SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2015

Al-Wihda student group wins NUKS-US elections



Erdogan 'saddened' by downing of Russian jet



Iran seeks \$25bn as new oil contract unveiled



Messi, Neymar and Suarez strike to keep Barca rolling

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FRENCH PM CALLS ON GULF TO ACCEPT MORE REFUGEES

CARSON VISITS JORDAN CAMP, CALLS TO ABSORB REFUGEES IN MIDEAST



Max 27°

High Tide

00:44 & 14:59

Low Tide 08:23 & 20:18

OBAMA SLAMS GUN VIOLENCE AFTER SHOOTING

WASHINGTON: US President Barack Obama denounced the country's epidemic of gun violence yesterday and renewed a call for tougher controls on military-style weapons after yet another deadly shooting, saying "enough is enough". The latest bloodshed came on Friday when a man entered a family planning clinic in the state of Colorado and allegedly opened fire, killing three people, including a police officer, and wounding nine others.

The motive of the suspect now under arrest was not yet known and police were to interrogate him yesterday. The Planned Parenthood clinic located in Colorado Springs performs abortion, and the city's mayor suggested that deeply divisive issue in America may have been behind the assault. "You can certainly infer what it may have been in terms of where it took place and the manner in which it took place," John Suthers told CNN.

The tragedy came a day after Americans celebrated their cherished Thanksgiving holiday, a time to relax with family, and which ushers in the holiday season in earnest. Obama said the suspect had been armed with an assault weapon - that was the first official word of this detail - and he also disclosed for the first time that the man had held hostages at the Planned Parenthood center from which he opened fire at people outside in an hours-long standoff with police. "We have to do something about the easy accessibility of weapons of war on our streets to people who have no business wielding them. Period. Enough is enough," Obama said in a statement.

The gunman had entered the Planned Parenthood clinic around noon Friday and started shooting from a window. Police surrounded the building, and after an exchange of gunfire and a standoff lasting more than five hours the gunman surrendered.

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COLORADO SPRINGS: A person is escorted after a shooting near a Planned Parenthood clinic on Friday. (Inset) Suspected shooter Robert Lewis Dear of North Carolina is seen in an undated photo provided by the El Paso County Sheriff's Office. — AP

EVRY, France/AZRAQ REFUGEE CAMP, Jordan: French Prime Minister Manuel Valls has called on the Gulf states to accept more refugees fleeing Syria, saying that a "humanitarian disaster" could erupt in the Balkans if Europe does not control its borders. "I'll say it again, Europe cannot accept all the refugees coming from Syria. That's why we need a diplomatic, military and political solution in Syria," Valls said Friday evening.

"Every country must play its part; I'm thinking particularly of the Gulf states," the prime minister said during a discussion with residents of Evry on the outskirts of Paris, focusing on the response to the attacks which rocked the

capital two weeks ago. Most of the roughly four million Syrian refugees who have fled their country since civil war broke out have travelled to neighboring Lebanon, Jordan or Turkey.

But Saudi Arabia, Qatar, UAE and other Gulf states have remained closed to them, while Europe struggles to adopt a common policy towards the hundreds of thousands of refugees who are arriving at its borders. Unless the borders of the EU are properly controlled "we are going



Manuel Valls

to see a humanitarian disaster in the Balkans this winter and Europe is going to close up again," Valls warned.

And while the prime minister rejected any link between genuine refugees and terrorism, he also highlighted the danger of terrorists being allowed into the EU alongside those fleeing war - as seems to have been the case with some of those responsible for the Paris attacks. "All it takes is for a few terrorists to slip in with the influx of refugees, and the people of Europe are saying, 'Wait, if terrorists are getting in along with refugees, that means any refugee could pose a threat," he said. More than 800,000 migrants have arrived in Europe by sea since the beginning of the year, with the majority coming from the

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the Valley of the Kings yesterday. — AFP

SCANS POINT TO HIDDEN CHAMBER IN TUT'S TOMB

LUXOR, Egypt: Scans of King Tutankhamun's tomb in Egypt's Valley of the Kings point to a secret chamber, archaeologists said yesterday, possibly heralding the discovery of Queen Nefertiti's long-sought mummy. Using hitech infrared and radar technology, researchers are trying to unravel the mystery over the legendary monarch's resting place. A wife of Tutankhamun's father Akhenaten, Nefertiti played a major political and religious role in the 14th century BC, and the discovery of her tomb would be a major prize for Egyptologists.

Experts are now "approximately 90 percent" sure there is a hidden chamber in Tutankhamun's tomb, Antiquities Minister Mamdouh Al-Damati told a news conference. The scans were spurred by a study by renowned British archaeologist Nicholas Reeves that said Nefertiti's lost tomb may be hidden in an adjoining

Speaking at the same press conference, Reeves said the initial results could bear out his theory. "Clearly it does look from the radar evidence as if the tomb continues, as I have predicted," he said. "The radar, behind the north wall (of Tutankhamun's burial chamber) seems pretty clear. If I am right it is a continuation - corridor continuation - of the tomb,

which will end in another burial chamber," he said. "It does look indeed as if the tomb of Tutankhamun is a corridor tomb... and it continues beyond the decorated burial chamber," he added. "I think it is Nefertiti and all the evidence points in that direction."

Damati emphasized that the findings were "preliminary" results, and a Japanese expert working with the archaeologists needed a month to analyze the scans. Experts carried out a preliminary scan of the tomb earlier this month using infra-red thermography to map out the temperature of its walls. Damati said at that time that the analysis showed "differences in the temperatures registered on different parts of the northern wall" of the tomb.

But the minister and Reeves had differed on whose mummy they expected to find. According to Reeves, professor of archaeology at the University of Arizona, Tutankhamun, who died unexpectedly, was buried hurriedly in an underground chamber probably not intended for him. The boy king died aged 19 in 1324 BC after just nine years on the throne. His final resting place was discovered by another British Egyptologist, Howard Carter, in 1922.

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REPS ATTACK MUSLIMS WITH IMPUNITY

CANDIDATES' RHETORIC SEEN AS HAVING LITTLE COST

News

in brief

Qatar bans contractors from leaving country

DUBAI: Qatar has banned contractors from leaving the small, oil-rich country as it carries out a probe into how heavy rains damaged buildings and roadways. An article late Friday on the state-run Qatar News Agency announced the travel ban. It said "owners of companies, contractors and consulting engineers" would be banned from traveling abroad until the end of the probe. A year's worth of rain on Wednesday deluged Doha's Hamad International Airport, the home of Qatar Airways, pouring through at least one part of the roof. The airport cost at least \$15 billion to build. Rainwater also flooded streets and shut down some stores in Doha. Qatar has seen a boom in construction, some derided as shoddy, ahead of hosting the 2022 FIFA World Cup.

Dubai to spend billions on clean energy push

DUBAI: Dubai will spend billions of dollars on generating clean energy, the government said yesterday, aiming to have solar panels installed on the roofs of all buildings by 2030. The fast-growing desert city state of 2.4 million, located in one of the hottest regions of the world, uses huge amounts of energy to air-condition its skyscrapers and provide water supplies through desalination. The Dubai government will encourage building owners to place solar panels on their roofs and link them to a network of the local power utility, Dubai's ruler Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al-Maktoum said in a statement. All Dubai buildings would have solar cells by 2030. The authorities plan to establish a 100 billion dirham (\$27 billion) fund to provide low-cost loans for investors in Dubai's clean energy sector. Dubai plans 500 million dirhams of investment in research into areas such as integration of smart power grids and energy efficiency. It intends to create a tax-free business zone to attract clean energy companies from around the world, Sheikh Mohammed said. A solar park being built in Dubai is to have a generating capacity of 800 megawatts in April 2017 and 5,000 MW by 2030, or a quarter of the emirate's energy production in that year. Total investment in the project is estimated at 50 billion dirhams. Dubai aims to obtain 7 percent of its energy from relatively clean sources by 2020, raising that to 25 percent in 2030 and 75 percent in 2050, Sheikh Mohammed said.

WASHINGTON: Some leading Republican presidential candidates seem to view Muslims as fair game for increasingly harsh words they might use with more caution against any other group for fear of the political cost. So far, that strategy is winning support from conservatives influential in picking the nominee. Many Republicans are heartened by strong rhetoric addressing what they view as a threat to national security by Islam itself, analysts say. Because Muslims are a small voting bloc, the candidates see limited fallout from what they are saying in the campaign.

"I think this issue exists on its own island," said Steve Schmidt, a Republican political consultant who ran Sen John McCain's 2008 presidential campaign. "It's highly unlikely to cause a political penalty and there is no evidence that it has." Since the attacks that killed 130 people in Paris, GOP frontrunner Donald Trump has said he wants to register all Muslims in the US and surveil American mosques. He has repeated unsubstantiated claims that Muslim-Americans in New Jersey celebrated by the "thousands" when the World Trade Center was destroyed on Sept 11, 2001.

"Donald Trump is already very well known for being brash and outspoken and is appealing to a group of people - a minority of American voters, but a large minority - who seem to like that kind of tough talk," said John Green, director of the Bliss Institute of Applied Politics at the University of Akron. Rival Ben Carson said allowing Syrian refugees into the US would be akin to exposing a neighborhood to a "rabid dog". Former Arkansas Gov Mike Huckabee said, "I'd like for Barack Obama to resign if he's not going to protect America and instead protect the image of

Such statements appeal to Republicans who think Obama and Democratic frontrunner Hillary Rodham Clinton, the former secretary of state, have not done enough to fight jihadis, Green said. The sentiment also plays well for evangelicals concerned about violence directed at Christians in the Middle East and angered about restrictions their missionaries face in predominantly Muslim countries. "There's a religious undercurrent here, aside from foreign policy issues," Green said.

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WASHINGTON: In this photo taken on Oct 9, 2015, Rabiah Ahmed, Media and Communications Director of the Muslim Public Affairs Council, hand delivers an invitation to Republican presidential candidate Ben Carson at the National Press Club. — AP



KUWAIT: Current and former Kuwait National Petroleum Corporation officials are pictured during a ceremony to honor those who contributed in signing Al-Zour Refinery projectis contracts. — KUNA

KNPC HONORS OFFICIALS WHO HELPED SIGN AL-ZOUR REFINERY CONTRACTS

KUWAIT: The Kuwait National Petroleum Corporation (KNPC) held a ceremony yesterday to honor current and former officials who contributed in signing Al-Zour Refinery project's contracts. CEO Mohammad Al-Mutairi said in a speech at the event quoted by Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) that the

project "boosts KNPC's competitive capabilities in light of the great fluctuations in the global oil markets."

Al-Zour Refinery, which is slated to complete around 2017, will have a refinement capacity of 615,000 barrels per day, brining KNPC's total production capacity to 1.4 million barrels of high quality products per day.

The refinery has a strategic goal of supplying low sulfur fuel (less than one percent compared to current four percent sulfur fuel) to the local power plants. This will significantly reduce pollutant emissions and in that sense it constitutes a special impor-

tance to the environment.

The contract to build the \$16-billion refinery were signed on October 13, 2015 were with 10 foreign companies including Spain's Tecnicas Reunidas, China's Sinopec, South Korea's Hyundai, SK, Daewoo and Hanwha, Britain-based Fluor, Italy's Saipem

and India's Essar. Last year, the KNPC signed contracts for a \$12 billion project to upgrade two of its three existing refineries. Kuwait sits on 101.5 billion barrels of crude reserves - equivalent to 6.8 percent of the world's proven reserves according to the latest OPEC figures. It pumps 2.8 million bpd.



Education Minister Dr Bader Al-Essa visits Zain's booth.

VIVA CONCLUDES 51ST NUKS UK AND IRELAND ANNUAL CONFERENCE

KUWAIT: VIVA, Kuwait's fastest-growing and most developed telecom operator, announced the conclusion of the 51st annual national conference of the National Union of Kuwaiti Students (NUKS) - United Kingdom and Ireland branch, held under the patronage of Minister of Education and Higher Education Dr Bader Hamad Al-Essa, on 20 and 21 November 2015.

VIVA has announced recently its sponsorship for the third year in a row for this annual conference that includes significant activities met with students' admiration and interest, in a distinctive national and family atmosphere.

On this occasion, Abdulrazaq Bader Al-Essa, Director of Corporate Communications Division at VIVA commented: "We will keep our promise to support the students' activities, either inside or outside our beloved country Kuwait, in the frame of our corporate social responsibility program."

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activities can be reviewed on the company's website at



https://www.viva.com.kw/csr. This tive that VIVA has supported, or taken offers a description of each CSR initia-

on since its inception.

ZAIN MAKES KEYNOTE ADDRESS AT **NUKS USA 32ND ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

KUWAIT: Zain, the leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, announced its participation in the opening ceremony of the National Union of Kuwaiti Students in the United States (NUKS USA) 32nd annual conference, held in San Diego in the presence of many distinguished national identities. The Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education Dr Badr Al-Essa, and the Kuwaiti Ambassador to the US, Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, visited Zain's booth during the opening ceremony. The company's platinum sponsorship is in line with its interest in supporting young national role models, with this conference bringing together distinguished national figures from Kuwait's political, social, and economic circles.

During Zain's keynote address, Zain Kuwait's Corporate Communications and Relations Director Waleed Al-Khashti said, "Zain is glad to yet again be an integral part of this annual project's success. Our responsibility as a leading national company motivated us to be here amongst our students who work very hard to pursue their education abroad".

Khashti continued, "We believe that nations will only flourish and progress

with the hopes and dreams of their to all student activities and initiatives, youth, and life will stay wonderful as long as we work hard to make our dreams come true."

Khashti stressed: "Zain is delighted to be next to our dear students every



Waleed Al-Khashti delivers Zain's keynote speech at the conference.

home country proud."

Zain considers itself a core partner

as it seeks to remain youth-oriented, and interested in the development and well-being of young Kuwaitis who will develop to become contributing members of their societies. Zain believes in the pivotal role private sector organizations can play in the progress of nations, and continuously strives to solidify its role in this regard.

Zain will be organizing a number of cultural and sporting activities to enrich this year's NUKS USA program, including two football tournaments for male and female students, an honoring ceremony to recognize top performing students, as well as a special participation in the event's careers fair to interact with graduates.

Zain sees its annual participation in the conference as part of its responsibility as a leading national company to help provide bright and enthusiastic young Kuwaitis who are looking to enter the job market with suitable

mate intention to induce positive change within the Kuwaiti society.

AL-WIHDA STUDENT GROUP WINS NUKS-US ELECTIONS

SAN DIEGO: 'Al-Wihda' group won the election of the National Union Kuwaiti Students (NUKS) USA branch, which was held in San Diego, California late on Friday. The runners for the race this year were Al-Wihda and Student Future.

The past year 'Al-Wihda' won by 350 votes' difference, as compared to 360 in the new polling. Over 4,440 students registered to participate in the 32nd annual Conference of NUKS themed "Kuwait's dream is fulfilled with us," where more than 5,000 Kuwaiti students showed up.

Kuwaiti Minister of Education and Higher Education Dr Bader Al-Essa

attended the inauguration of the conference, along with Kuwaiti Ambassador to the US Sheikh Salem Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah whom both urged in their speeches to shun sectarianism and tribalism while participating in the voting process.

Workshop

The National Project for Small and Medium Size Enterprises (Mubader) held here late Friday a workshop on the sidelines of the 32nd conference for the US branch of the National Union for Kuwaiti Students (NUKS-US). The project's CEO Abrar Al-Masoud told KUNA that the workshop

GULF BANKS SPONSORED

focused on enabling and teaching Kuwaiti students how to establish their own small projects prior to their graduation, adding that beginning early would benefit both the business owners and the future prospects of

She said that the project was keen in partaking in the conference held here, affirming that this participation was in line with the Kuwaiti leadership's call for supporting small business projects. The NUKS conference opened last Thursday by Minister Essa. The event's main theme focuses on students' role in achieving Kuwait's development goals. — KUNA

NUKS-US CONFERENCE year, as they were all trusted to be career development opportunities. Kuwait's ambassadors and emissaries Participating in this event affirms abroad, and have the potential and Zain's role as a leading national compadetermination to take responsibility ny that takes the development of **KUWAIT:** Gulf Bank provided its platremaining twelve winners will win During the conference, the Bank inum sponsorship for the 32nd prizes of \$1,000 and \$500. and make decisions to make their young people seriously, with the ulti-

National Union of Kuwaitis Students (NUKS) conference in the United States. The conference, which is being sponsored by the Bank for the third consecutive year, which took place 26-28 November at the Hilton Bayfront in San Diego, California.

The NUKS-USA conference was the largest annual gathering of Kuwaitis outside the country. More than 3,500 students enrolled in colleges and universities across the United States are attending the conference. The conference spanned three days and included numerous formal and informal activities. These included: lectures; workshops; a career fair; elections for the new NUKS board; and the opportunity to network amongst themselves and the institutional representatives taking part in the event.

During the first day's events, the Bank took part in the Career Fair. In addition to discussing career options and holding interviews, the participants were able to register for Gulf Bank's special prize draw. This year's draw is being done by raffle and is open to all students participating in the conference. To enter the raffle draw, students merely had to sign up at the Gulf Bank booth in the career fair area. The draw prizes will be prepaid gift cards, from \$2,500 for the grand prize: second and third prize winners will win \$1650 each; the

Later in the evening, Gulf Bank representatives Salma Al-Hajjaj, General Manager of Human Resources at Gulf Bank, and Tareq Al-Saleh, Assistant General Manager of Investments at Gulf Bank, participated in the opening ceremony dinner. During the dinner, Gulf Bank showed a video presenting its "Ajyal" Graduate Development Program. The video about the Ajyal (Generations) Graduate Development Program highlighted the strategic importance the Bank places on nurturing local talent and providing opportunities to Kuwaiti nationals to assume leadership positions within the Bank.

also sponsored the 'Start-Up Panel' (Tajriba Al Oula) where students presented business startup ideas to a panel of judges.

