent in the third quarter, official data showed earlier this month, with the economy in Germany cooling as France returned to expansion. — AFP

A GAME PLAN: MORE HUNTERS DONATING MEAT TO THE HUNGRY

PORTLAND: It's a cool fall morning outside a red brick warehouse in Maine's largest city, and Don Morrison is facing a tall order. It's time to turn 40 pounds of moose and deer meat into enough shepherd's pie to feed 200 people by sundown. Morrison, manager of the Portland anti-hunger group Wayside Food Programs, is happy to do it, in part, because of the source of the meat. Tonight's dinner was acquired through Hunters for the Hungry, a state-run program that allows hunters to donate their game. It has grown exponentially in recent years.

The amount of deer, moose and bear meat donated by hunters to food pantries, soup kitchens and homeless shelters through the program has quietly grown tenfold since its founding. The program generated about 1,000 pounds per year when it started nearly 20 years ago. It now often generates about 10,000 pounds per year, director Jason Hall said.

Feeding the Hungry

Game meat donation programs in general are growing steadily since the recession, now that hunters have more time and money to pursue the hobby, according to Hagerstown, Maryland-based Farmers & Hunters Feeding the Hungry, which coordinates game meat drives in several states. Donations have grown nearly 20 percent since 2008 to about 1.3 million meals last year, the organization said. Dishes like moose sloppy joes and bear corned "beef" are a little foreign to some people, but the program has helped hunger relief agencies, Morrison said. Thirteen-year-old Cheyenne McMahan, of Portland, sitting recently at one of Wayside's free community meals with her mother, Vicki, described bears as "too cute" for



PORTLAND: Vicki McMahon (left) and her daughter, Cheyenne McMahan-Dumont, dine on venison shepherd's pie at a church dinner in Portland, Maine. — AP photos

consumption, but she was willing to give moose a try. Vicki, a peer support worker for Catholic Charities Maine, said the family relies on the weekly meals for nutrition and to make ends meet. She said she has learned a lot about the versatility of deer and moose meat. Last year's big hit was deer enchiladas. "It was great - and this was the first time I've had it as shepherd's pie," McMahan said. The Legislature created Maine's program in 1996 as a way to find a home for potential food that might otherwise be wasted. The program costs the state \$2,000 to \$4,000 per year, depending on

the volume of donations, but money given to the program has helped defray some of that cost, Hall said. Hunters typically drop off their animals at one of 32 designated processors around the state, Hall said. The state then tries to match the processor with a charity in the region so the meat stays local, he said.

The uptick in interest, aided by a campaign by the state, has been noticeable, Hall said. "Even with out-of-staters. They may have gotten a moose permit, they might be from New Jersey. They want the rack, so they will donate the 900-



PORTLAND: A plate of shepherd's pie made with venison and moose meat is served at a church dinner in Portland, Maine.

pound moose to us and just take the head with them," he said. Game meat donation programs exist all over the country, with some dating back decades. Wisconsin-based Hunt for the Hungry says on its website that it has overseen the donation of more than 700 tons of deer and other game meat in its 20 years of existence. The programs have occasionally run afoul of health authorities, such as in Louisiana in 2013, when officials ordered the destruction of 1,600 pounds of donated venison because it wasn't allowed in homeless shelters. Maine's program avoids the

problem by contracting with processors that are inspected by the Maine Department of Agriculture, Hall said. Maine's program is popular with Thin Blue Line Meats, a Rockland meat cutter that processes game animals for charity at no charge. Owner Jeff McLaughlin said he also asks every hunter if they'd like to donate a pound of their meat to Hunters for the Hungry, and most do. "The owner of a deer just said, I'd like to keep the backstrap, make me a little sausage and donate the rest to Hunters for the Hungry," McLaughlin said. "It's a great program." — AP

RESEARCH RAISES QUESTIONS OVER ADHD DRUG EFFECTS

LONDON: Researchers voiced concern yesterday about poor quality studies on the popular ADHD treatment Ritalin, saying evidence of some benefits, but also of sleep problems and appetite loss, suggests the drug should be prescribed with caution. Ritalin is sold by Swiss pharmaceutical firm Novartis, known generically as methylphenidate and also sold under the brand names Concerta, Medikinet and Equasym. It has been used to treat Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) for more than 50 years.

The Cochrane Review researchers, who conducted a full assessment of studies on the benefits and harms of the Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) drug, said evidence on its use in children was poor. "Our expectations of this treatment are probably greater than they should be," said Morris Zwi, a London-based consultant child and adolescent psychiatrist, who worked on the review. "Whilst our review shows some evidence of benefit, we should bear in mind that this finding was based on very low-quality evidence. What we still need are large, well-conducted trials to clarify

the risks versus the benefits."

Cochrane Reviews are conducted by international panels of independent researchers and considered as studies of the best available science on a topic. Jonathan Green, a professor of child and adolescent psychiatry at Britain's Manchester University who was asked to comment on the Cochrane Review, said it would be "wrong to draw the conclusion ... that methylphenidate is ineffective." "In fact, clinical level evidence strongly supports the effectiveness of methylphenidate for many children with ADHD." The Cochrane Review included data from 185 randomized controlled trials involving more than 12,000 children or adolescents. The studies were conducted mainly in the United States, Canada and Europe, and each one compared Ritalin with either a placebo dummy pill or no intervention. ADHD is one of the most commonly diagnosed childhood disorders and can continue through adolescence into adulthood. Symptoms include difficulty focusing, impulsive behavior, and extreme hyperactivity. It is estimated to affect about 5 percent of children. — Reuters

RIVER TURBINES TURN AUSTRIA'S DANUBE FROM BLUE TO GREEN

SPITZ: The Wachau, a picture-postcard river valley in Austria, makes a lot of wine. Soon it could be producing its own electricity too, and in a way that will not spoil the stunning views. "Wind turbines are out of the question and solar panels are strictly regulated," says Andreas Nunzer, mayor of picturesque Spitz on the left bank of the Danube river. "But we have found a way to contribute to the fight against global warming without harming our quality of life." It is called river current power. The idea is to place in the river what looks on the surface like the top of a submarine but is in fact a six-ton buoy producing enough electricity for 250 people. Below the waves is a turbine turned by the fast-flowing waters—more brown than the blue of Strauss's famous waltz-of-the-Danube, one of Europe's main waterways.

So far, three prototype river turbines producing between 40 and 80 gigawatts of electricity have been tested in the Wachau, but Nunzer has ambitious plans. "We have obtained all the necessary permits to have nine of them, and we don't plan to stop there. We're just waiting for mass production," he said. According to Fritz Mondl, co-president of Aqua Libre, the Austrian firm that has spent the past 10 years developing the technology, this stage should begin next year. In time, the aim is for all the 30,000 inhabitants of the UNESCO-protected valley, its steep slopes covered in vineyards and dotted with centuries-old castles, to get their power in this way.

24/7 renewable energy

Mankind has long harnessed the awesome kinetic energy of rivers, most notably with hydroelectric power, the first plant being built at Niagara Falls in the United States back in 1879. But even though the technology produces no climate-changing greenhouse gases—which the Paris climate talks aim to reduce—building the vast dams necessary nowadays is politically tricky, particularly in Europe. "Forty years ago we successfully fought against a hydroelectric dam here," said Christian Thiery, owner of a Wachau hotel and restaurant at Durnstein, where English king Richard the Lionheart was famously imprisoned in



VIENNA: Photo shows a river turbine manufactured by Aqua Libre installed in Danube river in Vienna. Austrian developers believe they have solved the squared circle with renewable energy as several river turbines are already immersed experimentally in the Danube. — AFP

the 12th century. "Thank goodness we did, because we live off tourism now," he says. He has already ordered one of Aqua Libre's buoys to power his 100-bed hotel. And apart from being unobtrusive, a key selling point of this new technology, its proponents say, is that it is the only source of renewable energy that works 24 hours a day and without the need for heavy infrastructure. Problems that have long held the technology back, such as clogging of the turbines by plants and debris in the river, have been overcome. Nor do the buoys interfere with shipping or kill fish. "The global market is forecast to be worth 15 billion euros (\$16 billion) in 10 years," said Jean-Francois Simon, chief executive of French firm HydroQuest, which has installed its water turbines

in French Guiana and in Orleans, France. According to Simon, the relatively small generating capacity of the turbines is a turnoff to big firms, so the sector is dominated by smaller companies like his, Aqua Libre, Smart Hydro of Germany, Canada's Idenergie and Torcado of the Netherlands. But it is the small water turbines' modest size, simplicity and ease of installation that make them attractive, in particular for areas of the developing world that are not connected to any power grid, he believes. "The water turbines can work in farms of several dozen units and above all can use untapped sources of hydroelectric energy," he said. "They aren't going to turn the energy mix upside down, but they can play their part." — AFP

EBOLA FLARE-UP IN LIBERIA STOKES FEARS OVER WORKERS' VIGILANCE

DAKAR: A failure to send a suspected Ebola patient directly to a specialist treatment unit in a fresh outbreak of the virus in Liberia may reflect fatigue and complacency among health workers, a health expert said yesterday. Liberia has placed 153 people under surveillance after three Ebola cases emerged on Friday, more than two months after the West African country was declared free of the virus. The first of the new patients was 15-year-old Nathan Gbotoe from Paynesville, a suburb east of the capital Monrovia, and his father and brother have since been confirmed as positive. The teenager went to several health centers before being referred to an Ebola treatment unit and several health workers who cared for him may have not worn protective equipment, said Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) representative Carissa Guild.

"Normally with a surveillance system, if someone has signs and symptoms (of Ebola) they would not be hospitalized but immediately sent to an Ebola treatment centre to be tested." "There

were no cases for a while and Liberia was nearing the end of a 90-day period of heightened surveillance... it is quite possible that people were tired and got complacent," Guild said. Ebola symptoms can be similar to other diseases, especially in the early stages of infection, making it crucial to identify and contain any flare-ups rapidly, said Adam Kucharski, a lecturer at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

It is not known how Gbotoe, who died of Ebola late on Monday and is the first such fatality for months in Liberia, was infected but investigations are under way. Cross-border transmission appears unlikely as Guinea has no cases and Sierra Leone was declared Ebola-free on Nov 7 after 42 days without a case. Liberia has twice been declared Ebola-free, in May and September, only for new cases to emerge, and the latest flare-up should be a warning to Guinea and Sierra Leone to remain vigilant, the United Nations children's agency UNICEF said. — Reuters

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TSC WHOLESALE CENTER OPENS AT ARABIA MALL

The Sultan Center held an opening ceremony on Saturday, November 21st to celebrate the opening of its thirty-fourth store in Kuwait and sixty-sixth in the region at The Arabia Mall located in Egaila opposite AUM University. The opening ceremony was attended by TSC management, suppliers, customers and media representatives.

