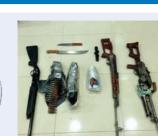


Police found weapons; 5 arrested



Saudi to execute more than 50 terror convicts



United made to wait after PSV stalemate

Russians in Turkey urged to return as tension escalates Moscow prepares sanctions

Page 10





This frame grab from video shows a Russian warplane on fire before crashing on a hill. (Inset top) Russian President Vladimir Putin addresses newly arrived foreign ambassadors of 15 countries during receiving credentials ceremony in Moscow yesterday. (Inset down) Recep Tayyip Erdogan Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan addresses a meeting of local administrators at his palace in Ankara. — AP photos



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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2015



Local Spotlight
IS KUWAIT SAFE?



By Muna Al-Fuzai

muna@kuwaittimes.net

s it safe to travel to Kuwait these days? This is a question worth asking. The world is facing a wave of insecurity and attacks and the entire Arab world is asking: Where next? We in the Arabian Peninsula are in the middle of a hot zone, so it is worth asking about the security of Kuwait. Many people here and those considering a visit may wonder if it is safe. In fact, it's just as reasonable to ask this question about any GCC or MENA country at the moment.

The sad reality is that nowhere in the world is safe from terrorist attacks. In Kuwait, we go about our daily business and we believe we are safe. But the reality is that the world today faces a real and present risk of terrorist attacks on a daily basis. The target of such an attack would not be Westerners only. As the June 26 Imam Al-Sadiq Mosque bombing clearly showed, terrorists know no religion, race or creed, except bloodshed and horror.

I do not know how foreign embassies assess their warnings, including Kuwaiti embassies abroad, which issued security notices urging citizens to be cautious in general and communicate with the embassy if necessary. I have seen this formula over the years whenever a demonstration or a bombing occurs. But the world today is confronting a greater security risk and this formula is dull and no longer makes sense, because there are no specifics. Terrorism can happen anywhere at almost any time.

I'm a frequent traveler, so do trust me that travelling these days is not as safe as it once was, but we all must take risks in order to live our lives. Recently, Kuwaiti authorities busted a terrorist cell of IS, which was planning to carry out terrorist attacks and bombings of critical locations. Perhaps the coming days will reveal more of these cells, regardless of their nationalities, to thwart any possible satanic attempts.

Although I think security precautions and measures are needed all the time when travelling anywhere, these days I do believe that Kuwaitis and Arabs who plan to go on vacations soon should take extra precautions because they are not always very welcome in the West. Sorry to say that these days, in the eyes of some in the West, being an Arab and a Muslim means being possibly treated like a suspect, attacked or a target of possible harassment.

Kuwait is as safe as any other place in the region and crimes and incidents can occur anywhere. There is nothing like a safe haven anymore. So avoiding large gatherings would be a good idea, in Kuwait or elsewhere.

AL-MNADI: KUWAIT'S FOLKLORIC NEWSCASTER

KUWAIT: Before current media tools were invented, the people of Kuwait used to receive their latest news and announcements through a specific individual called (Al-Mnadi).

Whether it was spreading news on an upcoming wedding or delivering Public Service Announcements (PSAs), Al-Mnadi, usually a person with strong lungs and vocal cords, would make sure people in the olden days of Kuwait would get the latest happenings in the country. Researcher Saleh Al-Mesbah said that Al-Mnadi was a crucial

Researcher Saleh Al-Mesbah said that Al-Mnadi was a crucial post that required individuals to know streets and neighborhoods "like the back of their hands." He said that other than spreading news, Al-Mnadi was also hired to notify people about missing items, a message which might require days or even weeks to spread. Al-Mnadi was also given the job of letting people know that a certain item or person was found, said Al-Mesbah.

With the advent of modern technology and the discovery of oil, Al-Mnadi, as a job, quickly faded away; however, Kuwaitis, especially senior citizens, still remember the days when they had to keep their ears focused to hear the voice of their folkloric newscaster. — Kuna

KUWAIT: A centuryold canon positioned at Naif Palace. — Kuna/Ghazi Qafaf





Kuwait Petroleum Corporation

Training and Career Development Sector Petroleum Training Centre (PTC)

KPC ANNOUNCES RECEIVING PRE-QUALIFICATION APPLICATIONS FROM TRAINING PROVIDERS

The Training & Career Development Sector in Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) will start receiving prequalification applications from potential training providers (local and foreign) specialized in the field of training that wish to provide their training services for the year 2015/2016 according to the following:

 Registration shall start on Sunday 22/11/2015 and end on Wednesday 24/8/2016 bearing in mind that prequalification applications submitted after the end date shall not be accepted.

This prequalification is limited to:

- New training providers who are not currently approved by KPC.
- Training providers that wish to add a new training field which was not earlier prequalified by KPC.
- The prequalification application shall be reviewed based on the following criteria:
- The number of years of experience in the field of training.
- Total number of instructors and their qualifications / experience.
- Recognitions / Awards (Local and Foreign) received by the applicant.
- Number of programs certified by an international awarding body.
- Reference letters received from previous clients.
- Copy of previously executed training contracts.
- Audited financial statements for latest 3 years.
- Quality Management Certificate (ISO 9001) or equivalent.
- Potential training providers wishing to prequalify are requested to visit our website (https://esourcing.knpc.com) and obtain username and password, fill the information requested in prequalification application and ensure that they attach all required documents.
- The prequalification system shall not accept any prequalification application with missing mandatory documents.
- KPC shall review and evaluate training providers (who provided all required data in prequalification application) and will inform them in writing regarding their prequalification status whether accepted or rejected within (60) days from the end of registration date.

In case of any questions / queries, please contact us by phone on: 23887217 / 23887279 / 23887258 / 23887218

during working hours (from 10am to 2pm) or by email on: mka999@knpc.com or mmk699@knpc.com or amm399@knpc.com or aii019@knpc.com



27 FRIDAY NOVEMBER 2015



CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS

- WORKSHOP TRAINING
- OPEN TO CITIZENS AND EXPATS

By Athoob A. Al-Shuaibi

Allah said in the Holy Quran:

"God does not change the condition of a people until they change what is in themselves."

Wait is undergoing a metamorphosis, a process of change that is necessary but far from complete. Among the many important facets of this change is the growing consciousness of the importance of community engagement, development and action. Among the youth, especially, more and more programs are geared toward developing a sense of civic engagement and partnership. One of these, n.mu, aims to facilitate youth-led community projects through capacity building and workshops.

n.mu is the daughter en.v. Founded in 2008, en.v aims to promote social responsibility and environmental sustainability not only in Kuwait but also in the Arab world . The n.mu program is directed toward citizens ages 18 to 25.

Teaching responsible CITZENSHID

"It's developed in partnership with the Eurasia Foundation, the International Research and Exchange Board (IREX) and the Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI) to promote constructive youth engagement in Kuwait. The program aims to promote active citizenship through critical reflection, dialogue and action, equipping youth with the skills and resources needed to make a positive impact in their communities through a combination of training and funding."

Youth workshops

Kuwait Times attended an n.mu workshop to learn more about its methods of training participants. The first thing that draws the attention is the close collaboration between those taking part.

"The plan generally depends on developing some concepts and life skills to change the culture of citizenship and to elevate critical thinking. So, they take each subject individually for a week. Within four weeks, members begin to develop an action plan for a community project contributes to the development of society. We do a follow up at the end of session, a budget to cover the project to be done and to be implemented within another five weeks. We are keen to make our workshops in a fun, smiling atmosphere. At the same time, provide rich material with intellectual weight and dimensions beyond what meets the eye at first glance," explained Dr. Sara Al-Ateeqie, an nmu coach.

"Actually, we do not really train, we mainly facilitate for the participants the ideal environment to learn and explore topics like "What is a community?" to enable them to be active members of their communities using skills like critical thinking. And the kind of environment we aim to create in our sessions encourage teamwork, but in



reality the gains from such type of training are highly subjective to the participant," added Eng. Abdulmuhsin Al-Hashim.

Explaining in more detail about the n-mu method of training, Coach Abdullah Al-Khonaini said "Breaking down the barriers between participants is the most important characteristic of the program....This perception that occurs through the program will be a new motivation to work in a collective, innovative way under our supervision to push the participants to succeed with their projects."

Anyone can be a responsible citizen

Registration to n-mu programs is free and is not limited to Kuwaitis. The process is done easily via their website www.envearth.com where you can find announcements of the new programs and updates about the activities of the en.v organization.

"I'm 22 years old and jobless right now, a friend of mine forwarded an email to me regarding the n.mu program and I simply filled an online application to register and here I am!" said Mariam Farai, n.mu participant.

Mariam emphasizes that the first thing that makes her com-

fortable with her decision to join is the age convergence between them and the coaches plus the informal atmosphere.

"The program boosts my power of persuasion, and critical thinking. Additionally, I know now how to conduct a social campaign, how to make it work within a framework of a team," she said. "I'm a part of campaign that encourages the reduction of plastic bags usage in supermarkets and megastores. Our tactic is to work on both consumers and decision makers. We will also distribute reusable bags to different venues free of charge. I'm becoming a citizen who adds something positive to her society and makes it better and happier."



KUWAIT: Mariam Faraj speaking during her presentation.



From left: Abdulmuhsin Al-Hashim and Dr Sara Al Ateeqie. — Photos by Athoob Al-Shuaibi













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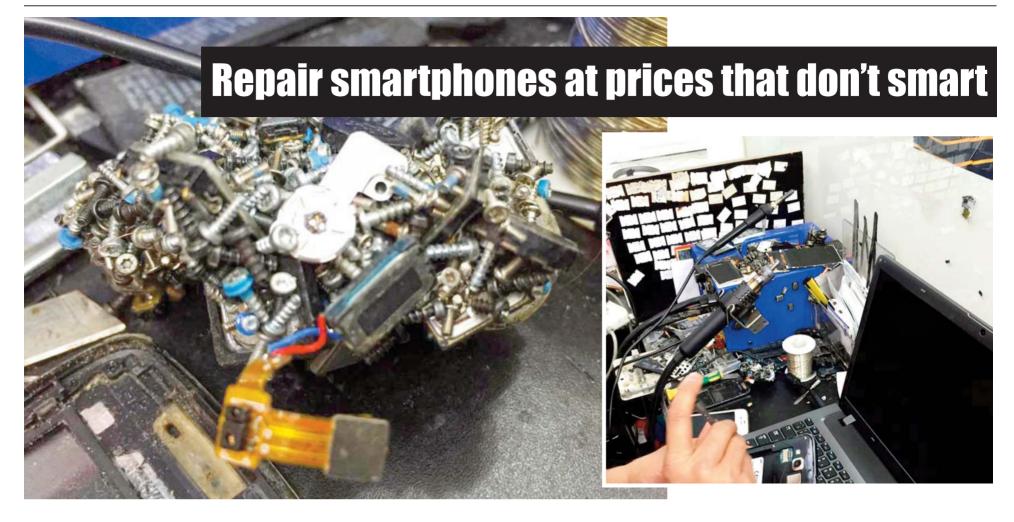
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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2015







By Ben Garcia

We've all been there. Dropped it while getting out of the car. Your child cracks the screen while trying to open an app. The charger connection is loose. Every one of us carries our smartphone like a second skin, and extensive daily use often leaves it battered, bruised and broken. In most cases, especially in wealthy Kuwait, users will simply buy a new model rather than seek out a repair shop. But for some people who are either attached to a particular handset or due to other reasons, repairing the phone is priority number one.

Souq Watiya is not a high-end mall. You won't see fashionistas parading or hordes of shoppers strolling with brand-name bags. It mostly caters to expat shoppers seeking bargains or a new gold bangle. The shops are small, usually with little more than room for one or two patrons at a time, and sell a variety of electronics, clothing, jewelry and other items. Along with a few money exchange shops and a supermarket, mobile phone repair shops can be found on the

second floor in a spot called "mobile alley". Most people also head to Ibn Khaldoun Street in Hawally whenever they have an electronics



This is where I took my busted mobile for a quick repair. Quoted a service charge of KD 10, I easily bargained it down to KD 3, a 70 percent discount, from a repairman named Kamal Uddin, a 32-year-old Bangladeshi from Chittagong.

repair issue, but the shops in Watiya are cheaper and the smaller crowds mean quicker turnaround for repair jobs. This is where I took my busted mobile for a quick repair. Quoted a service charge of KD 10, I easily bargained it down to KD 3, a 70 percent discount, from a repairman named Kamal Uddin, a 32-year-old Bangladeshi from Chittagong.

"This is how it works more or less. The price we ask here in Watiya can be reduced down to 50 percent depending on how you convince the repairman," he laughed. "If you go to other places, it is more expensive, or you don't know if the repair they've done will last," Kamal said. "Better trust mobile repairs to people you've known for years. We are proud that we can repair mobiles the way some companies repair them at their service centers," he said.

Low Overheads

Cheaper rents help Watiya shops charge lower prices for services and products. "Probably we can do this because the rental of a shop here is a bit lower than those in Hawally," Kamal said. "We charge almost the same, but what is good here is that customers can bargain down the price - you can ask for discounts and we know the price limit," he explained. Kamal can count Kuwaiti customers on his fingers. "See, many of our customers here work in houses - they are on article 20 visas, so we know their capacity to pay. We don't charge much, especially when we know they are domestic workers."

Watiya is not as busy as Souq Muttahida in Kuwait City. "We only have customers here every Friday, while the rest of the week we see very few customers. We are lucky to have three to five customers per day. So one of the reasons why we don't charge much here is the fact that we are not frequented with customers," Kamal revealed.

Kamal has been a cellphone repairman since 2010. "I came from Bangladesh and I was hired to help in a shop owned by my uncle," he narrated. "When my uncle left, I was left without a visa, so I looked for a place to transfer. I knew something about electronics, so when a friend told me they were in need of people to run a repair shop, I jumped at the chance," he recalled. "I immediately applied and have been working here ever since. It's been five years and counting."

Crash Course

Kamal left Bangladesh to help his family. He has two boys aged 7 and 5. Before leaving Bangladesh, he attended a crash course on cellphone repair in Chittagong. "I studied the basics of smartphone repair. At first we were familiarized with the different types of smartphones, then all basic parts and functions were reviewed. We have to understand first the functions of every part. It was hard but I managed to learn something and this is why I am able to do the job well," he said.

At the crash course, Kamal learned the functions of the circuit board, motherboard and logic board. "We were told to check faulty parts and taught how to replace them - fault finding and troubleshooting follows," he said.

A smartphone repairman must also be familiarized with the tools and various kits needed in the repair business. "Whatever you do, you need to be dedicated and you must like it. The very basic tools we use are the three Ts - T4, T5 and T6 precision screwdrivers. These screwdrivers are sufficient to do most repair jobs. There are other tools too, but probably the most ideal thing is to be updated and learn about the latest smartphones from the Internet," he concluded.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2015



in Brief

KNPC upgrades operations at the Al-Ahmadi refinery

KUWAIT: Kuwait National Petroleum Corporation (KNPC) announced yesterday upgrading its Fluid Catalytic Cracking Unit at Al-Ahmadi Refinery so as to soon produce over 42,000 barrels of oil daily. This unit will also produce high quality oil by-products commensurate with international standards on pollution-reduction and environmental safety, said deputy executive officer at the refinery Mutlaq Al-Azmi. The upgrading process falls within KNPC's overall plan to implement steps leading to the use of clean energy at the refinery, he said.



The new Fluid Catalytic Cracking Unit installation process.

Arts and culture play role in educating Arab youth

SHARM EL-SHEIKH: Arts and culture have a strong role in educating Arab youth, said two Kuwaiti movie directors yesterday. In a symposium held within the Arab Youth Festival, Abdullah Al-Nassar and Yousef Al-Baghli delivered two papers discussing the effects of drama on the social context within the Arab world. Al-Nassar said that visual tools delivered messages more effectively than other media means. He affirmed that television and theater have a social responsibility in delivering positive messages to Arab youth. On his part, Al-Baghli said that addressing the youth was the most effect step in building a bright future for the region, affirming that the state of Kuwait was keen on contributing to youth development through various media means.

KFAED and South Sudan inks KD 3.5 million loan

KUWAIT: Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) yesterday signed a KD 3.5 million (\$11 million) loan agreement with South Sudan's government to contribute in building a hospital for women and children in Juba. In a press statement, the Fund said that the project will support the development of the health sector in South Sudan and will meet the increasing need for good quality health care services for women and children in the city of Juba. It said that the project will provide the necessary infrastructure and technical facilities for the hospital; in addition, to medical diagnostic and therapeutic equipment for a better maternal and pediatric care services.

Kuwaiti oil up 44 cents to reach USD 37.15 pb

KUWAIT: The price of Kuwaiti oil went up by 44 cents to reach 37.15 per barrel Wednesday compared to \$36.71 pb the day before, said Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) yesterday. On the global level, the price of crude oil went up by three percent due to the increasing tension in the Middle East on the aftermath of Turkey's downing of a Russian military aircraft and the increase in future contracts for fuel in the US.

Stable weather in upcoming days; temperatures 25-28C

KUWAIT: The weather will be stable in upcoming days with average temperatures reaching between 25-28 degree Celsius during daytime and between 15-12 C during early morning and evening, said a meteorologist yesterday. Acting head of the Kuwait Meteorology center Sami Al-Othman said that the stable weather witnessed recently in Kuwait was due to northwestern wind coming from the European continent. The temperatures for today was between 24-27 C during daytime while that is expected to go down to between 12-14 C later this evening and early Friday morning, said Al-Othman, adding that the weather conditions for tomorrow and Saturday will remain similar to the current situation.

BEDOON ISSUE TO BE DISCUSSED

NATURALIZATION, INCENTIVES TOP AGENDA

KUWAIT: Head of the Interior and Defense committee MP Sultan Al-Shemmari said yesterday that an important meeting will take place after two weeks with the Interior Ministry and the stateless people agency to discuss the issue of thousands of stateless people or bedoons. He said the meeting comes after the bedoons agency completed a report on their situation and proposing solutions to the decades-old problem. He said the discussion will include naturalization.

The lawmaker said the committee discussed yesterday proposals and amendments to the nationality law issued in 1959. He did not provide details. There are around 120,000 bedoons living in Kuwait and claim to have the right to Kuwaiti citizenship. The government insists that only 34,000 of them qualify for consideration for citizenship and urged the rest to produce their original nationalities and promised a series of incentives including residence permits.

In the meantime, MP Abdullah Al-Turaiji, head of the public funds protection committee, which investigated the so-called Dow deal, yesterday strongly defended the committee's findings on the case. Several MPs have criticized the committee for not hearing the testimonies of all oil executives involved in the multi-billion-dollar joint venture between Kuwait and US Dow Chemical. Kuwait unilaterally scrapped the deal late 2008 and was ordered by arbitrators to pay a fine of \$2.2 billion. This has angered lawmakers and others amid calls for a probe. Turaiji said that people should wait until the day when the report is going to be debated in the national assembly before judging the outcome. The assembly is scheduled to debate the report on December 1.

KUWAIT, BRITAIN INITIAL DEALS ON EXTRADITION, JUDICIAL ASSISTANCE

KUWAIT: Kuwait and Britain have welcomed the launching of bilateral cooperation in the field of justice and initialing of two draft agreements on extradition and judicial assistance. This came in a joint statement issued yesterday at the conclusion of the seventh session of the Kuwaiti-British Joint Steering Group held in Kuwait under chairmanship of Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah and Under Secretary of State at the Foreign Office for the Middle East and North Africa Tobias Ellwood.

During the two-day meeting, both sides voiced mutual willingness to promote and develop cooperation in a way that should match the historic relations between both countries, according to the statement. They stressed the significance of reinforcing bilateral relations in the political, military, economic, trade, investment, cultural, developmental and judicial fields. They also underlined the importance of stepping up mutual visits between both countries' officials, and implementing all signed agreements as well as wiping out relevant obstacles.

They also called for encouraging mutual investments in vital and feasible sectors in both countries, especially regarding Kuwait's development plan projects and infrastructure projects in Britain, together with increasing trade



KUWAIT: Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah and Under Secretary of State at the Foreign Office for the Middle East and North Africa Tobias Ellwood seen during the signing ceremony. — KUNA

exchange and participation in each other's international exhibitions. In terms of security, both sides discussed mutual coordination and cooperation between both nations' security agencies, mainly in the fields of immigration and aviation security.

They also considered bilateral cooperation in the cultural and scientific realms by means of intensifying cooperation between their scientific institutions and universities, with Kuwaiti students being given necessary facilities in Britain, said the statement. In the health field, both sides emphasized the significance of bilateral cooperation in the fields of training and qualifying Kuwaiti medics, and how to make use of Britain's great medical advancement. At the end of the meeting, Al-Jarallah and Ellwood signed a plan of action for six months to come, and agreed to hold the 8th meeting of the joint group in London six months later. — KUNA

KUWAIT, SPAIN DISCUSS SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION

KUWAIT: Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) and Spanish Nuclear Safety Council (CSN) discussed means of scientific cooperation and nuclear safety development. KISR chief Dr Naji Al-Mutairi told the press yesterday that this cooperation will aim at developing national human resources in the Ministries of Health, Interior and General Customs where a knowledge of nuclear and radiation safety is a necessity.

Al-Mutairi pointed out that there is an existing cooperation between KISR and Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) in Vienna, adding that KISR is overseeing one of CTBTO's radionuclide monitoring stations. CTBT is a multilateral treaty by which states agree to ban all nuclear explosions in all environments, for military or civilian purposes. On his part, CSN's Chairman Fernando Marti lauded



KISR chief Dr Naji Al-Mutairi and officials take a group photo with CSN's Chairman Fernando Marti and accompanying delegation. — KUNA

KISR well-equipped laboratories and well-knowledge manpower. He also stressed the important role played by KISR as a watchdog for nuclear and radiation energies in the region. KISR is a national contact point with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). — KUNA



FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2015



Crime

BRAWL IN POLICE STATION

Report

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Commenting on social media stories about events of Adan police station on Wednesday the relations and security information department said a citizen with three other told police he was beaten by four people he does not know because they parked their car in the road and he was unable to reach his home. It said that 25 persons came to the police station and attacked the man in the police station, and injured a woman, this brought Mubarak Al-Kabeer security who were able to break up the fight, those involved in the fight were to be sent to the prosecution.

Fake detective's house raided

Jahra detectives closed at least 35 forced robbery cases posing as detectives, most of them were committed in Farwaniya governorate, and targeted Arab and Asian expats, according to a security source. The success came following the raid of a house in Taima where one of the thieves live. A vehicle at the scene was also found to be stolen. The arrested thief confessed to committing the theft. He also had a forged police detective badge, stolen material and a flashlight he used to scare expats.

Car fire in Salwa

South Salmiya firemen responded to a call about a fire in a car parked next to a bank in Salwa. The fire reached parts of the bank. The fire was brought under control before it spreads further.



Vehicle accidents

A 19 year old Kuwaiti was killed when his ATV flipped over in Mina Abdallah. Meanwhile an Indian was killed when another Indian ran him over.



Weapons detectives found weapons and ammunition with 5 suspects. This followed several raids of homes in Sulaibiya, Jaber Al-Ahmad, Fintas Sabah Al-Salem, Abu Halaifa Rumaithiya. and Investigations showed that a citizen has an unlicensed weapon, and his house in Fintas was raided where several bullets were found, he said that he sold the weapon to another person in Sabah al-Salem, his



house was raided and AK-47 pistol and large ammunition were found. He in turn said that he got it from a citizen in Rumaithiya whose house was raided and a pistol was found. The suspects are being questioned before being sent to concerned authorities. In another incident, weapons detectives arrested a citizen in possession of 2 "RBK" machine guns and unlicensed shotgun and ammunition in Jahra stables area. The suspect was sent to concerned authorities.

PLASTIC SURGERY 'SHOULD BE DONE BY PROFESSIONALS'

KUWAIT: Carrying out plastic surgeries required professional and talented hands which would make sure that these procedures would not end in disaster, said a Health Ministry official yesterday. During the opening of the three-day Plastic surgery exhibition at Avenues Mall, organized by the Health Ministry and a number of private sector companies, Assistant Undersecretary for the ministry Dr Mahmoud Abulhadi said the exhibition will provide an opportunity for clients to browse through professional companies providing plastic surgery options.

He noted that companies partaking in the event were approved by the ministry, affirming that these entities were up to standards set by health authorities in the country. On his part, head of the exhibition's organizing committee Amr Ahmad affirmed that the event had witnessed the participation of world class Plastic surgeons, stressing that visitors eager to perform any sort of procedure will be advised on whether they needed surgery or not. Physicians from other medical fields will be attending the exhibition to provide free of charge medical advice, said Ahmad.

Obstetrics, Gynecology conference

In another development Under the 20th Obstetrics and Gynecology conference was held yesterday under the auspices of Health Minister Dr Ali Al-Obaidi. Representing the minister at the event, Kuwait Institute for Medical Specialization's (KIMS) Secretary Dr Ibrahim Hadi said that Kuwait was keen on holding such conferences to develop specialized medicine in the country. Several obstetrics and gynecology researches and studies will be featured during course of the conference attended by local and international medical experts, said the official who affirmed that KIMS was keen on supporting such events.

On his part, the conference chairman and head of gynecology at Al-Adan Hospital Dr. Jassem Al-Hajji said that the event was attended by 12 world renowned medical experts in addition to local physicians. Dr Al-Jassem affirmed that medical care within these two fields was highly develop in Kuwait, adding that the conference would more to the strong medical infrastructure within obstetrics and gynecology. — Agencies

MINISTER OF DEFENSE HONORS GRADUATES FROM SANDHURST

KUWAIT: Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah on Wednesday honored the Kuwaiti alumni of the British Royal Military Academy Sandhurst since 1952. The honoring ceremony, held at Sheraton Hotel, gathered President of Kuwait National Guard Sheikh Thamer Ali Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, British Ambassador to Kuwait Matthew Lodge and Commander of the Academy Paul Nanson as well as a number of senior officers from both countries.

"This is the first time to honor the alumni of the prestigious college in a Gulf

or Arab country," Sheikh Khaled told the audience, noting that this celebration materializes the special relationship between Kuwait and Britain. "The two countries are committed to further cementing these ties which are based on mutual respect and shared interests under the leadership of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and Queen Elizabeth II," he pointed out.

Over the last six decades Kuwaiti cadets joined the Academy, located in the town of Camberley, near the village of Sandhurst, Berkshire, about 55 kilometers southwest of London, and returned to invest their expertise in the various sectors of the Kuwaiti army and defend the sovereignty and independence of the homeland, he added. Among the most notable Kuwaiti alumni of the Academy are the late chief of staff of the Army Sheikh Mubarak Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah (1963-1980) and former minister of defense Sheikh Ali Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, former minister of interior Sheikh Jaber Al-Khaled Al-Sabah, Commander of the Ground Force Maj Gen Staff Sheikh Ahaled Saleh Al-Sabah and Ambassador Sheikh Thamer Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah. — KUNA

GLOBAL OCCURRENCES AFFECT FUTURE OF KUWAIT'S GRADUATE STUDENTS

KUWAIT: The Criminal Court, chaired by Judge Mohammad Al-Duaij has postponed its yesterday session for case number 55/2015 on the terrorist cell with 26 defendants to December 1st, to hear the final testimony. In the closed-door session on November 5, the court has heard the testimony of defense witnesses, while on the November 3rd, the court heard the testimony of the Public Prosecution in the case. The court also heard the testimony of medical examiners on October 21.

Meanwhile, the court heard the testimony of ballistic officer on October 13. On October 6th, the tribunal listened to the criminal inspection officer in a closed-door session. On October 4th, it refused to release defendants and listened to the State security officer, who was summoned to testify in a closed-door hearing. Moreover, it had freed four of the accused on a KD 500 bail each 1 USD = KD 0.3), but banned them from travel and compelled the defendants to attend next sessions.

There are 26 persons charged with the case. They are all Kuwaitis, except for a single Iranian. The first hearing was convened on September 15th. The Public prosecution had called for pre-trial detention of all the suspects, accused of carrying out hostile acts against the State of Kuwait, communicating with Iran and Hezbollah and the possession of firearms, guns, ammunition and eavesdropping devices. — KUNA

CRIMINAL COURT POSTPONES TERROR CELL SESSION TO DEC 1

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There are 26 persons charged with the case. They are all Kuwaitis, except for a single Iranian. The first hearing was convened on September 15th. The Public prosecution had called for pre-trial detention of all the suspects, accused of carrying out hostile acts against the State of Kuwait, communicating with Iran and Hezbollah and the possession of firearms, guns, ammunition and eavesdropping devices. — KUNA



Pope says Christian-Muslim dialogue essential for peace

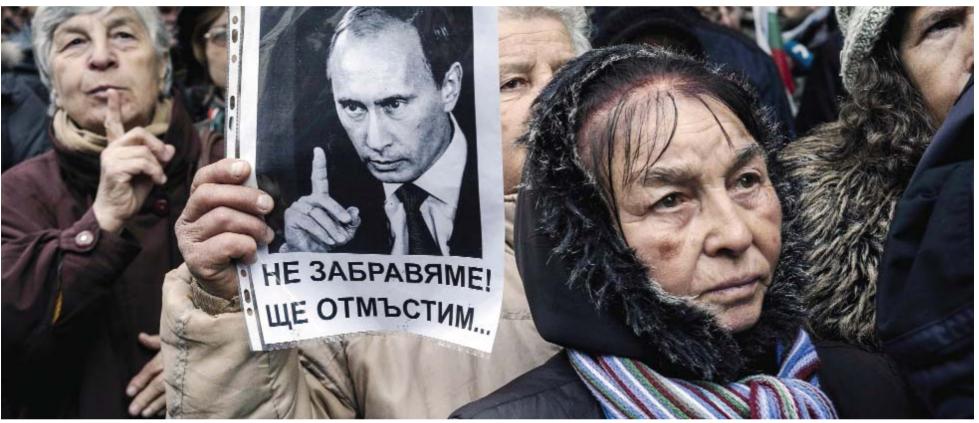


Cameron says time to bomb militants in Syria



Declare Mumbai attacks fishermen dead: Families





SOFIA: A woman, supporter of Bulgarian ultra-nationalist Ataka party, holds a picture of downed Russian president Vladimir Putin during a protest supporting Russia in front of the Turkish embassy in Sofia yesterday. Tensions have soared between Moscow and Ankara following the downing of the Russian jet on the Syrian border on November 24. Moscow has already warned its nationals against visiting Turkey and stepped up controls of Turkish agricultural imports. — AFP

RUSSIA URGES CITIZENS TO RETURN HOME Moscow strikes back at Turkey by cutting business ties

MOSCOW: Russia's foreign ministry yesterday urged nationals currently in Turkey to return home after tensions with Ankara soared over the downing of a Russian warplane. "In connection with the existing terrorist threats on Turkish territory, we once again recommend that Russian citizens refrain from visiting Turkey, and recommend that Russians who are there for personal purposes return home," the foreign ministry said in a statement.

Russia plans to retaliate against Turkey for the downing of a warplane by imposing sanctions, cutting economic ties and scrapping major investment projects. Since the plane was shot down Tuesday in disputed circumstances on the Syria-Turkey border, Russia has already restricted tourism, left Turkish trucks stranded at the border and announced the confiscation of large quantities of Turkish food imports. Yesterday, Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev ordered his government to also draft sanctions against Turkey within the next two days in response to the downing of the Russian Su-24, which he described as an "act of aggression against our country." The sanctions will include "restrictions and bans on Turkish economic structures operating in Russian territory, restrictions and bans on deliveries of products, including foodstuffs," as well as on labor and services. Overall, the nosedive in relations threatens billions of dollars of international trade, as well as further complicating the Syrian conflict. Russia is the largest destination for Turkey's exports, and the two countries are bound by plans for a new gas pipeline and strong trade in food and tourism. As recently as in September, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan met his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin and predicted a tripling of bilateral trade to \$100 billion in the next eight years. Any reaction could exacerbate both countries' economic troubles. The IMF predicts Russia's economy to shrink by 3.8 percent this year, while the Turkish currency has slumped in value in 2015. Here's a look at what's at stake.