The Bank also held two workshops, one on "Gender Diversity and Women in the Workplace" by Salma Al-Hajjaj, who discussed the challenges she overcame in her successful professional journey and shared ideas about diversity in the 21st century workplace. The other workshop was on "Global Investments Firms Landscape: Introduction to Asset Management Firms and Investment Banking" by Tareq Al-Saleh, who provided an overview of the investment industry, including career options.



Gulf Bank's team

KIPCO PARTICIPATES IN 32ND NUKS-USA CONFERENCE

KUWAIT: Kuwait Projects Company (KIPCO) participated in the 32nd Conference of the National Union of Kuwaiti Students - USA Branch (NUKS-USA) for the fifth consecutive year. KIPCO was a Platinum



Eman Al-Awadhi speaking at the opening ceremony.

held on November 25-28 in San Diego, California.

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the conference, themed 'Awakening Kuwait's Dream', Eman Al-Awadhi, KIPCO's Group Communications Director, said: "With young Kuwaitis accounting for more than 70 percent of the population, both the government and the private sector are placing great importance on this segment of the society. KIPCO believes that Kuwait's social and economic development depends heavily on the creativity and innovation that this young and talented generation has to offer."

She added: "As part of KIPCO's business philosophy, we seek ways to support young people as they graduate and take on the opportunities available to them in different

Sponsor for the event, which was business sectors. This is why it is important for us to interact with students such as yourselves, who are being educated in some of the world's best universities, and to understand how to utilize your knowledge and international exposure to achieve greater levels of success at the personal, business and national levels."

KIPCO and its Group companies also participated in the Career Fair, which included an interactive session led by social media celebrity, Ali Al-Fadhala, known as 228. The students were quizzed about the companies and those who answered correctly each received an X-Change Prepaid Card from Burgan Bank, worth \$300. KIPCO and several of its Group companies will be engaging students in several events over the course of the conference.

AUTHORITY CONCLUDES CAMPAIGN TO PROMOTE AMENDED BYLAWS

KUWAIT: Kuwait Capital Market Authority, having concluded first stage of its promotion campaign for amendment of executive bylaws, says the new rules are comprehensive and compatible with latest regulatory systems operated by security markets worldwide.

The executive bylaws "will constitute a decisive phase with respect of activity and overhaul of the financial securities market, to be in tandem with the (State) development approach that warrants an adequate investment environment where a competent finance market is one of the foundations," the authority said in a statement yesterday.

The campaign for promoting the new modified laws was carried out through SMSs and other communication means, it said, indicating that it promoted the legal and regulatory rules for supervision, reporting and investigating irregularities, adjudication, complaints' examination, forms of protests and investigation mechanisms.

The regulations, as promoted in the campaign, deal with licensing, assets' evaluation and capital requirements in some activities. They also cover subjects such as definition of the "market maker," and role of the authority and the market in this regard. Second phase of the campaign begins on Sunday and proceeds till December 22nd. Workshops will address topics such as clients' funds and assets, rules for managing portfolios, work ethics, rules for compulsory and voluntary acquisitions. — KUNA



Report



Weapons and ammunition found with a man who was arrested yesterday.

MAN ARRESTED WITH WEAPONS, **AMMUNITION**

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: A GCC national was arrested with possession of an AK47 rifle, two guns, a shotgun and some ammunition, said security sources. Case papers indicate that weapons detectives had been tipped off concerning the suspect's possession of unlicensed weapons and on storming his house, the weapons were found.



Two suspects arrested with drugs in this handout photo.

Banned substances

Two Arab men were arrested for possessing and trading in banned pills, said security sources. Case papers indicate that narcotics detectives had been tipped off concerning one of the suspects' activities selling drugs. On storming his house, detectives found 97 pills he admitted were for sale. The suspect led the police to a compatriot trading in pills as well, and on raiding the second suspect's house, detectives found 173 pills. A case was field.



A police patrol car damaged following an accident at the Fourth Ring Road.

Officer injured

A traffic police officer was yesterday injured when a pickup truck collided into his patrol car as he was tending to another accident along the Fourth Ring Road, said security sources. The sources explained that the policeman was dispatched to examine an accident between two public transport buses and a citizen's vehicle, and while he was doing so, a vehicle driven by a citizen rammed into the patrol car. The policeman sustained head and neck injuries and was rushed to Sabah Hospital.



KUWAIT: Minister Hind Al-Subaih speaks during a panel session held at the Secretariat of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development. — KUNA

BUDGET SUSTAINABILITY vital issue: Minister

KUWAIT: The topic of budget sustainability is a vital one that was recommended by previous studies, Minister of Social Affairs and Labor and Minister of State for Planning and Development Hind Al-Subaih has said. A statement by the Secretariat of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development (SCPD) yesterday quoted the Minister as saying that she understands the topic in light of the state reliance on oil by up to 93 percent as the major source of national income.

Subaih made the statement at a panel session held on Wednesday under the title 'sustainability of Kuwait's budget,' the SCPD said. The minister noted that she would move positively on the topic with ministers and MPs, reiterating eagerness by the SCPD to prepare a relevant report, involving economists. The report will offer recommendations for solving the problems of wage and subsidy inflation, based on a definite timetable, she noted. — KUNA

DOW CHEMICAL'S REPORT TO BE RETURNED TO COMMITTEE

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: Well-informed parliamentary sources said that the government wants to return the Dow Chemical's report to the parliament's public funds protection committee once it is put up for discussion in Tuesday's session. The sources explained that lawmakers disagree concerning the report and that some of them rejected it because the committee had not listened to the testimonies of former senior oil sector officials accused in the case.

KAC staff

MP Khalil Al-Saleh stressed that Kuwait Airways Company's (KAC) insistence to transfer a large number of its employees to other government bodies with the excuse that they have legal and financial statuses was not convincing. Saleh added that resorting to the fatwa and legislation department was but an attempt to give this 'suspicious' decision a legal form and hide behind the decisions taken by the fatwa department.

Oil projects

The Kuwaiti-Iraqi joint oil committee decided postponing some joint oil projects and further discuss them during the next meeting of the joint supreme committee due to be held next month. Informed sources said the delay was due to technical proceedings in those projects as well as low oil prices. The sources added that the Iraqi side stressed readiness to act as a bridge to deliver Iranian gas to Kuwait once an agreement was made in this regard, especially since using Iraqi territories would be much easier than building a pipeline between Kuwait and Iran.

Local **Spotlight** WORLD WAR III



By Muna Al-Fuzai

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the world about to change the slogan of the war on terrorism to World War III? Will we hear the drums of war again after 70 years of world peace since the last world war? Is it going to reshape the world

Clearly there are different views and scenarios for the world's major powers that manage crucial decisions on how the situation must end or be controlled in the light of the proliferation of terrorist organizations, their branches and agents around the world, all posing a major threat to everyone. It seems until there is understanding of the beneficiaries of these organizations, the announcement of a new war is inevitable.

Some believe that the shooting down by Turkey of a Russian fighter jet was like pouring oil on fire that created extra tension in the region that may lead to a new war. But I don't believe in this view, because Turkish foreign policy has had a fixed principle for centuries, whereas Russian ambitions in the region are the greatest threat to Turkey. So Russia and Turkey are in different camps and an international consensus broker is essential, of course. The United States of America is playing this role now.

Even if we assume that this incident hadn't occurred, the heated conditions are not going to calm down nor peace achieved as long as there is almost an international cover for unknown organizations calling themselves Islamic. But the truth of the matter is that the Islamic religion is innocent. And whether these militants declare themselves moderate, opposition, extreme or by any other name, they are still eyeing a spot in a rich and strategic area like Syria or Iraq, which is a real disaster for us in this region.

Right now there is a state of global alert against IS in the wake of the recent Paris attacks and the downing of a Russian passenger aircraft over Sinai. Turkey seems concerned that the Russian position will increase stiffness in the war on terror, whether it is done with the consent of the US, Saudi Arabia and other countries or not, especially now that Russia has a strong

hand in the region and major allies. So events may evolve in the coming days faster than we expect, especially with the elimination of large terrorist organizations such as IS and others. This is not a controversial topic, bearing in mind the possibility of all terror groups uniting together. Interests unite enemies.

This matter does not require a lot of intelligence. Every world war needs a conflict somewhere for the interests of greater powers to create a new world order. And with the large number of terrorist organizations inside Syria, the land is ready.

Even if an alliance is formed now between the great powers to destroy IS, it may result in a conflict between the major powers on how to do so. It appears that both Russia and the United States are holding different views about the way the future of Syria must be shaped and the role of terrorist organizations. It seems clear that Russia finds these organizations a threat to be eliminated, but the United States' statements do not seem agreeable to this scenario, especially with the US election coming soon.

No country is safe today from the possibility of a world war. Any fighting here could spread to other parts of the world, even to faraway countries such as India, Pakistan or the East China Sea region, for example, especially if China conducts preemptive strikes on US military installations. The US will be forced to respond, and the entire Pacific region will then fall into a quagmire of chaos.

Henry Kissinger, former US national security adviser, said in an interview recently: "The view of World War III appears on the horizon with its two ends, which are the United States on the one hand and China Russia and Iran on the other". He added that this war will be a draconian one with one victor - the United States.

That was his point of view. But we are no longer in the era of World War I and II, and in light of the overlapping of ideologies and global pandemonium, I do not think that there will be any victors.

NEW TRUCK BAN HOURS on Wafra highway 306

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: Interior Ministry's Assistant Undersecretary for Traffic Affairs Major General Abdullah Al-Muhanna announced changing truck ban hours along Wafra highway number 306 to 6:00 am - 8:00 am instead of 6:30 am - 9:30 am, and from 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm instead of 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm. Muhanna stressed that reducing the ban Major General Abdullah Al hours only applied to this specif- Muhanna ic road due to the very heavy traffic on it.



Food security

The Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAAFR) plans to withdraw all land plots allocated for food security from beneficiaries who had not respected their contract conditions, Acting Director Faisal Al-Hasawi said. Owners of these farms have already been warned but they failed to comply within a previous notice period, Hasawi added. Meanwhile, PAAAFR asked the municipality to provide it with coordinates and satellite images of Benaider reservation so that it could be turned into a sanctuary for natural desert plants.

KOTC FLEET CARRIES 22M MT OF CRUDE AROUND THE GLOBE

LONDON: The Kuwait Oil Tanker Company (KOTC) fleet has transported up to 22 million metric tons (MT) of crude, petroleum products and liquefied gas around the world with high efficiency since the start of the FY 2015-2016, a senior official has said. The KOTC tankers enjoy high confidence of giant firms of the world's oil industry, such as British BP, Shell, Total, Exxon Mobil and Chevron, KOTC Fleet Marine Operations Manager Youssef Al-Sager, also company spokesman, said yesterday. Saqer noted that the KOTC is keen on applying the world's conditions and criteria in line with the maritime transport laws. In addition, the KOTC tankers are provided with the latest equipment for the protection of the environment and efficient consumption of fuel. The KOTC is the strategic transport arm of the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) and the State of Kuwait, Sager said.

Cargo carriage

On Friday, Assistant Undersecretary of the Ministry of Communication for Transport Sector Mansour Al-Bader said that the State of Kuwait, as a major oil exporter, has one of the world's most modern fleets. "The Kuwaiti fleet, made up of 350 container ships, has a total carriage capacity of 5.1 million tons," said Bader, head of Kuwait's delegation to the 29th Assembly of the International Maritime Organization (IMO). "Shipping represents 90 percent of the carriage of cargo, including oil, oil by-products and livestock," he pointed out.

Regarding the efforts to protect marine environment, Al-Bader said Kuwait hosted a regional meeting in 1978 which culminated into the launching of the Kuwait-based Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment (ROPME). -KUNA

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KUWAIT: KFAS' Director General Adnan Shihab-Eldin speaks at a dinner held to celebrate the commencement of the second 2016 KFAS Innovation Challenge.



Somaya Al-Jassim speaks.



KFAS' Director General Adnan Shihab-Eldin talks with guests at the ceremony.

KFAS CELEBRATES COMMENCEMENT OF 2016 INNOVATION CHALLENGE

KUWAIT: The Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences celebrated the commencement of the second 2016 KFAS Innovation Challenge and recognized the ten participating Kuwaiti companies in this year's program. The initiative's goal is to focus on innovation and enhancement of skills for sustainable growth in the private sector and infuse competitiveness among leaders to develop their companies.

In his speech at the dinner held at the Sheraton Hotel on this special occasion, the Foundation's Director General, Dr Adnan Shihab-Eldin, mentioned that KFAS' "Innovation Challenge 2016" program, in collaboration with the Executive Education Centre of the University of Cambridge - Judge Business School, is considered one of the leading initiatives catered for the private sector's support and development.

Private sector

Dr Shihab-Eldin also added that the initiative comes as part of KFAS's objectives and strategy to support and develop the

Kuwaiti private sector through raising awareness regarding the advantages of building an internal culture that promotes ways of investing in science, technology and innovation.

The 2016 KFAS Innovation Challenge is a dynamic learning program that runs for a period of six months. The program is centered around real business challenges that each team will bring to the table, obstacles that require them to create innovative solutions and strategies. Those challenges will be explored throughout the program's phases and the teams will apply their knowledge on their innovation projects. The program starts in November 2015 with workshops in Kuwait, followed by four months of mentoring on a biweekly basis. Mentoring is provided by the Cambridge Judge Business School with a total of eight sessions between January to April of 2016. The third module will take place in Cambridge, UK on May 23 - 27 2016 and will be a combination of workshops and site visits to innovative companies. While the program fees are covered by KFAS, participating companies are only responsible for their team's travel

Unique program

Peter Hiscocks, CEO, Executive Education; Senior Faculty in Enterprise and Innovation Management At Cambridge Judge Business School stated "We at Cambridge Judge Business School are delighted to have partnered with KFAS to develop and deliver this unique program. We will challenge the teams from the different Kuwaiti companies and take them through the entire innovation process to develop real innovation initiatives that will add value to their organizations."

The ten participating companies for 2016 are Advanced Technology Company, Agility, Axis Solutions Company for Computer Systems, Boubyan Bank, International Turnkey Computer Systems (ITS), Kuwait Energy, Kuwait Finance House, Mohammed Homoud AL-Shaya, TABco International Food Catering, and Warba Bank.

NBK CELEBRATES NEW SHABAB TRAINING PROGRAM GRADUATES

PUBLISH THEIR BOOKS

KUWAIT: National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) celebrated the graduation of the ninth batch of newly hired young Kuwaitis from the new Shabab Training Program. The program is specially designed to develop the skills of newly recruited diploma holders as part of NBK's strategy to attract and develop young Kuwaitis.

Peter Hiscocks speaks at the event.

NBK organized a special ceremony for the graduation of the newly hired young Kuwaitis. The ceremony was attended by Emad Ahmed Al Ablani, NBK General Manager, Human Resources Group, with senior leaders from the bank.

Shabab Program is the first initiative of its kind in the private sector in Kuwait holders, and is part of NBK's strategy to ership members.

attract young Kuwaitis by offering them a range of career and professional development opportunities.

NBK Shabab Training Program extends over a period of two and a half months and is specially tailored to provide trainees with theoretical and practical skills covering the different aspects of the banking industry.

NBK's training programs include NBK Academy which aims to train and develop the professional skills of fresh graduates, the Summer Internship Program for high school and college students, in addition to professional training and development programs especially designed and provided by world renowned institutions to



KUWAIT: Emad Al-Ablani, NBK General Manager, Human Resources Group, and NBK officials in a group photo with the graduates.

ZAIN: DAVID ALLEN FACILITATED 'GETTING THINGS DONE' SEMINAR **KUWAITI YOUTH WRITERS** OVERCOME HARDSHIPS TO COMPANY LEAD PARTNER OF 'KNOWLEDGE CLUB'

KUWAIT: The 40th Kuwait book fair witnessed this year the publication of books by young authors who had overcome obstacles and many hardships to get their books out to the public. In a number of interviews with KUNA, the authors spoke about their journey and how they had faced several challenges to publish their

Ali Khalfan, 14, said that he faced various hardships in order to publish his book Halet Fugdan (missing case), focusing on the loss of friendship. He noted that some publishing companies had set some bizarre conditions to allow young writers to issue their books, affirming that some writers had to use some questionable

methods to get their books published. Khalfan stressed that in order to protect the rights of youth authors, a union should be established. He affirmed that such union will reinforce cooperation among young writers and enable them to coordinate more effectively.

In a similar view, author of the book 'Benjamin,' a tale of a youth struggling with faith, Abulwahab Al-Qatari, 17, criticized some publication houses for not taking risks with young writers. The lack of belief in young writers is a major issue that prevents many from putting out their original content, said Qatari, who attributed the publication of his book to the unyielding support by his family and friends. He hoped that one day a club for young writers will be established to meet the need of creative youth.