With over 35 years of experience and expertise in the retail industry, TSC continues to pave the way for customers to enjoy a pleasurable shopping experience. TSC Wholesale Center is a shopping destination unlike any other where customers can find quality products at low prices. The store offers a complete range of local and imported products from supermarket and fresh food to home center items, at exceptional value as well as a dedicated area where cus-

tomers can shop from a range of seasonal products and promotional packs.

TSC Wholesale Center features a spectacular selection of local and imported fresh food products. The store contains a full service meat and seafood counter featuring an abundant variety of seafood and meat cuts, including whole lamb carcasses. The deli contains all the local favorites of cheese, olives, pickles, labnah including specialty cheese, cold cuts and salads. Customers can also find a complete range of ready meals-entrees to take away or dine-in from roasted chicken to khababs, pizza and fatayer, with menu changes daily. The produce section is extensive and spacious where customers can buy in cases or kilos depending on their needs. The store houses an in-house bakery offering local Arabic sweets, breads,

cakes and more.

Commenting on the new store opening, Ayman Sultan, Vice Chairman and Group Managing Director stated "The opening of TSC Wholesale Center at Arabia Mall will provide the neighborhood and surrounding community with a new shopping experience. TSC Wholesale Centers provide a complete assortment of products, with a special focus on bulk deals at an everyday low price."

TSC Wholesale Center offers exceptional value of quality products at low prices in a pleasurable shopping experience all under one roof. Visit us today to experience the difference. TSC Wholesale Center Egailah is opened 24 hours.



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Burgan Bank announced an exclusive promotion to all its clients, where they get a 20 percent exclusive discount for a period of 3 days only from 26th to 28th November, 2015 at Lillywhites and Franklin & Marshall stores enjoying a wonderful shopping experience by using any of Burgan Bank's ATM, credit, and prepaid cards.

To get this offer, the client will visit any of Lillywhites branches located at Avenues, Tital Mall, and Albairaq Mall. As well as any of Franklin & Marshall branches at Avenues and 360 Mall.

Today's announcement indicates Burgan

Bank's efforts in providing utmost exclusivity to its customers by providing them with the chance to shop at well-known brand stores and at deducted prices.

Customers are among the bank's main priorities and by providing this offer, the bank continues to reinforce its position as a leading financial institution that meets individual customers' aspirations.

To find out more about Burgan Bank's latest promotions, customers are required to visit their nearest Burgan Bank branch or contact the call center on 1804080. For more information, customers can visit the bank's website on www.burgan.com.



KALPAK PRESENTS NEW DRAMA 'ADHIPAN'



Well-known Indian socio-cultural organization KALPAK celebrated its 26th anniversary on November 5 and 6 at the Indian Community School auditorium with the staging of its latest theatre production 'Adhipan'. 'Adhipan' a historical and musical drama, was staged in three shows in two days.

The two-and-half-hour-long drama drew wide applause from theatre lovers in Kuwait and the auditorium was packed during all the three shows. The drama was directed by well-known theatre personality Babu Chakola. Its stage setting was created by renowned Malayalam artistic director Artist Sujathan while its lighting was done by popular theatre personality Chirackal Raju. An array of actors and actresses performed in the play.

The anniversary celebration was inaugurated by Indian Community School Hon Secretary Vijay Karayil while anniversary souvenir was released by Adv John Thomas be handing over a copy to Artist Sujathan.

MCDONALD'S 'TASTES OF WORLD' CAMPAIGN LANDS IN SPAIN

McDonald's Kuwait continues to take its customers on a delicious journey of flavors from around the world, with its annual 'Tastes of the World' campaign. After starting things in Italy with 'The Italian', the campaign moves onto its second destination with the equally mouth-watering 'The Spanish', which will be available at all McDonald's restaurants starting November 21st until stocks last.

'The Spanish' burger is boldly flavored with an onion and capsicum mix, paprika, and

spicy bravas sauce, all smothering a 100 percent pure Halal beef patty, topped off with Pepper Jack cheese, Halal beef salami and crispy fresh lettuce sandwiched in a braided sesame seed bun.

"Tastes of the World has become one of our most beloved campaigns, and the innovative and mouth-watering limited creations have become something our customers look forward to all year long," said Sherif Coutry, Marketing Director at McDonald's Kuwait. "This year, 'The Italian' proved to be a big hit,

and I am certain 'The Spanish' will be just as big."

The 'Tastes of the World' campaign will conclude with one final exotic burger, which will be revealed soon. In the meantime, customers can still enjoy the limited-time 'Jalapeno Blasters', the bite-sized spicy delight featuring a breaded jalapeno stuffed with creamy cheese. For more information on 'Tastes of the World' limited-time offers, please visit www.mcdonaldsarabia.com.



NAFO MANNAM AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE 'REMINISCENCE 2015' HUGE SUCCESS

NAFO MAE - Reminiscence - 2015, which was conducted on Friday 20th, November, 2015, at the Indian Community School (Senior Branch), Salmiya, turned out to be a hugely successful and skillfully conducted outstanding program which tested the academic brilliance and leadership skills of a prudently handpicked group of highly talented Indian students in Kuwait. After completing registration formalities, a brief orientation session was provided in order to introduce the vision, mission and rules and regulations of the MAE contest.

After the orientation session, the contest was officially declared open by NAFO Patron, Vijay Karail and the contest proceedings started at 09:45 am.

All registrants were clustered into three groups (A, B and C) through a lot system. The competition was arranged at three different

locations so as to easefully, but professionally conduct the testing sequences. The contest system included four levels of grueling processes which were evaluated by a very prominent and authenticated group of 13 Judges. First round examined the Innovation Skill of the contestants; second round assessed their Oratory Skill, third round judged their Debate Skill, and then a final round of Leadership Skill test. Three toppers from each group entered the final round, where their Leadership Skills were exclusively tested. The proficient and stylish skills of all contestants who participated in all rounds were immensely admired by both the Judges and the public. The Oratory Skill test round which dispensed with the 'Life History of His Excellency Padmabhushan Mannathu Padmanabhan', was gloriously presented by all contestants, and some of them gracefully commented that they got an exclusive opportunity to learn and talk

about such visionary social reformer. The whole contest event took almost a day to complete, which began at 10:00am and ended at 5:30pm.

Final results were declared in front of an enthusiastic crowd including Judges, contestants and their parents, and NAFO families. Sudarsan Rathna Kumar (Indian Central School) was declared as the First Prize Winner, Gayatri Nair (Indian Community Senior School, Salmiya) as Second Prize Winner, and Anjali Sunil Chacko (Fahaheel Al Wataniah Indian Private School, DPS) as Third Prize Winner. As a complementary gesture, the contest selected the following winners, which was according to their aggregate marks scored for each round, SudarsanRathna Kumar (Indian Central School) as the Best Innovator, again same SudarsanRathna Kumaras the Best Orator, and Mohammad Mishal (Indian Community School, Khaitan) as the Best Debater.





Dr Hossam Afify with Sheikhha Al Khalifa Al Sabah



Al Sayer Life Care

AL SAYER MEDICAL COMPANY PARTICIPATES IN 11TH NATIONAL DAY FOR SOLIDARITY FESTIVAL

KUWAIT: Al Sayer Medical Company, one of the Al Sayer Group Holding Companies and leading medical companies in Kuwait with the biggest medical outlet displaying wide range of world class products was invited by Kuwait Disabled Sports Club (KDSC) for the 11th National Day for Solidarity Festival.

The event was held under the sponsorship of His Highness, the Amir of Kuwait, Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah. Chief guests of the event were Sheikhha Al Khalifa Al Sabah, The Honorary President of the Kuwait Sports Club and Shafi Al-Hajeri, Chairman of the Kuwait Disabled Sports Club. The festival comprised of Medical events, social and cultural programs by children besides awareness activities. Many exhibition booths were in place displaying different types of medical articles and healthcare products.

The Festival commenced with the National Anthem of Kuwait followed by rendering of the Holy Quran by Mohammad Mubarak. The opening ceremony was followed by a speech by Dr Tareq Al-Shatti, Director General of Kuwait's Public Authority for the Disabled. Dr Al-Shatti emphasized on the importance to concentrate on the spiritual, social and sports aspects in addition to the physical side of the handicapped.

Continuous growth

On this occasion Faisal Bader Al Sayer, Vice Chairman Al Sayer Group Holding said "Since inception in 1954, Al Sayer Group has imbibed the values of honesty, trust and integrity which are at the heart of all our business dealings. We have achieved continuous growth by providing only the best quality products supported by outstanding Service, and by being

acknowledged as the Best in the Business by Customers, Principals, Employees, Community and Shareholders. Our relentless efforts to keep building on 60 years of success will continue and Al Sayer Medical Company is a testimony of this vision. The Company's core objective is to develop healthcare infrastructure in the region by working closely with healthcare service providers and professionals. In addition to this we have further strengthened the commitment towards society, partnering in initiatives safeguarding the interest of our community."

Al Sayer Medical Company was allotted the biggest booth at the event, where huge range of medical products were displayed, with hands on demonstration. Huge number of visitors were attracted to the booth who inquired about various medical products. Professional team represented Al Sayer Medical who guid-

ed and assisted the visitors, explaining product information and technical detail. The honorary chief guest was impressed with Al Sayer Medical's booth and assistance from the professional team. Sheikhha Al Khalifa Al Sabah presented Al Sayer Medical with a token of appreciation and expressed gratitude for the support and participation.

Mingle with society

According to Dr Hossam Afify General Manager Al Sayer Medical Company "Our prime motto is to allow and provide the disabled to mingle with the society, to make it a productive community. It is indeed an honor to participate in disabled events, to safeguard the interests of people with special needs in Kuwaiti community. We care for our community hence, Lifecare our medical showroom provides free consultation for any disabled

requirements and needs. All products displayed here are available in LifeCare showroom, our medical retail outlet at Dajeej".