ENERGY

One of Russia's flagship energy projects, the proposed Turkish Stream pipeline, would allow Russia to export gas to the European Union through Turkey and reduce its reliance on transit through Ukraine. Turkish Stream, which has yet to begin construction, was proposed last year after Putin ended plans for another pipeline to Bulgaria, South Stream, which had run into opposition from EU countries. However, Turkish Stream has also become bogged down with political and economic issues in Russia, Turkey and potential EU customer nations. Turkey obtains most of its energy from Russia, and while ending those supplies would cause economic pain for Russia, scrapping plans for Turkish Stream could be more expedient, says Ozgur Unluhisarcikli, director of the German Marshall Fund in Ankara. "Russia would not be able to turn away from its commitments such as providing gas, but if there is no commitment, then it could stop everything," he said. Also, Russian state company Rosatom was contracted in 2010 to build and operate Turkey's first nuclear power plant in a \$20 billion project, though it is far from complete. Both Turkish Stream and the nuclear plant could become part of a sanctions package, Russian Economic Development Minister Alexei Ulyukaev said yesterday, adding that Turkish Stream was "no different to any other project."

TOURISM

The biggest immediate impact on Turkish business from the breakdown in relations with Russia may be a plunge in the number of Russian tourists. Turkey's beach resorts are a big draw for Russians, but the Russian foreign ministry has warned against all travel there and leading Russian travel agencies have stopped selling tours to Turkey. Restrictions on flights between Russia and Turkey are being considered, Ulyukaev said Thursday. In recent months, Russia has also ended flights to Ukraine and Egypt.

Nearly 4.5 million Russians visited Turkey last year, making them second only to German tourists among visitors to the country. Given that many Germans who travel to Turkey are ethnic Turks visiting relatives, Moscow-based analyst Tom Adshead of Macro Advisory said that Russians may be the largest contributors to the Turkish tourist industry. An end to tour sales or restrictions on flights to Turkey "will definitely play through into reduced tourism receipts for Turkey from Russian tourists, which I think could be anything in the range of a couple of billion dollars a year, possibly even more," said Adshad. Turkey stands to lose out heavily if Russia ends visa-free travel between the countries, at that could redirect some Russian tourists to domestic destinations like Crimea.

FOOD

Since Tuesday, there has been a flurry of Russian restrictions on ostensibly unsafe Turkish food and calls to patriotic buyers to avoid Turkish produce. The consumer safety agency said Thursday it had confiscated more than 800 kilograms of Turkish food this year for "non-compliance with quality and safety requirements." Clothing, furniture and cleaning products are also unsatisfactory, the agency said. Separately, six shipments of Turkish chicken meat totaling 162 tons have been held up at a border crossing near Kaliningrad due to problems with their documentation, local authorities said Wednesday. In the past, Russian food safety authorities have often been accused of selectively blocking imports from various countries for political reasons. — Agencies

ISRAEL TO BUILD NEW FENCE; TWO Palestinians die in West Bank

JERUSALEM: Two Palestinians were shot and killed in separate incidents yesterday in the West Bank as Israel announced plans to build a new fence near the flashpoint city of Hebron in an effort to contain a two-month spate of violence. In the first incident, the Israeli military said "a violent riot erupted" when troops raided the village of Qattana overnight to search for ammunition and arrest suspected assailants. The Palestinians hurled firebombs and stones at troops, according to the army.

Troops shot 21-year-old Yehya Taha in the head, according to Palestinian health ministry spokesman Mohammed Awawdeh, and the youth later died of his wounds in a Ramallah hospital. Later yesterday, Israeli border guards shot and killed a Palestinian attacker wielding a knife near the West Bank city of Nablus. Police spokeswoman Luba Samri said the man got out of a taxi near a military post and began running toward officers, brandishing a knife. No Israelis were hurt in that attack, Samri added.

The Palestinian health ministry identified the assailant as 51-year-old Samir Seresi. The two deaths were the latest in a two-month wave of violence. Since mid-September, 19 Israelis have died in Palestinian attacks, mostly stabbings and shootings. At least 93 Palestinians have also died, including 58 said by Israel to be attackers. The others died in clashes with Israeli forces. In an effort to quell the violence, Defense Minister Moshe Yaalon announced Wednesday that Israel will build a fortified fence near Hebron, a southern West Bank city that has been a flashpoint in the current unrest. He said the fence would fill in a gap in the barrier Israel began building in the early 2000s in response to Palestinian attacks.

Yaalon told lawmakers that construction of the fence will take a year. The fence will have similar technology as the recently constructed Israeli fence on the Egyptian frontier meant to deter infiltration of militants or migrants seeking asylum. Egypt is currently struggling to put down an Islamic insurgency in the volatile north of its Sinai Peninsula, which borders Israel. Also yesterday, Israeli troops seized eight public transportation buses in the West Bank city of Nablus, according to drivers at the Al-Tamimi company. The military said the buses were intended to ferry Palestinians to checkpoints for demonstrations. Most Palestinian clashes with Israeli troops occur at checkpoints spread throughout the West Bank.

Despite heightened security, according to a senior military officer, the army has proposed easing restrictions on Palestinians and providing ammunition to Palestinian security forces to avert attacks. Government officials, however, have rejected the idea, an Israeli official said. Both the officer and the official spoke on condition of anonymity because the offer has not been made public. Israel says the unrest stems from incitement by Palestinians. The Palestinians say it's rooted in frustrations over Israel's nearly half a century-long occupation. Palestinians accuse Israel of using excessive force in suppressing violence. —AP



QATTANA: Palestinian women cry during the funeral of Yahya Taha, 21, who was killed during clashes with Israeli troops following an Israeli army raid, in the West Bank village of Qattana, near Ramallah, yesterday. The two-month wave of violence has killed 19 Israelis. At least 93 Palestinian have died, including 59 said by Israel to be attackers. —AP

SAUDI ARABIA TO EXECUTE MORE THAN 50 CONVICTED OF TERRORISM A WARNING TO WOULD-BE JIHADISTS

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia plans to execute more than 50 people convicted of terrorism, two Saudi newspapers reported this week, in what appears to be a warning to wouldbe jihadists at a time of militant attacks on the kingdom. Fifty-five people were awaiting execution for "terrorist crimes" that killed more than 100 civilians and 71 security personnel, the newspaper Okaz reported yesterday, without specifying when the executions would occur. On Monday, the semiofficial newspaper Al-Riyadh reported that 52 people would be put to death soon, but it later pulled the story from its website without explanation.

Some of those facing execution were affiliated with Al-Qaeda, Okaz said. Others are from Awamiya, a largely Shiite town in the oil-producing Eastern Province where the government has suppressed demonstrations for equal rights. Diplomats in Riyadh say their governments have been assured Saudi Arabia will not execute Shi'ites convicted after protests. Awamiya residents responded to the news by closing off roads leading into the city with burning debris, local activists said. The alleged Al-Qaeda militants stand accused of attempts to overthrow the government and carry out attacks using small weapons, explosives and surface-to-air missiles, Okaz said.

One prisoner was accused of trying to buy nuclear material in Yemen worth \$1.5 million for use inside Saudi Arabia. The charges against the Awamiya residents include sedition, attacks on security officials and interference in neighboring Bahrain, which has also experienced unrest since 2011. Saudi Arabia has already executed over 150 people this year, mostly by public beheading, the most in 20 years, rights group Amnesty International said this month. The Saudi monarchy has in recent years sentenced to death dozens of people convicted of taking part in Al-Qaeda attacks in Saudi Arabia from 2003-06 and again in 2009.

Islamic State sympathizers have killed dozens in Saudi Arabia over the past 12 months with a string of mosque bombings and shootings aimed at members of the Shiite Muslim minority as well as security officers and Western expatriates. The Syria and Iraq-based militant group has called on its followers in Saudi Arabia to stay home and conduct attacks there instead of travelling to join the caliphate it declared in 2014. Saudi police have detained hundreds of the group's suspected sympathizers and have joined an international coalition carrying out air strikes against it in Syria. Riyadh has also deployed state-affiliated clergy to denounce jihadist ideology.

Saudi courts have also to death this year seven Shiite men convicted of sedition, for taking part in pro-democracy protests and attacks on police during demonstrations over discrimination from 2011-13. Two of those men were minors at the time of the protests. Sentencing them to death to having bodies publicly displayed prompted an international outcry. The last time Saudi Arabia carried out mass executions for security offences was after a group of Islamist militants seized Mecca's Grand Mosque in 1979. The only people executed so far for al Qaeda attacks in the kingdom in the last decade, which have killed hundreds, were two men from Chad earlier this year. —Reuters

HOLLANDE HEADS TO RUSSIA TO PRESS ANTI-IS COALITION

PARIS: French President Francois Hollande will hold talks yesterday with Russian leader Vladimir Putin as part of his diplomatic marathon to forge a broad coalition against Islamic State jihadists in the wake of the Paris attacks. The French leader already has the support of Britain, whose Prime Minister David Cameron set out his case yesterday for air strikes against the Islamic State group in Syria, telling lawmakers that his country could not "sub-contract" its security to allies.

"We have to deny a safe haven for ISIL in Syria. The longer ISIL is allowed to grow in Syria, the greater the threat it will pose," Cameron wrote in a letter to MPs ahead of a speech to parliament, using an alternative name for the Islamic State group. Hollande has so far won few concrete pledges during a whirlwind diplomatic tour seeking to intensify efforts to crush IS in Iraq and Syria, and his bid has further complicated by a spat between Russia and Turkey over a downed jet. Before heading to Moscow, Hollande met Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi in Paris, who offered only vague support for "a coalition of greater and greater strength that is up to the task of... the destruction of Daesh", using another name for IS. Renzi warned that Libya could be the "next emergency" and said a solution was urgently needed to its political crisis, which has fuelled the growth of an IS affiliate close to Europe's southern border. France last week invoked a clause requiring EU member states to provide military assistance after the November 13 attacks by IS in Paris that claimed 130 lives.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel on Wednesday pledged to stand beside France after talks with Hollande, saying she would act "swiftly" to see how her country can help. In Berlin, Defense Minister Ursula von der Leyen said Germany would send 650 soldiers to Mali to provide some relief to French forces fighting jihadists there. —AFP





BRUSSELS MOSQUE EVACUATED OVER SUSPICIOUS 'WHITE POWDER'

BRUSSELS: The Great Mosque of Brussels was evacuated and 11 people decontaminated yesterday after the discovery of a suspicious package containing white powder as the EU capital remained on highest possible terror alert.

"A parcel was found at the entrance to the mosque and found to contain white powder. We are taking all preventative measures in case it is anthrax but it is a precautionary measure," said fire services spokeswomen Anne Wibin, who was at the scene.

The mosque, the city's biggest, is located just a few blocks from the major EU institutions and many embassies and was cordoned off by police and firemen, some of them in white hazard materials suits.

The alert came with Brussels on maximum security levels in the wake of the Paris attacks on November 13, with two Belgiumlinked suspects still on the run.

Wibin said eleven people, including two police offers, were decontaminated as a precautionary measure. "A package was found with several envelopes one of which contained a powder, evidently suspect in the circumstances," she said.

"The powder has been partially tested and it has been found to be not radioactive," she said, adding that no possibility was being ruled out.

"People in direct contact were isolated and decontaminated and also those who were in indirect contact." "There is absolutely no danger to anyone," she added. A worshipper said the development was worrying given the tensions after the Paris attacks which left 130 people dead when Islamic State jihadists, several of them residents of Brussels went on the rampage

Brussels, went on the rampage. "I've been speaking to the staff on the telephone and was told the imam found the package," said Mohamed Dahmichi, standing across the street. "It's not good. With everything else happening in Brussels at the moment I'm afraid to leave the house these days.

"There was the letter at the mosque in Molenbeek too and now this," he added. Earlier this week several mosques in the Molenbeek neighbourhood, seen as a hotbed of jihadist activity inspired by IS, received threatening letters from a group calling itself "Christian state".

The Great Mosque, given as gift to Saudi Arabia by Belgium, sits on a corner of Cinquantenaire Park where many of the thousands of EU staff take a lunchtime break and families bring their children to play. It is no more than 200 metres (yards) from the top EU institutions-the European Council and the European Commission-plus other offices and many embassies.

Troops and armed police have been out in force in Brussels since Saturday, with the authorities due to review the top level four security alert on Monday. — AFP



NAIROBI: Pope Francis waves to the crowd at the University of Nairobi as he arrives to deliver a giant open-air mass yesterday. Pope Francis held his first open-air mass in Africa yesterday with huge crowds calling heavy rains "God's blessing" as they sung and danced in the Kenyan capital. — AFP

POPE SAYS CHRISTIAN-MUSLIM DIALOGUE ESSENTIAL FOR PEACE FRANCIS RECEIVES A RAUCOUS WELCOME

NAIROBI: Pope Francis told Christian and Muslim leaders in Kenya yesterday that they have little choice but to engage in dialogue to guard against the "barbarous" Islamic extremist attacks that have struck Kenya, saying they need to be "prophets of peace."

Francis met with a small group of Kenya's faith leaders before celebrating his first public Mass on the continent, a joyful, rain-soaked celebration of an estimated 300,000 faithful, including Kenya's president. The Argentine pope, who has never been to Africa before, was treated to ululating Swahili singers, swaying nuns, Maasai tribesmen and traditional dancers at the Mass on the grounds of the University of Nairobi.

On his first full day in Kenya, Francis received a raucous welcome from the crowd as he zoomed around in his open-sided popemobile, some 10,000 police providing security. Some people had been at the university since 3 a.m., braving heavy showers that turned the grounds into thick puddles of mud. Others waited in queues 3 kilometers (1.8 miles) deep to get close to the venue.

But the size of the crowd - estimated by both police and the Vatican - was far smaller than the 1.4 million that Kenyan authorities had expected after declaring Thursday a national holiday. Vatican officials had predicted a maximum of a half-million people, and the lower number was likely due in large part to the weather.

In his homily, Francis appealed for traditional family values, calling for Kenyans to "resist practices which foster arrogance in men, hurt or demean women, don't care for the elderly and threaten the life of the innocent unborn."

The African church is among the most conservative in the world, and African bishops have been at the forefront in insisting that traditional church teachings on marriage and sexuality, and its opposition to abortion, be strongly emphasized.

Francis obliged, but also stressed issues of

his own concern: He called for Kenyans to shape a more just society that looks out for the poor and to "reject everything that leads to prejudice and discrimination, for these things are not of God."

Francis heads later to the UN regional headquarters in Nairobi for an environment speech. Today, he arrives in Uganda for the second leg of his trip. Earlier Thursday, Francis met with about 25 representatives of Kenya's faith groups: Anglicans, other Protestants, Muslims, Sikhs, Hindus and Jews.

The pope insisted that religion can never be used to justify violence and lamented that "all too often, young people are being radicalized in the name of religion to sow discord and fear, and to tear at the very fabric of our societies."

He said dialogue among the faiths isn't a luxury or optional, but is simply "essential." Kenya, a former British colony, is majority Christian. Muslims represent about 10 percent of the population. — AP

HUNGER STALK NIGERIA'S Boko Haram displaced

KADUNA: Zainabu Ali cradles her infant son Ibrahim in her arms as he sleeps in a three-bedroom house that she shares with about 20 family members in the north Nigerian city of Kaduna. The family fled Izghe in Borno state in February 2014, when Boko Haram fighters dressed in military uniform stormed the village and slaughtered 106 people, including an elderly woman.

While the memory of what happened is still fresh far away from the village, the 30-year-old mother of seven now fears a more immediate threat." "I need to eat good and adequate food for the infant to get enough breast milk and I'm afraid he may become malnourished if my condition doesn't improve," she told AFP.

"I don't get enough food, so how can he get enough milk? I have not eaten since morning. This can affect his health but what can I do?" According to WomanBeing International, a charity based in the northern city of Kano which recently visited camps for those displaced by Boko Haram violence, malnutrition has become a serious problem. "Signs of malnutrition... are present in more than 60 percent" of the 8,000 children living in the 20,000strong Dalori camp in the Borno state capital Maiduguri as a result of poor diet," the charity said in a recent report. "With only a meal of rice and some watery/oily fluid for lunch and dinner, one would expect a better health situation for IDPs (internally displaced persons) in this camp. "The children have the same type of meal three times a day, regardless of their age," added the report seen by AFP.

HARD CHOICE

Some 10 percent of the two million or so Nigerians internally displaced by the six-year conflict now live in camps, according to the International Organization for Migration.

But it is outside the camps, since the remaining 90 percent are staying with friends and family, where there is increasing concern about food and assistance. "Their major problem is food. Honestly, they have no food," said Idris Mohammed, a local chief in the Kaduna suburb of Barakallahu who coordinates the trickle of assistance from individuals. "The second problem is school for their children who have been out of school for two years."

Zainabu's mother-in-law Hadiza Saleh said they are faced with a hard choice. "We either stay here in deprivation or move back home and risk Boko Haram bullets. For almost two years we have been staying here no-one has given us any food aid," she said.

Underlining the threat from Boko Haram, a female suicide bomber disguised as a displaced person killed eight people on the outskirts of Maiduguri on Sunday.

The mostly women and children had arrived in the city from Dikwa, 90 kilometres (56 miles) away, as the town had been short of supplies, including food, NEMA said. Even in the camps safety is not guaranteed. In Yola, the capital of Adamawa state, a homemade bomb exploded in September, killing seven. Asabe Adamu sits cross-legged on the floor of a dingy room in a decrepit mudhouse, a worn-out rug on the rough, broken cement floor and old clothing hanging from crumbling walls.

For the past year, the 48-year-old widow from Gamboru Ngala has survived on handouts. Her husband and eldest son were killed when Boko Haram gunmen stormed Gamboru, on the border with Cameroon in a remote corner of Borno state. She, too, fears going home even with the town now back in government control but she said life has become impossible for her and her eight remaining children in Kaduna. — AFP

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2015



Queen Elizabeth II visits Malta, Commonwealth

VALLETTA: It is a bittersweet moment for Queen Elizabeth II. She is visiting a country she loves on what may be her final trip to an organization she cherishes - one that might struggle without her. The 89-year-old British monarch arrived yesterday in the Mediterranean island of Malta, where she once lived as a young princess, for a summit of the Commonwealth, the post-colonial international alliance she has helped for decades to unite.

Between 1949 and 1951, Elizabeth's husband Prince Philip was stationed on the island as a Royal Navy officer, and she lived as a military wife, rather than a duty-burdened heir to the throne.

"She was able to drive her own car around, go to the cinema, go to polo matches, go to dances at the Phoenicia Hotel," said royal biographer Hugo Vickers. "She has been known to say Malta is the only place in the Commonwealth, other than Britain," that she can call home. Many people in Malta retain a deep affection for the queen. At the start of the three-day state visit, the monarch was welcomed in the capital, Valletta, by Prime Minister Joeph Muscat, receiving flowers from his twin daughters Soleil Sophie and Etoile Ella. The queen wore gray - matching the unseasonably wet, blustery weather that forced the welcome ceremony from outdoors in St. George's Square to inside the presidential San Anton Palace.

On Friday, the queen will open the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, a biennial summit of leaders from Britain and - mostly - its former colonies. The queen has given up longhaul travel and is unlikely to attend the 2017 Commonwealth conference, whose location has not been decided. Her absence would be a blow to a 53-nation organization that is close to her heart - but it seen by some as a vestige of empire with an uncertain mission in the 21st century.

Modest success

The Commonwealth links more than 2 billion people on five continents, in countries from vast India and wealthy Australia to small island states like Tonga and Vanuatu. It espouses an impressive set of values - democracy, good governance, human rights, free trade, racial equality and the rule of law - and says membership brings cheaper trading costs and other economic benefits. It has had modest success expanding its membership beyond former British colonies, with Mozambique and Rwanda joining in recent years. — AP

CAMERON SAYS TIME TO BOMB MILITANTS IN SYRIA PARIS ATTACKS SWAY MPS TOWARDS MILITARY ACTION

LONDON: Prime Minister David Cameron said yesterday it was time to join air strikes against Islamic State in Syria because Britain cannot "subcontract its security to other countries". Many Britons are wary of entering into another war in the Middle East after Western intervention in Iraq, Afghanistan and Libya failed to bring stability to the region and some believe led to the rise of militants groups such as Islamic State.

But after Islamic State claimed responsibility for killing 130 people in Paris, some members of parliament who were reluctant to launch further military action in the Middle East now feel it is needed to protect Britain from such attacks.

Cameron lost a vote on air strikes against Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's forces in 2013 and must persuade some wary members of his own Conservative Party and in the opposition Labour Party to back him if he is to win parliament's support for military action.

After setting out his case for action, Cameron appeared to have persuaded at least two of 30 party "rebels" who voted against him in 2013, but other opposition lawmakers said he had yet to answer questions about how the bombing would achieve peace.

"We do not have the luxury of being able to wait until the Syrian conflict is resolved before tackling ISIL (Islamic State)," Cameron wrote in a response to the parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee, which had said a policy to extend air strikes was "incoherent" without a strategy to defeat the militants.

"It is wrong for the United Kingdom to sub-contract its security to other countries,



LONDON: A video grab from footage broadcast by the UK Parliament's Parliamentary Recording Unit (PRU) shows British Prime Minister David Cameron (C) at the dispatch box in the House of Commons in London yesterday, as he argued the case for Britain to join air strikes in Syria. — AFP

and to expect the aircrews of other nations to carry the burdens and the risks of striking ISIL in Syria to stop terrorism here in Britain," he added. He said in the 24-page response that the campaign against Islamic State was entering a new phase, focusing on command and control, supply lines and financial support something that suited Britain's capabilities.

Fearful of losing standing on the world stage, Cameron said Britain should respond to requests from allies, including the United States, but said he would not put a vote to parliament unless there was a majority backing action. He said he did not want to hand Islamic State a "propaganda coup" by losing a vote. The government has not set a timetable for any vote but Cameron said earlier this week parliament would be able to consider his case over the weekend, prompting many to expect he could push for a vote as early as next week.

Cameron told some lawmakers, who fear joining the air strikes over Syria would make Britain more of a target, that with the threat to the country already as high as it could be, the only way of reducing it would be to "degrade" Islamic State. — Reuters

And the set of the set





'PUTIN IS NOT FOREVER', SAYS DAUGHTER OF SLAIN OPPOSITION LEADER

BERLIN: Kremlin critics live in fear under President Vladimir Putin but there will come a time when Russia is ready for a new brand of politician, said the daughter of slain opposition leader Boris Nemtsov. "Putin is not forever," she said in an interview with Reuters in Berlin.

Nemtsov was the most prominent of a string of Kremlin critics who have been killed during Putin's 15-year-old rule. The shooting in the heart of Moscow in February shocked his supporters and prompted international condemnation. Zhanna Nemtsova, 31, accused the Russian authorities of a cover-up in the investigation into her father's murder. She said she wanted the Kremlin-backed president of Chechnya to be questioned, but thought it could take decades to uncover the truth.

"It was a political murder, though the

investigation committee doesn't want to admit this," said Nemtsova, who left Russia in May after receiving death threats and is now working in Germany as a journalist for Deutsche Welle. Her father, a former Russian deputy prime minister, was shot in the back by assailants as he walked across a bridge over the Moskva River in central Moscow. The murder remains unsolved. Five suspects have been detained, but it is unclear who ordered the killing and why. Putin has condemned the shooting and promised to bring the perpetrators to justice. Nemtsova has been unsuccessful in requests to have Chechen leader Ramzan Kadyrov guestioned. Kadyrov, who is loyal to Putin, has said he knew former Chechen policeman Zaur Dadayev, who has been detained, and described him as a true patriot. "The Russian authorities do not want to

investigate this case," Nemtsova said in Berlin. "These people (in Chechnya) receive cover up. We cannot proceed with the investigation if we receive such obstacles."

Aides to Nemtsov suspect Russia's state security apparatus was complicit in the killing. They have been scornful of the official investigation and say that blaming Chechen Islamists is intended to deflect suspicion from Putin, his inner circle or the security services.

Kadyrov has been quoted in Russian media as saying he would be ready to be questioned. He has denied any involvement in the killing and has urged Nemtsova to look among her late father's associates to understand why he was assassinated.

'PEOPLE ARE FRIGHTENED' Nemtsova, with dark piercing eyes



CARRIZALILLO: Vigilante group members patrol the street in Nuevo Balsas -neighbour to Carrizalillo, Guerrero State, Mexico, on November 20, 2015. Locals of Carrizalillo found a clandestine grave between bushes and trees near a dirt path. — AFP

CANADIAN MINE DIGS UP GOLD, MEXICO TOWN DIGS UP BODIES

GRAVES OF HUMAN REMAINS FOUND SINCE OCTOBER CARRIZALILLO: The Mexican villagers found the people from surrounding communities, producing off when AFP journalists visited on Nove

CARRIZALILLO: The Mexican Villagers found the latest clandestine grave among bushes off a dirt path, a short drive from a Canadian-owned gold mine in the country's gang-plagued south. Last week's grim discovery in Carrizalillo unearthed a hip bone and the skeletal remains of an arm and fingers, wrapped in plastic and a purple cover, according to AFP journalists taken to the site by local people. It was the fifth shallow grave and eighth human remains found since late October, adding to the sense of insecurity of villagers, who say the money to be made at the mine has attracted a violent drug gang.

"Where there is honey, there are bees," Ricardo Lopez, the 59-year-old cooperative leader chosen by the village to manage the lands, told AFP. The mountain carved out by the open-pit mine, operated by Canada's Goldcorp, is visible from the village of more than 1,000 people. Its gates are guarded by police.

In operation since 2007, the mine employs 2,600

people from surrounding communities, producing more than 250,000 ounces of gold last year. While Carrizalillo residents are grateful for the work, they say the newfound wealth has brought deadly shootings, kidnappings and extortion rackets. Residents blame the mayhem on the Guerreros Unidos, a gang engaged in turf wars in the region against their rivals, Los Rojos.

This is not the only Guerrero town to have endured violence after a company dug for gold. A two-hour drive away, residents of the fishing town of Nuevo Balsas say shootings and kidnappings surged after another Canadian mining firm, Torex, discovered a gold deposit nearby in 2012.

VIOLENCE COSTS LIVES, MONEY

Carrizalillo's latest shallow grave was found by a farmer on November 17. Nelson Figueroa, the town's top elected official, said he reported it to federal investigators the next day, but was told that they were short-staffed. The site was not cordoned off when AFP journalists visited on November 20. A week later, investigators had yet to arrive, said the 34-year-old Figueroa.

The attorney general's office did not respond to requests for comment. Locals felt safe while troops patrolled the village for two weeks this month.

Now that they're gone, Figueroa said, "there's fear that people will come back to kill villagers." The cooperative leader Lopez's 39-year-old son, a former head of the miners' union, was gunned down just 50 meters from a mine entrance as he drove home at 7:00 pm on August 2.

Since then, Lopez has asked the mine to pay for armed escorts for employees between Los Filos mine and their homes, but he said Goldcorp has balked. "Goldcorp is very concerned with the level of violence in the communities surrounding the Filos Mine. We continue to encourage the Mexican authorities to do their utmost to combat this violence," Michael Harvey, regional director for security at Goldcorp, told AFP in an email. — AFP

and passionate about securing her father's legacy, said she was cautious in Germany but felt safe here. She gave a bleak assessment of opposition politics in Russia following the death of her father. "People now are more frightened, because you understand now that you can be killed," she said, adding that the prospects for the Russian opposition were bad without her father as few people wanted get involved "because it is very risky". "It will get worse and worse but at some point in time I think there will be a demand for those leaders," she said. Alongside her work as a journalist, Nemtsova is embarking on projects to preserve the legacy of her father, whom she describes as "a real democrat" and "a true liberal". She wants to help develop future Russian leaders. — Reuters

MIGRATION TO Britain reaches Record High

LONDON: Migration to Britain has reached a new record high, according to official data released yesterday that could make uncomfortable viewing for the government of Prime Minister David Cameron.

Immigration is one of Britain's most sensitive political issues and Cameron has vowed to curb it, with concerns over border control key to support for leaving the European Union ahead of a referendum on membership due next year.

The official metric of migration, which calculates the balance between people arriving and leaving, found that there was net migration to Britain of 336,000 in the year to June, according to the Office for National Statistics. This was the highest estimate on

This was the highest estimate on record and a jump of 32 percent on the figure for net migration in the previous year period.

"Net migration has increased over the last year for both EU and non-EU nationals, with the majority of people migrating to the UK coming for work or study," said Jay Lindop, head of population statistics at ONS.

Net migration of European Union citizens was up over 30 percent compared to the last year period, while the rise of net migration from outside the EU was also significant at 22 percent.

The figures may renew focus on a promise by the Conservative party to cut net migration to just tens of thousands. The UK Independence Party, which campaigns for Britain to leave the EU so that it can reduce immigration, said that the figures were an argument in favour of voting for Britain to leave the 28-member bloc in the referendum promised by 2017.

"These record high figures represent a continuation of the government's complete failure to control immigration," said UKIP leader Nigel Farage.

"It is clear that only by voting to leave the European Union in the forthcoming referendum can we have a system of controlled immigration at sensible levels."

Opinion polls have indicated an uptick in support for Britain leaving the EU, but most surveys still show greater support for staying within it. — AFP

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2015

FACTS TAKE A BACK SEAT IN WHITE HOUSE RACE

WASHINGTON: It is campaign season, and facts are taking it on the chin. Republican Donald Trump's claim that Arab Americans cheered during the September 11, 2001 attacks is just the latest in a string of falsehoods from US presidential candidates.

Trump is not alone among the candidates in distorting the truth, according to fact-checkers. Carly Fiorina falsely claimed the United States was preparing to accept 250,000 Syrian refugees; Marco Rubio said that welders earn more than philosophers; and Ben Carson stated that no signatories of the Declaration of Independence had elected office experience.

Democrats have stretched the truth as well-Hillary Clinton by claiming that her handling of emails through a private server was "permitted" by the State Department. Bernie Sanders overstated the evidence by asserting that "climate change is directly related to the growth of terrorism." Such claims, which have been debunked by fact checkers, are part of political life. But the 2016 Republican campaign has been notable for incendiary claims, most notably by Trump. "There is no rigorous way to quantify deception being better or worse over time," said Brendan Nyhan, a Dartmouth College political scientist who follows fact-checking and campaigns.

"But I do think it's fair to say Donald Trump is on the verge of melting down the fact-checking sites with what he is saying." Trump earlier this year said the US unemployment rate was as high as 42 percent. More recently, he tweeted a graphic showing that 81 per-cent of white homicide victims were killed by blacks. The website PolitiFact said the correct figure from Department of Justice statistics was 15 percent. Asked by Fox News about the mistake, Trump said, "I didn't tweet, I retweeted somebody that was supposedly an expert... am I gonna check every statistic?" The New York Times said in an editorial Tuesday that the past week of the campaign had been "dominated by Donald Trump's racist lies."

STANDING BY FALSE CLAIMS

Politicians in many cases have stood by their claims-including Trump arguing that he saw thousands cheering the 9/11 attacksafter being confronted with facts. Trump even fired back at the Washington Post which debunked his 9/11 claims, tweeting "I want an apology! Many people have tweeted that I am right!" The stub-bornness surprises even the fact-checkers. "There have definitely been times when I scratch my head wondering how could they say something when it is so obviously false and then not acknowledge that it is false," said Bill Adair, a founder and contributing editor of PolitiFact and a journalism professor at Duke University.