Reflecting a different experience, Author Jumana Ashkanani, 17, said that she currently focused on writing romanticthemed and drama books, noting that partaking in the fair had enabled her to get exposed to other styles of writing and authors. The young writer said that she was glad to have been supported by her family and publishing houses through her short career which thus far had produced the book 'Layali', a story of a teenager girl forced to take responsibility and decisions at a young age. Ashkanani added that she had received a considerable amount of constructive criticism and pointers which she will use to improve herself in the

KUWAIT: Zain, the leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, announced that international speaker David Allen recently facilitated a one-day seminar as part of its lead partnership of 'Knowledge Club' for the second year running. The initiative, organized by Vigor Events, is considered one of the biggest training programs in the country, and hosts some of the world's top experts and speakers throughout the year.

Zain was keen to reserve a number of exclusive seats for its employees throughout the year for them to attend the workshops and seminars the club organizes. This seminar, entitled 'Getting Things Done', was facilitated by international expert and speaker David Allen, inventor of the GTD methodology and the world's leading expert on personal and organizational productivity. Allen's pioneering research, coaching, and education for over 30 years earned him Forbes' recognition as one of the top five executive coaches in the United States.

During the seminar, Allen mainly discussed how employees can create a path for themselves to get in control of their world and maintain a perspective in both their personal and professional lives. The international expert also shared his effective GTD methodology, which is a total worklife management system that transforms overwhelm into an integrated system of stress-free



KUWAIT: International speaker David Allen speaks during a seminar held as part of Zain's partnership of 'Knowledge Club.'

productivity. Zain is keen on finding and providing the best development programs to its human resources, with the aim to raise their skills up to international standards. The company will continue to invite the most renowned international speakers and innovative thinkers to share their

experiences with its employees. It is worth mentioning that Zain's lead partner-

ship with Knowledge Club 2015 highlights its continuous efforts in providing its employees with a platform that brings together international experts from several areas. Zain aims at supporting the development of human resources, and the company firmly believes that in strengthening its relationship with the society in which it operates in.

KEPS ORGANIZES ENVIRONMENTAL OPEN DAYS



KUWAIT: A workshop held as part of environmental open days, organized by An environmental activity held as part of KEPS' open days at schools. **Kuwait Environment Protection Society.** — **KUNA**



KUWAIT: The Kuwait Environment Protection Society (KEPS) has organized a series of environmental open days in nine schools within the program dubbed 'green schools' in its fifth edition. A number of lectures and specialized workshops in the areas of birds, environmental police, the law of environmental protection and recycling of plastic waste were held.

Member of the programs and activities department in the society Aseel Al-Thuwaini said that the society hosted student delegations of nine public and private schools where they became acquainted with the sources, risks, and the process of recycling plastic.

She added that the students also became aware of how to sort waste and proper ways to get rid of them as well as a screening mechanism, collection and reducing waste in collaboration with the society's banner 'green schools.'

She explained that the society targets the participation of 25 schools in those specialized themes, including at least 500 additional beneficiaries of students and teachers, indicating that about 15 environmental clubs participated in student groups and will receive a certificate from KEPS. — KUNA







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Al-Jarida

THE COMING SYRIAN VOLCANO

By Dr Hassan Jouhar

■he Middle East is now over the mouth of a very active volcano that is about to erupt after the shooting down of the Russian fighter with Turkish missiles while it was striking terrorist groups in Syria. This incident will not pass peacefully in view the dangerous acceleration in the Russian attitude and the statements made by President Putin, who described the incident as a "stab in the back by Turkey", then changed his words to a "declaration of war against Russia". He also accused President Erdogan of being a "major regional supporter of IS".

The Turkish attitude, itself, seemed weird and unjustified. It coincided with very rapid developments after the terrorist attacks in France. Some official and nonofficial European voices started calling for choking certain countries they pinpointed, including Turkey, accusing them of ideologically and politically supporting radical armed organizations through facilitating their operations and providing them with logistic and financial support. Western demands even went as far as holding those countries accountable even if they were allies. At the same time, Russia was beginning to achieve field victories in such a short period and managed to do what the US allied forces failed to do in two years.

Many strategic analysts justify Turkey's, Western and even, some regional countries' disturbance by the Russian interference in Syria by the destruction Moscow managed to afflict upon terrorist insurgents, their headquarters, lines of oil supply and infrastructure. The Russian strikes included IS and other insurgents who are deemed as 'negotiation tools' in the hands of some regional and international powers who intend to use them in the coming Vienna meeting. In other words, the Russians have been achieving both military and political achievements and victories and the ones who would be most affected with such victories are the Turks, who have fully supporting toppling the Syrian regime, which is becoming impossible.

Therefore, shooting down the Russian fighter by Turkish planes, ambushing it flying out of a NATO base and its falling in territories controlled by Syrian Turkmen, has very clear indications of forcing the entire NATO into the problem to back up Turkey. Therefore, the quick Russian reaction to shooting down one of its planes by deploying its S300 and S400 missiles along Turkish borders will surely be responded to by deploying NATO's missiles along the other side of the Syrian borders, which is similar to what happened between the Soviet Union and US when they divided Europe into eastern and western sides during the Cold War with only one major difference this time - the war in Syria is no longer cold. In fact it is becoming extremely hot and might even get hotter within the next few days.

The prime beneficiary of shifting the confrontation into one between regional countries and major powers is IS and other terrorist organizations who are currently very capable of reaching central Europe as they did in

— Translated by Kuwait Time



الانباء

Al-Anbaa

HISTORY OF CRYING

Arabs sigh of lamenting

this 'glorious past' has

become a major element

for spreading terrorism

and psychological barri-

ers with the entire world

By Salah Al-Sayer

any human communities have their own ancient glories that remind them of days when they used to have more power and dominate more areas than the ones they currently inhabit. The Turks had their Ottoman Empire, Italians had the Roman Empire, and before them, the Greeks, the Persians, the Spaniards and the Portuguese

had their own empires. In more recent years, Great Britain had a worldwide empire that was known as "the empire on which the sun never sets", that dominated most lands on earth.

Those old days were ones of military expansions and Arabs were no exceptions. They had their military glories and great conquests. However, Arabs are the only ones worldwide lamenting and complaining

past and crying for losing their powers in the Iberian peninsula (Andalusia) as if they are the only nation that

had expanded at the expense of other peoples and took control of others' lands.

Arabs sigh of lamenting this 'glorious past' has become a major element for spreading terrorism and psychological barriers with the entire world, simply because people have been confusing history and reli-

gion on explaining the reasons behind what happened. Arab conquests have been portrayed as religious holy wars made under the Muslim caliphate during the reigns of Umayyad and Abbasid caliphs. This made those who do not lament or care for losing that 'historic and religious' legacy seem like infidels who would rejoice on seeing the decline of religion, though facts show that we are currently living in countries that impose Islamic

about losing this ancient glory, feeling sorry about the regulations more than the Umayyad and Abbasids ever

— Translated by Kuwait Times



KUWAIT: This file photo shows the Jaber Hospital under construction.

MOH RACES TO BUILD TOWERS, HOSPITALS

KUWAIT: Motivated by its role in keeping up with the population growth and urban expansion around Kuwait, the Ministry of Health (MOH) is currently in the process of executing a number of mega projects to build public hospitals and health care centers in order to finish them according to

In this regard, the 2009-2010 MOH budget allocated KD 1.25 billion to build 'medical towers' in various areas around Kuwait within the state's development plan as well as MOH's program to develop health services, reduce medical appointments' waiting time and end patients sufferings while waiting to receive proper treatment. The projects include the Jaber Hospital, the new Amiri Hospital Tower, developing Al-Sabah, Farwaniya, Adan, and the infectious diseases hospitals as well as the Kuwait Cancer Control Center (KCCC). The projects also include the Ibn Sina hospital development project, which is about to be offered for public bidding, and the Jahra hospital development project that is being handled by the Amiri

Informed sources added that minister Dr Ali Al-Obaidi was personally following up with the projects to make sure they would finish on schedule. The sources added that according to plans, there would be 125 polyclinics in Kuwait by 2018. The sources also noted that once finished, the Jaber Hospital would include 1,168 beds, adding that the total cost for building the Amiri Hospital Tower was KD

Meanwhile, high-ranking sources at the General Secretariat of the Supreme Council of Planning and Development said that a proposal concerning the privatization of public hospitals' administrations according to the public-private-partnership (PPP) principles had been discussed, adding that further meetings with MOH officials would be held in this regard. — Al-Qabas, Al-Anbaa

RECENT RULING SUGGESTS JOINING IS NOT CRIMINALIZED IN KUWAIT

GCC MULLS BLACKLIST

KUWAIT: Kuwait lacks a legislation that criminalizes the Islamic State (IS), therefore persons accused of belonging to the terrorist organization cannot be convicted. This is according to a recent court order which acquitted a Kuwaiti man of charges of fighting with IS in Syria, saying that the court does not have the jurisdiction to decide on whether a society, group or organization was banned or not.

According to the sentence paper made on October 21, 2015, says that 'while the legislator has banned societies, associations or groups that spread principles that seek destruction of the basic standards of the country, he did not give specifications on considering a society, group or organization as illegal, nor did he authorize a legal tool by which this can be determined."

"If a suspect had joined the so-called Islamic State, and regardless of the principles that the group is based on and which the court has no say in, his action cannot be considered a criminal one," Al-Qabas daily reported yesterday quoting the sentence papers.

GCC blacklist

In other news, Al-Jarida daily reported quoting government sources saying that Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries plan soon to issue a unified list that includes names of terrorists, fugitives and deportees on order to prevent them from moving from one GCC state to another. In addition to his or her name, the list would include a person's fingerprint or eye print, the source said, adding that this issue has been discussed during a recent meeting for GCC interior ministers. — Al-Qabas, Al-Jarida

NO INCOME TAX PLANS: MINISTRY

KUWAIT: Kuwait has no plans to enforce income taxes on individuals at any time since it enjoys a strong financial situation and stays committed to the rentier state concept, a senior Finance Ministry official said.

Speaking about Kuwait's budget during a recent interview with Kuwait Radio FM, Undersecretary Khalifa Hamada said that while reducing the payroll of the public sector which eats up the majority of the budget remains an unfeasible option, Kuwait must not expand it in order to prevent increasing the budget deficit.

On governmental projects, Hamada indicated that there are no plans to postpone strategic projects with an economic dimension, but reiterated that "now is not a suitable time for the government to expand organizational structures and establish new authorities." — Al-Qabas

MOE SUSPENDS 200 PRIVATE SCHOOL FILES

52 ILLEGAL TEACHERS ARRESTED AT PRIVATE INSTITUTE

KUWAIT: The Ministry of Education (MoE) has suspended the files of around 200 Arabic and foreign private schools for violating the rules and regulations set by the ministry, said informed educational sources, noting that the decision led to freezing around 800 transactions mainly concerning renewing teachers' and staff residency visas because they were only doable through the private education

The sources explained that most violations were in the form of unlawfully increasing tuition fees and not paying teachers wages stipulated in various ministry decisions. The sources added said that the affected schools urged the MoE assistant undersecretary for private education to help complete the transactions to avoid legal accountability if teachers and staff members' residencies expire.

Notably, these strict measures were ordered by Minister Bader Al-Essa, who called for applying the law on all schools and not allowing tuition fee increases unless by ministerial decisions. "Accordingly, the problem will remain unsolved until the minister is back," stressed

Teachers arrested

In a different concern, the quadruple committee comprising of elements form the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor, Kuwait Municipality and Ministry of Commerce and Industry recently arrested 52 teachers (including 25 working for MoE) who were working for a private institute in Hawally in violation of residency laws. Informed sources said that on storming an institute supposedly teaching computer courses, the committee found out that it had been turned into a center for private tuitions. In another educational development, well-informed sources said that orders had been issued to refer a school director for investigation over prolonging the school day until 2:30 pm with the excuse of having to cover the school curriculum without being authorized by the ministry. The sources added that once the concerned school is identified, its director would be referred for investigations. — Al-Jarida, Al-Anbaa

Al-Qabas

CONGRATULATIONS, CABBAGE! MAY THE SAME APPLY TO FATTEH **AND MASGOUF!**

By Adnan Farzat

n my name and on behalf of heritage lovers who are close to me, we do extend our heartiest congratulations to 'cabbage', because it is about to be classified as part of heritage by UNESCO, and thus a cabbage dish will be treated just like all other monuments protected by UNESCO in Iraq and Syria, ones that were shattered to dust right before their eyes while they did nothing but blueprint them in 3D, hoping to rebuild them someday. Seeing those monuments will be more like watching a 3D movie and we will imagine that we are actually touring them, then laugh at what we did once the movie finishes.

The BBC said UNESCO was about to add the famous Korean dish kimchi (pickled cabbage) to a list of cultural heritage items. We congratulate them and beg their pardon for not congratulating them when they were awarded the title, because we were busy watching the winged bull statue in Iraq and Palmyra monuments in Syria turn into ashes. However, this is no excuse for us, because the living are more important than the dead. What if stone monuments that have existed for thousands of years get destroyed, compared to a hot delicious spicy and sour dish of cabbage?!

To avoid being taken lightly in what I am saying about kimchi, this particular dish has had many privileges that many people did not. In 2008, it was taken into space by a South Korean astronaut. Therefore, UNESCO ought to give due care to cabbage even more than it ever gave to our destroyed monuments. It should appoint a special guard to each and every cabbage dish to protect it from theft or being vandalized. Who knows, someone might intrude in somebody's cabbage dish in a restaurant after seeing nicesmelling steam coming out and reach out to steal a bite!

It would also be a disaster if cabbage crops were damaged by the same frost and blizzards killing refugees in camps they have been displaced into. What if cabbage crops die out? Will the Koreans make the same dish using frozen cabbage? If they did, will UNESCO protect frozen cabbage as well? The situation is very dangerous and calls for immediate action, because as we know, North Korea has nuclear pow-

I wish the UNESCO would, besides protecting Iraqi and Syrian monuments, protect two famous Arab dishes - fatteh in the Levant and masgouf fish in Iraq.

— Translated by Kuwait Times

Crime

Report

Convicted drug dealer arrested

KUWAIT: A man, who had been wanted for a four-year prison verdict for abusing and trading in drugs, was arrested in a workshop in Jahra industrial area, said security sources, noting that the suspect tried to escape but was controlled and referred to relevant authorities.

Duo hurt in fight

A citizen and a bedoon were injured in a fight inside Taima police station in Jahra, said security sources, noting that the two men were at the station over some financial claims. The sources added that on being taken to Jahra Hospital, both men's relatives rushed there to finish the fight, but security sources held them back.

Dress stolen

A popular female Kuwaiti stylist and designer reported that another popular female artiste had borrowed a dress from her to use for a film session, but did not return it. The stylist urged the police to act and recover her expensive dress.

Medical error

The court of appeal sentenced a private plastic surgery clinic to pay the family of a patient who died because of a medical error at the clinic the sum of KD 50,000.

Swine flu

Well-informed health sources said that four swine flu cases were discovered amongst students of a private school in Salmiya, and that by examining other students as a precautionary measure, they were all found clear of the H1N1 virus. The sources also stressed that swine flu was no longer dangerous and that it was only as dangerous as seasonal flu, unless infected people suffer from other chronic diseases such as diabetes, blood pressure, heart or lung diseases.

Smuggling foiled

Nuwaiseeb customs inspectors foiled two smuggling attempts - a citizen and a Saudi were arrested with five liquor bottles and a Bahraini was arrested with some witchcraft items.

Forgery

Two persons were arrested for registering mobile phone lines under the names of other citizens and expats without their knowledge, said security sources, noting that the case was discovered when an Egyptian man reported finding a line registered under his name without his knowledge. The suspects confessed to using others' ID photocopies in purchasing the lines and reselling them to people who wanted to buy mobile phone lines without being linked to them. — Al-Rai

'Missing' girl found

A woman was arrested in Sharq late at night, after police stopped her and found she was missing for 12 days, as a case was lodged at Salmiya police station. The girl was sent to the relevant police station for processing, who handed her to her family.

Shopper assaulted

Two men beat a woman inside a co-op society without an apparent reason, according to her statements. The woman filed a complaint at Salam police station. — Al-Rai

'OPINION' CASES NOT INCLUDED IN EXTRADITION AGREEMENT

KUWAIT: An agreement that Kuwait and the United Kingdom signed last Thursday on extradition and judicial assistance in criminal matters does not cover people accused of instigating sectarian tensions because the British law classifies that as an opinion rather than being a criminal offense. The extradition of convicts between the two countries will require approval from the UK's ministry of justice, a Kuwaiti government sources said. He added that the agreement was not signed with the intention of extraditing certain individuals, but rather to establish a legal framework that enables authorities in both countries to exchange assistance in criminal matters, such as confiscating evidence. — Al-Qabas

International

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2015

ANGRY CUBANS PROTEST AT ECUADOR VISA RULE



Top Kurdish lawyer killed in Turkey

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ERDOGAN REGRETS PLANE DOWNING

Turkey warns against Russia travel in tit-for-tat

ANKARA: Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan yesterday voiced regret over Turkey's downing of a Russian warplane, saying his country was "truly saddened" by the incident and wished it hadn't occurred. It was the first expression of regret by the strongman leader since Tuesday's incident in which Turkish F-16 jets shot down the Russian jet on grounds that it had violated Turkey's airspace despite repeated warnings to change course. It was the first time in half a century that a NATO member shot down a Russian plane and drew a harsh response from Moscow.