Al Sayer Medical Company's mission is to improve and transform people's lives by assisting healthcare service providers with the most advanced & reliable pharmaceuticals and medical technologies that ease pain, restore health, and cure illness.

The group's approach is to maintain a good citizenship as a company operating in Kuwait, capitalize on its resources, assets and expertise in social initiatives that increase individuals' awareness of health and environmental issues, this will consequently lead to improving quality of life, and to operate responsibly in the different aspects where there is interaction with society.



ABK CONCLUDES UNIVERSAL CHILDREN'S DAY EVENT

A Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) announced the successful conclusion of its special film-themed event, which was held on Friday, 20 November, 2015 to honor Universal Children's Day. The event was held at the Attraction 5D Cinema in Discovery Mall for all Isave and Bedayati cardholders.

ABK's Corporate Communications team accompanied the children to the most recent 5D movies, which display the latest form of theatrical effects that include rain, snow, bubbles, wind, and lightning, in addition to detailed movements like water drizzle, air blast and vibrations. Children enjoyed free beverages and snacks when they entered the theatre, along with a free pass to the movies. Three 5D movies were shown per hour.

ABK continuously aims to engage with Kuwait's communities by supporting different initiatives, such as Universal Children's Day, which was established in 1954 to encourage all countries to institute a day, firstly to promote mutual exchange and understanding among children and secondly to initiate action to benefit and promote the welfare of the world's children.



WARBA BANK PARTICIPATED AT HEALTH & FITNESS EXHIBITION, CONFERENCE

Warba Bank announces its participation at the Health and Fitness Exhibition and Conference held at Shaikha Salwa Al Sabah Hall at the Marina Hotel Kuwait from the 23rd to 25th of November. The event was sponsored by Dr Ali Al-Obeidi, the Minister of Health and also an elite group of health and fitness experts and specialists inside and outside Kuwait.

Warba Bank's participation, in this first of its type event in Kuwait, comes as part of the Bank's activities that aim to raise health awareness for men and women. The Bank is devoted to familiarize its customers with the latest techniques and innovations to maintain a healthy lifestyle. In view of the Bank's solid relationship with its customers aside from the financial transactions atmosphere, the Bank invited its Al Safwa and Lamar customers to take part in this exhibition in order to benefit from the event.

Haya Saleh Al-Habbas, Customer Segments Development Specialist at Warba Bank said: "Through this participation, Warba Bank is dedicated to enhance the health culture and the concept of a balanced healthy life style, awareness of the pros and cons of cosmetic surgeries, how to deal with such surgeries and avail from the guidance, lectures and discussions at the exhibition. The exhibition tackled the latest developments in this field and provided visitors with a valuable chance to meet experts, getting to know concerned institutions and organizations as well as being introduced to new products in the

cosmetics and pharmaceuticals industry."

Habbas added: "Warba Bank's participation in this exhibition aims to enhance customers' awareness of the banking business and the services provided to its customers through its innovative banking products. The Lamar account provides ladies- with tailored features such as the unique design of the ATM card enabling them to shop safely locally and internationally as well as the excellent service provided by the Bank to its female customers and the several promotions and offers to satisfy their needs and meet their aspirations.

Warba Bank continues to support innovative social activities based on its commitment to its corporate social responsibility and care to strengthen its relationship with customers especially ladies and business women market segment. Warba Bank's participation at this event comes from its strategy which is to develop the society and spread awareness about public health and safety particularly because this vital sector attracts the attention of a major segment of its customers. This sector has become an important window for keeping pace with sustainable development in Kuwait and the region.

Furthermore, Warba Bank has recently contributed in the awareness campaign for breast cancer and the necessity for early check-ups and detection launched by the Ministry of Health. The Bank has also contributed in Kuwait National Diabetes Conference and other constructive awareness activities.



A Russian ballet show performed by the 'Moiseyev Ballet' band was held recently at the Abdul Hussein Abdul Redha Theater, in presence of Russian Ambassador to Kuwait Alexey Solomatn, and officials from the National Council of Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL).

—Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat

CLASSIFIEDS



KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (26/11/2015 TO 02/12/2015)

Table listing cinema programmes for SHARQIA-1, SHARQIA-2, SHARQIA-3, MUHALAB-1, MUHALAB-2, MUHALAB-3, FANAR-1, FANAR-2, and FANAR-3. Includes titles like 'Miss You Already', 'The Forgotten', 'The Hunger Games: Mockingjay-Part 2', and 'Spectre' with showtimes.

Table listing cinema programmes for TAMASHA-Hindi, FANAR-4, FANAR-5, MARINA-1, MARINA-2, MARINA-3, AVENUES-1, AVENUES-2, AVENUES-3, AVENUES-4, and BAIRAQ-1. Includes titles like 'Bridge of Spies', 'The Forgotten', 'The Hunger Games: Mockingjay-Part 2', and 'Spectre' with showtimes.

Table listing cinema programmes for BRIDGE OF SPIES, 360-1, 360-2, 360-3, AL-KOUT.1, AL-KOUT.2, AL-KOUT.3, AL-KOUT.4, BAIRAQ-2, and BAIRAQ-3. Includes titles like 'Tales of Halloween', 'Blinky Bill the Movie', and 'The Hunger Games: Mockingjay-Part 2' with showtimes.

CHANGE OF NAME

I have changed my name from Hasina, holding Indian passport No. Z1810768 to Hasina Nabi in future be called & known by new name. 42, Durat Villa, Shiv Badi, Kharol Colony, Udaipur, Raj. (C 5086) 26-11-2015

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

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 divorcee) invite proposals for their son 35/180 cms, working in London Hospital (UK). Contact: drproposal2015@gmail.com (C 5081)



Prayer timings

Table showing prayer timings: Fajr: 04:56, Shorook: 06:20, Duhr: 11:35, Asr: 14:31, Maghrib: 16:50, Isha: 18:11

WANTED

- Pastry Chefs
• Bakers
• Baristas
to work in cafe

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Mobile: 966 77 197

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Philippine nationals and ladies will be given first preference.

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All incumbents need to have a valid transferable Visa 18
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• Fix Window Cracks
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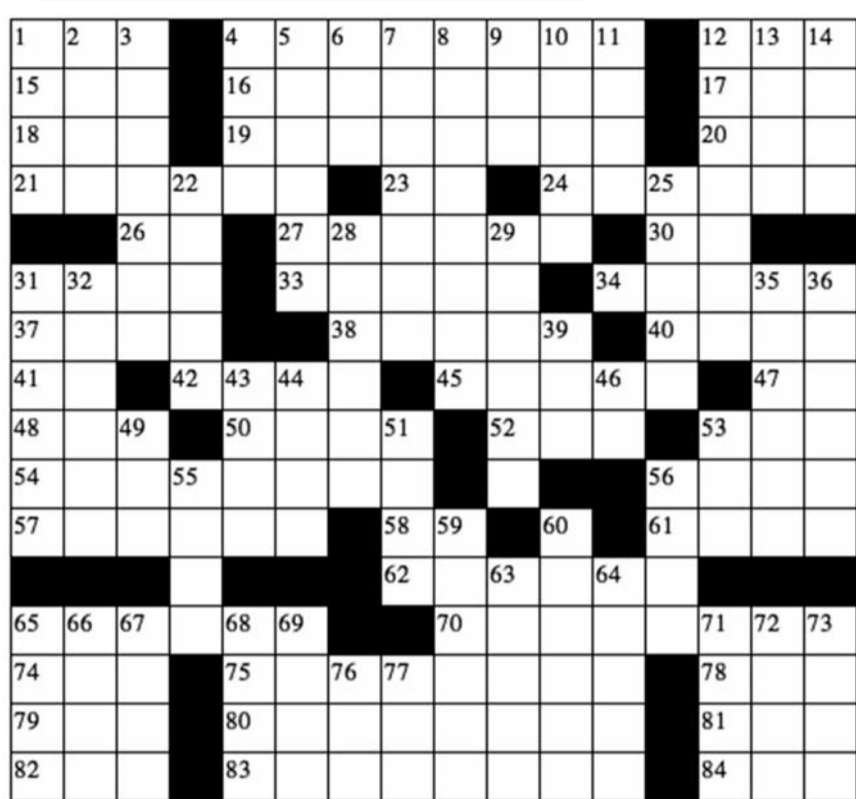


Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page (www.kuwait-airport.com.kw) In case you are not travelling, your proper cancellation of bookings will help other passengers to use seats

Large table showing flight schedule with columns for Airlines, Fit, Arrival Flights on Thursday 26/11/2015, Time, and Departure Flights on Thursday 26/11/2015. Includes routes to various international and regional destinations.

DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

CROSSWORD 1091



ACROSS

1. Pan with a convex bottom.
4. An esoteric or occult matter that is traditionally secret.
12. The federal agency that insures residential mortgages.
15. Any of various primates with short tails or no tail at all.
16. A manually operated device to correct the operation of an automatic device.
17. The sense organ for hearing and equilibrium.
18. Vietnamese New Year.
19. Genus of perennial wildflowers of North American plains and prairies.
20. A hotel providing overnight lodging for travelers.
21. Of or relating to a directionless magnitude.
23. Functioning correctly and ready for action.
24. (of tempo) Leisurely n.
26. Being one more than fifty.
27. A drug (trade names Atarax and Vistaril) used as a tranquilizer to treat anxiety and motion sickness.
30. An organization of independent states to promote international peace and security.
31. A thrusting blow with a knife.
33. Worthy of imitation.
34. Conforming to an ultimate standard of perfection or excellence.
37. Suggestive of the supernatural.
38. English economist noted for his studies of international trade and finance (born in 1907).
40. An edge tool used to cut and shape wood.
41. (astronomy) A measure of time defined by Earth's orbital motion.
42. According to the Old Testament he was a pagan king of Israel and husband of Jezebel (9th century BC).
45. Medication (trade name Lipid) used to lower the levels of triglyceride in the blood.
47. In operation or operational.
48. A metal-bearing mineral valuable enough to be mined.
50. Not only so, but.
52. An enclosed space.
54. Civet of Madagascar.
57. An armed adversary (especially a member of an opposing military force).
58. The district occupied entirely by the city of Washington.
61. Distant in either space or time.
62. A tall Brazilian feather palm with a terminal crown of very large leathery pinnatisect leaves rising from long strong stems used for structural purposes.
65. English writer of macabre short stories (1863-1943).
70. Number the pages of a book or manuscript.
74. A rapid bustling commotion.
75. A mountain in central Greece where (according to Greek mythology) the Muses lived.
78. (often followed by 'of') A large number or amount or extent.
79. British informal term.
80. The blade of a rotor (as in the compressor of a jet engine).
81. A Turkish unit of weight equal to about 2.75 pounds.
82. A constellation in the southern hemisphere near Telescopium and Norma.
83. A river in northeastern Brazil that flows generally northward to the Atlantic Ocean.
84. A rapid escape (as by criminals).