"But I'm not a psychologist and don't try to figure out why people say these things." Republican candidate Jeb Bush claimed for example that "Florida led the nation in job creation" while he was governora statement given a "four Pinocchios" rating as false by the Washington Post's fact-checker. Ted Cruz maintained that Hispanic unemployment and teen unemployment has gone up under President Barack Obama, even though FactCheck.org found statistics showing the contrary. Carson-who repeated Trump's claim about people cheering on 9/11 — also erroneously claimed that US border patrols released many people attempting to enter the country who were from Iraq, and Somalia and Russia, when FactCheck placed the figure arriving from those countries at less than one percent of the total. Fiorina ignited ire by claiming that the women's health provider Planned Parenthood was "butchering babies for body parts," claiming the existence of video evidence that has not been located.

LINGERING IMPACTS

Boston College political scientist Emily Thorson said that "misinformation" can often have lingering effects even if a falsehood is quickly corrected. For example, if people are told a restaurant has an infestation, they might feel squeamish about the place even if they learn it was a mistake. "It's hard to undo the initial effects," she told AFP. "Misinformation gets out there and gets repeated."

Thorson's research on the topic showed that when people hear negative things about a candidate which turn out to be false, a correction only "mutes" the impact. Researchers also say that hard-core backers of candidates are rarely swayed by evidence from factcheckers. "There is a group of people who won't believe a correction if you have a subject that ties into their partisan identities," Thorson said. Nyhan agreed, saying that fact-checking "can often be ineffective or counterproductive when it comes to the most controversial political issues." When confronted with facts about such hot issues, "people tend to resist information that runs counter to their preexisting beliefs and attitudes," he said. Nonetheless, Nyhan said it would be wrong to diminish the value of fact-checking the political candidates. "The threat of fact-checking can help constrain politicians from making misleading statements," he said. "And so it's reasonable to assume that if we didn't have fact checking things would be worse." — AFP

CHICAGO: Demonstrators protest the death of Laguan McDonald on Wednesday in Chicago, Illinois. Small and

mostly peaceful protests have sprouted up around the city following yesterday's release of a video showing Chicago Police officer Jason Van Dyke shooting and killing 17-year-old McDonald. Van Dyke has been charged with first degree murder for the October 20, 2014 shooting in which McDonald was hit with 16 bullets. —AFP

CHICAGO CALM AFTER RELEASE OF VIDEO OF POLICE SHOOTING TEEN OBAMA PRAISES HIS 'HOMETOWN' FOR KEEPING THE PEACE

CHICAGO: The white Chicago policeman charged with murdering a black teenager he shot 16 times spent his first full day in custody on Wednesday in a jail hospital ward, as calm prevailed in a city braced for civil unrest over new video footage of the slaying.

Protests were mostly small and peaceful on Tuesday and Wednesday following the release of a graphic clip showing 17-year-old Laquan McDonald being gunned down in the middle of a street on Oct. 20, 2014, as he was walking away from police who had confronted him. The tape, recorded from a dashboard-mounted camera in one of several patrol cars arriving on the scene, was made public on Tuesday under court order hours after the officer who fired the fatal volley of gunshots, Jason Van Dyke, was charged with first-degree murder.

Investigation of the case comes amid a national debate on race and police tactics sparked by a series of high-profile killings of unarmed black men at the hands of mainly white law enforcement in several US cities in the past two years, leading to widespread demonstrations and some violent unrest.

Late on Wednesday, the Chicago Tribune newspaper reported it had exclusively obtained video footage from the dashboard cameras of five police vehicles that were on the scene. Those tapes include the one widely shown on Tuesday, which provides the most complete coverage of the shooting released to date. There is also footage taken from four other squad cars, including Van Dyke's vehicle, that were on the scene, the Tribune said.

None of those four tapes show the moment McDonald was shot. The Tribune also said that, like the original video made public, the new tapes all lack any discernible audio that should have been included - a shortcoming police have previously attributed to unspecified technical problems

The additional videos were furnished to the Tribune by Mayor Rham Emanuel's Law Department under an open-records request for footage from all eight police vehicles present at the shooting. Tapes from three vehicles inexplicably remained missing, the newspaper said. The Tribune posted one of the new videos online late on Wednesday.

PROTECTIVE CUSTODY

Van Dyke, 37, is the first Chicago police officer charged with murder over an on-duty exercise of lethal force in decades. If convicted, he could face 20 years to life in prison. He was denied bail at a hearing Tuesday.

Van Dyke began his incarceration under protective custody at a hospital facility segregated from the general population of Cook County Jail, the county sheriff's office said. No information was given about his medical condition.

His lawyer, Daniel Herbert, told CNN that the video was not an indicator of his client's guilt. He said Van Dyke arrived on a street on the southwest side of Chicago 18 minutes after a suspect carrying a knife was reported to have threatened businesses and vandalized police cruisers

"Video by its nature is two dimensional. It distorts images," Herbert said. Van Dyke, he said, "truly was in fear for his life as well as the lives of his fellow police officers."

Authorities said McDonald was carrying a pocket knife and had the hallucinogenic drug PCP in his system at the time. Footage of the incident contradicts Van Dyke's account that McDonald was moving toward officers when he was shot.

The video shows McDonald jogging away from patrol vehicles pursuing him from behind. then veering off diagonally at a walk as two more officers, one of them Van Dyke, pull up in a squad car ahead of him. The officers are seen emerging from their vehicle and drawing their weapons while advancing toward McDonald, who continues to move away. Within seconds he is shot, spins and crumples to the ground. his body jerking as he is hit by more gunshots. Prosecutors said 16 rounds fired by Van Dyke struck McDonald as the officer unloaded his weapon at the youth.

MORE RALLIES PLANNED

Authorities in Chicago, a city of 2.7 million people, had girded for the possibility of civil unrest on a scale seen in cities such as Baltimore and Ferguson, Missouri, but the city remained mostly tranquil by Wednesday night.

Five people were arrested late on Tuesday in mostly peaceful rallies, and a new round of protests on Wednesday at Chicago's criminal courthouse and City Hall were sparsely attended. Members of the City Council's black caucus again demanded the resignation of Police Superintendent Garry McCarthy.

"We want McCarthy gone. We want new leadership," Alderman Roderick Sawyer told a news conference. Critics of the police department and prosecutors have questioned why it took investigators 13 months to bring charges against Van Dyke and to release police video from the case.

A group of between 100 and 200 protesters began a march at the start of the evening rush-hour in Chicago's busy downtown area on Wednesday, and were still on the streets more than five hours later despite the onset of rain. —Reuters







FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2015

INDIA'S BIHAR STATE ANNOUNCES PLANS TO BAN ALCOHOL

NEW DELHI: The chief minister of the Indian state of Bihar yesterday announced plans to ban the sale and consumption of alcohol in the eastern state by April 2016. Nitish Kumar, who was re-elected as the chief minister of one of India's key battleground states earlier this month, had promised a complete alcohol ban during the poll campaign. He had particularly appealed to the state's rural women voters, promising a swift ban if he was voted back to power as chief minister for the fifth time. "I feel that women in rural areas suffer more than others because of alcohol consumption and have already instructed my officials to work towards implementing prohibition from the next financial year (April 2016)," Kumar said at a public function in the state. Kumar didn't elaborate the details of the plan including its scope, enforcement challenges or how he planned to tackle the revenue loss after the ban.

"The Bihar government earned nearly Rs 3500 crore (around \$500 million) last year through taxes on the sale of alcohol... It is not known how the government plans to make up for this loss of revenue," a news report in India's NDTV network said. Several Indian states including Gujarat, the homestate of India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi, already enforce alcohol prohibition. Last year, another local government in the south Indian state of Kerala, popular among tourists for its backwaters and beaches, had announced a plan to enforce total prohibition within a decade. — AFP



MUMBAI: Tourist boats lie anchored near the Taj Mahal Palace hotel, one of the 2008 militant attack sites, in Mumbai. A total of 166 people were killed and more than 300 others were injured when 10 heavily-armed Islamist militants stormed the city on November 26, 2008, attacking a number of sites, including the city's main railway station, two luxury hotels, a popular tourist restaurant and a Jewish centre. —AFP

INDIA JAILS 2 HOSPITAL STAFF FOR 'EMBEZZLING' 17 CENTS

DEFENSE LAWYER ACCUSES COURT OF LOPSIDED JUDGMENT

NEW DELHI: An Indian court has sentenced two medical workers to a year in prison for embezzling 11 rupees (17 cents) in public funds more than 25 years ago, lawyers said yesterday. The two-a nurse and a medical assistant-were found guilty of inflating the number of sterilization procedures they helped to perform in 1989 to boost their earnings. At the time, the government was providing financial incentives for medical workers to persuade men and women to undergo sterilization under a controversial scheme to curb population growth.

The anti-corruption court in the northern city of Meerut held 185 hearings before reaching a verdict on former nurse Noor Jahan and assistant Shobha Ram, who both retired a decade ago. Defense lawyer Virender Kumar accused the court of a "lopsided" judgment and said he would appeal. "We have scamsters who loot millions of rupees from the government but are never punished. And here is a court which jails two people for 22 rupees," he said by phone. "They have spent more than three lakh (300,000) rupees on fighting the case and on attending court hearings.

"We will certainly appeal against the lopsided judgment." Under the scheme, the government paid 181 rupees for each sterilization, with the bulk of the money going to the person undergoing the procedure. The nurse and the medical assistant received just one rupee for each operation. Investigators initially accused five hospital staff in the case including the surgeon, but three of them died during the trial. Hearings only began in 1998 because it took seven years to complete the investigations. India's justice system is notoriously slow, with critics blaming a shortage of judges and unnecessary lawsuits for causing delays in trials and creating a huge backlog.

Estimates suggest it would take 320 years to clear the backlog of 31.28 million cases pending in various Indian courts. There are more than 4,500 vacancies for judges according to the law ministry, which critics say makes the Indian justice system notoriously sluggish and inefficient. Prosecution lawyer Devki Nandan Sharma said the court had been lenient as the charge can carry a jail sentence of up to 10 years. "We had enough evidence of their guilt and we are satisfied with the court verdict," Sharma said. "It certainly took a long time, but justice has to be done." —AFP

DECLARE MUMBAI ATTACKS FISHERMEN DEAD: FAMILIES

AHMEDABAD: Seven years since a deadly attack on Mumbai in which three Indian fishermen went missing when Islamist gunmen hijacked their boat, the families of the three have asked the government to declare the men dead and provide compensation.

Heavily-armed fighters hijacked the MV Kuber three days before they attacked two upscale hotels, a Jewish centre and a railway station in India's financial hub on November 26, 2008, killing 166 people. The body of captain Amarsinh Solanki was found, but those of the four crew, all from the western state of Gujarat, were never located. Their relatives have still not been able to claim the government compensation of a million rupees (around \$15,000) for the loss of their loved-ones.

Under Indian law, a person whose body has not been found can only be declared dead once they have been missing for over seven years.

Yesterday around a dozen relatives of three of the four missing crew-Natwar Rathod, Mukesh Rathod, who are not related, and Balvant Tandel-approached authorities in Gujarat to ask for their death certificates."The last seven years have been very difficult for me as I was left alone to take care of two kids," said Natwar Rathod's wife Dharmishta. "My husband was the only bread winner in the family," she said.

Rathod was accompanied by her two children and social worker Kanu Sukhadiya, who has been helping the families of three of the missing to fight for their rights.

The family of the fourth, Ramesh Solanki, has not been traced. "Once these families get death certificates of the missing fishermen, only then they can make a claim for the ten million rupees compensation declared by the central government for the victims of terror attack," Sukhadiya said. "We have been supporting these families with food and other basic supplies since last seven years, but they have not received any help from the state or central government." Remya Mohan, a local official in the southern Gujarat city of Navsari, said the relevant files had been sent to the central government for a decision. It took authorities three days to regain full control of the city after the attacks, which India blames on Pakistan-based militant group Lashkar-e-Taiba. In Mumbai yesterday, politicians and bereaved relatives laid flowers and wreaths to remember those killed in the siege, memories of which were stirred by the horrific November 13 attacks in Paris. —AFP

PAKISTAN PARLIAMENT TIGHTENS ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING LAW

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's parliament has approved amendments to an anti-money laundering law to make it more effective in targeting the financing of extremists and bring it into line with global standards, officials said yesterday. The National Assembly, the lower chamber of the federal parliament, unanimously approved the amendments on Wednesday, two weeks after the Senate passed it, parliamentary officials said. The amendments will boost the law to "deal effectively with terrorism financing", a senior finance ministry official told AFP, adding that they "reflect the government's firm resolve to strengthen its anti-money laundering regime". The law now complies with international standards outlined by the global Financial Action Task Force (FATF), the official added. FATF is an inter-governmental body established in 1989 to set standards and promote effective implementation of measures for combating money laundering, financing for extremists, and other threats related to the integrity of the international financial system. —AFP

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2015

AS CLIMATE IMPACTS HIT, PAKISTAN FACES MIGRATION SURGE

THATTA: Fisherman Muhammad Yusuf's family has been living on the island of Hajamaro, just over three miles off the coast of southern Pakistan, for generations. But the island that was once a happy home has now become a prison. Sea level rise and frequent cyclones are eroding Yusuf's property. Decreasing fish stocks are threatening his livelihood. And relentless health problems are killing his children. Some 60 families like Yusuf's live on a cluster of more than a dozen islands off Keti Bunder, a port on the Arabian Sea in Thatta district. With too little money to move to the mainland, they feel trapped. "If we had sufficient resources to relocate, we would have moved to Thatta city some five years ago and quit fishing," said Yusuf, 62.

Across Pakistan, families are struggling against rising sea level, droughts, floods and other climate-change related pressures. Many of them - those luckier or richer than Yusuf's family - move to safer ground in new areas. Others are trapped where they are. But as the number of families forced from their homes - or threatened by staying in them - continues to rise, Pakistan's resources are coming under increasing strain, experts say. Without more work to help families adapt effectively to the changing conditions, they say, the country could see surging numbers of people migrating.

Struggling at home

Life on Hajamaro Island is becoming nearly impossible, Yusuf says. With each passing day, the rising sea claims someone else's land, or another family's shack, he said. Fish stocks near the shore are falling, in part as a result of rising pollution from nearby Karachi, where large quantities of untreated industrial waste are discharged into the ocean, according to Hameed Ullah Jan, a former Pakistan environmental minister. The pollution pushes fishermen into deeper waters to find a catch, despite not having the right boats or nets for the job, he said.

The drinking water that island families fetch by travelling to Thatta city also is becoming more saline, due to seawater intrusion in underground supplies. They have no choice but to drink it, however, because they can't afford to buy clean water, Yusuf said. With limited access to potable water and pollution tainting their staple food of fish, Yusuf's children often suffer from diarrhoea and fever - and the family is too poor to take them to the doctor. Yusuf and his wife, Parto Bhari, have already lost two daughters to diarrhea this year. Now their three sons - aged 4, 10 and 12 - are sick too. "I can do nothing but keep praying for better health for my ailing sons," Bhari said quietly.

Adaptation or migration?

A 2012 report by Asian Development Bank estimates that by 2050 there will be more than 250 million people in Bangladesh and Pakistan living in "hot spots" threatened by negative climate change impacts, such as flooding or drought. "While most people will adapt in situ, the potential for redistribution of population through migration is substantial," the report said. Environmentalists in Pakistan say rising numbers of people have fled Pakistan's coastal region in recent years to escape rising sea levels and saltwater contamination, and their movement could be just the beginning.

Experts and activists are calling for the government to intervene. According to Arif Ahmad Khan, secretary of the Ministry of Climate Change, Pakistan's constitution obliges the government to provide the "basic necessities of life" such as food, housing and education. But while officials often pay compensation to people affected by development projects such as roads or bridges, they do little to aid those who need resettling as a result of climate-related problems, he said. Sarwar Bari, national coordinator of the Pattan Development Organization, an NGO based in Islamabad, said migration levels could surge in the next few years unless officials initiate measures to help people cope with problems such as erratic rainfall, droughts, and floods.

"The government should include climate-related migration in its national climate change policy and help people cope financially with the phenomenon," he said. It's not as easy as moving families out of hot spots into urban areas, said Shafqat Aziz, a food security expert with Oxfam Novib, the Dutch affiliate of the development charity. That would only increase the pressure on the resources of already congested cities, he said. "The government should first map all the vulnerable areas to collect authentic data at the national level and then come up with a cogent policy to deal with the issue," he said. —Reuters



MAZAR-I SHARIF: An Afghan boy plays in the ruins of a house that at one point belonged to the 13th-century Persian poet, Islamic scholar and Sufi mystic Jalal ad-Din Muhammad Rumi on the outskirts of Mazar-i-Sharif. —AFP

US MUST ADDRESS WASTE AND FRAUD IN AFGHAN AID MILITARY INTERVENTION AFTER 9/11 COST US \$1 TRILLION

KABUL: With Washington set to send billions of dollars in fresh aid to Afghanistan despite the military drawthe down, the US official in charge of auditing assistance programs says "it's not too late" to address the fraud and mismanagement that has bedeviled the 14year effort to rebuild the country. The military intervention launched after the Sept 11 attacks has cost the United States \$1 trillion, including some \$110 billion in aid aimed at rebuilding one of the poorest, most violent and most cor-

rupt countries on earth. To this day Afghanistan relies on foreign aid as it battles an increasingly potent Taleban insurgency. But John Sopko, who has spent more than three years probing US-funded projects as the special investigator general for Afghanistan reconstruction (SIGAR), said the US government is partly to blame for the misused funds. "What I'm identifying are not just Afghan or Afghan-related problems, they are problems with the way the United States government operates," he said.

He said the Pentagon and the US Agency for International Development suffer from corruption as well as poor planning, oversight and accountability. He said they often fail to coordinate with one another or measure programs' effectiveness. In October, SIGAR reported on a compressed natural gas filling station in Afghanistan's far north that cost \$43 million to build but has never been used because there is no demand for the fuel. A similar station built in neighboring Pakistan would have cost a little over \$300,000, SIGAR said. It said the Pentagon was unable to explain how the Afghan plant "produced no discernible macroeconomic gains and a discounted net loss of \$31 million."

In May, Sopko wrote to Secretary of Defense Ash Carter about the building of a \$36 million warehouse in the main Marine Corps base in Afghanistan. The warehouse was never used for anything, he said. Other programs have suffered from outright fraud. In September, SIGAR reported that one current and three former US soldiers had been sentenced to four to eight years in prison by a North Carolina court for their involvement in a bribery scheme in southern Kandahar province that resulted in the theft of more than \$10 million worth of fuel. Since it was created in 2008, SIGAR has identified more than \$1 billion in potential savings to US taxpayers and published hundreds of reports, including 50 audits of reconstruction projects.

"The money that's been wasted has been wasted," Sopko said. "But we have still got \$10 billion that has been authorized, appropriated but not yet spent. And we're probably going to put in \$6 billion to \$10 billion a year, for years to come - because if we don't, the Afghan government will collapse." The intensifying war with the Taleban and the withdrawal of aid groups and investors has devastated Afghanistan's economy and sent unemployment soaring to 24 percent. Officials say unemployed youth are increasingly joining the insurgency out of economic desperation, helping the Taleban to expand its footprint across the country.

US personnel are increasingly holed up in embassies, making it difficult to visit project sites. Tours last 6-12 months, so there's little continuity or institutional memory. "People have to realize that you can't do diplomacy in an environment like this without some risk, and we are becoming more and more risk-averse," Sopko said. "We cannot continue to do diplomacy with this totally 100-percent risk-free mentality because we are going to lose." Sopko said it's time to "hit the reset button and take a look at what worked and what didn't work." The biggest failure of the reconstruction effort, he said, was the outlay of nearly \$8 billion since 2001 to eradicate poppies, the main ingredient in heroin and Afghanistan's chief export.

The crop is worth some \$3 billion a year and is a key source of income for the Taleban. "It's the gorilla in the room we just want to ignore, but that gorilla will eat this room," Sopko said. SIGAR found last year that the US had spent \$7.6 billion on counter-narcotics efforts in Afghanistan since 2001. Opium production has dropped by 50 percent this year, not because of eradication efforts, but because of drought, pests and other environmental factors, Sopko said. "Any metrics you give - price, purity, addiction rates, production - the only improvements we have seen have been caused by Mother Nature," he said. — AP



FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2015

MASSIVE PHILIPPINE BLAZE LEAVES THOUSANDS HOMELESS

MANILA: A huge fire that swept through a crowded Manila shanty town has razed more than 800 homes, leaving thousands homeless after they were forced to flee for their lives from the towering flames, officials said yesterday. Residents joined forces with fire-fighters to battle Wednesday's blaze which spread quickly among the narrow alleys, helping smash down the walls of makeshift houses to allow crews access to the flames.

People evacuated their homes carrying young children and whatever possessions they could salvage, with thousands forced to seek shelter in makeshift tents at a local park. Despite the devastation, no one was killed in the disaster and only four people were injured as they clambered over their homes to escape, authorities said. Desperate locals called out "over here, over here" to a military helicopter which was drafted in to dump water on the blaze, after fire engines could not reach the heart of the inferno in the sprawling shanty town. "The alleys were too narrow and people were rushing out. Even worse, the wind was strong and fanned the flames," said chief fire marshall Nahum Vitarosa.

He added that deaths were avoided because the fire broke out in the afternoon when residents were able to evacuate quickly. "If it happened at night, it would have been a real tragedy. People would have been left behind in the dark," he added. Residents are also used to coping with fires which break out frequently in shanty towns, although rarely on this scale, Vitarosa said. The cause of the fire is still under investigation but Vitarosa said authorities suspected a short circuit, possibly from an illegal connection to power lines. He added that about 2,000 families had been forced to seek shelter in a public park, a gym and a school while authorities looked for emergency housing.

Manicurist Matilde Agustin, 59, said she narrowly escaped with her daughter-in-law and four grandchildren as the blaze engulfed their home. "We rushed out as soon as we could," she said, adding she fled carrying her youngest grandchild, a one-year-old girl. The family only managed to salvage a few meagre possessions including some clothes and a small statue of the infant Jesus, she said.

Her son Rommel Agustin, a laborer, was now going through the ruins, trying to find scrap metal he could sell but the rubble was still smoking, she added. The family was sheltering under a makeshift tent at a public park along with hundreds of other residents surviving on government food handouts. "It is shameful that we have to celebrate Christmas like this... but it is okay that almost nothing was saved as long as no one was hurt," she said. Fires in shanty towns, where homes are made of little more than scrap wood, are common in Manila-a metropolis of more than 11 million people-but Vitarosa said this was the worst such fire he had seen in five years. — AFP



PANMUNJOM: South Korean chief delegate Kim Ki-Woong (right) shakes hands with his North Korean counterpart Hwang Chol during their meeting at the truce village of Panmunjom in the Demilitarized Zone dividing the two Koreas yesterday. — AFP

SOUTH, NORTH KOREAN OFFICIALS IN RARE TALKS

FIRST INTER-GOVERNMENTAL INTERACTION SINCE AUGUST

SEOUL: North and South Korean officials sat down yesterday for rare talks aimed at setting up a sustainable high-level dialogue that has constantly eluded the two rivals. The meeting at the border truce village of Panmunjom began shortly before 1:00pm (0400 GMT) and marked the first inter-governmental interaction since August when the two sides met to defuse a crisis that had pushed them to the brink of an armed conflict. That meeting ended with a joint agreement that included a commitment to resume high-level talks, although no precise timeline was given.

Although any dialogue between the two Koreas is generally welcomed as a step in the right direction, precedent offers little hope of a successful outcome. A similar effort back in June 2013 saw both sides agree to hold what would have been the first high-level dialogue for six years-only for Pyongyang to cancel a day before the scheduled meeting. In the end, it was a matter of protocol-the North felt insulted by the South's nomination of a vice minister as its chief delegate-that smothered the initiative before it had even drawn breath.

Devil in the details

Yesterday's talks in Panmunjom tried to

avoid a repetition of that failure by thrashing out an agenda, a venue and such protocol issues as who should attend the full-fledged dialogue. The start of the talks was delayed by several hours due to a problem with the communication links that allow senior officials in Seoul and Pyongyang to monitor proceedings. After an initial round lasting about 90 minutes, both sides took a break to confer with their respective capitals, a Unification Ministry official said. "The mood was sincere, but there were differences," he acknowledged. The two sides were yet to resume the talks after the break extended past five hours, another ministry official said by early evening, without elaborating further.

Likely topics for the eventual agenda include South Korea's desire for regular reunions for families separated by the 1950-53 Korean War that cemented the division of the Korean peninsula. North Korea, meanwhile, will want to discuss the resumption of South Korean tour groups to its scenic Mount Kumgang resort. The tours, a source of badly needed hard currency for the cash-strapped North, were suspended by the South in 2008 after a female tourist was shot dead by a North Korean guard. "The overall atmosphere for a successful conclusion of these talks is really not that favorable," said Cheong Seong-Chang, an analyst with the Sejong Institute think tank in Seoul. "The two sides always find it hard to agree on the ranks of chief delegates to high-level talks, and there are a number of issues causing friction in cross-border ties at the moment," Cheong said. He cited Pyongyang's irritation with recent South Korean military exercises and Seoul's participation in international moves to censure the North for human rights violations.

Shifting diplomatic sands

Yesterday's talks came amid diplomatic shifts in the Northeast Asia region that have left North Korea looking more isolated than ever, with Seoul moving closer to Pyongyang's main diplomatic and economic ally China, and improving strained relations with Tokyo. Earlier this month, the leaders of South Korea, China and Japan held their first summit for more than three years in Seoul. Although the focus was on trade and other economic issues, the three declared their "firm opposition" to the development of nuclear weapons on the Korean peninsula. — AFP

THE REBRANDED MODERN SLAVERY FIGHT STRUGGLES FOR DEFINITION

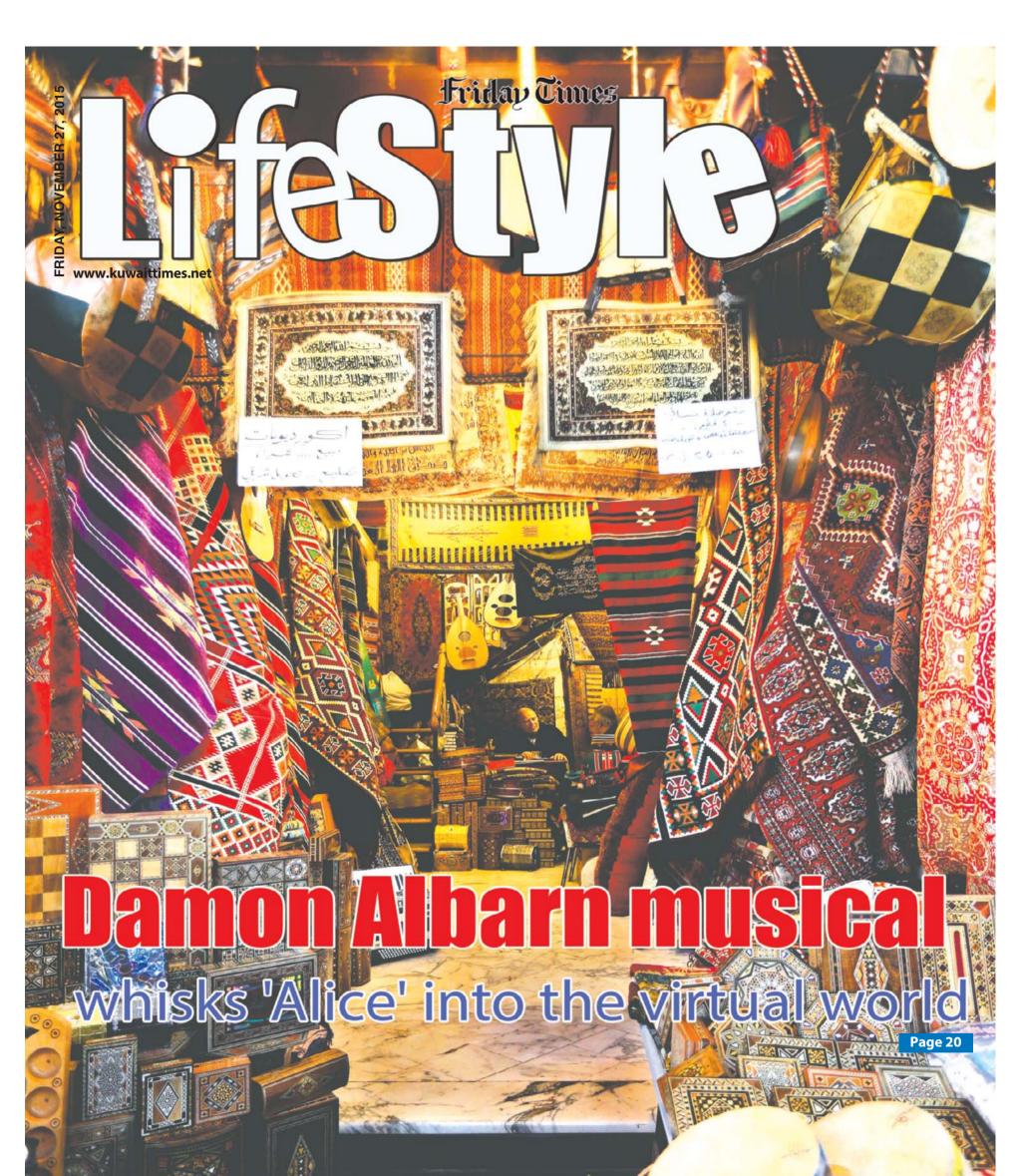
LONDON: At first glance a foreign domestic worker in Hong Kong, a Rohingya migrant toiling on a fishing boat, a sex worker walking the streets of Mumbai and a child laborer cutting bamboo in a plantation in the Philippines have nothing in common. But all four could be slaves, trafficked and exploited by criminals and employers profiting from the world's fastest growing illicit industry, estimated by the International Labor Organization (ILO) to be worth \$150 billion a year. In the 15 years since a global treaty to combat human trafficking was adopted, modern slavery has gradually taken over as a catch-all term to describe human trafficking, forced labor, debt bondage, forced marriage and other slave-like exploitation. The term has helped to ignite outrage among the public, but some experts argue the rebranding of human trafficking as modern slavery over-simplifies the complex reasons why millions have been forced to work in brothels, farms, fisheries, factories and homes, "By applying the modern slavery label to all these abuses, it's easy to pitch it as a problem of good and bad, of innocent victims and evil perpetrators," said Janie Chuang, a professor at the American University Washington College of Law. There is no globally agreed definition of modern slavery. Not all children who are exposed to hazardous work are slaves, and not all workers who are paid unfairly are forced laborers, yet both are often referred to as victims of modern slaverv.