"We are truly saddened by this incident," Erdogan said. "We wish it hadn't happened as such, but unfortunately such a thing has happened. I hope that something like this doesn't occur again." Addressing supporters in the western city of Balikesir, Erdogan said neither country should allow the incident to escalate and take a destructive form that would lead to "saddening consequences".

He renewed a call for a meeting with President Vladimir Putin on the sidelines of a climate conference in Paris next week, saying it would be an opportunity to overcome tensions. Erdogan's friendly overture however, came after he again vigorously defended Turkey's action and criticized Russia for its operations in Syria. "If we allow our sovereign rights to be violated ... then the territory would no longer be our territory," Erdogan said.

Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu also said he hoped a meeting between Erdogan and Putin would take place in Paris. "In such situations it is important to keep the channels of communication open," he said. Putin has denounced the Turkish action as a "treacherous stab in the back", and has insisted that the plane was downed over Syrian territory in violation of international law. He has also refused to take telephone calls from Erdogan. Putin's foreign affairs adviser, Yuri Ushakov, said Friday that the Kremlin had received Erdogan's request for a meeting, but wouldn't say whether such a meeting is possible.

Asked why Putin hasn't picked up the phone to respond to Erdogan's two phone calls, he said that "we have seen that the Turkish side hasn't been ready to offer an elementary apology over the plane incident." After the incident, Russia deployed long-range S-400 air defense missile systems to a Russian air base in Syria just 50 km south of the border with Turkey to help protect Russian warplanes, and the Russian military warned it would shoot down any aerial target that would pose a potential threat to its planes.

Russia has since also restricted tourist travel to Turkey, left Turkish trucks stranded at the border, confiscated large quantities of Turkish food imports and started preparing a raft of broader economic sanctions. Yesterday, Turkey issued a travel warning urging its nationals to delay non-urgent and unnecessary travel to Russia, saying Turkish travelers were facing "problems" in the country. It said Turks should delay travel plans until "the situation becomes clear".—AP



BAYBURT, Turkey: Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan addresses a rally in this town on Friday. — AP

BLOGGER COULD BE PARDONED: SWISS OFFICIAL

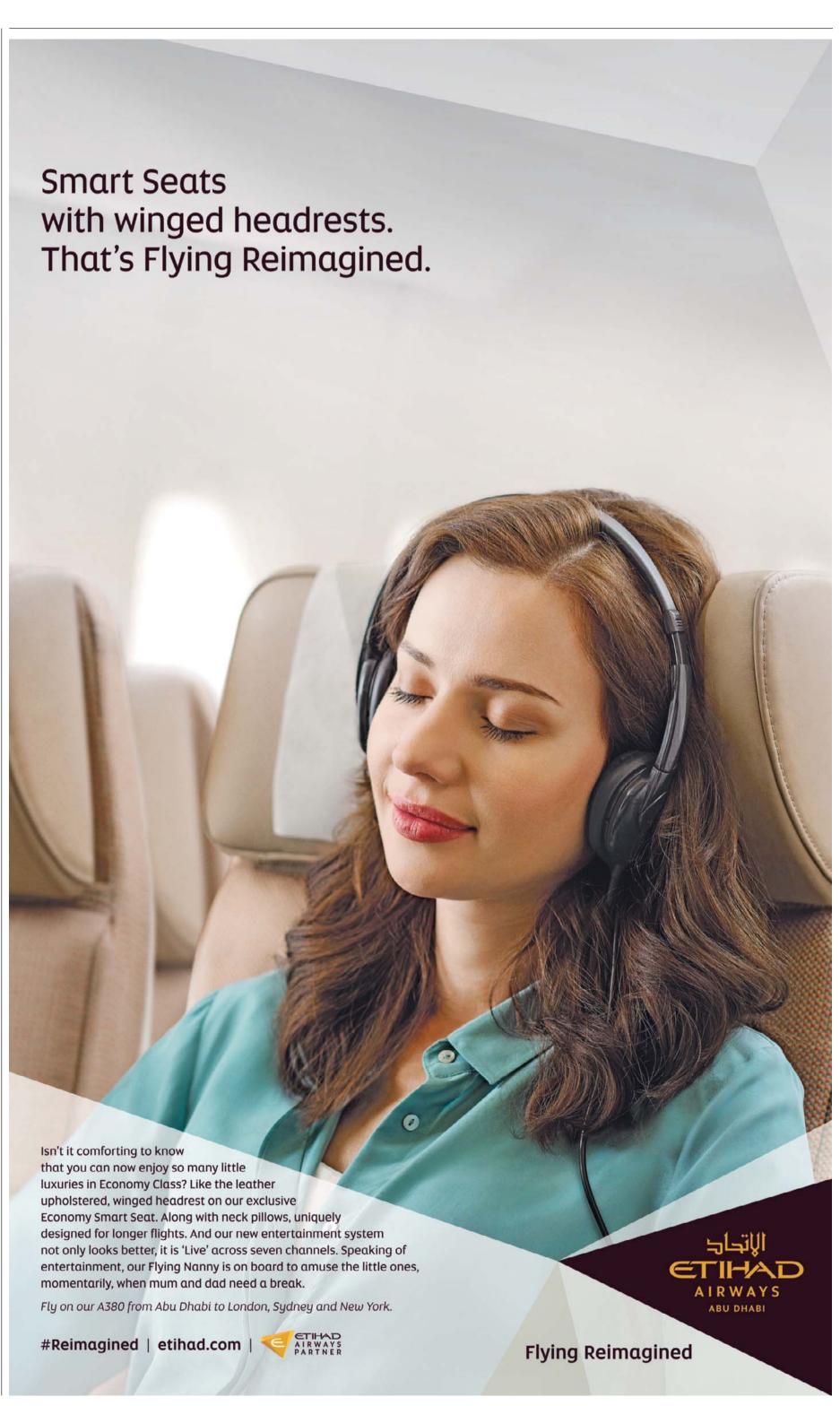
GENEVA: A procedure for obtaining a pardon from Saudi Arabia's king is under way for jailed blogger Raif Badawi, whose flogging sentence created worldwide outrage, a senior Swiss official said yesterday. "A procedure for a pardon is now under way before the head of state, that is King Salman," Yves Rossier, the secretary of state at the foreign ministry, said in the newspaper La Liberte yesterday. Rossier had raised the blogger's case during an official visit to Riyadh this week.

The European Parliament last month awarded Badawi, 31, its Sakharov human rights prize. Announcing the award, parliament chief Martin Schulz called on King Salman to immediately release Badawi, denouncing his 10-year jail term and flogging sentence as "brutal torture". Badawi co-founded the Saudi Liberal Network Internet discussion group.

He was detained in 2012 on cybercrime charges and later sentenced for insulting Islam and calling for the end of the influence of religion on public life. Badawi received the first 50 lashes of his 1,000 lashes sentence in January but there have been no more, following criticism from the European Union, United States, Sweden, Canada, the United Nations and others.

His lawyer Walid Abulkhair, who is also in prison, received Friday in Geneva an international human rights prize from the European bar associations for his work defending rights in the oil-rich kingdom. Abulkhair founded a human rights observatory in Saudi Arabia. He was sentenced last year to 15 years in prison on charges of trying to undermine the state and insulting the judiciary.

South African anti-apartheid icon Nelson Mandela, while still in prison, was the first in 1985 to receive the Ludovic Trarieux International Human Rights Prize, awarded by European bar associations to lawyers who defend human rights and fight against intolerance and racism. —Agencies



LIFE RETURNS TO SYRIAN TOWN AFTER IS OUSTED

AL-HOL, Syria: Outside her home in a town of northeast Syria, four-year-old Baydaa scribbles on a leaflet of religious rules left behind by the Islamic State group as they fled earlier this month. Her face is adorned with make-up of the sort banned by the jihadist group, which was expelled from Al-Hol by a new US-backed coalition of Kurdish and Arab forces that overran the area on Nov 12. The town was once a key waystation for IS between the territory it holds in Iraq and Syria, and its capture was a strategic victory for the new Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) coalition.

But it is also a chance for residents to breathe easy again. "My little daughter Baydaa has put kohl on her eyes and makeup on her face, which was forbidden when the 'organization' was here," said Baydaa's father, Hamdan Ahmed, referring to IS. "I'm so happy not to see them in our village anymore," the 39-year-old told AFP. When IS seized Al-Hol two years earlier, Ahmed refused to leave his home in the Al-Shallal suburb of the town.

As a result, he was forced to abide by the group's strict rules based on their harsh interpretation of Islam. Women were forced to cover up completely, and men to keep their faces unshaved. Parents were ordered to send children under the age of 12 to religious schools run by IS "to avoid punishment or being whipped", the father-of-nine told AFP.

Trapped for Two Years

Elsewhere in the suburb, on the dusty sandy outskirts of the town, 42-year-old Mariam fed a small herd of sheep by a row of mud houses, including her own modest home. "We left the village during the fighting after shells landed in our food store. We lost grain for the sheep, lentils and flour and were left with nothing to eat," she said. Even though the jihadist group is now far from her home, Mariam is still afraid they may return and covers her face with her headscarf when speaking to strangers. She wears a long colorful dress that is traditional in the conservative region, but would not have met the strictures of IS. "When IS was here, any woman who left home without a face veil and black robes would face whipping," she said. With IS gone, local residents who survive mostly on agriculture and livestock, are trickling back to check on their homes and their land.

"For two years, I couldn't sow my land because Daesh prevented us from leaving the areas under its control to get what we needed, like seeds and oil" for agricultural machinery, said 44-year-old Hamid Nasser, using the Arabic acronym for IS. The capture of Al-Hol and the surrounding villages was the first major victory for the SDF, an alliance of the powerful Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG) and Arab and Christian armed opposi-

tion groups. The alliance is backed by the US-led coalition fighting IS, and has received air drops of American weapons to support its fight against the jihadists. Al-Hol in particular was considered a strategic win for the group, severing a key route used by IS between its territories in Iraq and Syria.

Religious Slogans on Walls

In the town, IS' slogans and strictures can still be seen, particularly those encouraging religious practice and the wearing of the veil. "Sister in niqab, how wonderful and beautiful you are in your chastity," reads one. On barber's shops, signs still hang reading "Dear brothers, shaving or trimming the beard is forbidden". And on walls are slogans including: "In the caliphate, there are no bribes, no corruption and no nepotism."

For the SDF, the challenge now is to secure the approximately 200 towns and villages, some of them home to no more than a dozen people, that it has captured from IS in recent weeks and set up a new local administration. While the SDF is dominated by Kurdish fighters, the region where the force is advancing is majority-Arab, raising potential sensitivities. Elsewhere, the YPG has faced charges of discrimination against Arab residents, with Amnesty International last month accusing it of "war crimes" in north and northeast Syria.



AL-HOL, Syria: Two Syrian civilians chat with fighters from the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) on the road leading to the Al-Shallal suburb of this northeastern town in Syria's Hasakeh province on Nov 19, 2015 after they retook control of the area from Islamic State. — AFP

The rights group claimed Kurdish forces had carried out a "deliberate, coordinated campaign of collective punishment of civilians in villages previously captured by IS". The YPG dismissed those claims and has pointed to its strong ties with some Arab militias to ridicule allegations of discrimination. SDF spokesman Talal Ali Sello

told AFP that civilians were being allowed to return to captured areas after they were cleared of explosives, which IS frequently sows in areas before it retreats. He said his forces are working "on the creation of a political body tied to a military entity that will oversee the liberated areas in the coming period." — AFP



DIYARBAKIR: Tahir Elci, the head of Diyarbakir Bar Association, speaks to the media shortly before being killed yesterday. — AP

TOP KURDISH LAWYER SHOT DEAD IN TURKEY

POLICEMAN ALSO KILLED IN CROSSFIRE

DIYARBAKIR, Turkey: A leading Kurdish lawyer was shot dead yesterday in southeast Turkey after unknown attackers opened fire on a gathering in the mainly Kurdish province of Diyarbakir, triggering a shootout with police, local officials and witnesses said. The unknown assailants shot at Tahir Elci, head of the bar association in Diyarbakir, and 40 other activists as they were giving a press statement near a mosque in the city's Sur district, according to witnesses. The police immediately returned fire, they said.

Southeast Turkey has been rocked by a new wave of unrest that has left several hundred people dead since a two-year-old truce between Ankara and the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) fell apart in July. Elci, who had been detained in October for alleged "terrorist propaganda" on behalf of the PKK, died at the scene of gunshot wounds to his left eye, hospital sources told AFP. Diyarbakir governor's office said in a statement that one policeman was also killed and two police were injured in the shootout. "Elci lost his life during clashes that erupted at the same location," the statement said.

nat erupted at the same location," the statement said.

A hunt for the attackers was under way while clash-

es were continuing throughout the Sur district, where authorities have declared a curfew, an AFP correspondent reported. State-run Anatolia news agency claimed that members of the PKK were behind the incident, while the Dogan news agency, quoting witnesses, said a bearded man had opened fire on the group. In video footage released by Dogan, a man hiding behind the minaret of the mosque is seen shooting at Elci, 49. Since June there have been three deadly attacks on pro-Kurdish activists blamed on the Islamic State (IS), including the Oct 10 suicide bombings at a peace rally in Ankara that killed 103.

'Determined to Fight Terrorism'

Speaking after the incident in western Balikesir province, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said he was saddened by the death of Elci. "This incident shows how Turkey is right in its determination in the fight against terrorism," he said. Elci was released pending his trial over an interview in which he said the PKK, which has killed dozens of Turkish soldiers since the resumption of hostilities, was not a terrorist organiza-

tion. "The PKK is a political movement which has important political demands and which enjoys widespread support, even if some of its actions are of a terrorist nature," he had told CNN Turk television, sparking anger. He had risked up to seven years in prison.

The separatist PKK, which launched an uprising against the Turkish state in 1984, is considered a terrorist organisation by Turkey, the United States and the European Union. The government began peace talks in 2012 with the imprisoned head of the PKK, Abdullah Ocalan, but the negotiations fell through in the run-up to the general election in June.

Ankara unleashed a new air war against PKK rebels following a wave of attacks blamed on the group, destroying a 2013 truce and hopes of fresh talks to end a conflict that has claimed 45,000 lives since 1984. Since then, Kurdish fighters have staged almost daily attacks against members of the security forces, killing more than 150 Turkish police and soldiers. Kurds accuse the government of collaborating with the IS group, but Ankara denies the charges and has recently stepped up raids against IS suspects. — AFP

FRIENDS SHOCKED AT TUNISIAN FOOTBALL FAN TURNED BOMBER

MNIHLA, Tunisia: On Tuesday morning, Houssam Abdelli quickly finished his coffee at a cafe on the outskirts of Tunis where he and his friends would gather to watch their favorite football players in action. Hours later, he boarded a bus carrying presidential guards to work along one of the capital's main thoroughfares, clasped the detonator of his 10-kilo Semtex explosive vest, and blew himself up. Abdelli, a 26-year-old street vendor, was formally named this week by investigators as the man who killed 12 guards and wounded 20 people, including four civilians.

Friends and neighbors in the Cite al-Joumhouriya district of Mnihla, a northern suburb of Tunis, spoke of their shock that Abdelli could be capable of inflicting one of the worst ever attacks on Tunisia's security forces. "Houssam was a football fan. He supported Club Africain," one of Tunis' most successful teams, said Walid, 27. "We often went to the cafe to play cards and watch Spanish league games. He was also a very good football player, to the point where we nicknamed him Pereira" after the Brazilian defender Fabio Pereira. According to residents who spoke to AFP, Abdelli's family is "not particularly poor". When he quit high school as a teenager, his father built an annex to the family home so Houssam could "settle and get married". A neighbor who asked not to be named described him as "a polite young man, who always said hello to everyone". But friends ecall Abdelli undergoing a gradual change, withdrawing more and more from society, and shunning the alcohol and drugs he had once dabbled in.

About a year ago, locals noticed Abdelli had stopped being so approachable. "I spoke to his father and he told me that he had changed after becoming very religious," the neighbor said. According to Walid, Abdelli had "turned totally in on himself". "Before, we had a few drinks together and smoked cannabis. Suddenly, he became another person and visited a mosque that was controlled by Salafist jihadists," he said. "But no one can believe he could carry out such an atrocity."

August Arrest

IS's claim of responsibility for Tuesday's attack - which follows deadly assaults on Tunis's National Bardo Museum in March and at a Mediterranean holiday resort in June - included a picture of Abdelli virtually unrecognisable to his friends. He appears to be wearing a suicide vest, his head shrouded in a white scarf, with one finger pointing skywards. Friends recount a number of disputes Abdelli had in recent months. "One day he met me and called me a 'devil' because I was drinking alcohol. I was very upset but I didn't respond because I know his father is a good man," said Mehdi, who only gave his first name.

A cafe waiter said Abdelli "had a fight with one of his neighbors who works for the presidential guards. He called him 'taghout'" - tyrant in Arabic - a term used by extremists when describing security forces. "Last Tuesday, he came as usual in the morning, drank his coffee fast and left without saying a word," the waiter said.

That night, residents of Cite al-Joumhouriya were plunged into mourning: One guard killed in the attack, Amour Khayati, was from the neighborhood. Interviewed by local television, the family said they suspected Abdelli had followed Khayati's movements for several days leading up to the attack. A security source told AFP that Abdelli had "pretended to be a street vendor in order to spy on the houses of police". "At the start of November he photographed the residence of a National Guard officer and marked the spot. The officer's wife saw him and he fled. She identified him from a photograph," the source added.