DOWN

1. Telephone line (Wide Area Telephone Service).
2. An organization of countries formed in 1961 to agree on a common policy for the sale of petroleum.
3. A general anesthetic (not a barbiturate) that is administered intravenously or intramuscularly.
4. (Greek mythology) Daughter of Zeus and Demeter.
5. Evergreen Indian shrub with vivid yellow flowers whose bark is used in tanning.
6. The money risked on a gamble.
7. Army unit smaller than a division.
8. Of or relating to or formed by trees.
9. Being two more than fifty.
10. Large antelope with lightly spiraled horns of desert regions of North Africa.
11. (of persons) Highest in rank or authority or office.
12. Not genuine.
13. A Loioish language.
14. A river in central Italy rising in the Apennines and flowing through Florence and Pisa to the Ligurian Sea.
22. A military dictatorship in North Africa on the Mediterranean.
25. Wild sheep of northern Africa.
28. An alloy of copper and zinc (and sometimes arsenic) used to imitate gold in cheap jewelry and for gilding.
29. A monosaccharide sugar that contains the aldehyde group or is hemiacetal.
32. Type genus of the Tetraonidae.
35. A genus of fern sometimes placed in its own family Azollaceae.
36. Cause to be more favorably inclined.
39. A federal agency established to coordinate programs aimed at reducing pollution and protecting the environment.
43. Type genus of the Hylidae.
44. (in Gnosticism) A divine power or nature emanating from the Supreme Being and playing various roles in the operation of the universe.
46. Being nine more than ninety.
49. The compass point midway between northeast and east.
51. A pilgrimage to Mecca.
53. The sound made by corvine birds.
55. A platform raised above the surrounding level to give prominence to the person on it.
56. (Old Testament) Cain and Abel were the first children of Adam and Eve born after the Fall of Man.
59. A vertical cylindrical furnace for melting iron for casting.
60. The capital of Croatia.
63. United States physicist (born in Austria) who proposed the exclusion principle (thus providing a theoretical basis for the periodic table) (1900-1958).
64. A crown-like jewelled headdress worn by women on formal occasions.
66. The sixth month of the civil year.
67. A South American shrub whose leaves are chewed by natives of the Andes.
68. A sudden minor shock or meaningless interruption.
69. Rock that form the continuous lower layer of the earth's crust.
71. Absent without permission.
72. The basic unit of money in Bangladesh.
73. Mild yellow Dutch cheese made in balls.
76. The month following March and preceding May.
77. Range of what one can know or understand.

STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

You're capable of sinking into deep and dark places today while still maintaining an outer air of confidence. Others may accuse you of being in denial, but they couldn't be further from the truth. You can brush up against the emotional pain, but you choose not to dwell in it. Acknowledging your fears enables you to navigate through troubling circumstances and emerge victorious on the other side. Just don't move so quickly now that you miss the lessons you need to learn.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Naturally, you prefer experiencing pleasure in the present moment, but you also are motivated by a strong moral compass. Unfortunately, you might believe you must choose one approach or the other. But this isn't the end of the story, for your attempts to incorporate both aspects of yourself create your current dilemma. Finding your way through your existential crisis takes you on a journey into your own subconscious mind. What you find there can help you be a happier person in the real world.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Your high ideals don't always match up with the reality of your relationships. Reaching your goals today becomes a struggle if someone close to you seems to be an obstacle to your success. Instead of just accepting another person's lack of faith in you, stand firm in your convictions. Use your talent to think on your feet to decide what you want out of the current situation and then lay your cards out on the table. Once you're clear about your destination, there's no reason to hide your intentions.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Finding a middle path is a challenging task today, especially with respect to the patterns and routines of your everyday life. There are specific things you wish to improve upon, but you prefer to create change gradually. Nevertheless, you might have to make significant shifts in your daily habits in order to produce a lasting affect now. Shaking everything up may sound radical, but the positive results will be worth it in the long run.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

You might be obsessing over a current relationship or a potential romance. Sometimes, it's best to keep your desires to yourself. Other times, it can be transformative to share your feelings with someone you trust. Naturally, it's always wise to be socially appropriate; observe the boundaries and don't overstep them unless it's an emergency. Nevertheless, choosing how much to disclose is ultimately your decision, so take time to quiet your mind and tune into your heart.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Your anticipation of the future is too great to be contained by your current social conditions. Even if others are giving you permission to do whatever it takes to resolve the conflict between your personal and professional life, don't believe them. Irresponsible behavior may be fine for other signs, but you conscientious Virgos are expected to carry the torch for ethics and integrity. Don't sacrifice your ideals for what seems to be a quick solution to a complex dilemma. Follow your heart and you won't go wrong.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

Your thoughts are soaring today, zipping in and out of the clouds of your mind. You can catch glimpses of them from your pragmatic position on the ground, and yet it's challenging to latch onto any one image and turn it into reality. Accept that you may not be ready to go public with plans that others might judge as too outrageous. Instead, let the ideas come and go for now. The best ones will continue to gain traction in the weeks ahead. Err on the side of caution when it comes to maintaining your credibility.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Although you're willing to alter your course as needed now, you're not going to go through the motions until you believe it's absolutely necessary. Fortunately, you are a master at work as you journey into the shamanic realms of dreamy visions. Use your multitasking skills to walk in multiple worlds and manifest the seeds of personal transformation.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

The pressure to change continues to build all around you, especially in your personal world. Thankfully, if you remain flexible in your thinking today, you can cultivate a wonderful peace even in the midst of turmoil. The eye of a hurricane is a weird place; as still as everything is, you must stay on high alert every moment in case the energy shifts. Turn up the volume on your psychic radar, for magic is definitely in the air.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Balancing your fantasies with your responsibilities within a relationship can be a full-time job today. You normally honor your promises without hesitation, but now your deep feelings are driven by even deeper compulsions that might not support your previous commitments. Don't make any dramatic changes yet; just sit with your discomfort. The issues that are coming to light won't pass quickly, but will feed your soul over the next few months in ways you can't even imagine.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

You tend to intellectualize your emotions, but today it might be the other way around. Your thoughts carry an extra emotional charge, making it easy to become overly zealous about what you believe is true. You may be at odds with your colleagues or friends over a looming decision about the future. If you find yourself obsessing about this conflict, back off just enough to regain a healthy perspective. Clarity is elusive now but will be within your grasp soon enough.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Just as you begin to settle into your new responsibilities, you are confronted by so much data that the details are overwhelming. You may threaten to throw in the towel today, but your conscience won't let you do it. Instead, this is an opportunity to engage in a dance between the power of knowing the truth and the need to trust your intuition — even if these two extremes are in direct conflict now. Find a place to stand where you can honor both approaches and you will make the most out of this pivotal turning point.

WORD SEARCH

BOARD GAMES WORD SEARCH PUZZLE



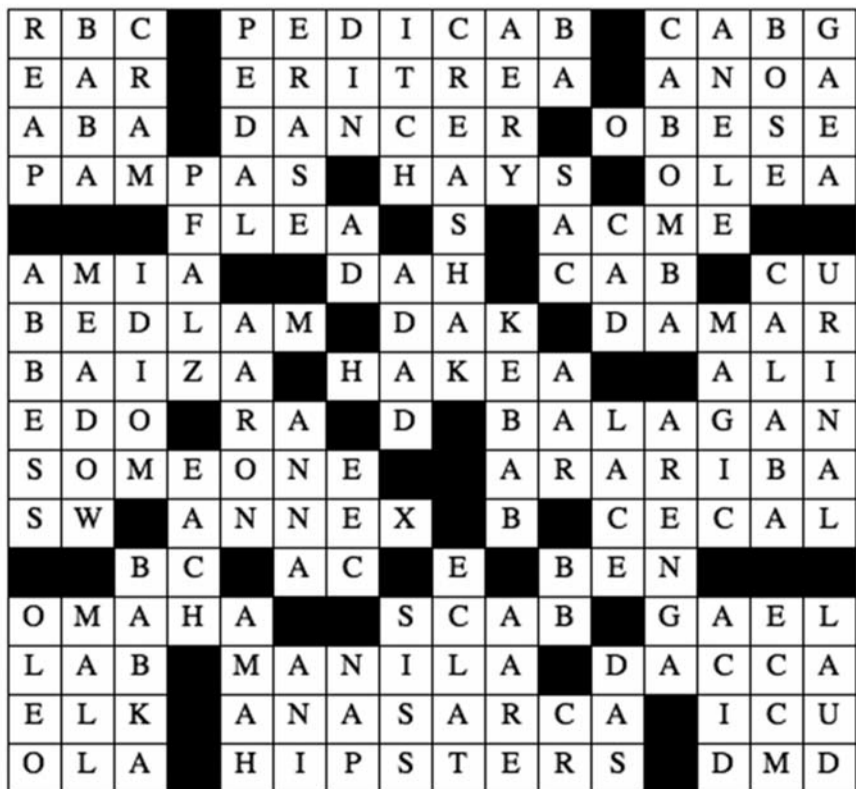
- | | | | |
|------------|--------------|------------|-----------------|
| BACKGAMMON | CHESS | MOUSETRAP | RISK |
| BALDERDASH | CLUE | OPERATION | SCRABBLE |
| BATTLESHIP | CONNECT FOUR | OTHELLO | SORRY |
| CANDYLAND | CRANIUM | PARCHESI | STRATEGO |
| CHECKERS | MONOPOLY | PICTIONARY | TRIVIAL PURSUIT |