Lack of coordination

Legally sound definitions are crucial to improving coordination of national, regional and international efforts to stamp out slavery, experts say. They also help efforts to collect better data on the number of slaves, a hotly debated issue as estimates range from 21 million to 36 million, depending on the methodology of surveys. The Walk Free Foundation, creator of the Global Slavery Index, which puts the number of slaves at 36 million, said it took a strategic decision to use the term modern slavery rather than human trafficking. "For an everyday audience it tends to be pretty well understood whereas with other concepts you need to give a lot more context," said Fiona David, a lawyer and director of global research at the Australian foundation. — Reuters



SEOUL: A vehicle with a portrait of the late former South Korean President Kim Young-sam leads a hearse through the road in Seoul yesterday. Thousands of mourners gathered at the lawn outside parliament yesterday to say their farewells to Kim, whose landmark 1992 election victory ended decades of military rule and ushered in a series of reform measures. — AP



A Syrian vendor sits inside his carpet and musical instruments shop in the popular Hamidiyeh market in the old part of the capital Damascus yesterday. — AFP

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2015





A file photo taken on May 18, 2015, shows exhibitors dressed as "The Hatter" (left) and "Alice in Wonderland" drinking tea whilst sheltering from the rain under an umbrella on the David Harbor stand at the 2015 Chelsea Flower Show in London. (Right) Actress Tonia Miller from the performing arts group Teatro Vivo performs during a "Mad Hattter's Tea Party". — AFP photos

amon Albarn musical whisks 'Alice' into the virtual world

troubled teenage girl who seeks refuge in a fantastical online world is the star of a new musical co-written by Blur frontman Damon Albarn to mark the 150th anniversary of "Alice in Wonderland". Loosely based on Lewis Carroll's book, "wonder.land" will be performed at London's National Theatre from Friday, before moving to the Theatre du Chatelet in Paris next year. The rock opera-style musical opens in the bedroom of Aly (Lois Chimimba), a complex teenager who is in conflict with her parents and picked on by classmates who post insulting messages on social media.

To escape, the girl connects, via her smartphone, to "wonder.land", a brilliantly-coloured virtual world based on the "Wonderland" of Reverend Charles Lutwidge Dodgson, whose pen name was Lewis Carroll. The pixellated world invites Alice "to achieve your ideal," whereupon she creates "Alice," a beautiful, intelligent and loved alter-ego who embodies the qualities she believes herself to be missing. The first scene sets the tone with Aly tapping on her keypad while digital images of "wonder.land" are projected on stage, with the Cheshire Cat becoming a giant virtual tom cat.

In bringing the story into the digital age,

director Rufus Norris hopes to explore how new technologies have reshaped social relations and how mobile devices have become extensions of people's aspirations. It is also a study of the tribulations of adolescence and the difficulties of forging an identity. The original "Alice in Wonderland" was first published in 1865 and has been translated into at least 174 languages, winning millions of fans, both children and adults, around the world. The 150th anniversary of the book's publication date falls this month, although the precise day is disputed.

The story is believed to have been dreamt up by Dodgson on a summer's day in Oxford as he entertained a friend's children, who included a young girl called Alice. Some readers ascribe connotations of drug taking to the surreal story, which involves Alice experimenting with potions and pieces of mushroom on the advice of a hookah-smoking caterpillar, although scholars say there is no evidence Dodgson used drugs.

Two worlds collide

Albarn-the show's composer and singer with Blur, one of the biggest Britpop bands of the 1990s-found inspiration from within his own family. "The idea was very much a reaction to



Actress Sarah Finigan from the performing arts group Teatro Vivo plays the role of Queen of hearts attends a mock trial.

my own daughter's relationship with social media and all the other things I probably don't know about that she's looked at on the Internet," the British singer/songwriter said in the official program. The end result is an ambitious, almost tortured, soundtrack that combines rock, brass bands, traditional instruments, electronic tones and video-game sound effects, all sprinkled with melancholy lyrics, which recall his two operas, "Monkey: Journey to the West" and "Dr Dee"

"We decided the music needed two identities: Its articulation in the computer world and the real world," added Albarn. "I've tried to add a bit of madness to the music to make it populist, which is quite difficult." It has so far received a mixed reception from critics.

"While it's not in the same league as the allconquering Matilda, Wonder.land is the best and oddest - new British musical for families in a long while," wrote the Sunday Times newspaper.

The Independent gave it three stars out of five, adding: "Damon Albarn set high expectations for his new musical wonder.land. Perhaps too high."

The Guardian also gave the show three stars, calling it "big, bold, ambitious". "(It) has much to recommend it, but ends up like a giant bag of liquorice allsorts: full of color and variety but a bit rich to the taste and not something you'd want to devour too often," the newspaper added. — AFP

Adele, Fallon, the roots perform 'hello' with classroom instruments

dele's hit single "Hello" won't be saying goodbye any time soon. The song shattered the record for most albums sold in a week (2.43 million units), according to Nielsen Music, and recently topped the Billboard Hot 100 for a fourth week. Now, Jimmy Fallon and The Roots helped Adele give "Hello" an instrumental spin on "The Tonight Show." Adele powered through the vocals, using a lime green flip phone as a prop during one of the choruses. Fallon accompanied the singer with a wood block, bass drum and Casio keyboard. Other instruments the band used included an orange shaker, hand clappers, xylophone, melodica, ukulele, kazoo, banana shaker, bongos and tambourine. Adele's Tuesday night appearance on "The Tonight Show" comes after her weekend performance on "Saturday Night Live." With Matthew McConaughey as host and Adele as the musical guest, the show saw a spike in ratings. The Grammy winner also performed on the "Today" show Wednesday morning, singing "Million Years Ago" from her new album "25." -

US ROCKERS WANT TO BE FIRST BAND TO REOPEN BATACLAN

alifornia rockers Eagles of Death Metal want to be the first band to play the Bataclan theater when the Paris venue reopens after the November attacks targeted their gig. "I don't want to spend my life trying to appease assholes I want to spend my life smiling with my friends and entertaining them," Jesse Hughes, the band's vocalist, told Vice in



an interview. "I cannot wait to come back to Paris. I cannot wait to play. I want to come back. I want to be the first band to play in the Bataclan when it opens back up," he said.

"I was there when it went silent for a minute. Our friends went there and died. I'm gonna go back there and live." Gunmen attacked nearly simultaneously tar-gets across Paris on November 13, killing 130 people, 89 of them at the Bataclan. The band sat down for a full interview with Vice.com in Los Angeles after returning to America following the carnage. They each detailed the instant decisions they took to save their lives, and the horrors they saw as the gunmen emptied round after round indiscriminately into the crowd.

The band had been due to perform across Europe until December 10, but has put on hold all further concerts. A number of French fans have appealed on them online to return to play. "We don't really have a chance. We have to finish the tour," said Josh Homme, Death Metal co-founder who was not in Paris. —AFP





'Tokyo Story' star Setsuko Hara, muse of Ozu, dies at 95

he Japanese actress who starred in famed director Yasujiro Ozu's "Tokyo Story" and a host of other classic films has died aged 95 — with the news only emerging nearly three months after her passing. The death of Setsuko Hara dominated Japanese front pages yesterday, with headlines lauding her as a "legendary" performer and the "Eternal Madonna". Hara had been in hospital since mid-August and her death on September 5 from pneumonia was not immediately made public "as she wished no fuss be made", her 75-year-old nephew told Kyodo News agency.

A private funeral service was held, he added. Film distribution company Shochiku yesterday set up a stand for floral tributes to Hara at a Tokyo theatre, which was coincidentally showing the Ozu-directed "Late Spring" in which she starred as part of a retrospective of Japanese movies. On display were her photo and the message: "We pray for the repose of Ms Setsuko Hara." Hara, whose real name was Masae Aida, made her debut in the 1930s, but rose to prominence after World War II working with Ozu, most notably on his acclaimed "Tokyo Story". In that 1953 film, considered a masterpiece of global cinema, she played a woman widowed by the war who treats the ageing parents of her late husband kindly during their visit to Tokyo, in contrast to their own children, who are too busy.

A poll of noted regional filmmakers and international critics published last month at the Busan International Film Festival rated the drama as the best Asian film of all time. In "Late Spring" as well as Ozu's "Early Summer", she played a modest and elegant woman, in movies that tackled the issue of fraying family bonds as Japan's economy rapidly modernized. She appeared in "No Regrets for Our Youth" and "The Idiot" by Akira Kurosawadirector of "Seven Samurai"-and in the work of Tadashi Imai and Mikio Naruse. Hara-who reportedly never married and was known in Japan as the "Eternal Virgin"-abruptly withdrew from the movie industry after her last film in 1962.

In retirement she lived in a house next to relatives in Kamakura, a scenic seaside city south of Tokyo that served as Japan's medieval capital. She never explained her sudden departure from the industry, adding to the mystique surrounding her. The mass-



circulation Yomiuri Shimbun daily reported that her last public appearance was at Ozu's wake in December 1963. In a rare interview with the Yomiuri in 1992, she played down her accomplishments as one of Japan's foremost actresses during what some herald as a golden age of cinema for the country. "It was not just me who was shining," she told the top-selling newspaper. "At that time everyone was shining." — AFP

WIGH. SWARANYLAR

A memorial for late Japanese actress Setsuko Hara is displayed at a movie theater in Tokyo yesterday. — AP photos

'Star Wars: The Force Awakens' receives PG-13 rating

"Star Wars: The Force Awakens" has officially received a PG-13 rating, for content described as "scifi action violence." This will mark the second "Star Wars" film to receive a PG-13 rating, following the most recent installment in the franchise, 2005's "Episode III: Revenge of the Sith." All the other movies in the series were released with PG ratings. The seventh film in the popular franchise opens on Dec 18 and is predicted to rack up at least \$170 million over its domestic opening weekend.

"The Force Awakens" has already garnered more than \$50 million in advanced ticket sales. Director JJ Abrams recently announced a charity contest to win tickets to the movie premiere in London or Los Angeles. Through a partnership with Omaze, fans that donate \$10 or more can enter the contest to win, with the proceeds going to 15 different charities chosen by the cast and filmmakers.

For those that can't wait for the Dec 18 opening, Jimmy Kimmel interviewed the cast on a special "Star Wars" edition of the show Monday, calling the film "the most anticipated sequel I think since the New Testament." — Reuters



French actress Cecilia Suarez speaks as she presents the award for best film at the Fenix Iberoamerican Film Awards at the Esperanza Iris Theater in Mexico City, Wednesday. —AP photos



Mexico Iberoamerican Fenix Film Awards



Actor Gael Garcia Bernal speaks as he present the award for best film.



Colombia's Ciro Guerra receives one of two best director awards for his film El Abrazo de la Serpiente or The Embrace of the Serpent.



Mia Maestro speaks on stage.





Colombia's Marcos Salvarria, left, and Carlos Garcia receives the best sound award for their work in the film El Abrazo de la Serpiente.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2015



Two days in Guangzhou

A taste of Cantonese culture



Photo shows the many floors of OneLink International Plaza in Guangzhou, China. -— AP photos

he southern Chinese city of Guangzhou offers all the hustle, bustle, culture and commerce of other major Asian metropolises minus the massive tourist crowds. But that could change as more travelers are lured to the modern port city by affordable flights and a 72-hour visa-free transit policy. Just a two-hour train ride from Hong Kong, Guangzhou is an easy weekend getaway or, in my case, a twoday stopover on my trip from Los Angeles to Malaysia.

Come hungry

Often touted as the birthplace of dim sum, Guangzhou takes its Cantonese cuisine seriously. Head west to the historic Liwan district to stroll through the shop- and restaurant-lined Shangxiajiu Pedestrian Street. Pick up a traditional mooncake filled with lotus seed paste at Lianxiang Lou or try the delectable dim sum at the popular Guangzhou Restaurant.

Just off the main strip are side streets brimming with tasty food stalls and bustling markets selling fresh produce and traditional remedies such as live scorpions and dried snakes. If like me, you're overwhelmed by Guangzhou's copious culinary choices, book a local guide though Eating Adventures Food Tour, and tackle this foodie's paradise like a pro



Photo shows an outdoor sculpture at the Redtory Art and Design Factory in Guangzhou, China.



Go underground

pound.

If you can overcome the language barrier, taxis are affordable and abundant in Guangzhou. But I'd recommend beating the traffic and hopping on the metro. The subway is clean, quiet, airconditioned and cheap (single ride tokens are 32 cents and day passes are \$3.15). It's also easy to navigate with most maps, and the announcements are in English. Keep in mind the Chinese government blocks thousands of websites including Facebook and Google. You'll need a virtual private network, or VPN, if Google Maps is your go-to navigation tool. — AP

Shows Canton Tower lit up at night in Guangzhou, China.





An art instillation at the Redtory Art and Design Factory.



Photo shows roasted goose from a food stall in Guangzhou

A bird's-eye view

Canton Tower, is one of Guangzhou's top tourist attractions and for good reason. At 1,968 feet (600 meters), the modern monolith offers panoramic views of the cityscape and winding Pearl River. It also features rotating restaurants and, for thrill-seekers, a 100-foot (30-meter) free fall ride. I opted for the leisurely bubble tram and snapped the stunning sunset views while slowly rotating in a glass pod on a track atop the tower.

Culture vulture

Craving a creative boost? Head to the Tianhe District for the Redtory Art and Design Factory. This sprawling canning factory-turned-sleepy artists' village

Photo was taken inside the bubble tram atop the Canton Tower in Guangzhou

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2015



Essentials: Wicked cool stuff, old and new, to do in Boston

No bucket list is complete without at least one trip to Boston, a city that's forever coming up with new ways to entice visitors to return. Sure, there's always Fenway Park, the Freedom Trail and those zany duck boat tours. But while you were away, the Cradle of Liberty sprouted some wicked cool new stuff. Here's your guide to Beantown, both on and off the beaten path:

What's new

If you're a runner or a history buff, or both, you'll be hot to trot for RunBase. Part interactive museum, clubhouse and retail outlet, RunBase opened last spring near the finish line of the iconic Boston Marathon. It's a great place to find someone to share a run along the nearby Charles River, or simply to learn more about the rich lore of the 119-year-old marathon, America's most storied footrace. Across town on the harbor, check out the renovated giant ocean tank at the New England Aquarium. It got a \$17.8 million remake in 2013, and 52 viewing bays now look out on a coral reef teeming with more than 1,000 fish species. Unleash your inner Cousteau beneath the new reflective ceiling dome, which gives the entire aquarium a shimmering undersea vibe. If you're visiting with kids, this is a must-see.

Need some fresh air? Stroll the Rose Kennedy Greenway, one of the nation's premier showcases for unusual open-air art installations. There's abstract sculpture, a labyrinth and more. Coming in spring 2016: the Boston Wax Museum. This won't be just another Madame Tussauds; Brazil-based Dreams Entertainment Group says its US debut venture will feature wax likenesses of influential Bostonians through the ages in politics, sports and entertainment.

Classic attractions

Non-negotiables: lunch and shopping at Faneuil Hall Marketplace in the heart of downtown, where Samuel Adams and other patriots agitated for rebellion against the British. Ditto a leisurely walk through Boston Common and the adjacent Boston Public Garden, the heart and lungs of the city.

You can't truthfully say you've done Boston without following the Freedom Trail, a 2.5-mile route that takes in Old North Church, Paul Revere House, Bunker Hill Monument and a dozen other colonial sites. A raucous alternative is a splashy ride on a duck boat: a World War II-style amphibious vehicle that rumbles past most of those landmarks. Other must-sees: The highly interactive John F. Kennedy Presidential Library & Museum, devoted to the 35th president and Massachusetts' most favorite son. Or, if high-end retail therapy is your thing, the fashionable salons and boutiques of Newbury Street. For heaven's sake, don't go home without genuflecting before Fenway Park, a shrine which deserves a visit even if the Red Sox inside aren't always worthy. Catch a game in season and consider an hour-long walking tour and a selfie atop the ballpark's signature Big Green Monster wall. By now, you'll be ravenous. Head to the North End, a warren of narrow streets lined with Italian restaurants. Slake your thirst with a tour of the Samuel Adams Brewery.

Tips

Pack an umbrella: Boston's weather is famously unpredictable. If you're planning to visit in winter, keep in mind that February tends to be the region's snowiest month. (Last winter, Boston got 9 feet of white stuff. Just saying.) Taxis can be expensive and elusive. If you're not into Uber or other ride-sharing services, MBTA public transit - known simply as the T - will get you virtually everywhere, and it's much cheaper. You can buy reloadable CharlieTicket and CharlieCard passes and save a bundle.

Hanging out

Make like a local and get out of town. No, really. Just across the Charles is Cambridge, home to a certain Ivy League college and its eponymous Harvard Square. Fine, technically it's not Boston, but who'd quibble when it's replete with so many fabulous watering holes and seriously interesting indie bookstores? Pro tip: Don't even try to pahk the cah in Hahvahd Yahd; just take the T (Red Line.)

Visiting in summer? Grab a blanket and some munchies and catch a free open-air concert on Boston's riverside Esplanade park. The city's beloved Boston Pops orchestra has been performing in the outdoor Hatch Shell for decades. End your trip by getting high: Have a drink at Top of the Hub, a bar and restaurant 52 floors above the Back Bay. It offers stunning 360-degree panoramic views of the city that boasts it's the "Hub of the Universe." — AP



In this April 13, 2012 file photo, the 'Teammates' statue of Ted Williams, Johnny Pesky, Bobby Doerr and Dom DiMaggio circa 1946, appears at the entrance to Gate B at Fenway Park in Boston. — AP photos



This April 6, 2011 file photo shows a woman walks a dog through Boston Common in Boston.



In this Feb 22, 2007 file photo, Faneuil Hall, right, appears at night in downtown in Boston.

Marcos jewelry being appraised ahead of possible auction

The Philippine government is appraising millions of dollars' worth of jewelry seized three decades ago from Imelda Marcos, the former first lady known mainly for her massive stash of shoes, as it decides what to do with the dazzling collection. The jewelry collection, which includes a diamond worth at least \$5 million, was seized when Marcos' family fled to Hawaii in 1986 following a popular revolt that ended her husband's two decades in power.

Late dictator Ferdinand Marcos' family allegedly amassed billions of dollars' worth of ill-gotten wealth. His widow, now 86 and a member of Congress, became known for excesses, symbolized by her huge shoe collection and staggering jewelry. The jewelry collection, comprising three sets seized in various locations, was valued at \$5-7 million when it was last appraised in 1988 and 1991. The collection, however, is likely to have significantly risen in value, Andrew de Castro, of the presidential commission tasked to recover the wealth, said Tuesday. The jewelry will be appraised before the government decides whether to auction it off, he said, calling the collection a physical manifestation of excesses during the Marcos regime at a time when many Filipinos were suffering in poverty. There also are suggestions that the jewelry could be put in a museum or an exhibit. David Warren of Christie's auction house said the collection,

David Warren of Christie's auction house said the collection, which has been stored by the Philippine central bank for nearly 30 years, is comparable to those owned by royalty. "If I didn't know where the collection came from, I would probably say it could have come from a royal person," said Warren, who was among a Christie's team that inspected the jewelry on Tuesday. Among the collection's pieces is a newly discovered 25-carat Indian pink diamond probably cut in the 18th century and worth at least \$5 million. Pink diamonds are exceedingly rare. A 16-carat pink diamond was sold by Christie's this month in Geneva for \$28.5 million, Warren said.

The briolette-cut pink diamond in the Marcos collection is from India's famous Golconda region, which produced rare finds including the Hope Diamond and a 500-carat diamond that is part of the British crown jewels. Diamond pieces held up for photographers Tuesday by customs employees who removed them from plastic wrappings included various necklaces with diamonds ranging from the size of corn kernels to fat almonds, strung together like a lei of chandeliers. — AP



A Bureau of Customs appraiser shows to the media a set of jewelry from Roumeliotes Collection, one of three sets of the Marcos Jewelry Collection, during appraisal at the Central Bank of the Philippines Tuesday in Manila, Philippines.

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Christie's auction house appraiser David Warren examines a set of jewelry from Roumeliotes Collection, one of three sets of the Marcos Jewelry Collection. — AP photos

Friday Times Mealth



Cooked

Uncooked

What are the health benefits of **QUIDO3**

uinoa (pronounced keen-wah) and other ancient grains such as amaranth, barley and farro are rapidly growing in popularity because of their wide array of health benefits. Ancient grains are referred to as such because they have remained largely unchanged for hundreds or even thousands of years. Quinoa was known to the Incas as "the mother of all grains" and was first cultivated over 5000 years ago.

Although there are hundreds of cultivated types of quinoa, the most common versions available in stores are white, red and black quinoa.

Nutritional breakdown of quinoa

Botanically, quinoa is actually not classified as a grain. It is a pseudo-cereal (a non-grassy plant used in much the same way as cereals and grains with a similar nutritional profile). The seeds of pseudo-cereals can be milled and ground into flour just as other grains and cereals.

Nutritionally, quinoa is considered a whole grain. Whole grains include the entire intact grain seed without removing any of its parts. In contrast, when grains are milled or refined like white breads, white rice, and white pasta, they have been processed to create a finer, lighter texture. Unfortunately, most of the fiber and important nutrients are also removed during this process.

Whole grains like quinoa provide essential vitamins,

minerals and fiber, which help to regulate the digestive system and to keep you fuller and more satisfied. White pastas, white rice and white breads essentially provide us with simple carbohydrates that are quickly digested but little else in the way of nutritional value.

Quinoa is naturally gluten-free and contains iron, B-vitamins, magnesium, phosphorus, potassium, calcium, vitamin E and fiber. It is one of only a few plant foods that are considered a complete protein and comprised of all pernine essential amino acids. Quinoa also has a high protein to carbohydrate ratio when compared to other grain products. It was proposed by NASA to be an ideal food for long duration space flights.

One-fourth cup of dry quinoa contains 160 calories, 2.5 grams of fat (0 grams saturated and trans fat), 0 grams of cholesterol and sodium, 27 grams of carbohydrate (3 grams of fiber and 0 grams of sugar), and 6 grams of protein.

Possible health benefits of consuming quinoa

Incorporating quinoa into your diet could reduce the risk of cardiovascular disease, type 2 diabetes, high blood pressure, colon cancer and obesity.

- Cardiovascular disease
 Type 2 diabetes
- High blood pressure

- Colon cancer
- Obesity.

Many studies have shown that as whole grain intake increases, the risk for all five of these lifestyle-related conditions decreases. It is recommended to consume 48 grams of whole grains per day (equivalent to 3 servings of 16 g of whole grains).

Quinoa provides a higher amount of antioxidants than other common grains used in a gluten-free diet. Most gluten-free products are made up of corn, rice or potato flour are lacking in the nutrients that products incorporating quinoa can provide.

How to incorporate more quinoa into your diet

Quinoa has a naturally bitter coating called saponin that keeps insects away without having to use pesticides. Saponin is easily removed by rinsing quinoa with water prior to consuming. Although most packaged quinoas have the saponin already removed, it is never a bad idea to give it an extra rinse.

It is easy to incorporate quinoa into your diet - just use it in place of rice in any recipe. Its small grains cook to tender in as little as 15 minutes. Quinoa has a subtle nutty taste that makes it a versatile ingredient in the kitchen. It can be used in baking or as a breakfast grain, as well in hot side dishes or cold salads and even in burgers





Healthy **Quinoa Patties**

Ingredients

- 2 rounded cups cooked quinoa (see below for cooking instructions)
- 3/4 cup shredded cheddar cheese
- 1/2 cup low-fat cottage cheese
- 1 cup shredded zucchini, squeezed dry
- 3 eggs
- 3 Tbsp. flour
- 2 green onions, chopped including white parts
- 1/2 tsp. sugar
- 1/4 tsp. black pepper
- 1/4 tsp. ground cumin
- 1/8 tsp. salt
- 1/8 tsp. garlic powder
- olive oil for frying

To cook quinoa: 1 cup uncooked quinoa

- 2 cups water
- 1/2 tsp. salt

Directions

- 1. In a medium saucepan over high heat, bring the water and salt to a boil. Add quinoa and reduce heat to low. Cover and cook for 18-20 minutes, or until all water is absorbed and the seeds are tender. Allow to cool for a few minutes.
- 2. In the meantime, take a large bowl and mix together the cheddar cheese, cottage cheese, zucchini, eggs, flour, green onions, sugar, pepper, cumin, salt, garlic powder and the cooled, cooked quinoa.
- 3. Heat a frying pan and a couple teaspoons of olive oil over medium-low heat. Mixture will be a little sticky so use a 1/4 cup measuring cup to scoop it up and drop into pan. Then lightly flatten to 1/2 thick with the bottom of the measuring cup. It's best to cook these slowly over medium-low so they set-up and don't burn. Cook until golden brown, about 4 minutes on each side. Makes approx. 10 burgers. Serve with greek yogurt or sour cream.

5 Ingredient Quinoa

Ingredients

- 1/2 cup sweet onions or 1/2 cup red onion, chopped 2 teaspoons fresh garlic, minced
- 1 small carrot, grated
- 1 cup quinoa, rinsed, drained & toasted (see Quinoa-Toasted) 2 cups water

Directions

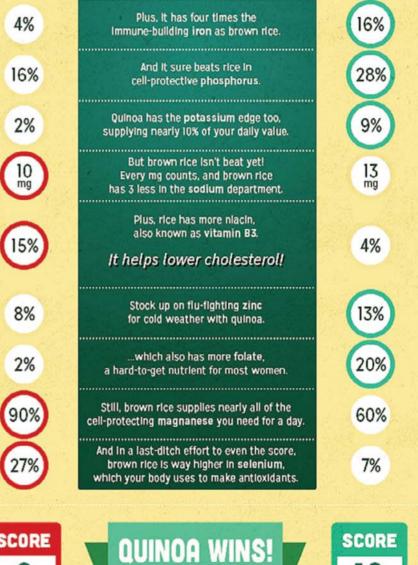
Make sure you rinse the grain under cold running water several times to remove coating (not something you can see).

Spray medium size saucepan with vegetable oil.

Add onion & cook about 3 minutes, add garlic & cook another 2 minutes. Add rest of ingredients & bring to a boil.

Reduce heat, stir and cover.

Simmer 15 minutes or until all the water is absorbed. Salt to taste.







THE BOTTOM LINE:

These are oth gold-star grains, It's true. But if you're willing to compromise a bit on fat, quinoa is simply packed with a wider variety of vitamins, minerals, and nutrients. Plus, it takes much less time to cook than rice. And here's a bonus: Quinoa typically contains lower arsenic levels than rice

WHAT TO BUY:

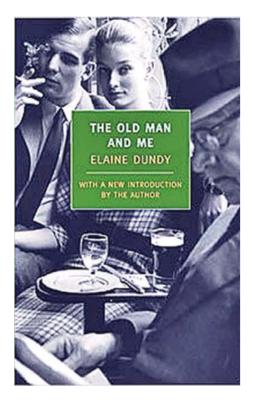
Trade In your dirty rice or quinoa for clean and buy organic, which doesn't contain synthetic pesticides

JUST SO YOU KNOW: We used the National Nutrient Database for Standard Reference from the USDA. These figures reflect your average quinoa and brown rice.

Favorite Airport Reads

o one likes being stuck in the airport, waiting to board or for a connection. But if you are planning an upcoming trip, don't forget to take a book along to keep you occupied during downtime.

Friday Times



The Old Man And Me

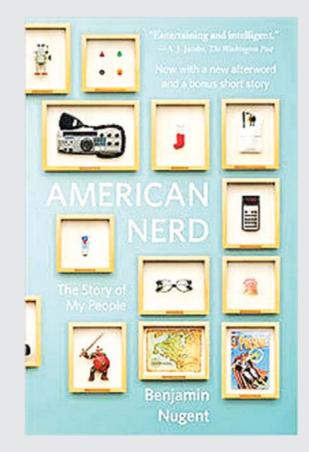
The Old Man and Me, Elaine Dundy, paperback, 248 pages, NYRB Classics, list price: \$15.95

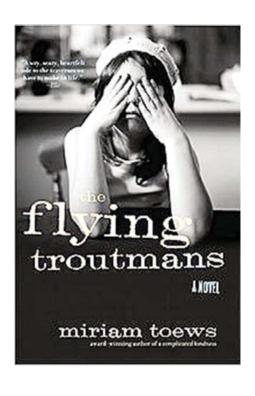
Elaine Dundy's novel The Old Man and Me is far more literary than "chick lit" but just as much fun. This reissue of her 1962 classic absolutely crackles with deviousness and wit. It's the story of Honey Flood, a shameless young American gold digger who arrives in England determined to ensnare an older aristocrat. Honey is a terrific female anti-hero: part Holly Golightly, part Daisy Miller, but badder, bolder.

American Nerd: The Story Of My People

American Nerd: The Story of My People, Benjamin Nugent, paperback, 256 pages, Scribner, list price: \$14

Yep. That's a Star Trek reference. If sci fi is your passion, you may be a nerd, or just read like one. Either way, there's much to love in Benjamin Nugent's insightful book, American Nerd: The Story of My People. Its "history of the nerd" does a brilliant job of explaining geekdom and anti-intellectualism in America. There are keen observations about jocks, racism, autism and, of course, Dungeons and Dragons. While a few sections go off on distinctly nerdy tangents, it's an original, sometimes very funny read.

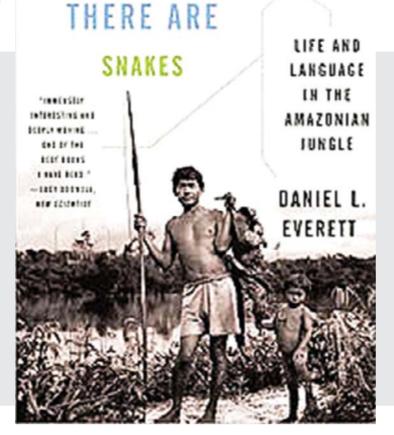




The Flying Troutmans: A Novel

The Flying Troutmans: A Novel, Miriam Toews, paperback, 256 pages, Counterpoint, list price: \$14.95

Want a light, modern On the Road? Try The Flying Troutmans by Miriam Toews, a poignant American road-trip novel with a twist: It's Canadian. Two highly creative, exasperating teenagers have been abandoned by their mother. Their beleaguered young aunt flies in from Paris to rescue them. The three set out on a desperate mission across the continent. Their story echoes the movie Little Miss Sunshine in that it's a frothy mix of absurdity and family drama in a beat-up minivan. It's an easy read, and entertaining.



DON'T SLEEP,

Don't Sleep, There Are Snakes: Life And Language In The Amazonian Jungle

Don't Sleep, There Are Snakes: Life and Language in the Amazonian Jungle, Daniel L. Everett, paperback, 320 pages, Vintage, list price: \$16

Prefer real adventure? In 1977, Daniel Everett, a Christian missionary, plunged into the Amazonian jungle with his wife and children. Their goal? To "enlighten" the Piraha - one of the most remote tribes on the planet. The Piraha, Everett discovered, exist entirely in the present, without words for colors, numbers, or the passage of time. They have no concept of war or personal property. So guess what? They ended up enlightening Everett instead. He spent decades with them, and his nonfiction account, Don't Sleep, There Are Snakes is riveting. And it's serious escapism: This book boldly takes you where almost no man has gone before.

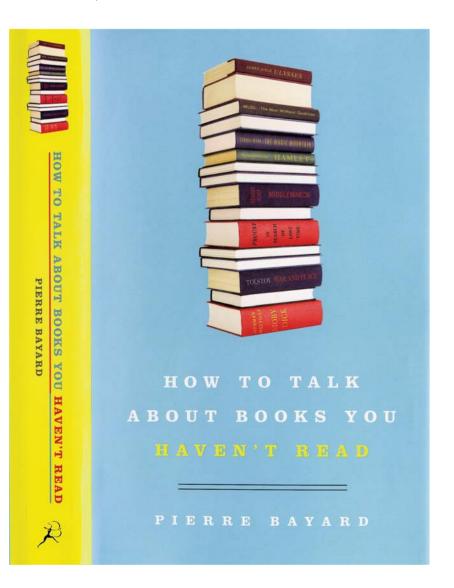
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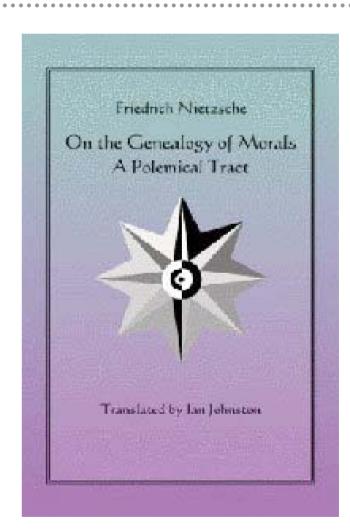
NOVEMBER 2015

How To Talk About Books You Haven't Read

How to Talk About Books You Haven't Read, Pierre Bayard, paperback, 208 pages, Bloomsbury USA, list price: \$14

If you traditionally buy self-help books and make New Year's resolutions, pick up How to Talk About Books You Haven't Read by Pierre Bayard. Just one read will make you seem infinitely more literate in 2010! Bayard's work is cleverer than its title suggests. It's chock full of perceptions, philosophy and bons mots. Or, so I've heard. I actually haven't read the book.