Another warning sign, according to a neighbor, was that Abdelli had been detained by police in August. "We heard that he tried to go to Syria but had been stopped," she said. Another security source told AFP that extremist literature had been seized from Abdelli after his arrest. "We arrest these potential terrorists but the courts free them," the source said. — AFP



SAQQARA, Egypt: Policeman Magdy Ibrahim Abdel Azim's body lies in a pool of blood at the scene of a drive-by shooting on a security checkpoint on the outskirts of Cairo yesterday. — AP

DRIVE-BY SHOOTING KILLS 4 EGYPTIAN POLICEMEN

CAIRO: A drive-by shooting killed four Egyptian police near a famed historic site on the outskirts of Cairo yesterday and a military helicopter crashed due to a "sudden technical failure" northeast of the capital, officials said. Masked gunmen on a motorcycle opened fire on a security checkpoint near Saqqara, said police Maj Gen Khaled Shalaby. The tourist site is home to the 4,600-year-old Step Pyramid.

No one immediately claimed the attack.

The helicopter was on a reconnaissance mission northeast of Cairo in the Ismailia province, the military said in a statement. It said crew members were injured, without specifying the number hurt or the severity. Egypt has been battling a growing insurgency in the northern Sinai Peninsula led by a local Islamic State affiliate, which has mainly targeted soldiers and police there, but has also claimed attacks elsewhere in Egypt.

The militant group claimed responsibility for the crash of a Russian passenger plane in Sinai last month, saying it smuggled a bomb on board the airliner. Russia said the plane was downed by a bomb and suspended flights to Egypt. Egypt has not commented on the cause of the crash, saying an investigation is still underway.

President Abdel-Fattah Al-Sisi mean-while inaugurated the construction of another side channel for the Suez Canal, the latest step in a multi-year effort to expand the crucial waterway and promote investment. The militant attacks spiked after Sisi led the 2013 military overthrow of President Mohamed Morsi and launched a sweeping crackdown on his Islamist supporters. The government has struggled to combat the Sinai-based insurgency while trying to jump-start the economy after years of unrest. — AP

THREE DEAD IN ATTACK ON UN BASE IN NORTH MALI

BAMAKO: Two UN peacekeepers and a civilian contractor were killed in a rocket attack yesterday on a UN base in northeast Mali, a week after a deadly siege at a Bamako hotel claimed by jihadists. "Our camp in Kidal was attacked early this morning by terrorists using rockets," said an official from the UN peacekeeping mission in Mali (MINUSMA), adding that two Guinean peacekeepers and a contractor working for the United Nations were killed. A local official confirmed the report. "The terrorists fired shots and then fled,"

another UN source said.

MINUSMA later confirmed the death toll in a statement and said a further 20 people were injured in the predawn attack, four seriously. No group had yet claimed responsibility for the attack, which came eight days after a siege at the luxury Radisson Blu hotel in Mali's capital Bamako, in which 20 people died including 14 foreigners.

Armed men held around 170 guests and staff hostage in the November 20

attack that lasted about nine hours before Malian, French and US forces stormed the hotel to free the captives, killing two assailants. Two separate jihadist groups claimed responsibility for that assault: The Al-Murabitoun group, an Al-Qaeda affiliate led by

notorious one-eyed Algerian militant Mokhtar Belmokhtar, and the Macina Liberation Front (LWF) from central

Four days later, a UN employee was killed in an attack on a peacekeeping convoy near the historic desert town of



KIDAL, Mali: A file photo taken on July 27, 2013 shows UN soldiers patrolling in this northern Malian city. — AFP

state fell under the control of Tuareg rebels and jihadist groups linked to Al-Qaeda in 2012. The Islamists soon sidelined the Tuareg to take sole control of Timbuktu, Kidal and other northern towns but lost most of the ground they had captured in a French-led military intervention in Jan 2013. Nearly three years later, large swathes of Mali still remain lawless despite a June peace deal between the government and Tuareg rebels seen as crucial to ending

decades of instability in the north that

left it vulnerable to extremism. — AFP

Timbuktu. MINUSMA chief Mongi

Hamdi said in a statement the attacks

"would not dent the determination of the UN to support the Malian people

and the peace process, including assist-

ing in the implementation of the

Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation in Mali".

Perilous Peacekeeping Mission

since the north of the vast west African

Mali has been plagued by unrest



WEST HEMPSTEAD, New York: In this Nov 25, 2015 photo, a lot stands empty after the township had the home that once stood on it torn down. — AP

TOWN DEMOLISHES VETERAN'S HOUSE WHILE HE HAS SURGERY

OFFICIALS SAY THEY TRIED TO CONTACT OWNER

WEST HEMPSTEAD, New York: When a US Navy veteran traveled from Long Island to Florida for a knee replacement, his house was the last thing on his mind. But now his memory of it is all he can think about. Philip Williams' home was demolished in the spring by town officials while he spent about six months recuperating from surgical complications in Fort Lauderdale. Back in New York, officials in the Town of Hempstead deemed his modest twostorey home unfit for habitation and knocked it down.

The 69-year-old has now waged a legal battle against the suburban New York town. He wants reimbursement for the house and all the belongings inside. "I'm angry and I'm upset. It's just wrong on so many levels," he said "My mortgage was up to date, my property taxes were up to date ... everything was current and fine." Williams went to Florida in December 2014 for the procedure, so a friend could help with his recovery. But he developed infections

that forced further surgery and heart complications, leaving him hospitalized until doctors deemed him medically able to return home in August.

When Williams pulled up to what should have been a two-storey creamcolored cottage with a red door in West Hempstead, there was just an empty lot. "My first thought was there was a fire or something," Williams said. But there was no fire. According to town officials, neighbors had been complaining the house was in disrepair and a blight on the community. Hempstead officials, responding to those complaints, sent inspectors and determined the house was a "dilapidated dwelling" unfit for habitation. So they knocked it down.

The house was in terrible condition for a long time," next door neighbor Keylin Escobar said. "Nobody really lived in the house; the house was abandoned. Everyone who came over to visit, people always say, 'What's going on with this house?" Kathleen

Keicher, who has lived across the street from Williams for 12 years, said notices tacked to the front door of the home began piling up and the house had holes in the side and appeared unkempt. "I feel terrible. When we knew a house was coming down, it was sad," she said. "We thought the house was coming down, someone would buy the land, a new house would come up, a new family would move in. ... We don't want anyone to lose their home."

'Zombie Home'

Williams says he was never contacted and believes town officials thought his house was a so-called "zombie home" - a dwelling abandoned after foreclosure proceedings begin, but one not yet seized by the bank - and rushed to demolish it. "The town basically took everything from me," said Williams, who is now staying with a friend in Florida and has only two suitcases of belongings. "The town does not have a right to take all of my property, all of my possessions."

Williams had lived in the house since he was six months old. He said many of the items in the home had been in his family since he was a newborn or had sentimental value, like his late wife's engagement ring, photos of his six children growing up and a model train set he had since he was a child. He lost all of his clothing, a bicycle he'd just purchased, dishes, silverware and other housewares. Town officials say they tried to contact Williams and provided AP copies of letters they said they mailed to the home and to banks. They also held a public hearing before going forward with the demolition. But Williams contends he never received any of the notices and said he couldn't figure out why the letters were mailed to four separate banks where he never had accounts. "I have no idea who those banks are," Williams said. "But they never contacted me in any way, shape or form." — AP

THOUSANDS PROTEST AGAINST POLICE SHOOTING IN CHICAGO

CHICAGO: Thousands of protesters blocked traffic and barred shoppers from entering stores during the Black Friday sales extravaganza to demand justice for a black teen killed by a Chicago police officer. Tensions flared in this Midwestern city after officials released a dashcam video on Tuesday showing officer Jason Van Dyke shot Laquan McDonald 16 times after the teenager walked away from him in Oct 2014.

The graphic video is the latest in a string of police shootings caught on camera that have sparked mass - and sometimes violent protests and engulfed the United States in a debate over racism and the use of deadly force by police. "All they think we're going to do is grow up to be thugs," Jared Steverson, 27, shouted at a black police officer who stood guard outside a shop on the city's upscale "Magnificent Mile" shopping strip. "It wasn't about him fearing for his life, it was him not wanting to see that boy live."

The black officer stood stone-faced and avoided Steverson's gaze as he stood centimeters away, swearing and waving his hands as he accused the officer of guarding the wrong neighborhood and betraying his race. "When you go home and put on clothes like me, you're black and they're going to pull you over because you're just like me," Steverson shouted. He stepped away, and wiped tears from his eyes. "I've lost too many little brothers," he told AFP, then turned back to the police and said "I'm not a thug. I don't sell drugs. I went to college. You all ain't got to treat us like dogs, man."

'No One Cares, Clearly'

Prosecutors and city officials have come under fire for waiting until a judge ordered the release of the video to charge Van Dyke with murder. Several protesters held signs demanding the resignation of Chicago's

embattled police chief and chanted "16 shots 13 months" to voice anger that it took so long to charge Van Dyke when there was clear evidence he was never threatened by McDonald. Police had initially said that McDonald, who was high on PCP, lunged at Van Dyke while brandishing a knife.

Protesters say the shooting illustrates deeper injustices both in Chicago and nationwide. Many liken McDonald's case to that of Michael Brown, the black teenager shot dead by a white policeman in Ferguson, Missouri last year. His death triggered 15 months of sometimes violent demonstrations over perceived police brutality against black men.

Samantha Vazquez, 18, joined those locking their arms in front of stores to block shoppers from the high-end shops on Michigan Avenue. She wanted to stand up for McDonald because she feels like it could have been her or one of her friends shot 16 times and left to bleed out alone on the pavement. "We're going to hold down these doors so nobody can buy anything, so nobody makes money until people understand how bad this is, how this is affecting Chicago," Vazquez told AFP as she stood outside Cole Haan. "No one cares, clearly, they're just walking by shopping. And no one cares that somebody's dead, that other kids have been shot and nobody's doing anything." Okunola Jeyifous and his wife Megan brought their ninemonth-old twins to the demonstration, braving freezing rain. Jeyifous, 41, is a research scientist at the University of Chicago. He said he feels that the color of his skin means he cannot trust the police. And he worries that his children could end up dying on the street one day. "This is an important moment," he told AFP. "I want them to live in a world and live in a society that values them and in which they feel they have equal protection under the law." — AFP



CHICAGO: Demonstrators block motorists along Michigan Avenue on Friday as they protest the shooting of Laquan McDonald, who was killed by a Chicago police officer. — AFP

CUBANS PROTEST NEW

ed at the Ecuadorean embassy in Cuba on Friday, a day after the Andean nation announced they would need visas to enter the country as of Dec 1. The Cubans waved their passports and plane tickets and said they were anary

because they had already bought tickets under the previous no-visa policy of Ecuador and wanted passage or their money back. An Ecuadorean diplomat told the crowd they would have to go online and get a 90-day tourism visa and speak to the airlines about refunds.

Cuban police secured the embassy, which they said was closed. There was no violence. "Now they are saying we can't travel to Ecuador because of the Cubans who are skipping out. That's not our fault!" said Ivan Balera, 51, who said he spent over \$1,000 on his ticket. The embassy said at a press con-

ference that the web page for applying for the visa is up and running, and Cubans will have to work with airlines to change their tickets if they are not able to obtain a visa

"Governments can't intervene in commercial policies... However... we are aware that the airlines are willing to issue refunds," Ecuadorean Consul Soraya Blanca Encalada, Ecuador said it made the decision at a regional meeting on Tuesday in El Salvador to discuss the future of thousands of Cubans stranded at the Costa Rica-Nicaragua border en route to the United States. "We decided to impose the visa requirement for Cuban citizens in order to discourage the flow of people seeking to reach the United States," Ecuador's foreign minister, Xavier Lasso, told reporters on Thursday.

Thousands of Cubans have traveled to Ecuador over the past decade, some to purchase goods for resale at home and others to settle. Many use the country as an entry point for making the perilous trek through Central America to the Mexican border with the United States, where they are granted entry and residency, unlike other migrants. The office of Ecuador airline Tame in Havana posted a sign on the door directing Cubans with tickets for after Dec 1 to contact the embassy.

"Nothing has been specified yet. We are supposed to receive instructions on Monday," said a Tame office worker in Havana who declined to give her name. She said it had not yet been decided whether Tame would change its refund

policy. — Reuters



تحت رعاية السيد/نزار العدساني

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POPE HONORS MARTYRS ON LANDMARK AFRICA TOUR

ed Pope Francis yesterday as he held a mass youth rally and honoured martyred Christians on his landmark trip to Africa, which he dubbed "the continent of hope".

The 78-year-old pontiff was greeted by wild cheers and singing at a shrine to the martyrs at Namugongo, just outside the capital Kampala, that honours more than 40 Christians who were executed in the 19th century for refusing to recant their faith.

"Pope Francis we love you!", young Christians chanted at a youth rally at the Kololo grounds in Kampala, as thousands danced to pumping music, cheering as the pontiff leaned out of the popemobile to kiss babies. Over 100,000 people had waited from before dawn at the open-air shrine to attend the mass, a highlight of his visit to Uganda, the second leg of his trip after Kenya, and before travelling to war-torn Central African Republic (CAR) today.

A total of 45 Catholics and Protestants, many of them youngsters working as royal pages, were executed by King Mwanga of Buganda-a 19th century kingdom that was located in the south of present-day Ugandabetween 1885 and 1887.

At issue was their refusal to comply with

KAMPALA: Large crowds of Ugandans greet- the king's sexual advances towards them and other young boys in the court. "Today, we recall with gratitude the sacrifice of the Uganda martyrs," Francis said at the Namugongo shrine where 26 of them were burned alive on June 3, 1886. "Not only were their lives threatened but so too were the lives of the younger boys under their care," he said. "They were fearless in bringing Christ to others, even at the cost of their lives."

Gay rights in focus

Catholic faithful from neighboring wartorn South Sudan were also among the worshippers, having travelled 12 hours by bus to catch a glimpse of the Argentine pope, who has made humility and help for the poor a hallmark of his tenure.

Fighting poverty has been a key theme of his visit but some of the faithful were hoping to hear the pontiff's thoughts on other issues such as gay rights. "The challenges we have in Uganda are early pregnancies, drug abuse and homosexuality," said 18-year old schoolgirl Joyce Adong, dressed in her uniform and carrying rosary beads.

Homosexuality remains illegal in many countries in Africa, including Kenya and Uganda, where lawmakers passed tough



KAMPALA: Crowds cheer Pope Francis as he arrives at Kololo airstrip in Kampala yesterday. Pope Francis left Kenya for Uganda where he will spend two days before continuing on to the Central African Republic, a country wracked by sectarian conflict. — AFP

anti-homosexuality legislation in 2013 that was later overturned on a technicality.

Ugandan gay rights activists had asked to meet the pope, who has said gay people should not be marginalized, but it was not clear if the meeting took place.

Among the visitors from South Sudan was President Salva Kiir who held a brief private meeting with the pope, according to a South Sudanese government official who

"If there's one country he should visit, it's South Sudan," said 37-year-old Anthony Beda from South Sudan, wearing a pope badge and waving a flag with the pontiff's face on it. "I want to hear his powerful words of unity and compassion," Beda told AFP, saying it could help stop the civil war there. "I would love him to go... It would be a blessing." In the midst of the crowds in Kampala, a policewoman went into labour, giving birth to a baby girl that she named Franchesca-the female version of Francis, Uganda's New Vision newspaper reported.

Arrests in Kenya

Francis, who railed against corruption and wealthy minorities who hoard resources at the expense of the poor during his three days in Kenya, struck a more optimistic tone since arriving in neighbouring Uganda late Friday. "The world looks to Africa as the continent of hope," he said in his opening speech, hailing Uganda's outstanding response in accommodating hundreds of thousands of refugees from neighboring war-torn states. — AFP



PARIS: People gather at Place de la Republique (Republic Square) in Paris yesterday to pay tribute to the victims of the

PROTESTS AS FRANCE'S HOLLANDE CALLS ON UK TO JOIN SYRIA BLITZ

Protest in London as Syria air strikes vote looms

PARIS: French President Francois Hollande has urged British MPs to back an air campaign against the Islamic State group in Syria, as thousands prepared to march

on London yesterday to oppose the plans. Hollande made the appeal after a tribute to the 130 victims of the Paris attacks, during which he vowed to destroy the "army of fanatics" behind the violence that rocked the French capital two weeks ago. "On November 13, a day we will never forget, France was hit at its very heart," Hollande told a sombre commemoration in the Invalides, the 17th-century complex housing Napoleon's tomb on Friday. "To all of you, I solemnly promise that France will do everything to destroy the army of fanatics that committed these crimes," he said.

Speaking later at the Commonwealth summit in Malta, where he flew after the ceremonies in Paris, Hollande called on British lawmakers to support France's intervention in Syria. "I can only call on all British members of parliament, in solidarity with France but, above all, conscious of the fight against terrorism, to approve this intervention," he said.