Yesterday Solution

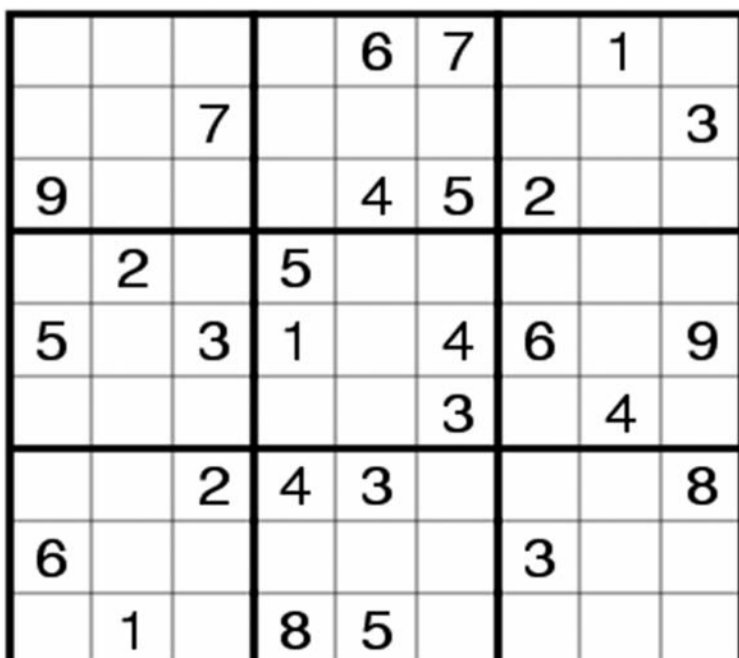
SOLUTION TO GRAMMY WINNERS PUZZLE



Yesterday's Solution



Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution



For labor-related inquiries and complaints: Call MSAL hotline 128

Hospitals

Sabah Hospital	24812000
Amiri Hospital	22450005
Maternity Hospital	24843100
Mubarak Al-Kabir Hospital	25312700
Chest Hospital	24849400
Farwaniya Hospital	24892010
Adan Hospital	23940620
Ibn Sina Hospital	24840300
Al-Razi Hospital	24846000
Physiotherapy Hospital	24874330/9

Clinics

Kaizen center	25716707
Rawda	22517733
Adaliya	22517144
Khaldiya	24848075
Kaifan	24849807
Shamiya	24848913
Shuwaikh	24814507
Abdullah Salem	22549134
Nuzha	22526804
Industrial Shuwaikh	24814764
Qadisiya	22515088
Dasmah	22532265
Bneid Al-Gar	22531908
Shaab	22518752
Qibla	22459381
Ayoun Al-Qibla	22451082
Mirqab	22456536
Sharq	22465401
Salmiya	25746401
Jabriya	25316254
Maidan Hawally	25623444
Bayan	25388462
Mishref	25381200
W Hawally	22630786
Sabah	24810221
Jahra	24770319
New Jahra	24575755
West Jahra	24772608
South Jahra	24775066
North Jahra	24775992
North Jleeb	24311795
Ardhiya	24884079
Firdous	24892674
Omariya	24719048
N Khaitan	24710044
Fintas	23900322



PHARMACIES ON 24 HRS DUTY

GOVERNORATE	PHARMACY	ADDRESS	PHONE
Ahmadi	Sama Safwan Abu Halaifa Danat Al-Sultan	Fahaee Makka St Abu Halaifa-Coastal Rd Mahboula Block 1, Coastal Rd	23915883 23715414 23726558
Jahra	Modern Jahra Madina Munawara	Jahra-Block 3 Lot 1 Jahra-Block 92	24575518 24566622
Capital	Ahlam Khaldiya Coop	Fahad Al-Salem St Khaldiya Coop	22436184 24833967
Farwaniya	New Shifa Ferdous Coop Modern Safwan	Farwaniya Block 40 Ferdous Coop Old Kheitan Block 11	24734000 24881201 24726638
Hawally	Tariq Hana Ikhlas Hawally & Rawdha Ghadeer Kindy Ibn Al-Nafis Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Salmiya-Amman St Hawally-Beirut St Hawally & Rawdha Coop Jabriya-Block 1A Jabriya-Block 3B Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	25726265 25647075 22625999 22564549 25340559 25326554 25721264 25380581 25628241

INTERNATIONAL CALLS



Afghanistan	0093	Luxembourg	00352
Albania	00355	Macau	00853
Algeria	00213	Macedonia	00389
Andorra	00376	Madagascar	00261
Angola	00244	Majorca	0034
Anguilla	001264	Malawi	00265
Antigua	001268	Malaysia	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	Niger	00227
Cape Verde	00238	Nigeria	00234
Cayman Islands	001345	Niue	00683
Central African	00236	Norfolk Island	00672
Chad	00235	N. Ireland (UK)	0044
Chile	0056	North Korea	00850
China	0086	Norway	0047
Colombia	0057	Oman	00968
Comoros	00269	Pakistan	0092
Congo	00242	Palau	00680
Cook Islands	00682	Panama	00507
Costa Rica	00506	Papua New Guinea	00675
Croatia	00385	Paraguay	00595
Cuba	0053	Peru	0051
Cyprus	00357	Philippines	0063
Cyprus (Northern)	0090392	Poland	0048
Czech Republic	00420	Portugal	00351
Denmark	0045	Puerto Rico	001787
Diego Garcia	00246	Qatar	00974
Djibouti	00253	Romania	0040
Dominica	001767	Russian Federation	007
Dominican Republic	001809	Rwanda	00250
Ecuador	00593	Saint Helena	00290
Egypt	0020	Saint Kitts	001869
El Salvador	00503	Saint Lucia	001758
England (UK)	0044	Saint Pierre	00508
Equatorial Guinea	00240	Saint Vincent	001784
Eritrea	00291	Samoa US	00684
Estonia	00372	Samoa West	00685
Ethiopia	00251	San Marino	00378
Falkland Islands	00500	Sao Tome	00239
Faroe Islands	00298	Saudi Arabia	00966
Fiji	00679	Scotland (UK)	0044
Finland	00358	Senegal	00221
France	0033	Seychelles	00284
French Guiana	00594	Sierra Leone	00232
French Polynesia	00689	Singapore	0065
Gabon	00241	Slovakia	00421
Gambia	00220	Slovenia	00386
Georgia	00995	Solomon Islands	00677
Germany	0049	Somalia	00252
Ghana	00233	South Africa	0027
Gibraltar	00350	South Korea	0082
Greece	0030	Spain	0034
Greenland	00299	Sri Lanka	0094
Grenada	001473	Sudan	00249
Guadeloupe	00590	Suriname	00597
Guam	001671	Swaziland	00268
Guatemala	00502	Sweden	0046
Guinea	00224	Switzerland	0041
Guyana	00592	Syria	00963
Haiti	00509	Serbia	00381
Holland (Netherlands)	0031	Taiwan	00886
Honduras	00504	Tanzania	00255
Hong Kong	00852	Thailand	0066
Hungary	0036	Togo	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



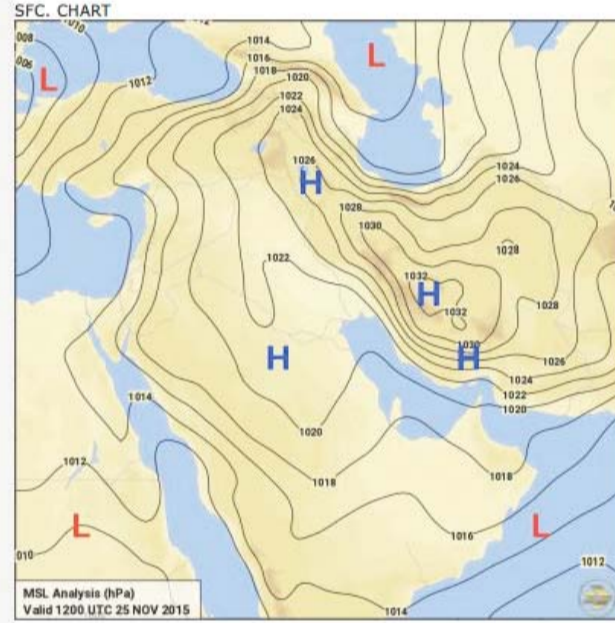
Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

Issued 25/11/2015-19:00 LT UTC +3hr

MIN Temperature 9 °C

By Night :Cool with light north westerly to light variable wind, with speed of 08 - 20 km/h

By Day : Fair with light variable wind, with speed of 06 - 20 km/h and some scattered clouds will appear



Four-Day Forecast

	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Expected Weather	fair + scattered clouds	fair + scattered clouds	sunny	partly cloudy
Min Temp °C	09	10	12	13
Max Temp °C	26	26	27	27
Wind Direction	variable	variable	variable	variable wind changing to light to moderate south easterly
Wind Speed km/h	06 - 20	06 - 20	06 - 20	08 - 30

All times are local time (GMT+3) unless otherwise stated

Warnings NO CURRENT WARNINGS

Kuwait Forecast

Station	MIN °C EXP	Max °C REC
KUWAIT CITY	16	25
KUWAIT AIRPORT	09	26
ABDALLY	09	29
BUBYAN	12	24
JAHRA	14	27
FAILAKA ISLAND	15	23
SALMIYAH	18	23
AHMADI	17	23
JAL ALIYAH	11	26
QAROH ISLAND	21	26
UMM AL-MARADEM	21	25
NUWAISIB	14	24
WAFRA	13	26
MANAGISH	11	25
SALMY	10	24
MUTRIBA	09	27

Recorded Yesterday at Kuwait Airport

Max Temp (°C)	22
Min Temp (°C)	11
Max Rel Hum (%)	82
Min Rel Hum (%)	34
Max Wind Speed (km/h) and Direction	25 N
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR	0 mm
Sunrise	06:20
Sunset	16:50

Prayer Times

Fajr	04:57
Sunrise	06:20
Zuhr	11:35
Asr	14:30
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	24555050 Ext 510
Dr. Abdallah Al-Ali	25644660
Dr. Abd Al-Hameed Al-Taweel	25646478
Dr. Sanad Al-Fathalah	25311996
Dr. Mohammad Al-Daory	25731988
Dr. Ismail Al-Fodary	22620166
Dr. Mahmoud Al-Booz	25651426

General Practitioners

Dr. Mohamme Y Majidi	24555050 Ext 123
Dr. Yousef Al-Omar	24719312
Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhaezem	25736920
Dr. Kathem Maarafi	25730465
Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadah	25655528
Dr. Nabeel Al-Ayoobi	24577781
Dr. Dina Abidallah Al-Rafea	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
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Psychiatrists