On the Genealogy Of Morals

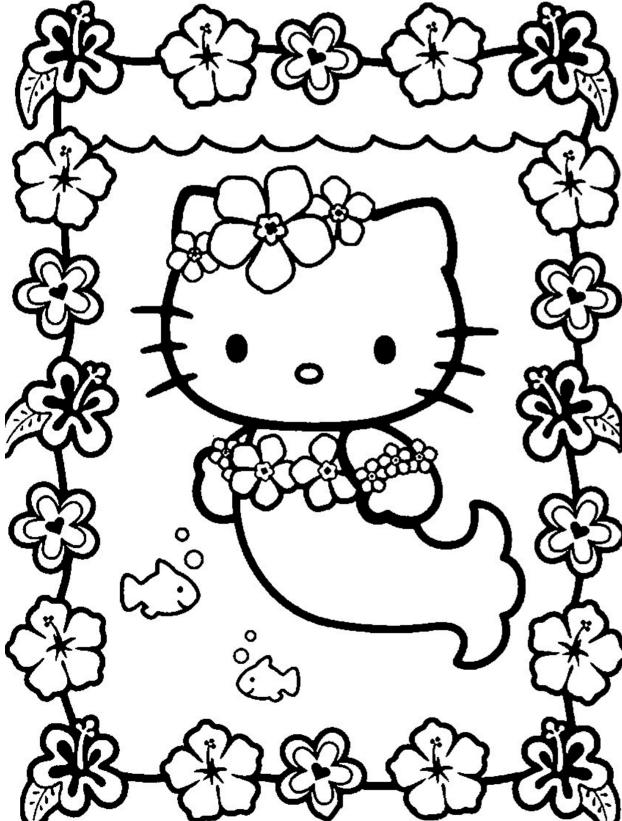
On the Genealogy of Morals, Friedrich Nietzsche, paperback, 136 pages, Richer Resources Publications, list price: \$13.95

If none of these appeal, here's one last recommendation for hard-core Scrooges: On the Genealogy of Morals by Friedrich Nietzsche. Ok, it ain't new, and it certainly ain't escapist. But it is alienating. Nothing like brandishing a 19th century German depressive on an airplane to repel all the cheery chitchat travelers seated beside you. Bah, humbug! And it, too, is available in paperback.



Color I t





Kids are enthralled by the mixture of colors. Likewise, they are often intrigued by watching things melt, such as ice or snow. This science activity allows kids to combine these interests and learn more about them both! Through it, they will discover how mixing two colors can create a third and how ice melts in the heat.

Materials:

- * Ice cubes * Eyedropper * Newspaper
- * Pan
- * Three Bowls * Red, Yellow, and Blue food coloring

Activity Instructions

Cover your dining room table with newspaper to protect against any food coloring spills. Likewise, have your kids wear clothes that can get stained.



Have your child help you measure and pour a half a cup of water into each of the three bowls.

Next, place the bowls on the table, along with the pan and the food coloring. Put a couple of ice cubes into the pan and have your kids sit around the table.

Place a few drops of each color into the bowls. This should result in red, yellow, and blue water. Add as much color as your kids want, creating a vibrant hue.



With an eyedropper, pick up some of the colored water and drop it onto one of the ice cubes. Talk to your little ones about how the food coloring reacts to the cube. Next, show them how to use the eyedropper and allow them to mix the colors on the ice cubes. Discuss how the primary colors can create new colors through a variety of combinations.

Outcome

This fun activity will help your kids develop motor skills, identify colors, and learn why certain colors mix well. Additionally, it will show them the melting process.



FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2015



What You Need

- · large clear drinking glass
- · water
- vegetable oil
- about 4 tablespoons of salt

Science Scoop

What's making the vegetable oil bubbles sink? Salt! Vegetable oil is less dense than water, so it floats on water. When you add the salt, the salt mixes with the vegetable oil. This mix of vegetable oil and salt is more dense than the water so it sinks in bubbles. When a bubble goes underwater, the oil separates from the salt and the salt **dissolves** in the water. Once the oil separates from the salt, the bubble is again less dense than the water so it floats to the top.



- I Fill a glass about half full of water.
- 2 Add about a half inch of oil. Wait for the water and oil to separate into two layers.
- 3 What do you think will happen when you add salt? Make a prediction.
- 4 Pour in the salt.

Cauld

- 5 What happens? (If nothing happens,
 - add more salt.)



Now it's time to experiment. What happens if you use sugar instead of salt? Or, what happens if you use sand? Choose one thing to change (that's the variable) and predict what you think will happen. Then test it and send your results to ZOOM at pbskids.org/zoom

Sent in by Margaret H. of Jackson, NJ

on

Let's Experiment!

1. ask a question: What do you want to know about? Why do you want to know it?

2. research your question: Has anyone asked it before?

3. form a hypothesis (hi-pot-the-siz):

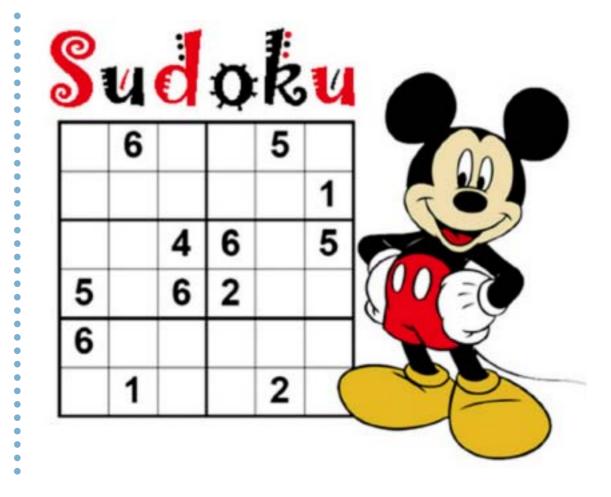
What do you think is the answer to your question? Can you test it? 4. test your hypothesis (hi-pot-thě-siz):

Design and perform an experiment. Record your data. 5. analyze your data:

See if your data matches your hypothesis.

6. draw conclusions: What did you learn?

Was your hypothesis correct? What questions do you have now?





Find and circle all of the words from the word list below.

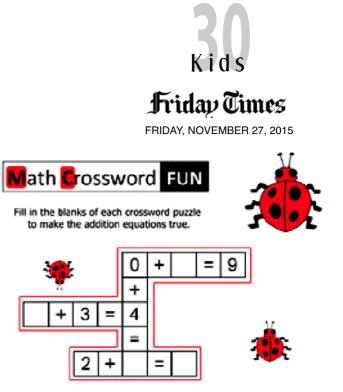
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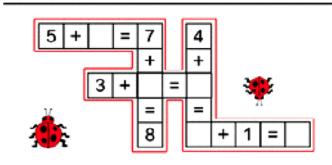
What You Need • pipe cleaner or wire

• buttoms in different sizes and colors

.sdssors

(found at a graft store)





Button Flowers

1 Bend the pipe cleaner about 2 inches from the top so you have a short end and a

long end.

- 2 slide a button on the long end of the pipe cleaner until the button rests on the bend.
- 3 Thread the short end of the pipe cleaner through another hole on the button.
- 4 Now take a bigger button and repeat steps 2 and 3.
- 5 Twist the short end of the pipe cleaner around the long end to secure the buttons.
- 6 Make a bunch of flowers and twist them together to make a bouquet!

Nori

What else can you add to your flowers? Try bending pipe cleaners in the shape of petals. Or add green paper leaves. Write to ZOOM at pbskids-org/zoom/do and tell us how you made. your flowers.

Sent in by Skyle N. of Cheverne, WY

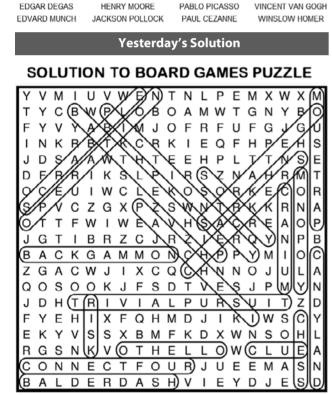
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2015

WORD SEARCH

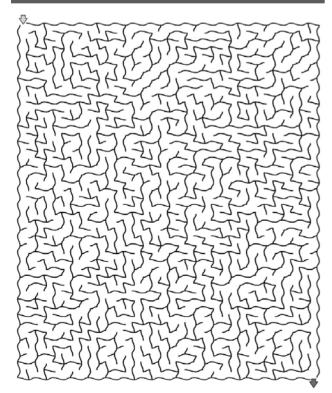
FAMOUS PAINTERS WORD SEARCH PUZZLE

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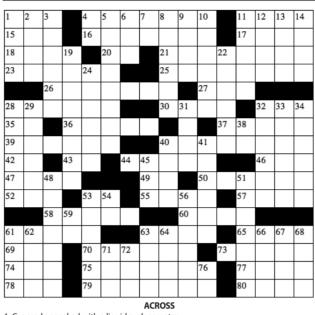
SOLUTION TO BOARD GAMES PUZZLE



CHALLENGING MAZE

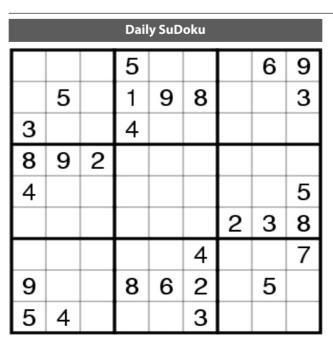


CROSSWORD 1092



1. Covered or soaked with a liquid such as water

- 4. Arboreal civet of Asia having a long prehensile tail and shaggy black hair
- United States humorist who wrote about rural life (1818-1885).
 A period marked by distinctive character or reckoned from a fixed point or event.
- A Bantu language spoken by the Chaga people in northern Tanzania.
 A sock with a separation for the big toe.
 Warm-blooded egg-laying vertebrates characterized by feathers and forelimbs
- modified as wings. 20. A brittle gray crystalline element that is a semiconducting metalloid (resembling silicon) used in transistors.
- 21. A genus of Stichaeidae.23. A bachelor's degree in architecture.
- 25. A lamellar mixture of cementite and ferrite formed during the cooling of austen-
- 26. Low tufted white-woolly yellow-flowered herb of California.
- A unit of length of thread or yarn.
 Deficient in amount or quality or extent.
- 30. A musical notation written on a staff indicating the pitch of the notes following it.
- 35. A state in midwestern United States.36. Open and observable.
- 37. Any organic compound containing the group -CONH2.
- His organic compound containing the gloup -contra 39. Lie adjacent to another.
 The compass point midway between south and west.
- 43. A doctor's degree in religion.44. The capital and largest city of Bangladesh
- 46. Goddess of fate.
- 47. (computer science) A unit for measuring the execution speed of computers.
 49. A soft silvery metallic element of the alkali earth group. 50. Any isomeric saturated hydrocarbon found in petroleum and used as a fuel and
- solvent
- 52. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
- 55. According to the Old Testament he was a pagan king of Israel and husband of Jezebel (9th century BC).
- 57. A vehicle mounted on runners and pulled by horses or dogs
- 58. United States computer entrepreneur whose software company made him the youngest multi-billionaire in the history of the United States (born in 1955).
- 60. A small cake leavened with yeast.
- 61. A city in southeastern South Korea.65. Full of zest or vigor.
- 69. A flat wing-shaped process or winglike part of an organism.70. Cut the head of.
- 73. (Babylonian) God of fire.
- 74. A local computer network for communication between computers.
 75. A large ax with a broad cutting blade.
- 77. Horny plate covering and protecting part of the dorsal surface of the digits
- 78. The products of human creativity.79. A colorless oily liquid.
- 80. A French abbot.



DOWN

Leisure

- 1. English writer and a central member of the Fabian Society (1858-1943).
- 2. (Greek mythology) Goddess of discord.
 3. National capital of Kiribati.
- 4. A radioactive transuranic element
- Being one more than seventeen
 (informal) Of the highest quality.
- A blood group antigen possessed by Rh-positive people.
 A high-crowned black cap (usually made of felt or sheepskin) worn by men in
- Turkey and Iran and the Caucasus.
- 9. A fit of shivering.
 10. (Mexican) Corn and cornmeal dough stuffed with a meat mixture then wrapped
- in corn husks and steamed.
- An ancient upright stone slab bearing markings.
 A Loloish language.
- 13. Lie adjacent to another
 - Having or prompted by wisdom or discernment.
 Textiles or clothing and related merchandise.
- Manufactured in standard sizes to be shipped and assembled elsewhere.
 Distinguished from Bovidae by the male's having solid deciduous antlers
- 29. King of England who was renounced by Northumbria in favor of his brother Edgar
- (died in 959). 31. An accidental hole that allows something (fluid or light etc.) to enter or escape.
- 32. Of or relating to or characteristic of religious rituals.33. A city in northwestern Turkey.34. Covered with beads of liquid.
- 38. Informal terms for a mother.
- 40. Title for the former hereditary monarch of Iran.
- African tree having an exceedingly thick trunk and fruit that resembles a gourd and has an edible pulp called monkey bread.
 A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
- 48. An elaborate representation of scenes from history etc.
- The wife or widow of a czar.
 English historian noted for his constitutional history of medieval England (1825-
- 1901).
- 54. A light strong brittle gray toxic bivalent metallic element.
- 56. A port city in southwestern Iran.
- 59. A soft white precious univalent metallic element having the highest electrical and thermal conductivity of any metal.
- 62. (botany) Of or relating to the axil.63. (used especially of vegetation) Having lost all moisture.64. (of a young animal) Abandoned by its mother and raised by hand.
- 66. An Arabic speaking person who lives in Arabia or North Africa.67. Baby bed with high sides.
- 68. Period extending from Dec. 24 to Jan. 6.
- The universal time coordinated when an event is received on Earth.
 A boat with a flat bottom for carrying heavy loads (especially on canals).
- 76. A colorless odorless inert gaseous element occurring in the earth's atmosphere in trace amounts.

Yesterday's Solution

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2015

	PLANETHD
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13:50 14:45 15:40	Austin Stevens: Snakemaster Treehouse Masters
16:35 17:30 Steve 18:25	Tanked Swimming With Monsters: Backshall Austin Stevens: Snakemaster
19:20 20:15	River Monsters Tanked
21:10 22:05 23:00 23:55	Treehouse Masters



00:20	Fast N' Loud
01:10	Sean Conway - Running
Britain 02:00 Theate	Fast N' Loud: Demolition
02:50	Amish Mafia
03:40	Auction Hunters
04:05	Garage Gold
04:30	Baggage Battles
05:00	Backyard Oil
05:30	How Ít's Made
06:00	Dynamo: Magician Impossible
06:50	Troy
07:40	Superhuman Science
08:05	Superhuman Science
08:30	You Have Been Warned
09:20	Ed Stafford: Into The Unknown
10:10 11:00 Britain	Dual Survival Sean Conway - Running
11:50 Theate	
12:40	Cuban Chrome
13:30	Misfit Garage
14:20	Wheeler Dealers
15:10	Manhunt With Joel Lambert
16:00	Manhunt With Joel Lambert
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18:30	Manhunt With Joel Lambert
19:20	Manhunt With Joel Lambert
20:10	Ed Stafford: Into The Unknown



21:00 Misfit Garage

Wheeler Dealers

Cuban Chrome

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14:40	Food Factory

15:05	Food Factory
15:30	What Could Possibly Go
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17:35	Weird Connections
18:00	How It's Made
18:25	How It's Made
18:50	Food Factory
19:15	Food Factory
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20:30	Cosmic Collisions
21:20	Mythbusters
22:10	NASA's Unexplained Files
23:00	Joe Rogan Questions
Everyt	hing
23:50	Cosmic Collisions



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00:00 00:45 00:50	Violetta The Hive Sabrina: Secrets Of A Teenage
Witch 01:15	Sabrina: Secrets Of A Teenage
Witch 01:40	Wolfblood
02:05	Wolfblood
02:30	Violetta
03:15	The Hive
03:20 Witch	Sabrina: Secrets Of A Teenage
03:45 Witch	Sabrina: Secrets Of A Teenage
04:10	Wolfblood
04:35	Wolfblood
05:00	Violetta
05:45	The Hive
05:50	Mouk
06:00 06:25	Lolirock Hank Zipzer
06:50	Girl Meets World
07:15	H2O: Just Add Water
07:40	Jessie
08:05	Wizards Of Waverly Place
08:30	Wizards Of Waverly Place
08:55 Witch	Sabrina: Secrets Of A Teenage
09:20	Sabrina: Secrets Of A Teenage
Witch 09:45	Austin & Ally
10:10	Austin & Ally
10:35	H2O: Just Add Water
11:00	H2O: Just Add Water
11:25	Jessie
11:50	Jessie
12:20	Hank Zipzer
12:45	Gravity Falls
13:10	Good Luck Charlie
13:35	I Didn't Do It
14:00 14:30	Dog With A Blog H2O: Just Add Water
14:55	Lolirock
15:20	Austin & Ally
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- 15:45 Girl Meets World 16:10 Violetta I Love Violetta 17:00 17.10 The Incredible H2O: Just Add Water Violetta 19:05 19:30 20:20 | Love Violetta 20:30 Mickey, Donald, Goofy In The Three Musketeers 21:35 Wizards Of Waverly Place 22:00 Binny And The Ghost 22:25 Witch Sabrina: Secrets Of A Teenage 22:50 Sabrina: Secrets Of A Teenage
- Witch 23:10 Wolfblood 23:35 Wolfblood



F

00:00Christina Milian Turned Up00:55The Grace Helbig Show01:25Keeping Up With The Kardashians 02:20 E! News 03:15 Giuliana & Bill 04:10 E! Entertainment Special 05:05 E! Entertainment Special 06:00 Kourtney And Kim Take Miami 06:55 Kourtney And Kim Take Miami 07:50 Style Star 08:20 E! News 09:15 Giuliana & Bill 10:15 Giuliana & Bill 11:10 The Grace Helbig Show 11:35 The Grace Helbig Show 12:05 E! News 13:05 Christina Milian Turned Up 14:05 Keeping Up With The Kardashians 15:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians 16:00 Dash Dolls 17:00 Dash Dolls 18:00 E! News 19:00 Hollywood Cycle 20:00 WAGs 20:00WAGS21:00Fashion Bloggers21:30Fashion Bloggers22:00E! News23:00House Of DVF



00:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives 00:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives 01:00 Jenny Morris Cooks The Rivier 01:30 Jenny Morris Cooks The Riviera 02:00 Australian Food Adventures With Matt Moran

07:00	Man Fire Food
07:30	Man Fire Food
08:00	
09:00	Guy's Grocery Games
10:00	The Kitchen
11:00	Barefoot Contessa: Back To
Basics	
11:30	Barefoot Contessa: Back To
Basics	1
12:00	Chopped
13:00	Guy's Big Bite
13:30	Guy's Big Bite
14:00	Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
14:30	Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
15:00	Guy's Grocery Games
16:00	Chopped
17:00	The Kitchen
18:00	Jenny And Reza's Fabulous
Food A	Academy
18:30	Trisha's Southern Kitchen
19:00	
20:00	Guy's Grocery Games
21:00	
21:30	Siba's Table
22:00	Amazing Wedding Cakes
23:00	Girl Eat World
23:30	Girl Eat World
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	CHOICE
01:05	Autopsy: The Last Hours Of
02:00	Emmerdale
02:25	Coach Trip
02:55	Coronation Street
03:25	I'm A CelebrityGet Me Out Of
Here!	
04:20	Love And Marriage: A 20th
Centur	y Romance
05:15	Take On The Twisters
06:10	
07:05	Coronation Street
07:30	I'm A CelebrityGet Me Out Of

03:00 Man Fire Food 03:30 Man Fire Food

06:00 Chopped

04:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives 04:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives 05:00 Guy's Grocery Games

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17:25 Love And Marriage: A 20th Century Romance 18:20 Come Date With Me Australia 19:10 Coronation Street
19:35 The Chase: Celebrity Specials
20:30 I'm A Celebrity...Get Me Out Of Here 21:25 Love And Marriage: A 20th **Century Romance** 22.20 Coach Trip 22:50 Peter Andre's 60 Minute Makeover

> OM FIRST HD COMEDY

23:40 Dancing On Ice

04:30 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon 07:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers 07:00 09:30 About A Boy 11:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon 14:30 About A Bov 17:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers 18:00 Manhattan Love Story 19:00 About A Boy 19:30 New Girl 20:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon 23:30 Late Night With Seth Meyers

O/n FIRST HD

00:00 Salem 01.00 Blindspot 02:00 Empire Emmerdale 12:00 12:30 **Coronation Street** Emmerdale The Ellen DeGeneres Show 16:00 17:00 19:00 C.S.I. Cvber 20:00 Blindspot 21:00 Grey's Anatomy Survivor: Cambodia 22:00 23:00 Allegiance



07:00 Emmerdale 10:00 Emmerdale 12:00 Castle



00:00 The Baytown Outlaws 01:45 The Dogs Of War 03:45 The Amazing Spider-Man 2 06:15 Jaws: The Revenge 08:00 Falcon Rising 09:45 Absolute Killers



21:00 Foxcatcher-PG15

FESTIVAL

01:00 Jack And The Cuckoo Clock Heart 03:00 Waitress 05:00 Se Puder... Dirija 07:00 The Trouble With Bliss 09:00 Phantom Se Puder... Dirija 11:00 Waitress 12:30 14:30 Evita Phantom 17:00 19:00 Men Of Honor 21:30 The Immigrant 23:30 The Motel Life

ON MOVIES HD

- 01:00 Dom Hemingway-18 The Monuments Men-PG15 Veronica Mars-PG15 09:00 Pompeii-PG15 11:00 12:45 11:00 Hercules-PG15 12:45 Get On Up-PG15 15:00 Chef-PG15

ON MOVIES HD

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01:15	Marco Macaco
02:45	Worms
04:15	Cher Ami
06:00	Dixie And The Zombie
Rebelli	ion
08:00	Moomins And The Comet
Chase	
10:00	Ploddy Police Car On The

THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN 2 ON OSN MOVIES ACTION

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- TV LISTINGS 11:30 The Amazing Spider-Man 2 14:00 Born To Race: Fast Track 16:00 Percy Jackson: Sea Of Monst
 - 18:00 Absolute Killers 20:00 Man Of Tai Chi
 - 22:00 Days Of Thunder

O/N MOVIES HD ACTION

01:45 The Amazing Spider-Man 2-PG15 04:15 Jaws: The Revenge-PG15 06:00 Falcon Rising-PG15 07:45 Absolute Killers-PG15 09:30 The Amazing Spider-Man 2-PG15 12:00 Born To Race: Fast Track-**PG15** 14:00 Percy Jackson: Sea Of Monsters-PG 16:00 Absolute Killers-PG15 18:00 Man Of Tai Chi-PG15 20:00 Days Of Thunder-PG15 22:00 Turkey Shoot-18

OM MOVIES HD

COMEDY

- 02:00 Muppets Most Wanted How To Lose A Guy In 10 Days Problem Child 2 04.00 06:00 08:00 Renaissance Man
- 10:15 How To Lose A Guy In 10 Days 12:15 14:15
 - Muppets Most Wanted The Nutty Professor (1996)
- 16:00 Renaissance Man
- 18:15 Napoleon Dynamite 20:00 Think Like A Man Too 22:00 Revenge For Jolly!

O/N MOVIES

DRAMA

- 07:00 The Railway Man-PG15 09:00 Belle-PG15 11:00 The Citizen-PG15 13:00 Song For Marion-PG15 15:00 Atlas Shrugged Part 2: The Strike-PG15 17:00 Belle-PG15 23:15 Maps To The Stars-18 OM MOVIES HD



- 17:00 Pompeii-PG15 18:45 The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part I-PG15 21:00 Dawn Of The Planet Of The
- Apes-PG15 23:15 The Other Woman-PG15

- Case

- Here! Century Romance
- Makeove
 - Makeover

15:35 The Chase: Celebrity Specials 16:30 I'm A Celebrity...Get Me Out Of

- 08:25 Love And Marriage: A 20th 09:20 Peter Andre's 60 Minute Makeover 10:10 Autopsy: The Last Hours Of... 11:05 Dancing On Ice 12:30 Take On The Twisters 13:25 Emmerdale 13:50 Emmerdale 14:20 Coronation Street 14:45 Peter Andre's 60 Minute

- le Out Of

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2015

- 11:45 Miffy The Movie 13:15 Worms 14:45 True Story Of Puss'n Boots 16:15 Minuscule: Valley Of The Lost Ants 18:00 Ploddy Police Car On The Case 20:00 Hiroku: Defenders Of Gaia
- 20:00 22:00 23:45 True Story Of Puss'n Boots Minuscule: Valley Of The Lost Ants

OM MOVIES HD PREMIERE

00:00 02:00 04:00 06:00 08:00 10:00 12:00 14:00 14:00 14:00 17:45 20:00 22:00	Trigger Point-PG15 Tactical Force-PG15 Planes: Fire And Rescue-PG Babylon A.D-PG15 HairBrained-PG15 Hellboy: Blood & Iron-PG Closed Circuit-PG15 Bears-PG HairBrained-PG15 Need For Speed-PG15 22 Jump Street-PG15 The Gambler-18
22:00	The Gampler-18
20:00	22 Jump Street-PG15



03:14	Grojband
03:35	Johnny Test
05:05	Total Drama World Tour
05:27	Total Drama World Tour
05:50	Regular Show
06:00	The Amazing World Of
Gumb	
07:00	Uncle Grandpa
07:25	Adventure Time
07:50	Teen Titans Go!
08:35	Ninjago: Masters Of Spinjitzu
09:00	Ben 10 Omniverse
09:45	Regular Show
10:30	Clarence
10:55	Dreamworks Dragons:
	ders Of Berk
11:20	Total Drama World Tour
11:40	Total Drama World Tour
12:05	Johnny Test
12:50	Steven Universe
13:02	Steven Universe
13:15	Uncle Grandpa
13:40	Regular Show
14:25	Adventure Time
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17:10	Ninjago: Masters Of Spinjitzu
17:30	Teen Titans Go!
18:20	Regular Show
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19:51	Adventure Time
20:15	Steven Universe
20:27	Steven Universe
20:40	Uncle Grandpa
21:00	Teen Titans Go!
21:50	Ben 10 Omniverse
22:40	Adventure Time
00:10	Regular Show
00:43	Regular Show
00:54	Regular Show
01:40	Total Drama Action
00.00	Total Drama Astian

13:00 The Will

13:00 The Will
13:50 I Almost Got Away With It
14:40 California Investigator
15:05 Nightmare Next Door
15:55 Fatal Encounters
16:45 On The Case With Paula Zahn
17:35 Murder Shift
18:25 I Almost Got Away With It
19:15 Eorensic Detectives

19:15 Forensic Detectives 20:05 True Crime With Aphrodite

Jones 20:55 California Investigator 21:20 The Will 22:10 Who On Earth Did I Marry? 23:35 Who On Earth Did I Marry? 23:00 Who On Earth Did I Marry?

23:25 Who On Earth Did I Marry? 23:50 Blood Relatives 00:40 Who On Earth Did I Marry?

01:05 Who On Earth Did I Marry? 01:30 The Haunted 02:20 Ghost Lab

DISNEP

03:05 Calimero 03:20 Zou 03:30 Loopdidoo 03:45 Art Attack 04:10 Henry Hugglemonster 04:20 Calimero 04:35 Zou 04:45 Loopdidoo 05:00 Art Attack

05:00 Art Attack 05:25 Henry Hugglemonster 05:35 Calimero

06:35 Henry Hugglemonster 06:50 Calimero 07:00 Zou

10:00 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse 10:30 Doc McStuffins

05:50 Zou

06:00 Loopdidoo 06:15 Art Attack

07:00 Zou 07:20 Loopdidoo 07:35 Art Attack 08:00 Calimero 08:10 Zou

08:25 Limon And Oli 08:35 Jake And The Never Land Pirates 09:05 Sofia The First 09:30 Miles From Tomorrow

11:00 Sofia The First

02:03 Total Drama Action **Total Drama Action** 02:26 Total Drai 02:51 Grojband



	DISCOVERY
03:10	Unravelled
04:00	Killer Truckers
04:45	Who On Earth Did I Marry?
05:10	Who On Earth Did I Marry?
05:30	The Haunted
06:20	Forensic Detectives
07:10	True Crime With Aphrodite
Jones	
00:80	Nightmare Next Door
08:50	On The Case With Paula Zahn
09:40	Fatal Encounters
10:30	Murder Shift
11:20	Forensic Detectives
12:10	True Crime With Aphrodite
Jones	





14:00 Sofia The First

16:15 Sofia The First

15:30 Zou

14:30 Henry Hugglemonster 14:45 Calimero 15:00 Doc McStuffins

15:45 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse

11:30	Jake And The Never Land
Pirates	

- 11:55 Miles From Tomorrow 12:25 Doc McStuffins
- 12:55 Loopdidoo 13:10 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse 13:35 Sheriff Callie's Wild West

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MUPPETS MOST WANTED ON OSN MOVIES COMEDY HD

16:45	Jake And The Never Land	14:25	Pokemon: XY
Pirates	6	14:50	Phineas And Ferb
17:10	Aladdin	15:15	Rocket Monkeys
17:40	Adventures Of The Gummi	15:40	
Bears		16:10	Star vs The Forces Of
18:10	Chip n Dale Rescue Rangers	16:35	
18:40	Jake And The Never Land	17:00	Gamer's Guide To Pre
Pirates		Everyt	
18:55	Cars Toons		K.C Undercover
19:00	Miles From Tomorrow	17:55	
19:30	Sofia The First	18:20	
	Doc McStuffins	18:45	
20:15		19:10	
Pirates			Kickin' It
20:45			K.C Undercover
21:05	Mickey Mouse Clubhouse	20:30	Supa Strikas
21:35	Sofia The First	20:55	Lab Rats
22:00	Aladdin	21:25	Gamer's Guide To Pret
22:30	Adventures Of The Gummi	Everyt	
Bears			Kickin' It
23:00	Chip n Dale Rescue Rangers	22:15	Mighty Med
23:30	Lilo & Stitch	22:40	Phineas And Ferb
00:00	Nina Needs To Go	23:05	Penn Zero: Part Time
00:05	Henry Hugglemonster	23:30	
00:20	Calimero	00:00	Programmes Start At 7
00:35	Zou	KSA	
00:50			
01:05	Art Attack	_	NUT CEO
01:30	Henry Hugglemonster		NAT GEO
01:45	Calimero		
02:00	Zou		
02:15	Loopdidoo	_	· · · · · · · ·
02:30	Art Attack	00.45	The Inerediale Dr. Del
02:55	Henry Hugglemonster	03:45	The Incredible Dr. Pol
02.00		04:40	Africa's Deadliest



	Supa Strikas Supa Strikas K.C Undercover Lab Rats Star vs The Forces Of Evil
Everyt	Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much
	Annedroids
10:30	Phineas And Ferb
10:55	Rocket Monkeys
11:20	Boyster
11:45	Super Matrak
12:10	Super Matrak
12:40	Mighty Med
13:05	
13:30	Supa Strikas
14:00	Kickin' It
14.00	

ΤΟΚΕΠΟΠ: ΧΥ ΤΟΚΕΠΟΠ: ΧΥ TS Rocket Monkeys A Penn Zero: Part Time Hero Star vs The Forces Of Evil Kirby Buckets Gamer's Guide To Pretty Muser Kirby Buckets Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much 100 Gamer's Guide I erything 125 K.C Undercover 155 Supa Strikas 120 Lab Rats 120 Lab Rats 130 Annedroids 140 Kickin' It 135 K.C Undercover 130 Supa Strikas 155 Lab Rats 55 Lab Rats 25 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much erything 50 Kickin' It 15 Mighty Med 40 Phineas And Ferb Penn Zero: Part Time Hero Phineas And Ferb Programmes Start At 7:00am 05 30 00 NAT GEO HD

04:40	Africa's Deadliest
05:35	The Pack
06:30	The Croc Catchers
	The Incredible Dr. Pol
08:20	Amazonia
09:15	Hidden Worlds
10:10	Wild Vietnam
11:05	Ultimate Animals
12:00	Australia's Deadliest
12:55	Animal Fight Club
13:50	Outback Wrangler
14:45	The Incredible Dr. Pol
15:40	
16:35	Hidden Worlds
	Wild Thailand
18:25	Ultimate Animals
19:20	The Incredible Dr. Pol
20:10	Amazonia
21:00	Hidden Worlds
21:50	Wild Thailand
22:40	Ultimate Animals
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01:10	J
02:00	
02:50	Tiger Queen

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2015





Aries (March 21-April 19)

You may be quite enamored with your clever conversation today. Unfortunately, your mental agility won't help you when it comes to the more pragmatic things in your life, such as the details of your diet and sleep routine. You might sarcastically claim that you shouldn't be bothered with such unimportant matters when you are so busy elsewhere. But taking your own advice isn't such a great idea now; ultimately, nothing is more critical to your wellbeing than nourishing your body and mind. Good health is real wealth.

Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Stabilizing your finances is an uphill battle because there's no apparent quick fix to your cash flow problems. At first, you assume that spending less money on pleasurable activities is the most obvious way to improve the current dynamics. Although cutting expenses makes sense, it might not be sufficient. Consider doing something tangible now that could increase your income over time. Taking on more responsibilities at work or enrolling in a course to elevate your job skills may be enough to set a larger change of prosperity in motion.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Making the smallest of decisions is a challenge today because the Moon's presence in your sign triggers your moods to swing one way and then the other. You can't even count how many times you change your mind now. Don't try to force a resolution; instead, continue to watch your thoughts go back and forth like a pendulum until they finally come to a rest. Your temporary uncertainty is a gift that in time will bring the lasting clarity you seek



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

You don't want anyone to know what you're feeling today because talking about your emotions can create interpersonal waves that obstruct your progress. However, if you are overly secretive about your plans now, even those closest to you may not tell you their thoughts. Hiding the truth can be contagious — but so can sharing it. When you willingly express what's in your heart, others will happily join you in the process.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

You prefer to be in the company of others and may seek out colleagues and friends to establish more meaningful connections today. Surrounding yourself with forward-thinking people enables you to enthusiastically share your ambitious plans for the future. But watch out for the networking trap; too much social activity can dramatically interfere with your work. If you spread yourself too thin, you might have to go into temporary isolation to make up for lost production time.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

You wish your coworkers wouldn't depend on you for emotional support now, but they do anyway. Your experience and integrity make you a valuable commodity and you don't want to let anyone down. Just keep in mind that at some point the tables will turn. Others are more likely to be there for you later if you jump in and show up for them now. You never know when you may need an extra pair of hands or a shoulder to lean on.

Libra (September 23-October 22)

Your fantasies about an exciting upcoming adventure make it difficult to concentrate on your job now. Sometimes dreams are necessary to create the future, but currently they are just a way of escaping your immediate responsibilities. It really doesn't matter what you plan to do next week, next month or next year. Your actions have significant consequences, so bring your thoughts back to the present moment and get to work. What you do today can improve all your tomorrows.



Meeting someone who can make you laugh is a wonderful distraction today. You might enjoy spending time with such a person now, but lively conversations about trivial subjects may still leave you feeling empty. There's no escaping the fact that you need more depth, intensity and passion in your relationships. Having fun is one thing, but satisfying your heart is another.



You are often happiest heading out on your own, but now you may desire a sidekick while running even the simplest of errands. The many-sided Gemini Moon shines in your 7th House of Partners, opening your world to draw more diverse people into your personal life. Just remember, everyone has their own personal agenda, so don't make others feel guilty if they don't want to join you. It makes more sense to get your chores out of the way and then create quality time for those you love.



Your mind is on the details at work today, but you may fall short of your goals. Nevertheless, it's in your best interest to accomplish as much as possible this morning while the Moon is finishing up her visit to your 6th House of Daily Routine. Unfortunately, you might not be as effective later on trying to follow up with professional opportunities. But don't be overly rigid when mapping out your day since too much planning can end up limiting your freedom. Letting go of your need to control everything improves your chances of finding satisfaction.



You are rather blase about working so much today, especially if your heart is set on finding time to kick back and relax. You may be offered a chance to teach or play with youngsters. Or, you might have your own inner child that craves expression. Say yes if presented with an opportunity to let your creativity shine, but don't stand by idly expecting something magical to happen. If you wait too long, you could miss your chance to engage in a spontaneous dance of life.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Stressful dynamics in your work relationships are stretched to the max now because of responsibilities on the home front. Nevertheless, you can't escape the increasing load of professional obligations. Even if you feel like a bit of a loner today, it's still not wise to venture off on your own, since you'll only grow lonelier without the warm connections with others that you need. You're a happier fish when you're swimming in a school of friends.

COUNTRY CODES

Afghanistan	
	0093
Albania	00355
Algeria	00213
Andorra	00376
Angola	00244
Anguilla	001264
Antiga	001268
Argentina	0054
Armenia	00374
Australia	0061
Austria	0043
Bahamas	001242
Bahrain	00973
Bangladesh	00880
Barbados	001246
Belarus	00375
Belgium	0032
Belize	00501
Benin	00229
Bermuda	001441
Bhutan	00975
Bolivia	00591
Bosnia	00387
Botswana	00267
Brazil	0055
Brunei	00673
	00359
Bulgaria Burkina	00226
Burundi	00257
Cambodia	00855
Cameroon	00237
Canada	001
Cape Verde	00238
Cayman Islands	001345
Central African Repu	
Chad	00235
Chile	0056
China	0086
Colombia	0057
Comoros	00269
Congo	00242
Cook Islands	00682
Costa Rica	00506
Croatia	00385
Cuba	0053
Cyprus	00357
Cyprus (Northern)	0090392
Czech Republic	00420
Denmark	
	0045
Diego Garcia	00246
Djibouti	00253
Dominica	001767
Dominican Republic	001809
Ecuador	00593
Egypt	0020
El Salvador	00503
England (UK)	0044
Equatorial Guinea	00240
Eritrea	00291
Estonia	00291 00372
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Lithuania	00370
Luxembourg Macau	00352 00853
Macedonia	00389
Madagascar Majorca	00261 0034
Malawi	00265
Malaysia	0060
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Marshall Islands Martinique	00692 00596
Mauritania	00222
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Mexico	0052
Micronesia Moldova	00691 00373
Monaco	00373
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Saint Helena	00290
Saint Kitts Saint Lucia	001869 001758
Saint Pierre	00508
Saint Vincent Samoa US	001784 00684
Samoa West	00685
San Marino	00378
Sao Tone Saudi Arabia	00239 00966
Scotland (UK)	0044
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Sierra Leone	00232
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Solomon Islands	00677
Somalia South Africa	00252 0027
South Korea	0082
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Suriname	
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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2015



BRAZILIAN FARMERS LEARN TO LOVE AMAZON'S TREES AGAIN

TOME-ACU: The tall trees, animal cries and deep shadows would make you think you're in Brazil's Amazon jungle, in fact the leafy paradise Tome-Acu is the work of farmers. Switching off their chainsaws and planting new trees, Brazilian farmers like Michinori Konagano are turning their backs on Brazil's old habits of treating the Amazon as nothing better than a limitless source of new land.

And they're not only making money but, by increasing stocks of carbon-storing trees, helping to curb the emissions responsible for global warming and what scientists say could be catastrophic global climate change. "When my father bought these lands in the 1960s, everyone would cut down jungle so they could plant peppers," said Konagano, whose Japanese immigrant parents settled in the Amazonian state of Para. This was not just a local method. To cut down the Amazon was considered practically a duty under the military dictatorship of the period. "A land without people for people without land," the slogan went. Para became a champion of deforestation. In 2003 and 2004 alone, 3,088 square miles (8,000 square km) of forest vanished, about the area of the island of Puerto Rico. The hardwood went to feed international demand and the empty land was then planted with cash crops. Brazil has since made big gains in slowing deforestation, even if it is far from over. In 2013-2014, another 1,850 square miles (4,800 square kilometers) of the Amazon were destroyed, according to the National Institute for Space Research.

Learning from nature

In Tome-Acu, bright green pepper plantations were the main replacement for forest. But a sickness in the crop and a fall in export prices forced a rethink, says Kozaburo Minishita, another producer with the Tome-Acu cooperative. "We started planting cocoa and that needs shade," he recalled. "So we started planting trees that grow taller."

Minishita's next idea was to plant acai, whose berries are popular as antioxidants and the basis for health drinks. Pupunheira palm trees, whose heart of palm is a delicacy in Brazil, came next, along with soaring parica trees, which have the added benefit of being especially good at replenishing soil nutrients. Bit by bit, he and other farmers learned to mix and match, ensuring year-round multiple harvests, from bananas to Brazil nuts, rather than the old single-crop model. "We imitated nature and ended up spending far less on pesticides," Claudio Takahiro, another cooperative member said. "The dead leafs fertilize and protect the soil," he said. "Biodiversity has also brought back insects and birds and they get rid of the parasites." — AFP

CHINA'S CARBON FOOTPRINT GROWS WITH THE GOOD LIFE

SHANGHAI: The son of peach farmers, Chen Jian relishes the fruits of his middle class life, driving to work and flying on holiday, epitomizing how China's carbon footprint has grown alongside the prosperity of its nearly 1.4 billion people. Chen, 33, grew up without television in a village on the outskirts of Shanghai. Now he drives his own Chevy Lova to work as a manager at a foreign company and enjoys jet travel to Southeast Asia during his vacations.

"Our family's economic foundation was poor," Chen said, sipping sparkling mineral water at a luxury hotel in downtown Shanghai and adding that he can do any job on the farm. "I am a rural child, I am not embarrassed to say it." China's ruling Communist Party bases its claim to legitimacy on delivering better lives to the world's most populous country, and since it embraced the market it has overseen a boom that created a burgeoning middle class, now 300 million strong.

Average incomes remain far below those of the United States, but China-now the world's second largest economy-is already the biggest international market for both cars and smartphones. It is also the worst polluter on the planet, pouring an estimated nine to 10 billion tons of climate-warming carbon dioxide into the air in 2013.lts economic miracle is built on the smoke-belching factories which create jobs and churn out goods for global markets, and China's ability to reduce its emissions is a major concern ahead of a crucial climate conference starting in Paris later this month. Just 18 percent of people surveyed in China believe climate change is a "very serious" problem, while only 15 percent believe the phenomenon will harm them during their lifetime, according to a



SHANGHAI: Chen Jian (left), 33, poses for a picture in Shanghai. The son of peach farmers, Chen Jian relishes the fruits of his middle class life, driving to work and flying on holiday, epitomizing how China's carbon footprint has grown alongside the prosperity of its nearly 1.4 billion people. — AFP

recent poll by the Pew Research Center.

Freedom to drive

Chen used to need two and a half hours by bus to visit the family farm from his home in central Shanghai. Now the car journey takes just 45 minutes on new roads, and public transport holds no appeal. He is planning on buying another vehicle, and his work colleagues suggest he should choose one of German luxury brand Mercedes-Benz's cars, "because it's my style", he said. "If I rode a bike to work, it would be too far," he added. "Driving a car is a kind of freedom, my time can be very flexible." China has more than 260 million vehicles on the road, with another 23 million auto sales last year adding to its emissions output. But Chen intends his next car to be electric, while keeping his Chevy for his wife. At least eight Chinese cities have slapped limits on car numbers because of congestion and pollution including Shanghai, which auctions car plates at high prices but awards them free to electric vehicles-providing a powerful economic incentive to go green. "Shanghai air is bad. A major part is factories, but cars are also a big problem," Chen said. — AFP



Al-Jabriya - Block 1A - St. 1 - Mazaya Building - 15th Floor - Clinic B - Tel.: 22269369 - Fax: 22269368

LASSIFIEDS Friday Times

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2015

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

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SHARQIA-1		FANAR-5
MISS YOU ALREADY	11:30 AM	BRIDGE OF SPIES
MISS YOU ALREADY	1:30 PM	BRIDGE OF SPIES
MISS YOU ALREADY	3:30 PM	BRIDGE OF SPIES
CREED	5:30 PM	BRIDGE OF SPIES
MISS YOU ALREADY	8:15 PM	BRIDGE OF SPIES
MISS YOU ALREADY	10:30 PM	
THE FORGOTTEN	12:45 AM	
		MISS YOU ALREADY MISS YOU ALREADY
SHARQIA-2 THE FORGOTTEN	11:30 AM	THE HUNGER GAMES: MOCKINGJAY-PART
CREED	1:30 PM	MISS YOU ALREADY
CREED	4:15 PM	MISS YOU ALREADY
THE HUNGER GAMES: MOCKINGJAY-PART 2	7:00 PM	THE HUNGER GAMES: MOCKINGJAY-PART
CREED	9:45 PM	
CREED	12:30 AM	MARINA-2
		CREED
SHARQIA-3		PINOCCHIO
BLINKY BILL THE MOVIE	11:45 AM	CREED
THU+SAT		CREED
CREED	11:30 AM	SPECTRE
	2.00 DM	CREED
BRIDGE OF SPIES BLINKY BILL THE MOVIE	2:00 PM 4:45 PM	MARINA-3
TAMASHA-Hindi	6:45 PM	BRIDGE OF SPIES
BRIDGE OF SPIES	9:30 PM	BLINKY BILL THE MOVIE
BRIDGE OF SPIES	12:15 AM	BLINKY BILL THE MOVIE
	12.137.001	BRIDGE OF SPIES
MUHALAB-1		BRIDGE OF SPIES
BRIDGE OF SPIES	11:30 AM	BRIDGE OF SPIES
MISS YOU ALREADY	2:30 PM	
MISS YOU ALREADY	4:45 PM	AVENUES-1
BRIDGE OF SPIES	7:00 PM	TALES OF HALLOWEEN
MISS YOU ALREADY	10:00 PM	TALES OF HALLOWEEN
MISS YOU ALREADY	12:15 AM	TALES OF HALLOWEEN
		ANARKALI-Malayalam
MUHALAB-2	12.45 DM	
BRIDGE OF SPIES THE FORGOTTEN	12:45 PM	TALES OF HALLOWEEN TALES OF HALLOWEEN
SIZE ZERO-Telugu	1:30 PM 3:45 PM	TALES OF HALLOWEEN
TAMASHA-Hindi	3:45 PM	TALES OF HALLOWEEN
TAMASHA-Hindi	6:45 PM	TALES OF HALLOWEEN
BRIDGE OF SPIES	9:45 PM	
BRIDGE OF SPIES	12:30 AM	AVENUES-2
		THE FORGOTTEN
MUHALAB-3		PINOCCHIO
BLINKY BILL THE MOVIE	11:45 AM	BLINKY BILL THE MOVIE
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BLINKY BILL THE MOVIE	4:30 PM	
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FANAR-1		BRIDGE OF SPIES
SPECTRE	11:45 AM	
THE HUNGER GAMES: MOCKINGJAY-PART 2		AVENUES-4
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THE HUNGER GAMES: MOCKINGJAY-PART 2	8:45 PM	MISS YOU ALREADY
SPECTRE	11:45 PM	PREM RATAN DHAN PAYO-Hindi
		MISS YOU ALREADY
FANAR-2		BRIDGE OF SPIES
MISS YOU ALREADY	11:30 AM	BRIDGE OF SPIES
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TALES OF HALLOWEEN	4:00 PM	KNIGHTS OF BADASSDOM
TAMASHA-Hindi	6:15 PM	KNIGHTS OF BADASSDOM
TAMASHA-Hindi	9:15 PM	KNIGHTS OF BADASSDOM
TALES OF HALLOWEEN	12:15 AM	KNIGHTS OF BADASSDOM
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CREED	12:30 AM	TAMASHA-Hindi
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Kuwait

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	7:45 PM	BLINKY BILL THE MOVIE
	10:00 PM	BLINKY BILL THE MOVIE
RT2	12:05 AM	THE HUNGER GAMES: MOCKINGJAY-PART 2
		TALES OF HALLOWEEN
		TALES OF HALLOWEEN
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		MISS YOU ALREADY
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	3:15 PM	
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	9:15 PM	TAMASHA-Hindi
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	4:00 PM	SIZE ZERO-Telugu
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		INJI IDUPPAZHAGI-Tamil

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FOR SALE

2010 Mitsubishi Galant, super saloon, white color, 90,000 km, bought new, owned by Doctor, excellent condition, price KD 2300/-Contact: 66559205. (C 5087) 27-11-2015

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)

graduate Engineer, working in Kuwait, 28/172. Contact: pdakn2015@gmail.com (C 5085) 25-11-2015 **Christian** Orthodox Parents

MATRIMONIAL

Jacobite parents invite pro-

posals for their son, post

of specialist Doctor (innocent divorcee) invite proposals for their son 35/180 cms, working in London Hospital (UK). Contact:

drproposal2015@gmail.com (C 5081)

EMERGENCY

Prayer timings

Fajr:	04:56
Shorook	06:21
Duhr:	11:36
Asr:	14:31
Maghrib:	16:50
lsha:	18:11

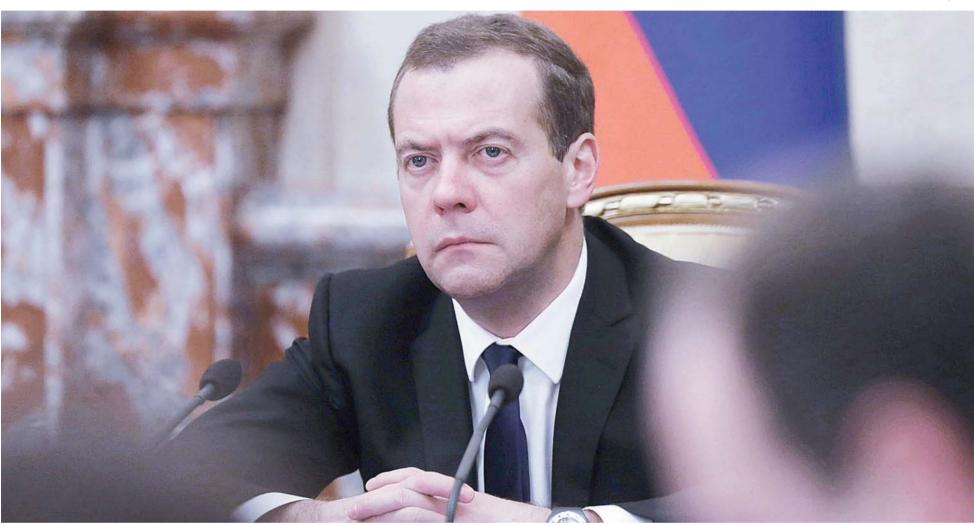
Hospitals	
Sabah Hospital	24812000
Amiri Hospital	22450005
Maternity Hospital	24843100
Mubarak Al-Kabir Hospital	25312700
Chest Hospital	24849400
Farwaniya Hospital	24892010
Adan Hospital	23940620
Ibn Sina Hospital	24840300
Al-Razi Hospital	24846000
Physiotherapy Hospital	24874330/9
Clinics	
Kaizen center	25716707
Rawda	22517733
Adaliya	22517144
Khaldiya	24848075
Kaifan	24849807
Shamiya	24848913
Shuwaikh	24814507
Abdullah Salem	22549134
Nuzha	22526804
Industrial Shuwaikh	24814764
Qadsiya	22515088
Dasmah	22532265
Bneid Al-Gar	22531908
Shaab	22518752
Qibla	22459381

Friday Times **BUSINESS** FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2015

CORPORATE NEWS BOOSTS EGYPT, GULF MARKETS MIXED Page 38

Philippine growth misses forecast as risks loom

Page 40



MOSCOW: Russia's Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev chairs a cabinet meeting in Moscow yesterday. Russia is preparing a raft of retaliatory economic measures against Turkey after Ankara downed one of its warplanes, Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev said yesterday. — AFP

RUSSIA SEEKS ECONOMIC REVENGE AGAINST TURKEY TOURISM, FOOD IMPORTS, WHEAT TRADE HIT BY ROW

ISTANBUL/MOSCOW: Russia threatened economic retaliation against Turkey yesterday and said it was still awaiting a reasonable explanation for the shooting down of its warplane, but Turkey dismissed the threats as "emotional" and "unfitting".

In an escalating war of words, President Tayyip Erdogan responded to Russian accusations that Turkey has been buying oil and gas from Islamic State in Syria by accusing Syrian President Bashar al-Assad and his backers, which include Moscow. of being the real source of the group's financial and military power.

The shooting down of the jet by the Turkish air force on Tuesday was one of the most serious clashes between a NATO member and Russia, and further complicated international efforts to battle Islamic State militants. World leaders have urged both sides to avoid escalation.

Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev yesterday ordered his government to draw up measures that would include freezing some joint investment projects and restricting food imports from Turkey

Economy Minister Alexei Ulyukayev said Moscow could put limits on flights to and from Turkey, halt preparations for a joint free trade zone, and restrict high-profile projects including the TurkStream gas pipeline and a \$20 billion nuclear power plant Russia is building in Turkey.

"We are strategic partners ... 'Joint projects may

be halted, ties could be cut'? Are such approaches fitting for politicians?," Erdogan said in a speech in Ankara. "First the politicians and our militaries should sit down and talk about where errors were made and then focus on overcoming those errors on both sides. But instead, if we make emotional statements like this, that wouldn't be right."

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Russia was still awaiting a reasonable answer from Ankara on why it downed the fighter jet. Moscow insists it never left Syrian air space, but Ankara says it crossed the border despite repeated warnings

Erdogan said the Russian jet was shot down as an "automatic reaction" to the violation of Turkish air space, in line with standing orders given to the military.

Those instructions were a separate issue to disagreements with Russia over Syria policy, he said, adding Ankara would continue to support moderate rebels in Syria and Turkmen fighters battling President Assad's forces. He told CNN that Russia, not Turkey, should be the one to apologise for the incident

'PROVE YOUR CLAIMS'

Medvedev on Wednesday alleged that Turkish officials were benefiting from Islamic State oil sales, while Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said it was no secret that "terrorists" use Turkish territory

"Shame on you. It's clear where Turkey buys its oil and gas ... Those who claim we are buying oil from Daesh like this must prove their claims. Nobody can slander this country," Erdogan said, using an Arabic acronym for Islamic State.

"If you are seeking the source of weaponry and financial power of Daesh, the first place to look is the Assad regime and countries that act with it," he said.

Moscow says its military involvement in Syria is aimed at battling terrorist groups including Islamic State, casting the campaign to a supportive Russian public as a moral crusade that must be completed despite obstruction from elsewhere.

Turkey and its allies say Russia's real aim is to prop up its ally Assad and that it has been bombing moderate opposition groups in areas of Syria like Latakia, where the jet was downed, and where there is little or no Islamic State presence.

TOURISTS, FOOD AND WHEAT

Russian forces have shown no sign of backing down, launching a heavy bombardment against insurgent-held areas in Latakia on Wednesday, near where the jet crashed.

A Reuters correspondent on the Turkish side of the border saw rockets and tank shells being fired from government-controlled western Latakia eastwards into rebel-held territory, sending plumes of smoke rising from the wooded hillsides. Turkey's action infuriated Russia, but Moscow's

response has been carefully calibrated. There is little sign it wants a military escalation, or to jeopardise its main objective in the region: to rally international support for its view on how the conflict in Syria should be resolved.

But it clearly wants to punish Turkey economically. The head of Russia's tourism agency, Rostourism, said cooperation with Turkey would "obviously" be halted. At least two large Russian tour operators had already said they would stop selling packages to Turkey after Russian officials advised holidaymakers against travelling to its resorts.

Russians are second only to Germans in terms of the numbers visiting Turkey, bringing in an estimated \$4 billion a year in tourism revenues, which Turkey needs to help fund its gaping current account deficit.

Medvedev meanwhile said Russia may impose restrictions on food imports within days, having already increased checks of Turkish agriculture products, its first public move to curb trade.

Moscow banned most Western food imports in 2014 when Western countries imposed sanctions on Russia over its role in the Ukraine crisis, leading to supply disruptions as retailers had to find new suppliers and galloping inflation. The row has also put a brake on new wheat deals between Russia, one of the world's largest wheat exporters, and Turkey, the largest buyer of Russian wheat. —Reuters



CORPORATE NEWS BOOSTS EGYPT, GULF MARKETS MIXED

DUBAI: Positive corporate news boosted Egypt's stock market yesterday while Gulf bourses were mixed in modest volumes because of a lack of fresh incentives. Egypt's index rose 0.6 percent to 6,428 points, bouncing further from technical support on its November low of 6,302 points.

Financial firm Pioneers Holding gained 3.0 percent after reporting its consolidated nine-month net profit after taxes and minority interests almost doubled; non-consolidated profit rose 11 percent.

Global Telecom Holding climbed 3.2 percent after Vimpelcom said it and Global Telecom had agreed to combine their Pakistan telecommunications businesses with Warid Telecom to save money, boost their network and expand mobile financial services. However, Orascom Telecom Media, Egypt's most heavily traded stock, slid a further 6.9 percent, continuing a slide fuelled by difficulties at its North Korean unit, Koryolink, and a downgrade of the stock by EFG Hermes. It has tumbled more than 35 percent since the end of last month.

Egypt appointed ex-central bank governor Farouk al-Okda to a high-level committee at the central bank, officials said, as part of a reshuffle that analysts said was aimed at helping steer the country out of its foreign exchange crisis, which continues to threaten a currency devaluation. The Saudi stock index edged up 0.4 percent as much activity focused on lower-priced, second-tier stocks, suggesting local and foreign institutional investors were not very active. Jazan Development, an agriculture and real estate firm, added 9.6 percent. Dubai's index fell 0.3 percent to 3,204 points, nearing support on its November low of 3,128 points.

Emaar Properties was down 1.0 percent. A report by industry consultants Cluttons on Wednesday said residential property prices in Dubai had declined for five successive quarters and were likely to fall a further 3 to 5 percent over the next 12 months.

The Dubai exchange said AlSafwa Islamic Financial Services became the first company to list its shares on Dubai's new Second Market, a trading platform for shares of private joint stock companies.

Companies' listing on the Second Market may be a step towards going public and listing on the main board. AlSafwa jumped 85 percent to 1.85 dirhams in volume of 1,000 shares. Abu Dhabi edged down 0.3 percent. Abu Dhabi National Energy Co, which surged 15 percent from near a record low on Wednesday, rose in early trade yesterday but closed 4.4 percent lower as volume remained unusually heavy. Qatar's index edged up 0.1 percent as Gulf International Services, which had tumbled 4.1 percent on Wednesday ahead of its deletion from MSCI's emerging markets index at the end of this month, lost a further 0.4 percent.

The index fell 0.3 percent to 3,204 points. **ABU DHABI** The index dropped 0.3 percent to 4,220 points QATAR The index edged up 0.1 percent to 10,522 points EGYPT The index climbed 0.6 percent to 6,428 points. **KUWAIT** The index rose 0.4 percent to 5,795 points. OMAN The index fell 0.5 percent to 5,668 points. BAHRAIN The index edged up 0.1 percent to 1,233 points. — Reuters

THURSDAY'S HIGHLIGHTS:

The index rose 0.4 percent to 7,239 points.

SAUDI ARABIA

DUBAI

ECB SIGNALS EASING TO COMBAT LOW INFLATION

UK, Swiss, Nordic central banks face different dilemmas

BRUSSELS: Europe's central banks are struggling with divergent quandaries over how to revive inflation and sustain economic growth as the US Federal Reserve prepares to start raising interest rates for the first time since the collapse of Lehman Brothers.

The world's major economies are recovering at very varying paces from seven years of economic and financial crisis, with Japan tipping back into recession and China trying to surmount a severe wobble this year.

While the Fed is widely expected to pull the trigger on a slow but steady tightening from December in response to solid U.S. growth and employment figures, the European Central Bank is likely to ease monetary policy further on Dec. 3.

"It (the ECB) cannot run the risk of disappointing markets, having raised expectations of action," said Ken Wattret at BNP Paribas in London, reflecting the view of a big majority of economists polled by Reuters. That is because headline inflation remains close to zero in the 19-nation euro area, and core inflation stripped of energy prices and seasonal factors is barely 1 percent, just half the ECB's target of close to but below 2 percent.

Meanwhile, the Bank of England is still mulling when to make its first rate rise, and the Swiss and Swedish central banks are fretting over how to combat overvaluation of their currencies as the prospect of even lower ECB rates makes the euro cheap.

Central banks in the euro area, Switzerland, Denmark and Sweden have already taken the rate they offer banks on deposits below zero, with the non-euro countries having to go deeper into negative territory to steady their exchange rates.

The policy dilemmas differ, but they have a common thread: it's increasingly hard for central banks to rekindle inflation in economies suffering from a long-term reduc-

MUNICH: Reinhard Ploss (C), chairman of German semiconductor manufacturer Infineon, poses with board members Dominik Asam (L) and Arunjai Mittal yesterday at the company's headquarters in Neubiberg near Munich, southern Germany. Infineon presented its annual business report. — AFP

tion in growth potential due to low investment, high unemployment and ageing populations.

TOOLBOX IN QUESTION

ECB President Mario Draghi, who has signalled a likely easing for next week, strongly disputes suggestions that the central bank's toolbox is exhausted. But others question how effective monetary policy can be when rates are at or near the so-called zero lower bound.

"Globally, interest rates have been extraordinarily low for an exceptionally long time, in nominal and inflation-adjusted terms, against any benchmark," the Bank for International Settlements, the central bankers' central bank, said in July.

"In some jurisdictions, monetary policy is already testing its outer limits, to the point of stretching the boundaries of the unthinkable," the BIS said.

Central bankers are navigating in the dark, because cheap ECB cash has muddled market interest rate signals and raised doubts about the reliability of traditional instruments for measuring inflation expectations.

No wonder the ECB is still exploring as many as 20 options for reviving inflation just eight days before its Governing Council's ratesetting meeting. Among those options are a further cut in the deposit rate of at least 10 basis points and possibly more, an increase in monthly purchases of government bonds and perhaps a two-tier deposit rate imposing a stiffer penalty on banks that park money with the ECB.

Monetary hawks such as German Bundesbank chief Jens Weidmann have refrained from publicly opposing further monetary easing, perhaps because German growth is slowing and Berlin's key Asian export markets are weakening.

"You'll never hear the Germans welcome a lower exchange rate but they are quietly satisfied," a senior official of one euro zone central bank said, noting that the euro had shed 6 percent against the dollar since Draghi flagged another easing. — Reuters

TURKEY GOVT MOVES TO REASSURE INVESTORS ON CB INDEPENDENCE

ANKARA/ISTANBUL: The Turkish government has no intention of curbing the independence of the central bank, officials said yesterday, after the lira hit a two-week low on concerns about the new administration's plans.