Hollande has already been backed by Germany, which has offered Tornado reconnaissance jets, a naval frigate, and 650 soldiers to relieve French forces

Memories of Iraq

British Prime Minister David Cameron made his case for air strikes to parliament on Thursday ahead of a vote expected next week. But many MPs are still troubled by the memory of unpopular British interventions in Iraq and Afghanistan under then Labour prime minister Tony Blair. The Stop the War Coalition-which also led demonstrations against British intervention in Iraq-has organised a major rally in London to protest the move, with thousands expected to march on Downing Street vesterday afternoon. "We are calling on all our groups to organize protests in their towns and cities on the same day. We need to resist this brutalising and dehumanizing spiral of violence," the group said on a Facebook page to advertise the event.

Spanish activists also called for peace protests yesterday, with the country still scarred from extremist attacks following its involvement in the Iraq war.

The 2004 attacks saw Al-Qaeda-inspired bombers blow up four packed commuter trains and kill 191 people in retaliation for then prime minister Jose Maria Aznar's decision to join the US-led Iraq invasion. Leading personalities, including Barcelona Mayor Ada Colau and Pilar Manjon, head of an association for victims of Madrid's attacks, have called for nationwide peace protests to denounce the use of further force. Their online manifesto has been signed by more than 28,000 people and demonstrations are planned in Madrid, Barcelona, Seville and Valencia and other locations. France has said that all 27 of its EU partners have

pledged to help in some way to strike at the Islamic State group, but Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy has so far remained evasive on the issue. The Paris attacks-claimed in response for French air strikes on the jihadists in Iraq and Syria-inflicted the worst-ever toll on French soil, leaving 130 dead and 350 wounded. Most victims were under 35.

Vote looms

Around 4,000 people joined a protest in London yesterday against Britain potentially joining air strikes against the Islamic State (IS) group in Syria. Parliament is expected to vote on the issue next week after Prime Minister David Cameron pushed MPs to back the move in the wake of this month's Paris attacks. The demonstration was organised by the Stop The War Coalition protest movement. Its chairman Andrew Murray urged demonstrators to "stand behind" Jeremy Corbyn, the leader of the main opposition Labor party and a former Stop the War Coalition chairman, in opposing air strikes. — Agencies

TWO KENYANS WITH IRAN LINKS ARRESTED FOR PLOTTING ATTACKS

NAIROBI: Kenyan security forces have arrested two Kenyan men with links to Iran on suspicion of planning attacks in the East African nation, the Interior Ministry said yesterday. The ministry originally identified both men as Iranians, but a spokesman later said it had issued that detail in error and the two men had links to Iran, not Iranian nationality. "The two men, Abubakar Sadiq Louw and Yassin Sambai Juma, have admitted to conspiring to mount terror attacks against Western targets in Kenya," the ministry said.

It said their targets included "hotels in Nairobi frequented by Western tourists and diplomats." Louw, 69, was a Kenyan passport holder and a prominent figure in Nairobi's Shi'ite Muslim community, the ministry said in the statement. Suspected of working on behalf of Iran's elite military Qods Force, Louw recruited 25-year-old Juma from Nairobi, it said.

Louw told investigators he had arranged for Juma to travel to Iran and introduced

him to a Oods force contact, the ministry added. Interior Ministry spokesman Mwenda Njoka confirmed to Reuters that Juma was also a Kenyan. Kenya has suffered from a series of attacks by Somali Islamist group al Shabaab, a Sunni Muslim group that has said its assaults are aimed at driving Kenyan troops and other members of an African Union force out of Somalia.

There was no indication of any link to the latest arrests. Two Iranian men were sentenced to life in prison by a Kenyan court in 2013 for planning to carry out bombings a year earlier in the East African country. The ministry said those two men also had links to Qods Force.

In 2014, a court ordered an Iranian man and woman held under anti-terrorism laws to serve two years in jail or pay a fine after admitting to using fake Israeli passports to enter Kenya. They had been detained on suspicion of planning an attack, but officials did not say if those suspicions were laid to

SOME GUNS USED IN PARIS ATTACKS PRODUCED IN **EX-YUGOSLAVIA'S ARSENAL**

BELGRADE: Some assault rifles used by the Islamic militants in the Nov 13 Paris attacks and later seized in police raids were produced in the former Yugoslavia's state arsenal, the company's director said yester-

Milojko Brzakovic, director of the Zastava (Banner) Arms factory in the city of Kragujevac in central Serbia, said that they were part of a batch of M70 assault rifles, a improved Yugoslav copy of the Sovietdesigned AK47, produced in 1987 and 1988. "We have checked seven, maybe eight serial numbers received from the police in our database and found that guns from that particular batch were sent to military depots in Slovenia, Bosnia and Macedonia," Brzakovic told Reuters.

Zastava Arms, then called Zavodi Crvena Zastava, served as the sole state arsenal for small arms for the now-defunct Communist Yugoslav army and police. It still produces weapons for the Serbian government, hunting and sports. In the 1970s and 1990s the company was also a major arms exporter to the then-Yugoslavia's allies in Africa, Asia and the Middle East and it is still a exports to a number of markets including the United States.

"There's no doubt they were produced by us (Zastava Arms), we were the only producer then, and we have serial numbers of everything we ever produced, but in the 1990s anyone could get a hold of them in army depots," he said. Most of the Western Balkans is awash with hundreds of thousands of illegal weapons that remained in private hands and organized crime gangs following wars and unrest in the 1990s and weapons smuggling persists. "Sales are now tightly controlled by the government and every piece of weapons slated for export must be approved by authorities and accounted for," he said.

Brzakovic said that police also inquired about a CZ99 9mm pistol, also a Zastava Oruzje product since 1980s. "We have found it went to a company registered for weapons retail in Serbia and now the police will find the first buyer and follow the trail of the gun." — Reuters

LEADER OF ANTI-IMMIGRANT PARTY ASKS MERKEL TO RESIGN

HANOVER: The leader of Germany's antiimmigrant AfD party, riding a wave of public anger against Chancellor Angela Merkel's asylum policy, yesterday called on her to resign for throwing the country's doors open to

migrants. "Merkel, step down. You can do it," Frauke Petry told some 600 AfD supporters, mainly grey-haired men, putting a new twist on Merkel's "Wir schaffen das" (We can do it) message to those who doubt Germany can deal with the influx of migrants expected to reach one million this year.

Petry, whose Alternative for Germany is enjoying an improbable revival after nearly imploding in a power struggle, said her party stood a real chance of entering three new state parliaments next year and the national parliament for the first time in 2017. Petry drew at least four standing ovations with attacks on what she called Merkel's undemocratic decision to open Germany's borders to migrants who are expected to reach one million this year. Petry and Joerg Meuthen took over the AfD from Bernd Lucke, who in July left the party he founded in 2013 to oppose euro zone bailouts, citing a xenophobic shift.

The AfD placed third nationally, at 10.5 percent, for the first time this month in a survey for pollsters INSA after polling at 3 per cent after Lucke's exit. It has been stealing votes from Merkel's CDU conservatives. The party presented its plan to end what it described as "asylum chaos" at a summit in Hanover. About 2,500 leftist activists, some carrying banners reading "Racism is no alternative", staged a demonstration outside the venue. AfD wants drastically to reduce the number of refugees in Germany by rejecting Syrians and Iragis who come from "safe third states" like Turkey and Lebanon, and turn down asylum applicants without identification documents, among oth-

It also wants to cut to 48 hours the processing time for asylum applications. Under Petry, the party has attracted far-right supporters and officials, prompting criticism from the German media and politicians who szay it is xenophobic. Petry said her party was the victim of a defamation campaign and called the media "the Pinocchio press" and "Luegenpresse" (lying press), a Nazi-era term which anti-immigrant protesters have revived.

She added that the uncontrolled influx of asylum seekers raised the risk of "terror attacks" like in Paris earlier this month. AfD won seats in the Hamburg state assembly in February, entering a legislature in western Germany for the first time, and has since also gained seats in Bremen.

It previously had seats in Saxony, Thuringia and Brandenburg in eastern Germany - where resentment against refugees is greatest - and is gaining further momentum nationally.

Its biggest test will be the federal election in two years. Some pollsters believe it will implode before then, either because of infighting or if the refugee crisis eases. — Reuters

AS ELECTIONS NEAR, SCARRED SPAIN WAVERS ON FRANCE MILITARY SUPPORT

MADRID: Spain's government is stuck between a rock and a hard place. Keen to show France support in its battle against extremism, Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy is also acutely aware that any concrete engagement will awaken the ghosts of Spain's devastating 2004 attacks just weeks ahead of general elections, experts say. The attacks saw Al-Qaeda-inspired bombers blow up four packed commuter trains and kill 191 people in retaliation for then prime minister Jose Maria Aznar's decision to join the US-led Iraq invasion, precipitating his party's defeat at ensuing elections. "The Spanish experience of the war in Iraq was disastrous and public opinion is very careful and sensitive to this type of intervention," said Nicolas Sartorius, vice-president of the Alternatives Foundation think tank.

"It's logical that when you have an experience like that of 2004 and elections within weeks you react with some prudence, and Rajoy is trying not to repeat Aznar's hugely serious mistakes." France said Wednesday that all 27 of its EU partners had pledged to help in some way to strike at the Islamic State group that claimed responsibility for the Paris attacks, but Rajoy has so far remained evasive on the issue. The Spanish leader, who hails from the same Popular Party as Aznar and was elected in 2011, said Thursday he had not received any official demand for help from Paris.

But he pointed out that Spain was already supporting France in its fight against extremism, particularly with 117 of its troops stationed in Mali and 57 in Senegal.

'We have to be with France'

The hot-button issue has been at the forefront of

debate ahead of December 20 elections, as speculation mounts that Spain is considering getting involved in the US-led coalition battling IS, as does criticism of Rajov's silence on the issue. "The prime minister should seek the consensus of the majority of political forces on potential support for military intervention in Syria, not to dodge his obligations but to confront them," read a comment piece in the centreright El Mundo daily.

"If this is a war, we have to be with France, without a doubt." Rajoy brought together nine smaller political parties on Thursday to agree to an "anti-terrorist pact" that he had already signed in February with the main opposition Socialists. The pact essentially reinforces police and legal powers to fight jihadists and those who recruit them. — AFP



MADRID: People holding banners that read in Spanish: "Peace" shout slogans during a protest against the bombing in Syria and Irag, in Madrid, yesterday. During the rally protesters also observed a minute of silence in honor of people killed in countries including France, Syria, Libya, Iraq, Lebanon and Tunisia. — AP



YANGON: Elected candidates of the National League For Democracy (NLD) meets in Yangon yesterday. Suu Kyi is due to meet new lawmakers from her party after a landslide election win earlier this month which may ease the military's decades-long hold on the country. —AFP

SUU KYI LAYS DOWN LAW ON PARTY DISCIPLINE TO NEW MPS

YANGON: Aung San Suu Kyi has warned newly minted MPs she will not tolerate poor discipline or wrongdoing, party members said yesterday, as Myanmar's democracy champion began marshalling her opposition for government amid skyhigh expectations.

Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy party took nearly 80 percent of contested seats in the November 8 election, promising change after decades of corrosive and corrupt army control of the country. But she cannot be president under the junta-scripted constitution.

Instead the party leader has vowed to rule from "above the president"-via a proxy who will be selected by the NLDdominated legislature in the new year. Observers say the NLD, a party of opposition for 25 years, will struggle to match the soaring hopes of a long-suffering people who crave remedies to the nation's deep economic and social problems.

New MPs will also have to learn the nuts and bolts of power and policy making as well as deliver on the party's change narrative. Yesterday NLD lawmakers said Suu Kyi used a party meeting to call for unity and warn newcomers to office that poor discipline or conduct will be punished. She doesn't want anyone to build a small building inside the big one," said Thet Thet Khine, an elected NLD MP in Yangon and a prominent party figure.

"Any MP who wants to build his or her

personal group inside the NLD 'building' will not be accepted," she said. Another new lawmaker said Suu Kyi cautioned the party against "betraying the people" who overwhelmingly shunned the armybacked ruling party at the polls to give the NLD control of both parliamentary houses.

"She said she will not tolerate any breach of party regulations... and she will take action under the law if MPs make a mistake," Tun Myint, elected for the lower house from Bahan township in Yangon,

He said NLD MPs also face a 25 percent salary cut as a gesture to the nation's poor population. Despite public euphoria at the sweeping election win, the military retains a major stake in Myanmar's politics. It has 25 percent of all parliamentary seats gifted to it by a charter that it penned. But so far it has taken the election result gracefully, pledging to ensure a smooth transition of power to the NLD.

The government will not be formed until next year, with a long transition period between elections and the handover of

The current parliament is due to sit until at least January. This has raised concerns of political instability, deadlock or mischief-making by losing lawmakers.

The NLD won a similar scale landslide in 1990 polls, only to see the military annul the result and dig in for another two decades. —AFP

PAKISTAN'S AHMADIS BATTLE MOB AND STATE FOR IDENTITY

VICTIMS CLAIM IT IS STATE-SPONSORED PERSECUTION

ISLAMABAD: "Are these the people with bullets who took my papa away?" two-year-old Sabiha Ahmad asked her mother anxiously when AFP visited her family, members of Pakistan's persecuted Ahmadi minority, who are currently living

The toddler's family have had little contact with anyone since they were forced to flee for their lives on November 20 when hundreds of people torched a factory in the eastern city of Jhelum after rumors spread workers were burning copies of the Holy Quran.

The workers in question were Ahmadis, a minority ethnic group legally declared non-Muslims in Pakistan for their belief in a prophet after Mohammad (PBUH), and long persecuted in the deeply conservative country.

Sabiha's father Asif Shahzad was an Ahmadi employee at the factory, and that night the mob took him away. "I begged them for the life of my wife and children and they freed them only after taking me to burn in the factory's boiler." he told AFP this week from where his family are hiding. "It was my good luck that some kindhearted Muslims helped me to escape," he said. His wife Hafsa said she had almost accepted him dead. "I never wanted to leave him but he said that he would join us if he survived, and I must save mine and our daughters' lives," the 24-yearold told AFP tearfully.

Along with other Ahmadi families fleeing Jhelum that night, Hafsa managed to escape in a car her husband had arranged before he was torn away by the mob. The driver, she said, was Muslim. "(He) treated me and the other ladies... as his daughters," she said, navigating them through the mob to safety.

'Hated for our religion'

Hardline Islamic scholars denounce Ahmadis as heretics, describing their belief in a prophet after Mohammad (PBUH) as blasphemy-a hugely sensitive issue in Pakistan, where even unproven allegations stir mob lynching and violence. The largest Ahmadi community in the world is in Pakistan, where they number about 500,000, and followers are frequently the target of blasphemy allegations by hardliners tacitly supported by what the community says are discriminatory laws.

Legislation framed in 1974 and 1984 under pressure from hardliners, bans Ahmadis from calling themselves Muslims and practicing the

Even voicing the Muslim greeting "Peace be upon you" could see an Ahmadi thrown in prison for three years. "Ahmadi Muslims in Pakistan face daily harassment, intimidation and persecution on the basis of their religion," Dennis Jong, the co-chair of a European

Parliament body on religious tolerance, said in a press release this week slamming the factory

The attacks, he said, "show the continued lack of protection of the human rights and fundamental freedoms offered by the Pakistani government to the Ahmadis".

In July 2014, an mob, in echoes of the attack in Jhelum, burnt three Ahmadis alive and torched their homes in another eastern city, Gujranwala in Punjab province. "Locals hated us

don't even vote in elections because if we declare ourselves Muslims, we will be prosecuted," said Saleem ud Din, a spokesman for Jamate-Ahmaidva.

The state, for its part, says Ahmadis-like all minorities in Pakistan-are "constitutionally protected". "When legislation was formed about the Ahmadis, the law was passed after complete debate in the national assembly," Sardar Muhammad Yousaf, federal religious affairs minister, told AFP.



A Pakistani Ahmadi sect woman Hafsa and mother of a young girl Sabiha Ahmad, wipes away her tears as she speaks with AFP at an undisclosed location in Pakistan. —AFP

for our religion," said Mubashira Jarri Allah, who was caught up in the violence.

"(They) torched our house after a false allegation of blasphemy. I lost my mother, two nieces and my unborn child," she said. She was eight months pregnant at the time.

In May, tensions rose in the district of Chakwal, some 200 kilometers (125 miles) from the capital Islamabad, when the minarets and dome of an Ahmadi place of worship were demolished after a court ruled that it looked too much like a Muslim mosque.

Friends into foes

Officials at the Jamat-e-Ahmadiya, an umbrella organization of Ahmadi groups, say the state itself sponsors their persecution. "We

"The Ahmadis were given full chance to raise their point of view... If the Ahmadi community has some concerns and fears, they must come and discuss that with us and we will address them." In Jhelum on November 20, the Ahmadi families believed they would be shown no mercy.

Witnesses said hundreds of people-mostly young men and followers of local Muslim clerics who rallied them with loudspeakers-torched the chipboard factory, which was owned by an Ahmadi.

They also burnt several houses and ransacked an Ahmadi place of worship. Eighteen Ahmadi families are believed to have fled that night. "Even the best friends turned into the worst foes," said Asif Shahzad. —AFP



LAHORE: Pakistani eunuchs and transgendered people participate in a demonstration demanding equal rights, protection from harassment and attacks and to condemn social injustice in Lahore yesterday. —AP

SUICIDE BOMBER TARGETS AFGHAN ELECTION OFFICIAL

KABUL: A senior member of Afghanistan's election commission survived an assassination attempt yesterday when a suicide bomber targeted his vehicle in Kabul, killing one of his employees and wounding two others, officials said.