Dr. Esam Al-Ansari	22635047
Dr Eisa M. Al-Balhan	22613623/0

Gynaecologists & Obstetricians

DrAdrian arbe	23729596/23729581
Dr. Verginia s.Marin	2572-6666 ext 8321
Dr. Fozeya Ali Al-Qatan	22655539
Dr. Majeda Khalefa Aliytami	25343406
Dr. Ahmad Al-Khooly	25739272
Dr. Salem soso	22618787

General Surgeons

Dr. Amer Zawaz Al-Amer	22610044
Dr. Mohammad Yousef Basher	25327148

Internists, Chest & Heart

Dr. Adnan Ebil	22639939
Dr. Mousa Khadada	22666300
Dr. Latefa Al-Duweisan	25728004
Dr. Nadem Al-Ghabra	25355515
Dr. Mobarak Aldoub	24726446
Dr Nasser Behbehani	25654300/3

Paediatricians

Dr. Khaled Hamadi	25665898
Dr. Abd Al-Aziz Al-Rashed	25340300
Dr. Zahra Qabazard	25710444
Dr. Sohail Qamar	22621099
Dr. Snaa Maarroof	25713514
Dr. Pradij Gupare	23713100
Dr. Zacharias Mathew	24334282

Dermatology

Dr. Mohammed Salam Bern University	23845955
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Dentists

Dr Anil Thomas	3729596/3729581
Dr. Shamah Al-Matar	22641071/2
Dr. Anesah Al-Rasheed	22562226
Dr. Abidallah Al-Amer	22561444
Dr. Faysal Al-Fozan	22619557
Dr. Abdallateef Al-Katrash	22525888
Dr. Abidallah Al-Duweisan	25653755
Dr. Bader Al-Ansari	25620111

Neurologists

Dr. Sohal Najem Al-Shemeri	25633324
Dr. Jasem Mola Hassan	25345875

Gastrologists

Dr. Sami Aman	22636464
Dr. Mohammad Al-Shamaly	25322030
Dr. Foad Abidallah Al-Ali	22633135

Endocrinologist

Dr. Abd Al-Naser Al-Othman	25339330
Dr. Ahmad Al-Ansari	25658888
Dr. Kamal Al-Shomr	25329924

Physiotherapists & VD

Dr. Deyaa Shehab	25722291
Dr. Mused Faraj Khamees	22666288

Rheumatologists:

Dr. Adel Al-Awadi	25330060
Dr. Khaled Al-Jarallah	25722290

Internist, Chest & Heart

DR.Mohammes Akkad	24555050 Ext 210
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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 MD, PH.D, FACC	2611555-2622555
Inaya German Medical Center	Te: 2575077 Fax: 25723123

Psychologists /Psychotherapists

Soor Center
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Fax: 2290 1688

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Kaizen center
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Noor Clinic
23845955

William Schuilenberg, RPC 2290-1677
Zaina Al Zabin, M.Sc. 2290-1677

Gossip



Kim Kardashian West may need a caesarean section

The 'Keeping Up With the Kardashians' star is due to give birth to her and Kanye West's second child, a son, next month, but she has learned she may be unable to deliver naturally as he is breech, meaning his head is still facing upwards. She wrote on her blog: "My latest concern is that my baby is breech, meaning he's in the wrong position for childbirth. His head is still up and it's supposed to be down. He was supposed to turn by 32 weeks. So now, I will have to get a C-section. Or so I thought!" The 35-year-old beauty has been researching alternative options and is doing "everything she can" to get the baby to turn until her due date. She

explained: "Since my baby is pretty big - over seven pounds - maybe he's just too big at this point but I started intensive chiropractic work with Dr Elliot Berlin. He is 'the' pregnancy chiropractor! I've learned so much from my few sessions with him. I have been doing everything I can to try to turn the baby. I lay practically upside down three times a day for 15 minutes.

Tracy Morgan doesn't think he'll ever feel normal again



The 47-year-old comedian - who was left with a traumatic brain injury and a broken leg after a road accident in New Jersey in June 2014 - admits the horrifying incident has changed his life forever. He said: "You're never going to be normal after you go through something like that. You don't die for a few weeks and then come back to normal, trust me. Something's going to be missing, something's going to be gained - you just got to live your life after that." But after surviving something like that, I'm probably never going to feel normal." The 'Saturday Night Live' star claimed he "went to the other side" and spoke to God after the accident, but was told it wasn't his time to die. He added to Complex magazine: "I went to the other side. This is not something I'm making up. Do you know what God said to me? He said, 'Your room ain't ready. I still got something for you to do.' And here I am, doing an interview with you." Tracy - who has two-year-old daughter Maven with wife Megan Woolover - has now learned not to make plans for the future but live every day to the max.



Brad Pitt credits 'a lot of love' for youthful looks

The 51-year-old actor - who has children Maddox, 14, Pax, 11, Zahara, nine, and twins Knox and Vivienne, seven, with wife Angelina Jolie - also believes in never overindulging in his favorite things. Asked his secret to looking and feeling young, he told 'Extra': "Everything in moderation and a lot of love." The 'Moneyball' actor is looking forward to celebrating Thanksgiving with his family and plans to cook up a feast in the kitchen. He said: "Yeah, I'll get in there, I'll mess it up a little bit. We got Thanksgiving, man - I'm all over that turkey." Brad can next be seen in 'The Big Short' - which he also produced - and felt it was "important" to make the movie, which is about the build-up of the housing and credit bubble, which led to America's recent financial crisis. He said: "I wanted to play a small part in it to help get it to the screen, so I jumped in on the acting side as well. "It was a really important story to me, I'm still angry by it, that no one was held accountable, this financial crisis, this housing meltdown that so many people got hurt by."



Katie Price's son playing the keyboard from hospital bed

The British star has released a video of her son Harvey - who has been in Great Ormond Street Hospital in London undergoing a minor operation - in which he entertains his mother with the keyboard. Katie, 37, captioned the adorable video: "My gorgeous boy entertaining me in hospital before bedtime #family." The TV personality recently thanked her online followers for their supportive messages towards Harvey, who suffers from a rare genetic condition called Prader-Willi Syndrome. Katie said: "Harvey is currently in Great Ormond Street Hospital for a routine operation. "He will hopefully be out in a few days but I wanted to say how touched I am by all those asking about his well-being." Katie also previously revealed she's grown used to dealing with Harvey's health issues. She said: "I'm not going to lie - it's very hard work bringing up a child with disabilities ... He's on medication six times a day and if he doesn't take it, he'll die. And he has an injection at night.

Justin Bieber apologized to fans

The 'Sorry' hitmaker cancelled a series of performances - including an appearance on 'The Late Show With Stephen Colbert' - without offering a proper explanation and has now taken to his Twitter account to say sorry to those people who were hoping to see him. Justin said: "My apologies to @colbertlateshow as I won't be able to make it to nyc tomorrow for the show. I look forward to making it up to you soon. (sic)" Later, he thanked his fans for their understanding, though he again declined the chance to explain the problem. He wrote: "@StephenAtHome thank you for the understanding as sometimes life kicks our ass and we need to deal with it. I will see u soon. Thank you (sic)." Gossip website TMZ said Justin has been on an emotional roller-coaster in recent weeks and simply could not continue with his hectic schedule. The announcement comes shortly after it was reported Justin serenaded his ex-girlfriend Selena Gomez in a hotel bar. The on/off couple were seen at the Montage Hotel in Beverly Hills, where Justin sang a number of songs, including 'My Girl' and his own tune 'Sorry'. And Justin recently admitted he will always love the singer.



Chiwetel Ejiofor couldn't cope with Cumberbatch fame level

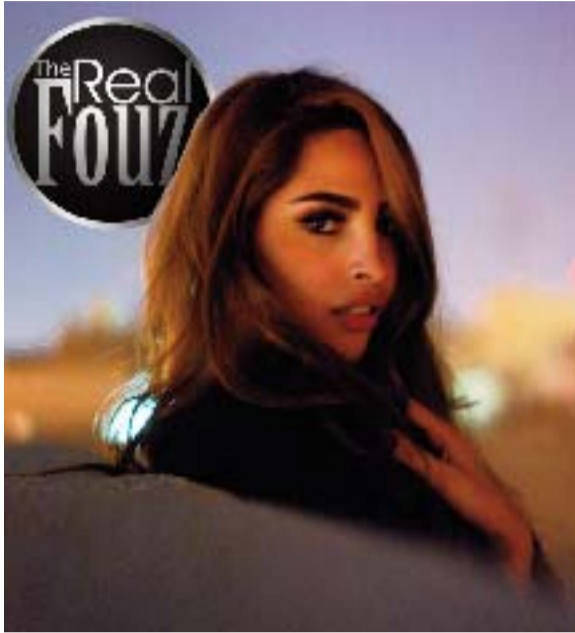
The 38-year-old actor - who stars alongside the Brit in Marvel's new comic book movie 'Doctor Strange', which is due out next year - has revealed he has no desire to become more famous than he already is. He said: "This is something that I'm very grateful for, but on the whole, people are very respectful with me. "They're nice, and they ask for an autograph or photograph, and it very rarely has any kind of hysterical quality to it. That's the thing I don't respond very well to, and I see it very often with friends of mine." And to underline his point, Chiwetel cited the example of his 'Doctor Strange' co-star, who is among the most sought-after actors in Hollywood. He told Vulture: "For example, I'm working with Benedict Cumberbatch at the moment, and people have that quality when they're around him. They get a little hysterical about it, and that is really odd to watch. To be in the centre of that is very peculiar." Chiwetel insisted he's "glad" he doesn't receive such adoration. He said: "Each actor influences the people who go to see their movies in totally different ways. It's fascinating to see that distinction in action, but I'm sort of glad it's not something I contend with."

Will Smith admits his marriage has been excruciating at times

The 47-year-old actor has been married to fellow Hollywood star Jada Pinkett Smith since 1997, and has revealed their relationship has been "grueling". He shared: "We've been married 20 years and we've been asking ourselves [what's the secret to marriage] and really at the end of the day it's just not quitting. "You can't expect it to be easy. It's like our marriage was the most difficult, grueling, excruciating thing that we have ever taken on in our lives. And you know we're just not quitters." Will also revealed what he considers to be the secret to maintaining a good marriage. The actor - who shares 17-year-old son Jaden and 15-year-old daughter Willow with his wife - told Entertainment Tonight: "I would say it is that we never went into working on our relationship. "We only ever worked on ourselves individually, and then presented ourselves to one another better than we were previously."