Fresh from an election win, Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu on Wednesday announced his ruling AK Party's platform in parliament, saying the central bank would continue to determine monetary policy tools directly as the basis for securing price stability.

But investors homed in on the absence of a line that had been in the previous government programme saying the bank would set monetary policy independently. The lira rapidly weakened beyond 2.9 against the dollar, hitting its weakest point since Nov. 11.

Deputy Prime Minister Mehmet Simsek, the newly appointed economy chief, took to Twitter early on Thursday to offer reassurance and say that "speculation" about central bank independence "does not reflect the truth".

"The central bank's fundamental duty is to achieve price stability. It will continue to determine monetary policy instruments independently," he said, adding that the comments in the government programme were in line with the central bank law.

Government officials reinforced the message in comments to Reuters, saying there was no intention of reining in the bank's independence. Dealers said the comments from Simsek and the officials eased concerns and curbed lira losses.

But the currency came under fresh pressure in the afternoon, nearing 2.91 to the dollar. President Tayyip Erdogan has been a frequent critic of the central bank's high interest rates. But one of the officials said that while central bank decisions are sometimes criticised, nobody is seeking to control the bank or change its structure.

"There is no plan or thought whatsoever to limit the independence of the central bank or to interfere in its structure," a second official said.

CHANGES AT CENTRAL BANK

The market concerns presented an early challenge to Simsek in his new role as economy czar, a position that was for years held by wellrespected Ali Babacan, whose absence from the new government also unsettled some investors.

The appointment of Simsek, a respected former finance minister and banker, had offered some reassurance to investors concerned that the new cabinet was stacked with allies of Erdogan.

Both Babacan and Simsek were regarded as a counterweight to Erdogan, whose criticism of tight monetary policy had stoked fears about the central bank's capacity for independent action.

The central bank left interest rates unchanged on Tuesday, opting to sit tight at its first meeting since the Nov. 1 election as it waits for an expected tightening by the U.S. Federal Reserve before following suit.

Despite the reassurances, analysts highlighted the prospect of a new central bank governor being appointed when Erdem Basci's term expires in April. Other changes in the monetary policy committee are due in the following months. "People close to the government's policies may be appointed," said Finansbank chief economist Inan Demir. "Hence in the coming period the concern and pressure in the market concerning independence will continue." — Reuters

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2015

GOLD CLOSE TO LOWEST IN NEARLY SIX YEARS

LONDON: Gold was trading near its lowest in nearly six years yesterday, as the dollar held at multi-month highs after US economic data reinforced expectations of an interest rate rise this vear.

The US currency was also supported against the euro, weighing on dollar-denominated gold, as European Central Bank officials told Reuters they were considering options such as whether to stagger charges on banks hoarding cash or to buy more debt. The ECB meets next week.

Spot gold was up 0.2 at \$1,072.86 an ounce by 1153 GMT, not far off \$1,064.95 hit last week, the lowest since February 2010. Liquidity is likely to thin out yesterday as the US markets are shut for the Thanksgiving holiday.

"The sense in the market is that the dollar will continue to rally due to the prospect for QE in Europe and the hike in the US," Saxo Bank head of commodity strategy Ole Hansen said. "The focus is back to the negative correlation to a stronger dollar and that's keeping gold under pressure." The dollar was up 0.1 percent against a basket of major currencies, trading close to an eight-month high reached in the previous session.

"We are keeping an eye on the dollar as a possible catalyst (for gold)," ScotiaMocatta said in a note. "The dollar index is within reach of the multi-year high of 100.39. A break of this level would put downside pressure on gold with a break of \$1,066 yielding ... \$1,045," it said.

Data on Wednesday showed US manufacturing output rose well above economists' expectations in October, while business spending plans surged. Gold had seen some safehaven bids earlier in the week after Turkey downed a Russian fighter jet, stoking tensions between the two countries, but have faded since as investors' focus returned to a US rate rise.

In the physical markets, buying interest picked up as gold prices stayed near multi-year lows. Premiums on the Shanghai Gold Exchange, a proxy for demand in top consumer China, were trading at a healthy \$5-\$6 an ounce on Thursday, versus \$3-\$4 in the beginning of the month.

China's net gold imports from main conduit Hong Kong fell in October from a 10-month high reached in the previous month, data showed yesterday. Third-quarter gold buying in India, the world's biggest consumer, is likely to fall to the lowest level in eight years, hurt by poor investment demand and back-to-back droughts that have slashed earnings for millions of farmers. —Reuters

Spanish economic **GROWTH NOT CLEAR-CUT** VOTE WINNER FOR RAJOY

MADRID: Spain's economy grew faster than most others in the euro zone from July to September, but turning the recovery into votes in the national election next month still looks like a struggle for Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy.

Output expanded by 0.8 percent in the third quarter from the second, the National Statistics Institute (INE) said, as household spending recovered more from its crisis levels. But falling wages, job insecurity and an unem-ployment rate of 21 percent are still weighing on many families. With weeks to go until the Dec. 20 vote, Rajoy's centre-right People's Party (PP) has made only modest gains in the polls

The PP is still far off a majority in parliament after years of spending cuts and corruption scandals. "There's no quality work to be had," said Sergi, a cook who has been working in the picturesque walled city of Cuenca for the past six months. He declined to give his surname.

A veteran of hotels and restaurants from Madrid to Spain's coastal regions, the 39-year-old said jobs in the sector were not lacking. Tourism accounts for around 11 percent of Spain's output, and the best year on record in terms of foreign visitors has helped boost the number of jobs in restaurants, hotels and other parts of the service sector. But many positions are temporary, and while salaries for head chefs reached over 1,800 euros (\$1,910) a month as recently as 2010, they barely come to 1,000 euros now, he added. Spain's economy has rebounded from recession since mid-2013 thanks to an export boom and a consumer spending revival linked to falling unemployment. Rajoy's government is credited with helping to stem job losses through a labour reform that gave companies more room to manoeuvre on salaries. -Reuters

BERLIN: German Finance Minister Wolfgang Schaeuble (L) chats with Anton Hofreiter of the Greens party during a session of the German Bundestag (lower house of parliament) in Berlin yesterday. — AFP

BARCLAYS FINED FOR LAX CRIME CHECKS IN 'DEAL OF CENTURY'

Seventh significant fine from UK watchdog in 6 years

LONDON: Britain's financial watchdog has fined Barclays 72 million pounds (\$109 million) for cutting corners in vetting wealthy customers in order to win a huge transaction described by one senior manager as potentially the "deal of the century.

Barclays arranged the 1.9 billion pound transaction in 2011 and 2012 for a number of rich clients deemed by the regulator to be politically exposed persons (PEPs), or people holding prominent positions that could be open to financial abuse.

That should require a bank to conduct more detailed checks on them, but Barclays failed to do so and in fact cut corners with its compliance procedures, Britain's Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) said in a damning report yesterday.

"Barclays did not follow its standard procedures, preferring instead to take on the clients as quickly as possible and thereby generated 52.3 million pounds in revenue," the FCA said.

It said the bank took unusual steps to keep the details of the clients and the transaction off its computer system, where it would normally be recorded.

These included buying a safe specifically for storing some documents relating to the clients and agreeing to pay the clients 37.7 million pounds if their names were ever revealed. "Barclays went to significant lengths to accommodate the client to ensure that it won their business," the FCA said in a 37-page notice on the bank's failings

"Barclays' approach was to request information only if it was absolutely necessary and did not want to 'irritate' the clients with multiple requests," it added.

Just over 52 million pounds of the penalty comprised disgorgement, meaning clawing back the profit Barclays made on the transaction. That is the largest disgorgement penalty ever imposed by the FCA The watchdog made no criticism of the

clients, and gave few clues on their identity. It said Barclays described their wealth as coming from "landholdings, real estate and business and commercial activities."

Barclays, which received a 30 percent discount on the fine for settling early, said the FCA made no finding that the bank facilitated any financial crime in relation to the transaction or the clients on whose behalf it was executed.

"Barclays has cooperated fully with the FCA throughout and continues to apply significant resources and training to ensure compliance with all legal and regulatory requirements." it said.

The FCA said the failings were not identified by Barclays, however. It was only after the regulator discussed the transaction with the bank that it gathered more information on the relationship with the clients.

The deal's size meant "very significant" harm could have been done to the integrity of the UK finance system and society if it had been related to criminal activity, the FCA said.

'Elephant deal'

The fine is the seventh significant penalty imposed on Barclays by Britain's regulator in the past six years, including penalties for allegedly manipulating Libor interest rates and foreign exchange prices.

The series of scandals means improving standards and culture will be a key task of the bank's new Chief Executive Jes Staley, who starts on Tuesday.

The FCA said several members of Barclays' senior management were aware of and endorsed the transaction, and said

five individuals were identified as giving part approval for it, but it did not name any individuals at fault.

It said the bank set up "a select team". including senior managers, to carry out checks and arrange and execute the deal. which was known by those involved within Barclays as an "elephant deal" because of its size.

Bob Diamond was the chief executive of Barclays from the start of 2011 until he left in July 2012. The head of its wealth management business in 2011 and 2012, which oversees dealings with rich clients, was Tom Kalaris. He stepped down in May 2013.

A spokesman for Diamond declined to comment, while Kalaris could not immediately be reached for comment. The deal was the largest Barclays had ever executed for wealthy clients and in its early stages one senior manager said it could be "the deal of the century," according to the FCA.

The bank failed to establish adequately the purpose and nature of the deal and did not sufficiently corroborate the clients' stated source of wealth and source of funds for the transaction, the FCA said.

It was a structured finance deal comprising investments in notes backed by underlying warrants and third party bonds. The aim was to deliver a specific rate of income with a full guarantee on the capital over a number of decades.

The regulator listed nine features that should have raised red flags for Barclays, including its complex structure involving offshore companies, and that at one point clients requested Barclavs make a payment of several tens of millions of dollars to a third party, which was not made. —Reuters







ALIBABA IN TALKS TO BUY INTO MAIN HK NEWSPAPER GROUP

HONG KONG: Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba is in talks to buy a stake in the publisher of Hong Kong's South China Morning Post newspaper, a source familiar with the potential deal has confirmed.

The deal would involve the media assets of the Hong Kong-listed SCMP Group, including the English-language newspaper, the source familiar with the matter told AFP. "The negotiations centre around the media assets," the source said.

He added that the deal is "on Alibaba level", clarifying earlier reports

that said the company's founder Jack Ma could be personally interested in the investment. Both Alibaba and SCMP declined to comment when contacted by AFP.

The SCMP Group issued a statement to the city's bourse Thursday confirming talks on the possible sale of its media assets, but without confirming the potential buyer. "The Board confirms that the Company has received a preliminary approach from a third party regarding its interest in a possible purchase of the Company's media assets," it said in a statement to the Hong Kong Stock Exchange.

"Consideration of such proposal is at a very early stage and the terms of any potential transaction remain subject to discussion and to regulatory review. " In an internal memo published to SCMP staff on Wednesday, seen by AFP, the firm's CEO Robin Hu said the deal could involve the SCMP newspaper, magazines, outdoor media, custom publishing and the events businesses.

If the deal goes ahead, Alibaba founder Jack Ma would become the latest Internet tycoon to step in to take over a traditional newspaper. Amazon's Jeff Bezos bought the Washington Post in 2013, while Chris Hughes, a cofounder of Facebook, bought a majority stake in the New Republic magazine in 2012.

The SCMP, founded in 1903 and the city's main English-language paper, was once the world's most profitable news-paper on a per reader basis. But it has seen an increasing number of readers moving online.

The paper has been controlled since 1993 by Malaysian billionaire Robert Kuok, who acquired it from Rupert Murdoch. — AFP

CHINA ENERGY FIRMS UP BUT SHANGHAI, HK BUCK ASIA RALLY

HONG KONG: Chinese energy firms advanced yesterday following the latest moves to reform the country's bloated stateowned enterprises, but the gains were unable to help Hong Kong and Shanghai keep up with an Asia-wide market rally.

Another broadly upbeat batch of data on the US economy provided some support on regional trading floors, while tensions over Turkey's shooting down of a Russian fighter jet also eased slightly.

PetroChina, the biggest energy producer, said it would sell its stake in a pipeline company for as much as \$2.4 billion and transfer assets to boost the commercial business of its Kunlun Energy unit.

However, with afternoon bargain-buying kicking in on trading floors in Hong Kong and Shanghai, PetroChina pared the morning's big gains. It was up 0.4 percent in Hong Kong but ended slightly lower in Shanghai. Kunlun rallied more than three percent in Hong Kong. And Aluminum Corp. of China, known as Chalco, surged on both markets after it said it would also offload a stake in a Shanxi unit. Sinopec and China Shenhua also jumped.

The moves come as China looks to overhaul its bloated SOEs in a drive to make them more efficient as President Xi Jinping looks to reform the world's number two economy, which is suffering a painful growth slowdown. However, despite the early promise Shanghai ended lower after a twoday advance, with the energy rally unable to soothe investors ahead of Monday's restart of initial public offerings they fear will divert cash from existing stocks.

The region's other markets climbed, with Tokyo ending up 0.5 percent, Seoul 1.1 percent higher and Sydney adding 0.3 percent.

Dollar moves higher

Upbeat US figures lent support to buying, with falling jobless claims, an increase in durable goods orders and rising new home sales gaining, trumping a below-par hike in consumer spending.

"US economic data was in line with expectations and provides some comfort," Mitsushige Akino, executive officer at Ichiyoshi Asset Management Co, told Bloomberg News.

"Investors expect markets will rise after the US rate hike since uncertainty will be dispelled."

The dollar strengthened against the euro as the data reinforced expectations the Federal Reserve will lift US interest rates next month, while the European Central Bank considers further easing measures ahead of its policy meeting next month.

The greenback also rose against most emerging market units after spending most of this week on the back foot. While the Turkish downing this week of a Russian fighter jet continues to keep traders on edge, there were hopes a full-blown crisis will be avoided, with both sides stressing a desire to avoid a military escalation in the already volatile region.

Turkey's military said it did not know the warplane it shot down on the Syrian border was Russian, adding that it was ready for "all kinds of cooperation".

In European trade yesterday London opened flat, Frankfurt added 0.1 percent and Paris lost 0.2 percent. — AFP



MANILA: A vegetable vendor talks to a customer on an overpass in Manila yesterday. The Philippine economy grew slower than expected in the third quarter, the government said yesterday as it warned a leadership change next year could derail momentum in one of Asia's fastest-growing economies. — AFP

PHILIPPINE GROWTH MISSES FORECAST AS RISKS LOOM Services sector was the main growth driver in Q3

MANILA: The Philippine economy grew slower than expected in the third quarter, as risks from a leadership change next year and the El Nino dry spell loomed, the government said yesterday. The slowdown comes after years of sustained growth in the Philippines, formerly known as the "Sick Man" of Asia because of its poor economic performance.

Gross domestic product (GDP) expanded by 6.0 percent in the July to September period, faster than 5.8 in the previous quarter but below the 6.3-percent median expectation of economists in a Bloomberg News poll, as a slowdown in manufacturing weighed on growth in services and public spending. Clearly, the outcome of the national election will have an impact on the economy," economic planning secretary Arsenio Balisacan told reporters. "We are hoping that whoever will get elected will speed up and sustain the reforms so we can raise the potential of the economy," he said. President Benigno Aquino,

who led an economic revival in the country, will end his single six-year term in June next year.

His preferred successor, former interior minister Manuel Roxas, has languished in opinion polls. The economy could grow as much as 6.9 percent in the fourth quarter, bringing the full-year average to at least 6.0 percent due to a boost in consumption during Christmas, Balisacan said. The Philippines has the potential to grow by as much as 8.0 percent next year, he said, but Aquino's successor needs to address festering problems such as the country's decaying infrastructure.

The El Nino dry spell, projected to peak in December and January, has begun to hurt agriculture which was down 1.1 percent quarter-on-quarter, data showed. Balisacan said this was due to inadequate irrigation of farmlands and that government was addressing the problem.

The services sector was the main growth driver in the third quarter, grow-

ing 7.3 percent-the highest in two yearsfrom 5.6 percent last year. Year-on-year, industry growth slowed to 5.4 percent from 7.8 percent, while agriculture declined 0.4 percent from a 2.6-percent contraction. Analysts said strong private consumption and government spending would drive future growth, but would be tempered by weak exports. "In our view, the key risks to growth continue to stem from weaker external demand and adverse weather conditions, though inflation has remained manageable," Barclays analyst Rahul Bajoria said. Credit Suisse analyst Michael Wan said the Philippines had fiscal and monetary policy space to respond to a potential regional growth slowdown given its lesser exposure to China compared to its neighbours. Wan hailed the country for strong overall performance, including a boost in consumption and a pick up in spending.

"The Philippines remains one of the best macro stories in the region," Wan said. — AFP



FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2015

FIFA DONATES 48 LUXURY WATCHES TO NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

ZURICH: FIFA ethics committee has donated 48 luxury watches it recovered from soccer officials to a non-profit organization. During a FIFA congress organized on the eve of last year's World Cup in Brazil, the Brazilian confederation (CBF) distributed gift bags with the watches to football officials including members of FIFA's executive committee. The CBF initially said the Parmigiani watches were given to a group of 65 officials but the investigatory chamber of the ethics committee said it found evidence that several of them did not receive the watch.

After ruling they were unauthorized gifts, the investigatory chamber of the committee decided against opening disciplinary proceedings against the officials who had received the watch on the condition that they returned it. "After contacting all potential recipients, 48 watches were returned to the investigatory chamber of the Ethics Committee," FIFA said in a statement, without mentioning if some of the watches were still missing. FIFA earlier said that the Brazilians obtained the watches from sponsor Parmigiani for \$8,750 each. But an appraisal found that the watches had a market value of 25,000 Swiss francs (\$26,600). The watches will be given to an organization named streetfootballworld, "who will directly invest all resources generated through the sale of the watches into initiatives across

Brazil that use football to drive social change." "The investigatory chamber of the Ethics Committee considers the matter to be closed," FIFA said.

Blatter not exempted

Meanwhile, FIFA's ethics watchdog has rejected suspended President Sepp Blatter's claim that he is not subject to its rules and that only Congress can bar him from his role as head of the scandal-plagued global soccer body. Blatter has been suspended for 90 days along with European soccer boss Michel Platini, engulfed by a deepening corruption scandal as the sport faces criminal investigations in Switzerland and the United States, FIFA's Ethics Committee is investigating their conduct and they could face a much longer suspensions when the final verdict in the case is announced, probably in December. In a Swiss television interview on Wednesday, Blatter compared himself to a head-of-state who could only be removed by parliament. He said that it was up to FÍFA's Congress, consisting of the 209 national football associations who each hold one vote, to oust him. However, Andreas Bantel, spokesman for the Ethics Committee, told Reuters on Thursday. "The FIFA code of ethics applies to anyone who is involved in football worldwide and there are absolutely no exceptions whatsoever." — Agencies

HAMILTON WANTS TO END TRIUMPHANT SEASON ON A HIGH

ABU DHABI: Lewis Hamilton wants to bring Mercedes teammate Nico Rosberg's winning run to a halt and finish his triple-championship year on a high at this weekend's season-ending Abu Dhabi Grand Prix. The 30-year-old Briton, whose form and focus have drifted since he clinched his third drivers' title triumph at last month's United States Grand Prix, says he wants to thank his fans for their support with another triumph at the Yas Marina circuit.

He secured his second title and first with Mercedes at the Abu Dhabi track last year in a tense showdown with his German teammate, who was hit by mechanical problems. This year, however, he arrives in a much more relaxed mood and is keen to stop Rosberg completing a hat-trick, and taking the momentum into 2016. "Last year, this place brought probably the most intense weekend of my life," said Hamilton. "I didn't sleep much through nerves and not knowing what was ahead, but this time around there's no pressure so I'll be well-rested and aiming to go out on a high.

"I really enjoy driving here. It's a challenging circuit. There are a couple of high-speed corners, but it's mostly medium to low speed, so despite the long straights you need to set the car up with a down-force level tuned for low speed grip. "It's also a twilight race, starting late afternoon and running into the night, which is quite unusual and, I imagine, must be pretty cool to watch on TV. "A lot of British fans come out too so it's like another home crowd for me and to win and show how grateful I am for the fantastic support I've had would be the best way to end an incredible season."

Rosberg, who clinched the runners-up spot in the championship by winning in Mexico and Brazil, will seek his sixth consecutive pole position and another win as he bids to maintain his late-season ascendancy over Hamilton. "Abu Dhabi hasn't always been an easy one for me," he said. "Last year was probably my biggest disappointment, but I showed my speed with pole position and I have good momentum right now. "I'm aiming to end the season on a big positive this time around. I know it will be close with Lewis and it won't be straightforward, but I'm up for a battle and hopefully we can put on a great show for the fans to end the year."

The Mercedes men both expect a tough challenge from Ferrari and Williams at an event likely to be shrouded in doubts about the future shape of F1 after proposals for a cheaper alternative engine supply were rejected, as expected, by the ruling body's Formula 1 Commission. The International Motoring Federation (FIA) confirmed on Wednesday that the Commission had voted not to pursue the budget engine idea, as proposed by commercial ring-master Bernie Ecclestone.

Instead, the existing manufacturers have agreed to submit a proposal, that replaces the need for a budget engine supply, by January 15. Meetings are planned in Abu Dhabi. "The F1 Commission voted not to pursue this option at this stage," said the FIA. "However, it may be reassessed after the Power Unit manufacturers have presented their proposal to the Strategy Group." The unresolved ongoing engines saga has left the Red Bull and Toro Rosso teams without confirmed power-units for next season and in danger of leaving F1. Red Bull owner Dietrich Mateschitz this week confirmed "we still don't know if we will get an engine and what else is planned for the future...At some point, even we've had enough." — AFP



NAGPUR: Indian batsman Wriddhiman Saha plays a shot against South Africa, on the second day of the third cricket test match between the two countries in Nagpur, India yesterday. — AP

INDIA SENSE VICTORY AS South Africa crumble

NAGPUR: India need eight wickets to clinch the four-test series against South Africa after their spinners, led by Ravichandran Ashwin, wreaked havoc on a turning track on the second day of the third test yesterday. Shot out for 79 in their first innings earlier in the day, South Africa returned to chase a 310-run victory target on a manic day when 20 wickets tumbled on a fast-deteriorating surface at the VCA Stadium. The tourists, who trail the four-test series 1-0, were 32-2 at stumps, having lost opener Stiaan van Zyl and nightwatchman Imran Tahir, and facing an embarrassing defeat inside three days.

Dean Elgar (10) and captain Hashim Amla (three) were unbeaten at the crease. Off-spinner Ashwin completed his 14th five-wicket haul in tests while left-arm spinner Ravindra Jadeja bagged four as India, who made 215 after batting first, skittled out South Africa for 79 to put India firmly in command. Legspinner Imran Tahir picked up his second five-wicket haul to spearhead South Africa's fightback as India were all out for 173 in their second innings.Opening batsman Shikhar Dhawan (39) added 44 for the second wicket with Cheteshwar Pujara (31) and another 45 with captain Virat Kohli (16) to keep South Africa at bay before Tahir wrecked the Indian top order. Amla surprisingly kept the 36-year-old spinner off the attack till the 24th over but it did not take long for Tahir to strike. After a guiet first

over, he went on to dismiss Dhawan, Kohli and Ajinkya Rahane (nine) to reduce India to 108-5. He also dismissed Wriddhiman Saha and Amit

Mishra to complete his five-wicket haul. Fast bowler Morne Morkel gave him able support by picking up three wickets. — Reuters

SCOREBOARD

NAGPUR, India: Scoreboard at stumps on the second day of the third Test between India and South Africa at the VCA stadium in Nagpur on yesterday.								
India 1st innings: 215 (M. Vijay 40, V	<i>N</i> . Saha 32, R.	A. Rahane c Duminy b Tahir	9					
Jadeja 34, M. Morkel 3-35, S. Harmer 4-78)		R. Sharma c Elgar b Morkel 23						
,	,	W. Saha c Amla b Tahir	7					
South Africa 1st innings (overnight	11-2):	R. Jadeja b Harmer 5						
D. Elgar b Ashwin	7	R. Ashwin Ibw b Morkel	7					
S. van Zyl c Rahane b Ashwin	0	A. Mishra b Tahir	14					
I. Tahir b Jadeja	4	I. Sharma not out	1					
H. Amla c Rahane b Ashwin	1	Extras: (b8, lb5, nb3)	16					
AB de Villiers c and b Jadeja	0	Total (all out, 46.3 overs)	173					
F. du Plessis b Jadeja	10	Fall of wickets: 1-8 (Vijay), 2-52 (Pujara), 3-97						
JP Duminy Ibw b Mishra	35	(Dhawan), 4-102 (Kohli), -108 (Rahane), 6-122						
D. Vilas b Jadeja	1	(Saha), 7-128 (Jadeja), 8-150 (Ashwin), 9-171 (R.						
S. Harmer b Ashwin	13	Sharma), 10-173 (Mishra).						
K. Rabada not out	6	Bowling: Morkel 10-5-19-3, Harmer 18-3-64-1,						
M. Morkel c and b Ashwin	1	Rabada 5-1-15-0 (nb1), Duminy 2-0-24-1 (nb1),						
Extras: (lb1)	1	Tahir 11.3-2-38-5 (nb1).						
Total (all out, 33.1)	79							
Fall of wickets: 1-4 (van Zyl), 2-9	(Tahir), 3-11	South Africa 2nd innings:						
(Elgar), 4-12 (Amla), 5-12 (de Villiers), 6-35 (du		D. Elgar not out	10					
Plessis), 7-47 (Vilas), 8-66 (Harmer), 9-76 (Duminy),		S. van Zyl c R. Sharma b Ashwin	5					
10-79 (Morkel).		I. Tahir Ibw b Mishra	8					
Bowling: I. Sharma 2-1-4-0, Ashwin 16.1-6-32-5,		H. Amla not out	3					
Jadeja 12-3-33-4, Mishra 3-0-9-1.		Extras: (b4, lb1, nb1)	6					
		Total (for two wickets, 14 overs)	32					
India 2nd innings:		Fall of wickets: 1-17 (van Zyl), 2-29 (Ta	hir).					
M. Vijay c Amla b Morkel	5	Bowling: I. Sharma 3-1-6-0 (nb1), Ash	win 6-2-12-1,					
S. Dhawan c Vilas b Tahir	39	Jadeja 4-2-6-0, Mishra 1-0-3-1.						
C. Pujara b Duminy	31	South Africa need 278 runs more to win with eight						
V. Kohli c du Plessis b Tahir	16	wickets in hand.						

76ERS EQUAL RECORD NBA LOSING STREAK

BOSTON: Isaiah Thomas scored 30 points, Jae Crowder hit a go-ahead 3-pointer and the Boston Celtics rallied to beat Philadelphia 84-80 on Wednesday night, handing the 76ers their 16th straight loss to open the season and record-tying 26th in a row overall. Philadelphia tied the major US professional sports futility mark set by the NFL's Tampa Bay Buccaneers from 1976-77 and matched by the 76ers in 2013-14. They are two losses away from tying the then-New Jersey Nets' NBA-worst mark of 18 losses to open a season. Evan Turner added 16 points for Boston, which trailed by five with just under 3 minutes left. The 76ers scored three points in the final 6:13. Jahill Okafor led the 76ers with 19 points and nine rebounds. Hollis Thompson scored 15 points.

RAPTORS 103, CAVALIERS 99

Kyle Lowry scored 27 points, DeMar DeRozan added 20 and Toronto beat Cleveland for its third straight victory. LeBron James had 24 points, eight assists and six rebounds for the Cavaliers, who lost their third straight road game. Kevin Love added 21 points and 13 rebounds. The Raptors went up for good with 7:45 to go in the fourth. After missing their first five shots of the fourth quarter, the Raptors scored nine straight points over a 2-minute span to open a 91-84 lead with 5:38 to go.

TIMBERWOLVES 99, HAWKS 95

Zach LaVine had 18 points, six assists and five rebounds in place of the injured Ricky Rubio, and Minnesota swept the season series with Atlanta. Rubio first tweaked his left ankle Monday night against Philadelphia and tried to play through it Wednesday. But another spill in the second quarter ultimately limited him to 21 minutes. Andrew Wiggins scored 15 points on 5-for-17 shooting for the Wolves, who won their second home game in a row after an 0-6 start at Target Center. The Wolves entered the night last in 3-point field goals, but went 9 for 21 against the Hawks. Paul Millsap had 22 points and 10 rebounds, and Jeff Teague scored 22 points for the Hawks. But Atlanta shot just 37.8 percent from the floor and 25 percent on 3s for its fifth loss in seven games.

SPURS 88, MAVERICKS 83

Kawhi Leonard scored 26 points and San Antonio beat Dallas. LaMarcus Aldridge had 18 points and seven rebounds in his return from a two-game absence because of a mild left ankle sprain. Tony Parker added 16 points and eight assists, and the Spurs improved to 12-3 with their third straight victory. Wes Matthews had 15 points and Dirk Nowitzki added 13 for Dallas. Devin Harris' 3-pointer cut San Antonio's lead to 84-83 with 33 seconds remaining, but Leonard followed with his own 3 just 18 seconds later. Matthews then missed a 3pointer, and Manu Ginobili went 1 for 4 on free throws to close out the Spurs' eighth straight home victory to open the season.

JAZZ 102, CLIPPERS 91

Gordon Hayward scored 14 of his 33 points in the fourth quarter and Utah beat slumping Los Angeles to end a 13-game skid against the Clippers. Derrick Favors added 22 points, Rodney Hood 13, and Rudy Gobert had 10 points and 11 rebounds. Blake Griffin had 40 points - two off his career high - and 12 rebounds for the Clippers. They fell to 7-8 with their seventh loss in eight games. Chris Paul added 24 points and eight assists.

HORNETS 101, WIZARDS 87

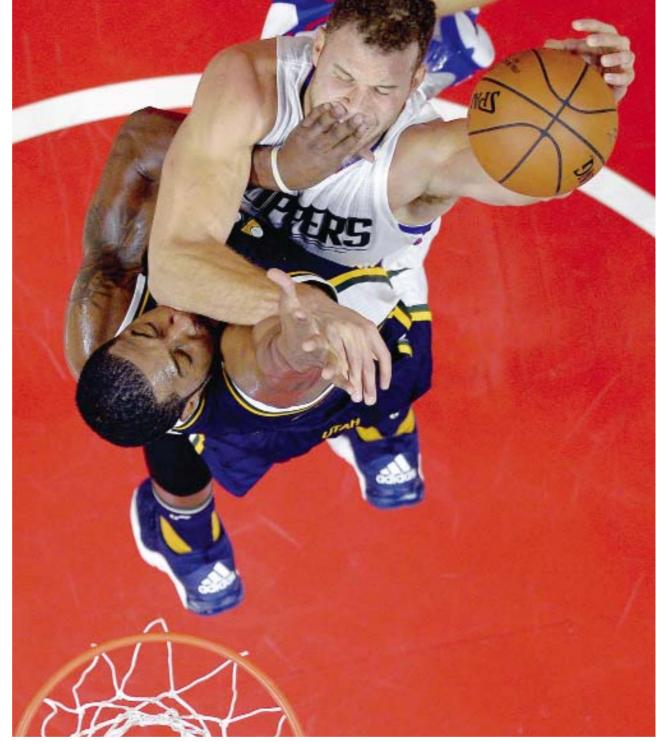
Jeremy Lamb had 18 points and seven rebounds, Nicolas Batum added 16 points and 11 assists and Charlotte closed with a 25-2 run to beat Washington. The Hornets overcame a late nine-point deficit and set a franchise record by holding the Wizards to six points in the fourth quarter. Charlotte ran its home winning streak to seven and has won five of six overall to improve to 9-6. Kemba Walker, coming off a 39point game Monday night in Charlotte's overtime win over Sacramento, added 16 points, and Marvin Williams and Al Jefferson each had 14 points and 11 rebounds. Marcin Gortat led Washington with 17 points and 12 rebounds, and Bradley Beal also had 17 points.