No group has so far claimed responsibility for the attack on Awal Rehman Rodwal, the regional director at the Independent Election Commission, which comes after more than a month-long lull in Taliban raids on the capital.

This morning when Rodwal was leaving for work, there was an explosion before he got into his car," Noor Mohmmad Noor, an IEC spokesman told AFP.

"Rodwal escaped the attack unharmed." Noor said Rodwal's bodyguard died in the bombing but Kabul police described the man killed as his driver.

Two others were wounded in the attack, which marks the first fatal attack on IEC staff in the heavily guarded city this year. There was no immediate comment from the Taleban, who have been blamed for several such incidents in the past. In March last year, just days before presidential elections, Taleban militants wearing burqas, an all-enveloping garment worn by women, unleashed rockets and gunfire on the election commission's headquarters in Kabul.

Afghan forces gunned down the five gunmen who targeted the heavily-fortified building and IEC officials were unharmed after many hid for hours in reinforced saferooms. The Taleban have waged a bloody insurgency against the Afghan government and NATO forces since being toppled from power in a 2001 US-led invasion. —AFP

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US NATIONAL REMANDED IN INDIA FOR 'MOLESTING' MINOR BOY

KOLKATA: An Indian court yesterday remanded an American citizen in custody for 14 days over allegations he molested a teenaged boy in his hotel room, police said. The 51-year-old US national was produced before a sessions court in Kolkata, capital of West Bengal state, where a case was initiated against him under India's stringent Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act. "He was produced before a sessions court today (Saturday). He has been remanded to judicial custody for 14 days," Debashis Dhar, an additional police deputy commissioner, told AFP.

Chief public prosecutor Manjit Singh confirmed the remand to AFP over phone. Officials at the US consulate were not immediately available for comment. The accused, who had come to India on a tourist visa, was arrested on Friday after hotel authorities lodged a complaint. Investigators said the man had befriended the boy, 14, on Facebook before coming to Kolkata. "(In Kolkata) he met the boy near the hotel, took him to a shopping mall to gift him football boots and a sports bag and then asked him to accompany to his hotel room," Dhar said. Hotel security manager Joydip Palit said the boy had alleged that the man forced him to perform a sexual act in the hotel room and was handed a 100-rupee (\$1.5) note when he protested. —AFP



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A LOOK AT KEY RADICAL ISLAMIST GROUPS IN BANGLADESH

NEW DELHI: Gunmen attacked a Shiite mosque in Bangladesh, killing one person and wounding three others, in the latest in a wave of deadly assaults this year on foreigners, secular writers and members of the Shiite community in the Sunni-majority nation.

The attacks, claimed by radical Islamist groups, have alarmed the international community and raised concerns that religious extremism is taking hold in the traditionally moderate country. The Islamic State group and a local affiliate have claimed responsibility for the killings of two foreigners - an Italian aid worker and a Japanese agricultural worker - as well as for attacks on the country's minority Shiite Muslim community.

Bangladesh's government, led by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, has repeatedly said that IS has no organizational presence in the country. It accuses domestic Islamist groups along with the main opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party and its main ally, the Jamaat-e-Islami party, of carrying out the attacks to destabilize the South Asian nation for political

A look at the main Islamic political parties and radical groups:

JAMAAT-E-ISLAMI PARTY

Jamaat-e-Islami is Bangladesh's largest Islamist party and a partner of the main opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party, which is led by former

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia - an archrival of current leader Hasina. The party advocates the introduction of Shariah, or Islamic laws.

Jamaat-e-Islami and its leaders openly opposed Bangladesh's 1971 war to gain independence from Pakistan. Its members formed groups and militias to aid Pakistani soldiers during the war and acted as an auxiliary force involved in kidnappings and killings of those who supported independence. Many of its top leaders fled the country after independence, but returned following the 1975 assassination of independence leader Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Jamaat-e-Islami was banned for a brief period after the 1971 war, but was revived in 1979 after a military dictatorship took power following a series of coups and counter-coups. The group gained in strength and became a serious political force by the

Many of its top leaders have been accused of war crimes. Last week, Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mujahid, a leader during the war, was executed despite concerns that the legal proceedings against him were flawed. Both its former leader Ghulam Azam and current chief Matiur Rahman Chowdhury have been convicted of war crimes by a special tribunal set up by Hasina in 2010 to deal with 1971 crimes. Two other senior leaders have also been executed for their role in the 1971 war.

Bangladesh's High Court canceled the party's reg-

istration in 2013, effectively barring it from contesting elections. The party has appealed the decision.

ANSARULLAH BANGLA TEAM

Ansarullah Bangla Team came to light as an active Islamist group in 2013, when secular blogger Ahmed Rajib Haider was killed by attackers in front of his home in Dhaka, the capital. Detectives arrested seven suspects, including students at a top private university and the group's alleged chief, Jasimuddin Rahmani, a former imam of a Dhaka mosque.

They have been indicted and are currently facing trial. The other suspects said Rahmani's sermons inspired them to attack Haider. —AP

Bangladesh intelligence officials have said they tracked down the group after investigating a blog called "Ansarullah Bangla Team" which had five administrators, including two in Pakistan. In 2014, detectives arrested a Bangladeshi man and said he was one of the administrators. Despite the arrests of at least 40 suspected group members, the blog remains active with other administrators who operate from abroad, according to Bangladeshi intelli-

The group, now banned in Bangladesh, has claimed responsibility for the killings of four secular bloggers this year, and has vowed to carry out more such attacks. It has also operated under the names Ansar al-Islam and Ansar Bangla 7.

JUMATUL MUJAHEDEEN BANGLADESH

The group was founded in 1998 by Shaikh Abdur Rahman, a religious teacher educated in Saudi

It came to notice in 2001 when it engaged in conflict with an extremist communist group in Dinajpur in northern Bangladesh. On Aug. 17, 2005, it exploded about 500 homemade bombs at nearly 300 locations almost simultaneously across the country as part of a campaign demanding the introduction of Shariah law. Later it continued its violent campaign by attacking and killing judges and police, and threatening journalists and women without veils. It created a large network of supporters; some government officials say it has as many as 10,000 members.

In 2005, six of its leaders including Rahman were arrested and the group was banned. The six were hanged in 2007 after being convicted of the killings of two judges.

However, it remains active and has attempted to regroup. Dabig, a magazine of the IS group, has claimed Rahman was the founder of the jihadi movement in Bangladesh.

On Thursday, police said they arrested five members of the group, and that one of its military commanders was killed in a gunfight in a Dhaka

'LARGE' CHINESE MILITARY FLEET FLIES NEAR JAPAN ISLES

China police bust online gun ring, seize 1,180 guns

TOKYO: Japan scrambled jets after 11 Chinese military planes flew near southern Japanese islands during what Beijing said was a drill to improve its longrange combat abilities, reports said yesterday.

The planes-eight bombers, two intelligence gathering planes and one early-warning aircraft-flew near Miyako and Okinawa on Friday without violating Japan's airspace, the Japanese defence ministry said in a statement released on Friday. Some of them flew between the two islands while others made flights close to neighboring islands, the ministry said.

A Chinese air force spokesman said several types of planes, including H-6K bombers, were involved in Friday's drill over the western Pacific, China's Xinhua news agency reported. Shen Jinke said such open sea exercises had improved the force's long-distance combat abilities, according to Xinhua.

While there were no further comments from the Japanese ministry, the Yomiuri Shimbun reported that it was "unusual" for China to dispatch such a large fleet close to Japan's airspace and the ministry was analyzing the purpose of the mission.

Japan scrambles jets hundreds of times a year to defend its airspace, both against Russia and these days also against Chinese aircraft. Beijing has warned this is heightening tensions between the two Asian powerhouses, which are already at loggerheads over a longstanding territorial row in the East China Sea and Japanese military aggression in the first half of the 20th century.

The move comes with tensions running high in the South China Sea after a US warship sailed close to at least one land formation claimed by China, which has rattled its neighbors with its increasingly assertive stance in territorial disputes. China transformed reefs in the region into small islands capable of supporting military facilities, a move the US says threatens freedom of navigation in a region through which onethird of the world's oil passes.

China insists on sovereignty over virtually all the resource-endowed South China Sea, which is also claimed in part by a handful of other countries. Washington has repeatedly said it does not recognize the Chinese claims.

Online gun ring

Police in China, where gun possession by ordinary people is illegal, have busted an online gun selling operation, seizing 1,180 guns and more than 6 million bullets, the state news agency Xinhua reported yes-

A seven-month investigation that started when police happened across suspected gun parts in a package netted 18 people involved in the sale of guns in China via a website hosted on a US server, Xinhua said. The gun selling ring had made more than 4 million yuan (\$625,537) in profit since 2012, according to a police officer quoted by Xinhua.

The manufacture and sale of guns is strictly regulated in China and individuals can be sentenced to up to seven years in prison if convicted of illegally possessing a gun. With such strict controls, private gun

ownership is almost unheard of and gun crime is rare. In April, police found items believed to be gun components in a package when inspecting a courier service, Xinhua quoted Lyu Ming, a police officer in the northern region of Inner Mongolia, as saying.

In the following months, police traced packages to five suspects in the central province of Hunan and raided a house they had used to sell guns, it said.

One suspect confessed that they had been in the online gun business since 2012, using a rented server in the United States. They posted advertisements online and recruited sales agents nationwide, Xinhua said. —Agencies



MALE: Maldivian policemen patrol the area where supporters of former president Mohamed Nasheed have gathered for a mass rally in Male', Maldives on Friday. —AP

N KOREA FAILS IN SUBMARINE LAUNCHED MISSILE TEST

SEOUL: North Korea apparently test-fired a submarine-launched ballistic missile vesterday in the Sea of Japan but the test was a failure, a news agency report said. Yonhap news agency guoted a government official as saying that the missile, KN-11, was fired between 2:20 pm (05:20 GMT) and

"The North appears to have failed in its launch," said the official on condition of anonymity, according to Yonhap. "The missile was not seen flying in the air only debris from its coverings was spotted", he said.

A South Korean defense ministry spokesman refused to comment on the report when contacted by AFP. If confirmed, it would mark the first time since May that the North has fired such a missile. Leader Kim Jong-Un then oversaw an allegedly successful test-launch of what the North claimed was "a strategic submarine ballistic mis-

The missile appeared to have flown only about 100 or 150 metres (330-495 feet) from the surface of the water but South's defense ministry described the launch at the time as "very serious and worrisome". Under UN Security Council resolutions, the nuclear armed North Korea is banned from any test using ballistic missile technology.

North and South Korea remain technically at war after a war ended in an armistice instead of a peace treaty in 1953. —AFP



PYONGYANG: North Koreans walk on a bridge that takes them over the Pothong River yesterday in Pyongyang, North Korea. The Pothong River is the second largest river that runs through the North Korean capital.—AP

PH GETS 1ST FIGHTER JETS IN A DECADE AMID SEA FEUD

CLARK AIR BASE, Philippines: The Philippines yesterday took delivery of two Korean-made fighter jets the country's first supersonic combat aircraft in a decade - as it strengthens its underfunded military amid an escalating territorial feud with China.

The FA-50 jets touched down at Clark Freeport, a former US Air Force base north of Manila, as Philippine defense officials applauded and fire trucks sprayed water as a traditional welcome salute for the stillunarmed aircraft.

The Philippines bought 12 FA-50s, which are primarily trainer jets that the military converted to also serve as multi-role combat aircraft, from Korea Aerospace Industries at a cost of 18.9 billion pesos (\$402 million). The other jets will be delivered in batches through 2017. Weapons for the FA-50s, including bombs and rockets, will be purchased later. "We're glad we're finally back to the supersonic age," Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin said.

The Philippine military decommissioned its last fleet of supersonic combat aircraft, the F-5, in 2005. A military modernization program that included plans for the purchase of at least a squadron of fighter jets and naval frigates didn't happen for several years largely because of a

military has deteriorated to become one of Asia's weakest.

Under current President Beniano Aquino III, however, territorial spats with China over islands in the South China Sea have escalated and resulted in the Chinese seizure of a disputed shoal in 2012, prompting the military to scramble to acquire new navy ships and air force planes with the help of the United States,

lack of funds. Over the years, the the Philippines' longtime defense treaty ally.

> Last week, Aguino authorized Gazmin to enter into major contracts to acquire 44 billion pesos (\$936 million) worth of military hardware, including two frigates, anti-submarine helicopters and amphibious assault vehicles for the navy, and long-range patrol aircraft, munitions for the FA-50s and surveillance radar for the air force,



MANILA: Korea Aerospace Industries (KAI) ground crew inspect a pair of newly arrived FA-50 multirole light fighter aircraft delivered to the Philippine Air Force shortly after landing at the Clark Air Base in Angeles City, Pampanga province, north of Manila yesterday. —AFP

Defense Undersecretary Fernando Manalo said.

The new ships, aircraft and military equipment were expected to be purchased from this year up to 2018, according to Manalo. Lt. Col. Rolando Condrad Pena III, one of three Filipino air force pilots who received training in Korea to fly the FA-50s, said that the jets could carry enough munitions payload and could be used in air-to-air and air-toground combat.

'Now that we have a supersonic aircraft our reaction time will be faster," Pena told reporters. Still, the Philippines has ruled out a military solution to the territorial conflicts with its limited defense capabilities. In January 2013, the Philippines brought its disputes with China to international arbitration, but Beijing refused to participate and pressed for one-on-one negotiations. An international tribunal in The Hague, however, dismissed China's legal arguments last month and ruled that it has authority to hear the Philippines' case. It said it expects to hand down a decision next year on several issues raised by the Philippines, including the validity of China's sweeping territorial claims under the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. —AP

MALDIVES OPPN REGROUPS FOR 2ND NIGHT OF PROTESTS

COLOMBO: The Maldives' opposition yesterday vowed to regroup for a second night of demonstrations hours after police broke up a planned 72-hour protest demanding the release of the country's ex-president and other political leaders. Maldivian Democratic Party spokesman Hamid Abdul Gaffoor said the party is within its legal rights to continue the protests because police have unilaterally withdrawn from agreed terms. The party is demanding the release from iail of former President Mohamed Nasheed, ex-Defense Minister Mohamed Nazim and opposition leader Sheik Imran Abdulla, as well as the withdrawal of court action against 1,700 political

It says the actions against the leaders and activists are the result of a political vendetta by the current president, Yameen Abdul Gayoom. Police used shields and pepper spray to break up Friday night's protests as the demonstrators prepared for a street march. They also cut off electricity for the campaign site. Gaffoor said that during an earlier discussion with the party, the police had agreed to allow a three-day protest as long as sound systems were not used after midnight. However, they withdrew their permission after the government interfered, he said.

Government officials could not be reached immediately for comment. Nasheed was sentenced to 13 years in prison for ordering the arrest of a top judge when he was president in 2012. Nazim is serving a 10-year sentence for illegal possession of a pistol, and Abdulla has been detained for allegedly inciting violence at an anti-government protest in May. The Maldives, known mainly for its pristine beaches and luxury island resorts, became a multiparty democracy in 2008, but recently democratic gains have been shrinking fast. Nasheed, the Indian Ocean archipelago's first democratically elected president, resigned four years into his five-year term amid protests against his role in the arrest of the judge. Gayoom, a half-brother of the Maldives' former 30year autocrat, defeated Nasheed in a disputed election in 2013. The judiciary, police and the bureaucracy are deemed highly politicized and are accused of being used by Gayoom to crack down on the opposition. —AP

S KOREAN POLICE BAN **ANTI-GOVERNMENT RALLY**

SEOUL: South Korean police yesterday banned a anti-government demonstration planned in Seoul next week, citing concerns the protest could turn violent, a spokesman said.

But activists vowed to push ahead with the rally next Saturday outside City Hall. Police acted under a law allowing them to ban street protests if there is a risk of them turning violent, the spokesman for the Seoul Metropolitan Police Agency told AFP. Police warned leaders of activist groups who defy the ban would be arrested, as would participants who refused to disperse.

Critics say the conservative government of President Park Geun-Hye, a daughter of the late heavy-handed ruler Park Chung-Hee, is slipping back into past authoritarian rule. The ban was in line with a government warning on Friday of zero violence in street protests. Justice Minister Kim Hyun-Woong said in a televised address that the government was determined to "eradicate" any public disorder and stressed that violators would "pay the price".

Kim had issued a similar warning before a huge anti-government rally in Seoul on November 14 that drew around 60,000 people and spawned numerous clashes between protestors and police who used pepper spray and water cannon. The focus of the protests is quite wide, incorporating opposition to labor reforms, the opening of the agricultural market and plans to impose governmentissued history textbooks on schools.

The president condemned the November 14 protest as an effort to "deny the rule of law" and urged strong measures against those identi-

fied as inciting violence. Park also said the wearing of masks by protestors should be prohibited, saying it was the sort of practice adopted by the Islamic State group, sparking angry reactions from opponents. Her ruling conservative Saenuri Party on Wednesday tabled a bill in parliament to ban such masks. —AFP





A great white egret feeds at Echo Park Lake near downtown Los Angeles on Friday. — AP

OBAMA SLAMS GUN VIOLENCE AFTER SHOOTING

Continued from Page 1

Local police yesterday identified the suspect as 57-yearold Robert Lewis Dear. News reports said he was from South Carolina. It was unclear whether Planned Parenthood - a major women's health and family planning group - was the shooter's target.