Alarming increase in negativity



Once in a while, we go through ups and downs that either give us a reality check or makes us truly appreciate the things we have in life and what we shouldn't take for granted. Lately, I've been amazed by the alarming increase in negativity within people, maybe because I live my life with public I get to see or experience it more, but it has become an issue most people deal with.

Whether or not you live your life publicly, I'm sure you realize how all of a sudden problems seem to snowball or just pile all at once, then again, they all disappear. I'm the type of person that works better under pressure, it's just how I am. I also like to drown myself with work whenever I'm feeling down. I find that lately people's mentalities towards accepting others and what they do have become more negative than positive, of course people who love themselves and who see the good in others don't suffer from such a mentality.

Many people ask me how I deal with all the negative posts and comments people post about me or how I deal with the negative side in general, and my answer is always "I don't". I don't deal with it full stop. During my 25 years of existence, I've been through enough of experiences, bullying, problems and what on that made me love myself and respect myself. It's hard to see the good when people are

being negative towards you, but you know what? People do that to you when they want you to stop whatever it is that you are doing well. No one would pay attention to you if you're not doing something that is worthy. I've reach a point in life where I am capable of blocking people out of my brain, not necessarily out of my life. When you're in peace with yourself you will genuinely feel sorry and sad towards people who carry around so much hate and shallowness.

People who feel the need to constantly talk about others negatively, bring them down or try to harm them in any sort of way, physically/mentally/emotionally are not happy people. They may act like they are, but they're really not. No one who's happy and satisfied with their life, job, family and friends has the time of day to feel anything but happy for others. You don't need to know people personally in order to see the good in others, you can always have your opinion about people but if it was negative then you should keep it to yourself unless you express it maturely and respectfully.

We are all human, we all feel, and those emotions play a huge role towards our character and what we end up feeling can either ruin another human being or encourage another human being to do bigger and better things in

their life. People don't seem to understand that sometimes people can be weak, and that one thing you say about them or to them can seriously cause emotional damage, some people can't deal with any judgment at all to a point where it causes them depression and they can be antisocial, but why do that to anyone? Life is too short! Enjoy it, go out, travel with good company, experience life and meet new people who might give you a whole new prospective about life.

When you genuinely love yourself you can love others, achieve that goal you've been thinking about, make that dream become a reality, and get that job you've been waiting for. Love yourself, self-worth is essential. Be around friends and lovers that want to see you happy, healthy and successful. Give people a chance to prove themselves to you, not everyone is the same. Once you become positive you attract positive vibes and positives tribes. Aim for love, stability and most importantly health.



A New French Luxury Ambiance for Korloff Boutique Renovation



To present its French collections, Korloff Paris has upgraded its boutique concept and has brought innovations into the concept of the Korloff Prestige boutique at the 360 MALL in Kuwait City.

In-store launch of a new concept

The new facade of the Korloff Paris Boutique offers shimmering columns of astrakhan which highlight the flagship collection of the brand. The space of the store has been enlarged by combining two main areas: Jewelry collections presented in large elongated wall units in black and white lacquer, enhanced by outstanding bright red color bases. - Watch collections exhibited in dedicated counters. Round windows present the Voyageur line for clients to view.

A VIP area has been created for our prestigious guests, with special counters displaying the entire solitaires and special Korloff diamonds ranges. Designer chandeliers impart a warm, intimate atmosphere to the VIP room, where privacy can be ensured. Video screens both inside the boutique and outside in the main facade present the latest films created

by the brand: a transparent LCD screen shows the inside of the outstanding Voyageur reversible watch, revealing a 5-carat solitaire when the film magically disappears.

Overall, our French designer has given priority to a luxury environment with pure lines: a smart mix of curves and straight lines, with light effects for the wall showcases. Unlike other stores, the floor is embellished with a two-tone grey carpet with the usual "K" pattern. Official opening in Kuwait City with the official launch of the new Jardin du Luxembourg watch collection. On November 24th 2015, a new Korloff Prestige Boutique will be inaugurated in Kuwait City. In the presence of Ali Behbehani, Chairman of the Behbehani Group, and Bassam Azakir, managing partner of Korloff France, we invite you to experience the new French ambiance of the new boutique concept and the Jardin du Luxembourg collection.



'Carol' leads Spirit Awards film nominations

"Carol," the story of a 1950s housewife who falls for a store clerk, led the pack of independent movies tipped for Oscars glory as the Spirit Awards nominations were unveiled Tuesday. Starring Cate Blanchett and Rooney Mara, the film was nominated in six categories, including best feature, best director and best actress. "Beasts of No Nation," about a child soldier, came in second with five nominations, while "Spotlight," on the Boston Globe's Pulitzer Prize-winning investigation into sex abuse in the Catholic Church, won four nominations. The Film Independent Spirit Awards are seen as an strong indicator of independent movies that could win Oscar glory.

Other contenders for best feature are "Anomalisa," an animated comedy drama, and "Tangerine," about two transgender prostitutes in Los Angeles. "This year's nominees are a testament to the strength, vitality and diversity of independent, artist-driven filmmaking," said Film Independent president Josh Welsh. "It's an astonishingly strong group of films and performances this year and we look forward to celebrating them all at the Spirit Awards." The winners will be announced on February 27, a day before the Academy Awards.— AFP



US President Barack Obama presents the Presidential Medal of Freedom to movie director Steven Spielberg at the White House in Washington on November 24, 2015. — AFP

Obama hails Spielberg's 'boundless imagination'

President Barack Obama awarded the highest civilian honor Tuesday to filmmaker Steven Spielberg, the man behind Hollywood hits "E.T.," "Jurassic Park" and "Indiana Jones." Steven's films are marked most importantly by a faith in our common humanity," Obama said as he awarded him the Medal of Freedom. "His stories have shaped America's story, and his values have shaped our world."

Obama noted Spielberg's work in founding the Shoah Foundation, which records testimonies of survivors and other witnesses of the Holocaust. The director, who has won three Oscars and whose films have grossed more than \$9 billion in ticket sales, has celebrated his own ability to navigate between various genres, from blockbusters like "Jurassic" park to historic dramas like "Schindler's list." "Film has always been the greatest way for me to unbur-

den myself of my demons and to therefore cast my demons on you," he said earlier this month while presenting his Cold War thriller "Bridge of Spies" in Berlin.

Among the 17 awardees at the White House ceremony were singer-director Barbra Streisand and songwriter James Taylor. Among other entertainment stars honored were music producer Emilio Estefan and pop star Gloria Estefan, a Cuban American couple seen as trailblazers for being Spanish-language stars who successfully crossed over to the English-language market. Grammy-winner Itzhak Perlman and composer-lyricist Stephen Sondheim also received the honor alongside baseball great Willie Mays and fellow legend Yogi Berra, who got a posthumous award.— AFP

KUWAIT FASHION WEEK



Kuwait Fashion Week proved to be a full 360° spectrum of surreal and daring surprises. Saeed Qubaisi presented a collection of glamorous decadence. The gowns hugged the models. The delicate fabrics were opulent and the sheer magnitude of the dresses was impressive. Angelina Jolin, stylist to the A-Listers based in New York commented "these dresses were ideal for the likes of Celine Dion and Beyonce." The international crowd gasped in admiration when Haya Al-Bugayli quietly stepped on stage in her abaya and paraded the catwalk hand in hand with her gorgeous bride model.

The dresses nodded to town-hall city weddings in London and Milan; there was a sense of urbanism yet the gowns were timeless. Juliette N White promoted their rising star from Tunisia Safi Rabah, an emerging jewel for evening gowns. The house was packed due to the overwhelming instagramming and twittering the night before. Celebrities such as the actress Elham Al-Fadeala, that I mistakenly took for a Parisian aristocrat, was dressed all in Chanel. We were also honored to have with us the owner of Jumeirah Hotels Kuwait, Khawla Moubarak Al-Hasawi.

Anfal Al-Saleh stole the hearts of the crowd. Her wedding gowns were cutting-edge, sublime and urban.

Models display new creations by Kuwaiti designer Anfal Al-Saleh during the fashion week on November 24, 2015.



Models display new creations by Haya Al-Bugayli during the fashion week on November 24, 2015. — Photos by Joseph Shagra

'ELEGANT AND STYLISH'



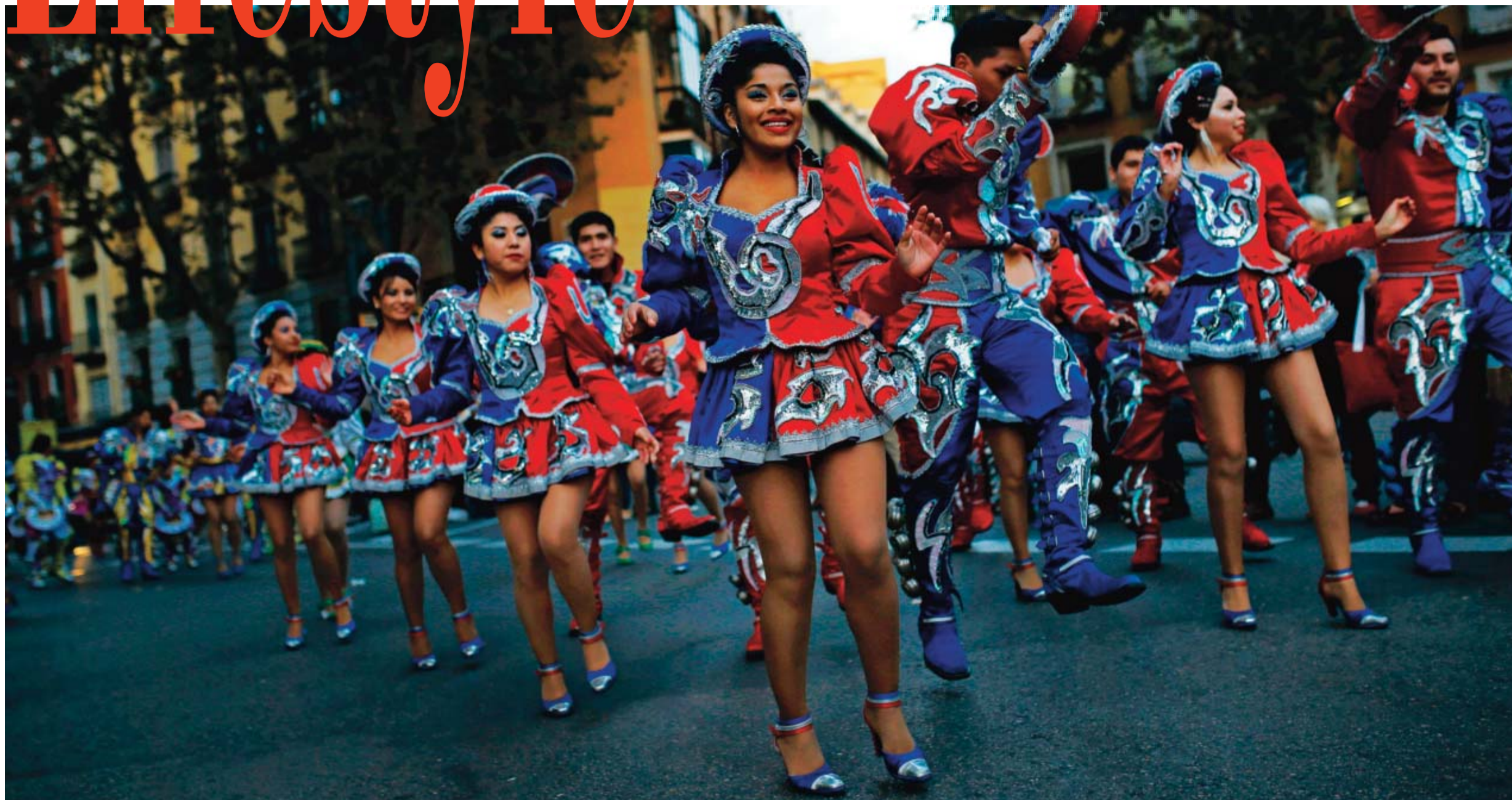
Models display a new creation by Juliette N White during the fashion week.