GRIZZLIES 102, ROCKETS 93

Jeff Green scored 20 points and Courtney Lee had 10 of his 17 in the fourth quarter to help Memphis beat struggling Houston. Houston has lost three straight to drop to 5-10 overall and 1-3 since coach Kevin McHale was fired and replaced by JB Bickerstaff. James Harden had 40 points for the Rockets. The Grizzlies led for most of the game despite playing without Zach Randolph, who missed his fourth straight game with soreness in his right knee.

KINGS 129, BUCKS 118

Rudy Gay scored 36 points and Sacramento beat Milwaukee for its second road victory of the season. Sacramento scoring and rebounding leader DeMarcus Cousins sat out because of a strained lower back. The Kings had lost all five previous games that Cousins missed this sea-



LOS ANGELES: Los Angeles Clippers forward Blake Griffin (top) is hit in the face by Utah Jazz forward Derrick Favors as he shoots during the second half of an NBA basketball game on Wednesday Nov 25, 2015. — AP

son. Omri Casspi added 19 and seven rebounds, and Rajon Rondo had 10 points and 13 assists. Bucks coach Jason Kidd was ejected with 1:49 remaining after he slapped the ball out of a referee's hand. Kidd had to be restrained by OJ Mayo and an assistant coach before being escorted to the locker room. Giannis Antetokounmpo and Khris Middleton had 21 points apiece for Milwaukee.

PISTONS 104, HEAT 81

Andre Drummond had 18 points and 20 rebounds and Detroit routed Miami to end a two-game losing streak. Drummond had his fourth 20-rebound game of the season. Dwight Howard has the only other one in the NBA this season. Reggie Jackson added 18 points and seven rebounds for the Pistons. Gerald Green had 16 points for Miami, and Hassan Whiteside added 15 points and 13 rebounds. Dwyane Wade scored two points on 1-for-9 shooting - the fewest points he has ever scored in at least 20 minutes of action.

PELICANS 120, SUNS 114

Anthony Davis tipped in a missed shot with 20.6 seconds left for the go-ahead basket and New Orleans pulled away to beat Phoenix. Davis had 26 points and 17 rebounds and the Pelicans overcame a 17-point first-half deficit for their third straight victory and second over the Suns

in four days. Jrue Holiday hit a pair of free throws with 14.5 seconds to give the Pelicans a 116-112 lead and the Suns cut it to two on free throws by Brandon Knight, but Holiday made two more free throws to seal the win in the game that had 17 lead changes. Eric Gordon had 23 points for New Orleans, former Sun Ish Smith added 20 points and 11 assists, Ryan Anderson also had 20 points, and Holiday finished with 19. Knight scored 29 points, 20 in the first quarter, and had 10 assists.

THUNDER 110, NETS 99

Kevin Durant scored 30 points, Russell Westbrook added 27 points and 13 assists and Oklahoma City beat Brooklyn. Dion Waiters had 16 points, and Serge Ibaka finished with 12 points and eight rebounds in the Thunder's third straight victory. Brook Lopez scored 26 points for the Nets. They had their three-game winning streak in Oklahoma City broken.

MAGIC 100, KNICKS 91

Victor Oladipo scored a season-high 24 points, and Nik Vucevic added 22 points and 12 rebounds in Orlando's victory over New York. Tobias Harris had 17 points and 10 rebounds to help Orlando stop a two-game losing streak. Carmelo Anthony led New York with 28 points and 13 rebounds, and Jose Calderon had 23 points. — AP





CANADIENS TOP RANGERS 5-1 IN MATCHUP OF EASTERN POWERS

NEW YORK: Star goalie Carey Price exited with a recurring injury, but Devante Smith-Pelly and Alex Galchenyuk scored in the opening 1:29 of the third period and the Montreal Canadiens beat the New York Rangers 5-1 Wednesday night in a matchup of the top two teams in the Eastern Conference. Smith-Pelley had two goals. Sven Andrighetto and Max Pacioretty also scored for the Canadiens, who have handed the Rangers (16-4-2) two of their four losses in regulation this season. Price stopped 22 shots in the first two periods and was replaced at the start of the third by Mike Condon in a 2-1 game. After it was over, coach Michel Therrien said Price was sidelined by the same lowerbody injury that kept him out for eight games earlier this month. This was his third game back. Price was the NHL MVP and Vezina Trophy winner last season as the league's top goalie.

BLACKHAWKS 5, SHARKS 2

Patrick Kane had two assists to extend his careerbest scoring streak to 17 games, leading Chicago over San Jose. Kane set up Brent Seabrook on Chicago's first goal and also got a helper on Duncan Keith's secondperiod goal to give him 28 points during the streak. Jonathan Toews and former Shark Andrew Desjardins also scored for Chicago. Andrew Shaw added an empty-netter for the Blackhawks, who improved to 2-1-1 on their annual circus road trip. The six-game swing concludes this weekend with games in Anaheim and Los Angeles. Corey Crawford made 27 saves. Brent Burns and Patrick Marleau scored for the Sharks, who returned home from a 6-0 road trip to lose once again at the Shark Tank. San Jose fell to 3-6 at home this season after dropping 22 games here last season - their most since 1996-97. The Sharks had earned the most points at home in the NHL over the previous nine seasons

COYOTES 4, DUCKS 2

Antoine Vermette scored twice in Arizona's victory over Anaheim. The Coyotes had beaten the Ducks twice already this season behind Max Domi, Anthony Duclair and Martin Hanzal. Domi and Duclair were at it again, combining for three points - including a goal in the third period shortly after Anaheim cut the lead to two. Duclair has scored five of his eight goals against the Ducks this season and has combined with Domi for 11 points in three games. Anaheim twice cut Arizona's lead to one on third-period goals by Sami Vantanen and Ryan Kesler before Vermette put it away with an empty-netter. Michael Stone also scored and Mike Smith stopped 29 shots for the Coyotes.

SENATORS 5, AVALANCHE 3

Shane Prince had two goals and an assist for his first NHL points, and Ottawa held on to defeat Colorado. Zack Smith, Kyle Turris and Mika Zibanejad each had a goal and an assist for the Senators, who have won four straight. Craig Anderson made 20 of his 40 saves in the third period when the Avalanche tried to overcome a three-goal deficit. Nathan MacKinnon and Gabriel Landeskog each had a goal and an assist, and Chris Wagner scored his first NHL goal for Colorado.

PENGUINS 4, BLUES 3, OT

Evgeni Malkin scored 1:03 into overtime and Sidney Crosby broke out with two goals to lift Pittsburgh over St Louis. Malkin took a lead pass from Phil Kessel and beat goaltender Jake Allen on the backhand for his eighth of the season and fifth game-winner. Crosby scored his fourth and fifth of the season and now has a goal against every NHL team he had five assists in 10 career meetings against St. Louis. It was also the first time Crosby scored two regular-season goals since February, a span of 47 games. Ben Lovejoy also scored to help the Penguins finish 3-1 during a four-game homestand after dropping three of their previous four. Marc-Andre Fleury made 29 saves for his 11th win of the season. Alex Pietrangelo tied the game 3-3 with 5:41 left in the third period. St Louis also got goals from Paul Stastny and Robby Fabbri.

LIGHTNING 2, KINGS 1, SO

Valtteri Filppula scored the game-winning goal in the third round of a shootout to lift Tampa Bay over Los Angeles. The Lightning won the tiebreaker 2-1 after Filppula made a nice move to beat Jonathan Quick. Tampa Bay got a goal from Tyler Johnson, and Ben Bishop made 37 saves through overtime. The Lightning have allowed two regulation goals over the last three games, going 3-0-0. Milan Lucic scored for the Kings, who went 2-2-1 on a road trip against Eastern Conference teams. Quick stopped 29 shots. Mrazek for his third NHL goal. Miller scored the tying goal with 1:44 left in the third period, and Boston won its sixth straight game against the Red Wings. Boston is 2-1 in overtime, while Detroit fell to 4-3. Vatrano opened the scoring at 7:11 of the first period when his shot from the left point beat Mrazek. At 2:26 of the second, Pavel Datsyuk eluded Boston defenseman Torey Krug and shot the puck into the top left corner of the net. It was Datsyuk's 300th career goal.

CAPITALS 5, JETS 3

Evgeny Kuznetsov had one goal and two assists and Dmitry Orlov broke a tie late in the second period to lift Washington over Winnipeg for its third straight win. Orlov's third-period goal Monday night gave the Capitals a 1-0 victory over Edmonton. In this game, his

with an apparent lower-body injury during the second and did not return.

ISLANDERS 3, FLYERS 1

Jaroslav Halak made 17 saves and Kyle Okposo put New York ahead early in the second period to beat Philadelphia. Casey Cizikas and Frans Nielsen also scored and New York improved to 11-8-3. The win ended the Islanders' two-game losing streak. Steve Mason made 33 saves and Claude Giroux scored the Flyers' lone goal. Philadelphia has lost four of five and fell to 7-10-5. The first of five meetings this season between Philadelphia and New York was a chippy affair. There were post-whistle scrums seemingly after every whistle, and tempers boiled over in the second period when Nick Leddy fought Giroux. Seven minutes after



DETROIT: Boston Bruins left wing Brad Marchand (63) and Detroit Red Wings defenseman Mike Green (25) battle for the puck in the first period of an NHL hockey game on Wednesday, Nov 25, 2015. —AP

PREDATORS 3, SABRES 2

Mike Fisher ended Nashville's franchise-record scoring drought in the first period and the Predators beat Buffalo to end a three-game losing streak. Fisher ended the Predators' goalless skid at 227:39, and Craig Smith and Cody Hodgson also scored. Carter Hutton made 30 saves. The Predators were outscored 11-0 over the first three games of this five-game trip, which ends Friday in Philadelphia. They hadn't scored since the second period of a 3-2 win over the Anaheim Ducks on Nov 17. Evander Kane and Jack Eichel scored for the Sabres. The loss was Buffalo's sixth straight, and they've only scored seven goals and collected two points in that time. Over the first two periods, Buffalo outshot Nashville 25-11 but trailed 3-0.

BRUINS 3, RED WINGS 2, OT

Frank Vatrano scored his second goal of the game at 3:32 of overtime, giving Boston a victory over Detroit. Vatrano deflected Colin Miller's shot past Petr slap shot with 3:38 left in the second period beat Winnipeg goalie Michael Hutchinson and broke a 3-3 tie. Orlov now has scored goals in three straight games after going without one in his first 18 contests. Both of his tie-breaking goals in the last two games came on left-handed slap-shots. Justin Williams, Alex Ovechkin and Nicklas Backstrom also scored for Washington. Tyler Myers, Andrew Ladd and Mathieu Perreault scored for Winnipeg.

HURRICANES 4, OILERS 1

Elias Lindholm scored the go-ahead goal midway through the second period, Cam Ward made 30 saves and Carolina beat Edmonton. Jordan Staal and Jeff Skinner also scored for Carolina. Andrej Nestrasil, who had a goal and an assist, scored an empty-netter with 51 seconds left as Justin Faulk picked up his second assist of the night. Benoit Pouliot scored for the Oilers, the 100th goal of his career, and Anders Nilsson stopped 23 shots. Edmonton forward Nail Yakupov, who got his 100th career point in the first period, left the Leddy-Giroux fight, Matt Martin squared off with Wayne Simmonds.

BLUE JACKETS 2, DEVILS 1

Matt Calvert scored the tiebreaking goal late in the second period and Sergei Bobrovsky made 27 saves to help Columbus beat New Jersey. William Karlsson also scored for Columbus, and Bobrovsky extended his mastery of New Jersey. He has won his last four starts against the Devils. Adam Henrique scored for New Jersey, which has lost three of four.

CANUCKS 3, WILD 2

Radim Vrbata scored twice, Jannik Hansen once and the Vancouver held off Minnesota. Daniel Sedin had two assists, Ryan Miller stopped 31 shots and Vancouver allowed fewer than three goals for the first time in 11 games, winning for just the third time in that span. Thomas Vanek and Charlie Coyle scored and Minnesota lost for just the second time in 10 home games.—AP

Red Bull Athlete Kenny Belaey Starts his Trial Biking Shows in Kuwait



Trial Biker Kenny Belaey from Belgium started his tour in Kuwait by performing at Kuwait University Shuwaikh and American University of Kuwait. Belaey will also perform at the Marina Crescent on Friday November 27th with two shows (7:00 pm & 9:00 pm). Red Bull invites you to join and witness trial biking like you have never seen before.

Since his first junior outing in 1992, at the age of nine, the Red Bull athlete has produce an awesome list of achievement including two Cadet World Championships, two Junior World Championships, a Junior European Championship, four Elite World Championships, an incredible six Elite World Cups, and three Elite European Championship titles. After seeing the tricks audiences are left wondering how he manages to move on a bicycle in the way that he does. From road to the street to walls, buildings and rails the city holds no limits for a trial rider.

Beside training hard every day, he's also a true ambassador for trials by traveling the world with his show, seating the UCI commission, producing his own TV show called Kenny Belaey's BIGtime aired on the Extreme sports channel, is starring in global commercials and likes making Youtube videos, showcasing his all-round style combining competition and freestyle moves in one.

Kenny counts Travis Pastrana and Stefan Everts as influences on his career, and when not competing, he still likes the thrill of two wheels, taking off crosscountry on the mountain bike and riding his Moto X trailbike.

But more than anyone, Kenny is pushing to help to develop his sport by reaching a more mainstream audience. Early in 2009, Kenny set off on a five-week global trek, crossing from Spain to England, Cleveland, California and Hawaii in the US. His encounters with biking legends, places and influential athletes within the sport were aired on the Extreme Sports Channel.

In 2011, Kenny was again featured on the Extreme Sports Channel with his own Kenny Belaey's Bigtime Trials Adventure, showcasing his adventures whilst on a road trip through South Africa. He also featured in a global adidas commercial alongside sports legends Messi and Beckham.

But despite his small screen success, his focus remains on the tracks and trails, as he continues to compete with the elite at the likes of the UCI Trials World Championships and the UEC European Trials Championships.

Since June 2014, Kenny has also become an ambassador for the prestigious Laureus foundation, a charity based platform spreading the message 'Sport for Good', which once a year organises the Oscars of the Sport, The Laureus awards. Kenny says "Sport has given me so much in my life, I can not wait to transfer this message and work closely with Laureus. It's an honour to be an ambassador for them!"















CHAMPIONS LEAGUE ROUNDUP

ATLETICO BLANK GALATASARAY 2-0

MADRID: Antoine Griezmann scored a goal in each half as Atletico Madrid comfortably defeated Galatasaray 2-0 on Wednesday to advance to the knockout stage of the Champions League for the third straight season. Griezmann scored in the 13th and 65th minutes at the Vicente Calderon Stadium, both times set up by Atletico captain Gabi. The Frenchman opened the scoring with a header and sealed the victory with a shot from close range.

All four of Griezmann's goals in this season's Champions League have come against Galatasaray. Replays showed that he appeared to be offside when he scored his second goal on Wednesday. Atletico Madrid has 10 points from five matches in Group C, while its Turkish opponents were eliminated with four points. "We knew that this was a difficult and decisive game and I think we played well," said Gabi. Benfica also moved to 10 points after a 2-2 draw at FC Astana, which remained last with three points.

Atletico Madrid has the group lead on goal difference, and will fight Benfica for first place when the teams meet in Portugal on Dec 8. "It was vital to win but we still have another game left which we need to win to go top," Griezmann said. "And that's our objective. We're going to Portugal to try and win the group." The eight group winners get to avoid each other in the draw for the round of 16. It was the third group-stage win for Atletico, which came into the match needing only a draw to reach the next round for the third consecutive year. Galatasaray has only one win and needed a victory on Wednesday to remain

with any chances of advancing.

"Games are played with a totally different tempo in the Champions League," Galatasaray interim coach Claudio Taffarel said. "That difference was decisive. If you want to achieve something in the Champions League, you need to increase your tempo." Atletico was in control for most of the match and the Turkish side couldn't threaten much despite the presence of Wesley Sneijder and Lukas Podolski. "We played against a very tough opponent," Galatasaray goalkeeper Fernando Muslera said. "We couldn't show the performance we desired. Atletico played well as a team, did well collectively and didn't leave much room for us to operate." Atletico striker Fernando Torres failed again in his attempt to score his 100th goal with the Spanish team. —AP



TURIN: Juventus' midfielder from France Paul Pogba controls the ball during the UEFA Champions League football match Juventus vs Manchester City on November 25, 2015. —AFP

MANDZUKIC FIRES JUVE INTO LAST 16

TURIN: A first-half strike from Mario Mandzukic saw last season's beaten finalists Juventus into the last 16 of the Champions League on Wednesday with a 1-0 win over injury-hit Manchester City. City, already gualified following their 3-1 win at Sevilla last time out, travelled to Turin looking to secure top spot in Group D as well as avenge their 2-1 defeat to the Bianconeri at the Etihad Stadium in September. But a second successive defeat to the Italian champions means City now look likely to finish second behind Juve in the group. Juventus are now two points clear before facing Sevilla away next month, when City host Borussia Moenchengladbach. "Hats off to the lads, they've gifted me qualification with a game to spare," said Juventus coach Massimiliano Allegri. "It wasn't an easy group. Borussia (Moenchengladbach) had a fantastic last season and Manchester are a technical side with top players. "It's never easy to win a Champions League game. We've done that, again, while not conceding a goal at home. We're proud of that statistic so the lads deserve all the credit they get." City manager Manuel Pellegrini complained his defender Nicolas Otamendi was fouled by Mandzukic before the Croatian scored, and, despite Juve missing a host of chances, the Chilean felt the visitors were unlucky. "I think we were unlucky to lose," said Pellegrini. "They scored a goal which I think was a foul before Mandzukic finished but the referee didn't blow the whistle. But we had chances and didn't score." Pellegrini said beating Juventus on their own turf would also be a gauge of his side's Champions League-winning potential, but it quickly became clear their current injury woes would play to Juve's advantage. City forwards Wilfried Bony, David Silva and Samir Nasri are all still sidelined but the absence of Belgian centre-back and captain Vincent Kompany was most felt as Juventus went two points clear of City ahead of the sides' final games next month.

Juventus, who deployed a 3-5-2 amid injury concerns of their own, survived an early scare when Kevin De Bruyne was allowed to fire a cross into the area from the right following a corner and Fernandinho

unleashed a drive that spun just wide with Gianluigi Buffon at full stretch. Juve were let off again after Giorgio Chiellini got tangled up with Yaya Toure in the area and Fernandinho pounced, only to flash over from 10 yards out. But moments later the visitors were stunned when Alex Sandro fired a delightful cross into the path of Mandzukic, who muscled his way past Nicolas Otamendi to finish. City were briefly left with 10 men when Jesus Navas fell under a challenge from Sandro, and Juventus brazenly capitalized.

Hart injured

Sighting Stephan Lichtsteiner's run, Sandro promptly delivered and when the Swiss international headed into the path of Mandzukic, the Croatian's first-timer brought a great reflex save from Joe Hart. After Toure's tame shot on the spin went wide of Buffon's post, at the other end Hart produced another great stop with his arm to thwart Lichtsteiner after he was sent through on the right side by Mandzukic. Juve started the second half brightly but City would go on to scare the hosts on several occasions. Fernando rose high above the Juve defence at a corner to fire in a header which Buffon turned onto the post and then smothered while under pressure from Martin Demichelis.

But in open play, Juve were a class apart. Alvaro Morata replaced Mandzukic on 54 minutes and moments later the Spaniard sent a chip towards the far post that Paulo Dybala turned onto the upright. Hart was kept busy for the remainder of the half, before being replaced by Willy Caballero with 10 minutes remaining after suffering a suspected injury. The England 'keeper kept his composure to stop Morata just inside the area after the Spaniard had dribbled his way past two players and into a scoring position while ignoring Dybala to his left. At the other end Raheem Sterling, who had replaced Sergio Aguero on 69 minutes, came close when his first-time effort from a tight angle spun just wide of Buffon's far post. —AFP

UEFA Champion League tables

UEFA Champions League tables after Wednesday's matches (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, goals against, points):

Group A									
Real Madrid	5	4	1	0	11	313 - qual	ified		
Paris SG	5	3	1	1	10	110 - qualified			
Shakhtar	5	1	0	4	7	12	3		
Malmo	5	1	0	4	1	13	3		
Group B									
Wolfsburg	5	3	0	2	6	4	9		
Man United	5	2	2	1	5	4	8		
PSV Eindhoven	5	2	1	2	6	6	7		
CSKA Moscow	5	1	1	3	4	7	4		
Group C									
Benfica	5	3	1	1	9	610 - qualified			
Atletico Madrid	5	3	1	1	9	210 - qualified			
Galatasaray	5	1	1	3	5	9	4		
Astana	5	0	3	2	4	10	3		
Group D									
Juventus	5	3	2	0	6	211 - qual			
Manchester City	5	3	0	2	8	69 - qualif	ied		
M'gladbach	5	1	2	2	6	8	5		
Sevilla	5	1	0	4	7	11	3		
				up E					
Barcelona	5	4	1	0	14	313 - qual	ified		
Roma	5	1	2	2	11	16	5		
Bayer Leverkuser		1	2	2	12	11	5		
BATE Borisov	5	1	1	3	5	12	4		
Group F									
Bayern Munich	5	4	0	1	17	312 - qual			
Olympiakos	5	3	0	2	6	10	9		
Arsenal	5	2	0	3	9	10	6		
Dinamo Zagreb	5	1	0	4	3	12	3		
Group G									
Chelsea	5	3	1	1	11	3	10		
Porto	5	3	1	1	9	6	10		
Dynamo Kiev	5	2	2	1	7	4	8		
Maccabi Tel Aviv	5	0	0	5	1	15	0		
Group H									
Zenit	5	5	0	0	12	415 - qual			
Gent	5	2	1	2	6	6	7		
Valencia	5 5	2	0	3 4	5 3	7	6		
Lyon Noto: Ton two in		0	1			9 rd agas into	1 drawfor		
Note: Top two in each group qualify for last 16, team in third goes into draw for									
Europa League last 32									

PSG CRUISE INTO LAST 16

MALMO: Zlatan Ibrahimovic scored on his return to hometown club Malmo as Paris Saint-Germain strolled into the Champions League last 16 on Wednesday after routing their Group A rivals 5-0 in Sweden. Firsthalf goals from Adrien Rabiot and Angel Di Maria put the French champions in control before Ibrahimovic struck just after the interval.Di Maria was then on target again before Lucas added a late fifth to ensure PSG's progression to the knockout phase for the fourth straight year. "I lived a dream tonight, coming back.

On top of that I scored one. I'm very happy," said Ibrahimovic. "Since the beginning, there's a great relationship between Malmo's fans and me." Fellow goalscorer Rabiot added: "We thought it would have been harder. We did the job and we're through. I'm very proud of my first Champions League goal." —AFP

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2015



BERLIN: Borussia Moenchengladbach enjoyed an historic first Champions League win on Wednesday as their 4-2 home victory over Sevilla ended the Spaniards' hopes of reaching the knock-out phase. A brace by Lars Stindl, plus goals from Fabian Johnson and Raffael capped Gladbach's win which lifted them off the bottom of Group D in an impressive display. Manchester City and Juventus have wrapped up the last-16 qualifying spots from the group. Bottom side Sevilla had needed a win at Borussia Park to keep alive their faint hopes of reaching the last 16 but left only with two late consolation goals from Vitolo and an Ever Banega penalty.

Gladbach coach Andre Schubert said his side had learnt from their 3-0 drubbing at Sevilla in September. "We have learned our lesson and we were careful to stay calm," said Schubert. "It worked very well, we were very brave and courageous." Borussia, who are in the Champions League for the first time, enjoyed their first home win in Europe since 1978 in the now defunct European Cup. Stindl, in the attacking midfielder role, was outstanding all evening with two goals and an assist for Raffael's final goal. Gladbach are now in pole position to finish third in the group and qualify for the Europa League, as they have a two-point cushion over

Sevilla going into their final game at Manchester City in two weeks.



MOENCHENGLADBACH: Moenchengladbach's Josip Drmic (left) is booked by referee Damir Skomina during the Champions League Group D soccer match between Borussia Moenchengladbach and FC Sevilla in Moenchengladbach, western Germany on Wednesday, Nov 25, 2015. —AP

The victory came at a price as Guinea winger Ibrahima Traore limped off after only 13 minutes with a suspected hamstring injury from taking a corner. Gladbach broke the deadlock on 29 minutes when captain Granit Xhaka fired in a low shot, which skidded wide, and Stindl tapped it past stranded Sevilla goalkeeper Sergio Rico. The hosts doubled the lead when USA international Johnson curled his shot across the face of the goal, around Rico and into the far corner on 68 minutes.

Raffael then added the third when Stindl drew two defenders and slipped the ball through the backline to the Brazilian, who was clinical in his finishing on 78 minutes. Sevilla enjoyed a brief moment of hope on 82 minutes when Fernando Llorente flicked a pass over the defense and right winger Vitolo lobbed Gladbach goalkeeper Yann Sommer.

Gladbach extended their lead within a minute when Stindl blasted in his shot from 20 metres out with a superb strike for his third European goal. Gladbach captain Xhaka gave away a late penalty when he fouled Grzegorz Krychowiak on the edge of the area and Banega blasted home the spot kick. —AFP

4-GOAL REAL SURVIVE SHAKHTAR RALLY TO WRAP UP THE TOP SPOT

KIEV: Spanish giants Real Madrid survived a nervous finish when they conceded three late goals to edge Shakhtar Donetsk 4-3 and wrap up top spot in Champions League Group A. Cristiano Ronaldo scored twice while Luka Modric and Dani Carvajal were also on target for Real who had already made sure of their place in the last 16 before Wednesday's match at the Lviv Arena. But just four days after suffering a 4-0 mauling at the hands of Barcelona in El Clasico, there were still worrying signs of Real's defensive frailities for under-pressure coach Rafael Benitez.

They were cruising at 4-0 on Wednesday before Shakhtar hit three goals in the last 12 minutes with stand-in skipper Alex Teixeira scoring twice and fellow Brazilian Dentinho also on target. "Today everything went our way for most of the game," Benitez said. "But Shakhtar are a strong and aggressive team. There's no surprise that they have scored at home. "We've conceded 10 goals in our last three matches but today we acted as a single unit, as a team and that's a very encouraging sign. "We've scored four goals away from home. I believe this shows that our club is moving in the right direction."

In the night's other Group A encounter, French champions Paris Saint-Germain thrashed Malmo 5-0 to join Real in the knockout round. Shakhtar, weakened by the absence of regular captain Dario Srna and full-back Alexander Kucher, who were both suspended, needed to win to have any chance of creeping into the last 16. But Real were quickly into their stride. In the second minute, Modric found the unmarked Ronaldo in the area but the Portuguese star fired over the crossbar. Ronaldo made amends just 16 minutes later when he scored with a close-range header from a fine cross by Gareth Bale.

Real goalkeeper Kiko Casilla was rarely troubled while Ronaldo missed a clear chance to double his team's lead in the 30th minute. In the 50th minute, Ronaldo turned provider when he slipped away from the Shakhtar defense on a breakaway before Croatian international Mordic fired home from just outside the six-yard box. Carvajal made it 3-0 for Real two minutes later, lobbing the ball into the net over goalkeeper Andriy Pyatov from the edge of the penalty area. Ronaldo scored his second-and Real's fourth-in the 70th minute when he was quickest to react after Yaroslav Rakitskiy had blocked his initial close-range shot. —AFP

UNITED MADE TO WAIT AFTER PSV STALEMATE

MANCHESTER: Louis van Gaal's Manchester United squandered an opportunity to reach the Champions League last 16 on Wednesday after being held to a 0-0 draw at home to PSV Eindhoven. On a night when Old Trafford marked 10 years since the death of United legend George Best, the hosts saw plenty of the ball but created few genuine chances, with Jesse Lingard hoisting their clearest opportunity over the bar mid-way through the second period.

Coupled with Wolfsburg's 2-0 win at CSKA Moscow, the result-United's first goalless home draw in the competition since September 2010 - left Van Gaal's men needing to win their final Group B game at Wolfsburg on December 8 to be certain of a place in the knockout phase. "The result is disappointing because I have still the feeling that we could have finished this game several times," said United manager Van Gaal.

"That's disappointing because we have to win in Wolfsburg and that's also a difficult game. We have to do it in Wolfsburg." The stalemate curtailed a run of three straight wins for United, who will go into Saturday's tabletopping clash with surprise Premier League leaders Leicester City facing renewed questions about their attacking edge. Phillip Cocu's PSV have now taken four points from United, having beaten them 2-1 in September, and will approach their final assignment at home to CSKA two points behind group leaders Wolfsburg and one below United in third place.

"It's a great opportunity," said Cocu, who played under Van Gaal with Barcelona and the Netherlands. "I'm happy with the result. It was a great team performance, but we're not there yet." The home fans marked the anniversary of Best's death in the seventh minute a nod to his favored shirt number-by illuminating their smartphone screens and holding them aloft, creating an impromptu light show in the shadow of the floodlights. Best-style swagger has been conspicuously absent from United's football this season, but they were quick to assert their authority, with Bastian Schweinsteiger and PSV old boy Memphis Depay testing Jeroen Zoet.

Zoet blunder

With Anthony Martial returning from injury to line up alongside Depay and Lingard, United had pace to burn in attack, while Wayne Rooney was also back after missing Saturday's 2-1 win at Watford through illness. Lingard was unable to gather a pass from Rooney that was dummied by Martial and Zoet had to field the ball from just in front of his goal-line when Morgan Schneiderlin stabbed Daley Blind's corner towards goal.

Two good chances fell to Martial, but he saw a toed effort kicked away by Zoet after Lingard's shot had been deflected into his path and was also thwarted by the visiting goalkeeper in first-half stoppage time. Zoet almost met with calamity when he accidentally kicked the ground as he looked to send the ball downfield with Rooney lurking, but he recovered to put the ball out for a throw-in. The visitors lost Luciano Narsingh to injury in the 18th minute, Gaston Pereiro coming on, but they probed where possible on the break, with David de Gea making routine saves from Jorrit Hendrix and Davy Propper.

Within four minutes of kick-off in the second half United had threatened three times-Schneiderlin and Lingard heading off-target, Depay shooting meekly at Zoet-but still a goal eluded them. Shortly before the hour, Van Gaal turned to Plan B, introducing Marouane Fellaini and Ashley Young in place of Schweinsteiger and Depay. But sloppiness crept into United's play and Propper twice tested De Gea's handling from range before Lingard spurned the best chance of the night in the 73rd minute. Young's deflected cut-back from the byline on the right bounced invitingly into the youngster's path, but from 12 yards and with the goal at his mercy he swept his shot over the bar. "We are not ruthless enough," admitted United skipper Rooney. "We have to change these games into victories." —AFP



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LVIV: Real Madrid's Cristiano Ronaldo (right) challenges for the ball with Shakhtar's Vasyl Kobin, (center) and Dentinho during the Champions League Group A soccer match between FC Shakhtar and Real Madrid at Arena Lviv stadium on Wednesday, Nov 25, 2015. -— AP

Ronaldo stars as Rea repel Shakhtar's rally

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