Models display new creations by Saidid Kobeisy during the Kuwait Fashion Week.



THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2015



Dancers dressed in traditional Bolivian costumes perform during a parade organized by Spanish leftist Podemos ('We Can') party as a pre-campaign meeting in Madrid. During the parade dance folk groups from Bolivia, Peru and Ecuador performed along the streets of the city centre of the Spanish capital. — AP

'Child brides' suffer as African Union seeks to end the custom

Lucia Felix, a 15-year-old Mozambican girl, dreams of returning to her village school but instead she must prepare for motherhood after she was chosen for an arranged marriage and became pregnant. She is one of the millions of "child brides" across Africa who are married before their 18th birthday, with many already wed when they are younger than 15. This week, the African Union will meet in Zambia to hold its first conference on "Ending Child Marriage in Africa"—a small step in efforts to protect girls like Lucia. "One day, a young man arrived here to choose a wife from several girls and he chose me. Then I got pregnant," she told AFP, speaking under a mango tree in the courtyard of her family's home in the southern village of Jangamo.

Lucia, who is eight months pregnant, had just returned from the doctor after contracting malaria and she complained of pains in her belly. "I'm afraid because I'm still a child and I fear I won't be able to take care of my baby," she said. "I want to go back to school and to study to become a teacher." The African Union says about 14 million under-age girls are married on the

continent each year—almost all of them forced by their parents, often against laws that are rarely enforced.

'A rights violation'

"Child marriage is a human rights violation that robs girls of their rights to health, to live in security, and to choose if, when and whom to marry," the AU said ahead of the meeting today and tomorrow in Lusaka. "It is a harmful practice which severely affects the rights of a child." The meeting will gather representatives from member states, first ladies, UN officials and civil society groups to discuss how to change long-established cultural norms and how to eventually end child marriage altogether. Lucia's mother, Zaida Zunguze, admits she first supported her daughter's marriage to her 20-year-old suitor, but said that she wanted Lucia to wait until she turned 18.

"She's still a child, she knows nothing. I want to continue teaching her how to take care of her house," Zaida said, sitting on a mat next to Lucia. "I'm worried because the man said he would provide for the baby, and now he doesn't say anything."

The legal age of marriage in Mozambique is 18, or 16 with parental consent, but nearly half the girls are married in traditional ceremonies before they turn 18.

According to the last national census conducted in 2011, about 14 percent are married before the age of 15. "The concept of the child here is different. As soon as they show the first signs of puberty, they are already considered an adult," Pascoa Ferrao, director of the social action department in the southern city of Inhambane said. "(Child marriage) has often to do with economic circumstances. If a girl is married off, then there's one less mouth to feed. It leads to increased child mortality because teen moms don't know how to take care properly of their children."

'Girls not brides'

According to the international coalition Girls Not Brides, girls who marry before 18 are also more vulnerable to HIV, domestic violence and malnutrition. "I lost my job as a maid because I was pregnant. The bosses don't like it," said Cidalia Daniel, 17, who

has a 10-month-old son. She now lives with her parents after her husband, 21, fled abroad when she got pregnant. "He would beat me up if I said something he didn't like. He got angry. I didn't like his behavior," she said.

To try to help discourage parents from arranging the marriages, Mozambique in 2007 created "community committees for child protection." These committees are responsible for identifying cases, and contacting social workers so that they can intervene," said Ana Machaie, from UNICEF, which trains and equips the project. "We must make parents take responsibility, because too often they impose marriage on their own children, instead of protecting them." Under-age marriage rates in Africa are highest in Niger, Chad and the Central African Republic. The inaugural AU "child bride" meeting in Lusaka will focus on sharing experience of campaigns to reduce child marriage and on securing higher government funding. — AFP



Bindi Irwin and Derek Hough on stage at ABC's 'Dancing With The Stars' Live Finale at The Grove on November 24, 2015 in Los Angeles. — AFP

'Dancing with the Stars' Crowns Season 21 winner

Spoiler warning: This post contains results for the Season 21 finale of ABC's "Dancing with the Stars." ABC's "Dancing with the Stars" has crowned Bindi Irwin and Derek Hough as the winners of Season 21, beating Nick Carter and Sharna Burgess to take home the Mirror Ball trophy. A tearful Irwin was clearly overwhelmed by the victory, squealing, "Thank you so much! I can't believe I'm here, thank you for changing my life" after host Tom Bergeron announced the results. This marks Hough's sixth win on the show to date. See More: Dancing with the Stars Sets Season 22 Premiere Date. "This experience was a bonding experience, it was something I will always remember," Carter said after receiving the news that he'd come in second. "Bindi deserved it, she kicked butt."

The third place finalist was Alek Skarlatos, who was partnered with Lindsay Arnold. The episode also featured performances from Chaka Khan and Andy Grammer, and former contestants returned to strut their stuff one last time, including "Real Housewives" star Kim Zolciak, who was forced to withdraw from the competition earlier this season due to a health issue. She and partner Tony Dovolani performed a section of their "I Dream of Jeannie" dance. Carlos PenaVega also recreated his "Magic Mike" routine, much to the approval of co-host Erin Andrews. Do you think the right winner was crowned on "DWTS"? Weigh in below! — Reuters

S Korea 'webtoon' craze making global waves

Seoul office worker Park Sun-Min constantly checks his smartphone-trawling for updates on an insect apocalypse, ghost soldiers haunting the inter-Korean border, and a supermarket worker's struggle to form a trade union. Along with millions of other South Koreans, Park is, by his own admission, irrevocably hooked on the vast network of varied Internet-based comic strips or "webtoons"—available through his mobile. "I read four to five a day and more than 30 a week ... I sometimes see them at work and keep reading them on holiday—even overseas," the 30-year-old said. The genre is a growing cultural force in South Korea, supported by an ultra-fast Internet and smartphone-crazy populace, and fuelled by a small army of young, creative, tech-savvy graphic artists.

Most webtoon serials are published on major Internet portals free of charge and once or twice a week. They cover pretty much every genre, from romantic comedies to horror, via historical epics and crime.

Their popularity has drawn the attention of the wider entertainment industry, and top rated webtoons have been successfully adapted into TV dramas, films, online games—even musicals. According to Digieco, a Seoul-based technology think tank, the market for webtoons, and their "derivatives," is currently valued at around 420 billion won (\$368 million) and is expected to more than double to 880 billion won by 2018.

Steep earning curve

A recent example of the sort of stellar trajectory a webtoon can take was provided by "Misaeng" (or "Incomplete Life")—a highly-acclaimed series about a young part-time worker trying to survive South Korea's cutthroat corporate culture. The twice-weekly comic built up an Internet readership of one million, and the series was collated in a book version that sold two million copies. A TV drama spin-off was a major hit last year, and the final accolade came when the government named a new piece of legislation to help part-time workers after the webtoon's main character.

"I think this is a distinctive genre ...and the market is exploding at a mind-blowing pace," said Cha Jung-Yoon, a spokesman for Naver-Seoul's top Internet portal. South Korea had a traditional comics industry which all but collapsed during the

1997-98 Asian financial crisis that drove many publishers into bankruptcy. But the Internet opened a new door. Naver launched a dedicated webtoon section in 2005, commissioning three artists whose work attracted 10,000 views a day. The section now boasts more than 220 commissioned artists and 7.5 million daily views, Cha said, adding that 75 percent of readers are aged 20 or older.

'A whole new genre'

Most webtoons are created digitally, often in long-strip format for scroll-down viewing on computers or smartphones. Many contain moving, flashing or 3D images as well as sound effects and background music. Some even make the smartphone vibrate when readers scroll to a certain scene. "Webtoons are not simply scanned versions of print comics. It's a whole new, different genre tailored for the Internet age," said Kim Suk, senior researcher at state-run Korea Creative Content Agency. "The introduction of smartphones in 2009 was a watershed moment for webtoons ... it really

fuelled their growth," Kim said. More than 80 percent of the South's 51 million population own smartphones, allowing fans to read webtoons anywhere, and they have become particularly popular with commuters.

Seok-Woo became a full time webtoon artist after a series he devised—a psychological thriller about school bullying—won a 2007 competition to publish a regular series on Naver. The 32-year-old, who writes under his given name, grew up in a family that moved a lot when he was a teenager, leaving him feeling friendless and isolated. "Many artists blend their own life experiences into the story and that often resonates well with readers," he said. Action heroes are relatively rare—often the most popular webtoons are those dealing with issues like poverty, cyber bullying, suicide, youth unemployment, and domestic violence. —AFP



A South Korean webtoon artist Seok-Woo poses for a photo at his office in Bucheon, west of Seoul. — AFP