Abortion is one of many services Planned Parenthood provides for women, and the association has become a lightning rod for criticism by US conservatives, among other reasons because it receives funding from the government for some health services. Suthers also paid tribute to police for hauling in the gunman without further bloodshed. The nine injured included five police, none of whom were seriously wounded, he said. "While this was a terrible, terrible tragedy, it could have been much worse if not for the reactions of first responders," Sutter told reporters.

The dead policeman was identified as Garrett Swasey, 44, a campus officer at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs who had raced to the scene of the shooting. Officers were able to enter the building during the standoff and convince Dear to surrender, police spokeswoman Lt. Catherine Buckley told reporters. Vicki Cowart, president and CEO of Planned Parenthood Rocky Mountains, said she did not believe the center had been specifically targeted. Critics, many of whom seek to outlaw abortion in the United States, have falsely accused Planned Parenthood of selling fetal organs and body parts for prof-

لست best

it, and encouraging women to have abortions in order to expand such operations.

The national Planned Parenthood office praised "the brave law enforcement officers who put themselves in harm's way" in the incident. "We are profoundly grateful for their heroism in helping to protect all women, men and young people as they access basic healthcare in this country," the statement read. Local media said that extra police were sent to protect the three other Planned Parenthood clinics in the Denver area.

Several people were inside the clinic at the time of the shooting on what had been a regular work day. When the gunman opened fire, terrified people fled the building and ran out into the snow, some crying and pleading for help. The immediate area around the clinic was placed on lockdown and people were told to stay indoors. Quan Hoang, the owner of a nearby nail salon, told CNN that when he heard the gunfire he feared a robbery was under way at a bank in the shopping area, which would have been bustling with people looking for so-called Black Friday sales bargains the day after Thanksgiving.

"And we see cops, SWAT, the bomb squad, a whole bunch of people just trying to take cover around the Planned Parenthood area," he said by telephone. "An officer came back in and said, 'Is everyone safe?' We asked him questions and he said they've barricaded him inside the Planned Parenthood and he was shooting out from the windows." — AFP

REPS ATTACK MUSLIMS WITH IMPUNITY

Continued from Page 1

Other inflammatory rhetoric from the Trump and Carson campaigns has generated far different reactions. When Trump announced his campaign, he said Mexican immigrants are "bringing crime. They're rapists." He was widely denounced. Polls find Latinos strongly disapprove of his candidacy and his remarks alienated other immigrant groups. The potency of comments criticizing Muslims was apparent even before recent attacks by extremists in France, Lebanon and Egypt.

Carson's campaign reported strong fundraising and more than 100,000 new Facebook friends in the 24 hours after he told NBC's "Meet the Press" in September, "I would not advocate that we put a Muslim in charge of this nation." Campaign manager Barry Bennett told AP, "While the leftwing is huffing and puffing over it, Republican primary voters are with us at least 80-20." "People in Iowa particularly, are like, 'Yeah! We're not going to vote for a Muslim either," Bennett said at the time. "I don't mind the hubbub. It's not hurting us, that's for sure."

According to a 2014 poll by the Pew Research Center, Republicans view Muslims more negatively than they do any other religious group, and significantly worse than do Democrats. A different Pew poll last year found that 82 percent of Republicans were "very concerned" about the rise of Islamic extremism, compared with 51 percent of Democrats and 60 percent of independents. Today, 84 percent of Republicans disapprove of taking in Syrian refugees, most of whom are Muslims, compared with 40 percent of Democrats and 58 percent of independents, according to a Gallup poll released just before Thanksgiving.

In recent years, Americans' attitudes toward Islam and Muslims have been relatively stable following terrorist attacks. But opposition jumped in the run-up to the US invasion of Iraq and around major elections. To Dalia Mogahed, research director for the Institute for Social Policy and Understanding and former executive director of the Gallup Center for Muslim Studies, those are signs that "the public was being manipulated" by politicians with agendas.

After the Sept 11 attacks, when President George W Bush visited a Washington mosque and said "Islam is peace," public opinion of the faith actually improved, she said. But the absence of such a leader has created a clear path for candidates who oppose Islam. "They've now latched onto Muslims as an easy target with no conse-

quences," Mogahed said. "We've really moved the threshold of what is socially acceptable."

Singling out Muslims is not new. Before the 2012 presidential election, Republican candidate Newt Gingrich called for a federal ban on Islamic law and said Muslims could hold public office in the US if "the person would commit in public to give up sharia". Huckabee, then considering a presidential run, called Islam "the antithesis of the gospel of Christ".

But candidates at the top of the field stayed away from such rhetoric. "The kind of things that Donald Trump and Ben Carson are saying today are things that Mitt Romney would have never said," said Farid Senzai, a political scientist at Santa Clara University. Romney was the Republican nominee in 2012. Criticism of Muslims is hardly limited to presidential campaigns. In recent years, there have been ads by anti-Muslim groups and well-organized campaigns against the building of mosques, along with pressure on state legislatures to ban sharia law.

"All of these things - built up over more than a decade by a few very vocal people - have created a climate in which it is not just acceptable for politicians to play to our basest instincts, but perhaps politically expedient," Jonathan Greenblatt, chief executive of the Anti-Defamation League, said in an email.

The intensity of the rhetoric is partly a symptom of the large field of GOP candidates, all trying to stake out ground to prove themselves as the most patriotic and toughest on national security, said Charles Dunn, former dean of the school of government at Regent University, which was founded by Pat Robertson, an evangelist and one-time GOP presidential candidate. "The tone is much more strident now, much less forgiving," Dunn said.

American Muslims make up just under 1 percent of the US population, Pew estimates. They come from many different backgrounds and are widely dispersed, limiting their political influence, Green said. The Muslim Public Affairs Council, a policy and advocacy group based in Los Angeles, sent letters in October to all the presidential candidates asking them to attend the organization's public policy forum. The candidates either did not respond or declined, council spokeswoman Rabiah Ahmed said. "Over the last 10 years, the political and civic organizations for US Muslims have become much better organized, but I think their voice is still fairly muted," Green said. — AP

SCANS POINT TO HIDDEN CHAMBER IN TUT'S TOMB

Continued from Page 1

Reeves' theory is that priests would have been forced to reopen Nefertiti's tomb 10 years after her death because the young pharaoh's own mausoleum had not yet been built. But Damati believes that such a chamber, if found adjoining Tutankhamun's tomb, may contain Kiya, another of Akhenaten's wives. Akhenaten is known for having temporarily converted ancient Egypt to monotheism by imposing the cult of sun god Aton.

Nefertiti's role in the cult would have ruled out her burial in the Valley of the Kings according to Zahi Hawass, the country's former antiquities minister and expert on ancient Egypt. "Nefertiti will never be buried in the Valley of the Kings," he told AFP. "The lady was worshipping Aton with Akhenaten for years. The priests would never allow her to be buried in the Valley of the Kings," he said.

Hawass also questioned how archaeologists would enter the hidden part of the tomb without causing damage. Damati said that after the analysis, that would be the next challenge. "The data is being analyzed to get a clear picture of what's behind the wall," he said. "The next step, which we will announce once we agree on it, will be accessing what's behind the wall without damaging the tomb," he said. — AFP

FRENCH PM CALLS ON GULF TO ACCEPT MORE...

Continued from Page 1

Meanwhile, US Republican presidential candidate Ben Carson said yesterday after visiting a camp for Syrian refugees, that the displaced should be absorbed by Middle Eastern countries, with the international community sending aid and "encouragement" to the host nations. Carson toured the Azraq camp in northern Jordan under heavy Jordanian security, with journalists barred. Carson's campaign also limited access, not providing his itinerary and releasing only a short statement after the camp visit.

The candidate has repeatedly struggled to discuss international affairs as they become a greater focus in the 2016 presidential contest. Advisers have conceded that his foreign policy fluency isn't where it needs to be and have expressed hope missions like his two-day trip to Jordan will help change that.

Carson and other Republicans have adopted a harsh tone when discussing President Barack Obama's plan to welcome 10,000 Syrian refugees to the US in this budget year. Debate over Syrians fleeing their war-torn country erupted after a series of attacks in Paris earlier this month that raised security concerns across the West. Carson and his GOP rivals expressed concern that extremists may sneak into the US among them. Last week, Carson likened blocking potential terrorists posing as Syrian refugees to handling "mad dogs".

After the Azraq visit, Carson suggested that it would be best to absorb Syrian refugees in Middle Eastern host countries, which have given temporary shelter to most of the more than 4 million Syrians who have fled civil war in their country since 2011. "Syrians have a reputation as very hard working, determined people, which should only enhance the overall economic health of the neighboring Arab countries that accept and integrate them into the general population," he was quoted as saying.

"The humanitarian crisis presented by the fleeing Syrian refugees can be addressed if the nations of the world with resources would provide financial and material support to the aforementioned countries as well as encouragement," the statement said. "There is much beauty in Syria and I suspect that many displaced Syrians will return there when peace is restored," he added.

Overwhelmed host countries, particularly Lebanon and Jordan, have balked at the idea of longer-term integration of refugees. They have complained that they are carrying an unfair burden while the international community's support has fallen short. An aid appeal of \$4.5 billion for refugees in host countries in 2015 is only about half funded. The cash crunch has created increasingly unbearable conditions for Syrian refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq and - to a lesser extent - in economically more robust Turkey. In 2015, hundreds of thousands of refugees moved on to Europe in hopes of a better life. —Agencies





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Issues

FEAR HAUNTING **BESIEGED MUSLIM** DISTRICT OF CAR

By Christian Panika and Jean-Pierre Campagne

o money, no food, no petrol. But there is fear. Plenty of it. It is fear that haunts the dusty streets of PK5, a Muslim neighbourhood in Bangui, the Central African Republic (CAR) capital that Pope Francis plans to visit today and tomorrow. Under siege from Christian militia - known as "anti-balaka" fighters - backed by ex-army troops, residents of the city's last Muslim district are cornered amid the burnt rubble and debris of war, hungry but too afraid to venture out. "Nobody can leave PK5 and go on Boganda avenue without being stoned, kidnapped or killed by armed groups," said a young Muslim who gave her name as Aziza. "We are all afraid."

The PK5 district, a maze of dirt-red roads and flimsy shacks, epitomizes the sectarian conflict tearing apart impoverished CAR. If security permits, Francis is scheduled to visit its mosque on the last leg of his three-nation Africa tour, his first visit to the continent. The district was the epicentre of an unprecedented wave of violence pitting majority Christians against minority Muslims that began in late 2013 and has continued since.

One of the poorest and most unstable countries in Africa, the country plunged into chaos after former president Francois Bozize was ousted in a coup in March 2013. The mainly Muslim rebels behind the coup went on a bloody rampage that triggered the emergence of the equally dangerous anti-Balaka militia in mostly Christian communities. At the height of the massacres, around one in five of CAR's 4.6 million people were displaced and half the population forced to live on humanitarian aid.

"We don't have anything here: vegetables, water, electricity or health care," said local shopkeeper Ashta Babayero. Residents said they had pleaded for help from UN peacekeepers in the MINUSCA force as well as from French forces

Cornered, Unable to Move

But Ahmat Moussa, also a shopkeeper, said international forces were refusing aid. "Before, the MINUSCA patrols would escort those who wanted to leave, but it's no longer the case. We can't even go to the bank to take out money. Food is scarce and what can we do without money?" One man said that when his brother attempted to withdraw cash "they kidnapped, tortured and killed him, his body was horribly mutilated."

Political scientist Roland Marchal said soldiers from Bozize's army, officially dismantled by international forces, were joining the anti-balaka militia. "They recently switched to the anti-balaka camp, this is not a good sign," Marchal said. The CAR leg of the pontiff's trip has been maintained despite warnings from French peacekeepers there that they cannot guarantee Francis' security.

And Muslim leaders from PK5 have met with the archbishop of Bangui in an attempt to secure as best as possible the locations the pontiff plans to visit. But the militias patrolling the outskirts of the district do not plan to let up their barricades. "The residents of the PK5 kill, slaughter and maim men, women and children!" said Herve Ngote, who lives in a nearby district. "We will maintain this blockade until a solution is found, we will brave the armed Muslims in PK5 and MINUSCA,"

Vatican officials say a last-minute change of program will only happen if Francis is made aware of a precise threat that could endanger the thousands of believers expected to come and see him, many of whom will be travelling long distances from neighboring countries. Aides say he is determined that the sombre context will not affect his plans, particularly in CAR. — AFP

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Washington Watch

The descent into madness - Part II

By Dr James J Zogby

he roots of our nation's current descent into madness can be traced back to a series of unresolved catastrophic traumas Americans experienced during the Bush Administration. In the short span of 8 years, we suffered a collective loss of confidence in American leadership, in the ability of government to perform its most basic functions, and in the very essence of the American Dream.

Recall that when George W Bush was elected in 2000, the electoral process itself had been confidence shattering. Having been brought up to believe in the inviolability of our democratic process, exposure to "how the sausage was made", caused great discomfort. Nevertheless, we moved on because the country was doing well both economically and Cold War and in the decade that followed demonstrated our uncontested leadership, winning two relatively quick wars: Liberating Kuwait and bringing peace to Bosnia. Then came the devastating blow of 9/11. The fateful decisions taken by the Bush Administration in response to that attack only prolonged and ultimately deepened the trauma of the terrorist attacks. They misled the country into two wars, telling us that victory would be "guick and clean" and certain - we would be heralded as liberators, and the spark of democracy would spread throughout the entire Middle East. Five years later, with thousands of American lives lost, a trillion dollars of our treasury spent, growing anti-American sentiment worldwide, and both wars far from over, Americans had lost confidence in our world leadership.

Blows

ter on the home front. While the president was given credit for saying "Islam is a religion of peace" and cautioning Americans not to target their fellow Arab and Muslim American citizens, his Justice Department undercut that message by instituting practices that profiled both communities. Mass round-ups, inflammatory press conferences, and the frequent abuse of "heightened alerts" created fear and fostered public suspicions about the "enemy within".

It was at that point that Katrina hit, dealing another blow to an already reeling country. Even "small government" conservatives expect that government will perform well in time of tragedy. The Administration's delayed response and the bungling that followed only served to deepen the public's loss of confidence in the ability of government to act.

The final blow came in the Bush Administration's waning days in the form of a deep and, for a time, growing economic recession that shook the foundations of our financial system and the public's confidence in the American Dream. Within a few short months, major banks and manufacturers were on the verge of bankruptcy, average Americans had lost 20 to 30 percent of the wealth they had accumulated in their pension plans, the unemployment rate had doubled, and one in five homeowners were threatened with foreclosure. Polls, which throughout the 1990's showed two-thirds of Americans confident in their economic future, were suddenly reversed with two-thirds now saying that the country was on the "wrong track" and the same twothirds no longer believing that their children would be better off in the future.

Hope

This was the setting of Barack Obama's vic-The Bush Administration performed no bet- tory in 2008, the most remarkable aspect of which was that it was based on the triumph of hope over fear coupled with a call to look forward to better days. In most periods of collective trauma that I have studied, the more typical reaction is for movements to emerge that prey off fear and social dislocation and to appeal to the values of a romanticized past.

This time was different, but it only lasted for a short while. No sooner had Obama won, then the GOP began plotting his demise. They did everything they could to block his agenda in Congress; they funded and provided logistical support for the Tea Party; they gave a wink and a nod to the "birther movement"; and, in ways subtle and not so subtle, they exploited the basest of fears about the President's African heritage and his father's religion. Within a year of Obama's election, a substantial number of self-identified Republicans said they believed that the President had not been born in the US and was, therefore, not a legitimate president.

Polls have consistently established that both the Tea Party and "birthers" share some demographic characteristics. They are white, largely middle class and middle aged. They had been disproportionately impacted by the economic collapse and felt that the government's response to the crisis had been to favor the rich and poor minorities - at their expense. They see themselves as victims of a failed government that misled them and let them down.

Intolerance

Despite indicators that point to an economic recovery, they remain insecure and are waiting for the "other shoe to drop". They are afraid of "foreigners" whom they blame for their economic decline, the erosion of social cohesion, and the "benefits" they believe are doled out to immigrants at their expense. They especially

blame Muslims for the danger they pose at home and abroad. And they blame the president because they see him as "foreign" and favoring the interests of "minorities" and Muslims over their own. [A recent poll showed that over 50 percent of all Republicans now believe Obama is a Muslim, with over 60 percent of Trump and Carson supporters believing this and believing that the president wasn't born in the US.1

The Trump and GOP appeals to "Make America great again", to "stop us from losing", or to "restore our honor" are in response to the still unresolved collective trauma experienced by the same group of voters who comprised the Tea Party. They are the anti-Obama message - appealing to fear and not hope, and looking backward, not forward. Ironically, they are the themes on which Republicans might not been running to replace one of their own in the Oval Office.

For months now, the pundits and the GOP establishment have dismissed the dangers posed by the likes of Trump and Carson and Cruz. Trump, they said, would be undone by his insults and fabrications; Carson was a fad who would soon fade; and Cruz, because he was so disliked, would go nowhere. Most recent polls, however, show these three garnering between 50 percent and 60 percent of the Republican vote. And as their rhetoric becomes harsher, with naked appeals to intolerance and even violence, it is time to wake up. Because they speak to an entire group's existential crisis, tap into their deep reservoir of resentment, and elicit violent emotions, these themes and their proponents must be addressed.

NOTE: Dr James J Zogby is the President of the Arab American Institute

RUNNING GUNS TO THE HEART OF EUROPE

By Aleksandar Vasovic and Gabriela

eed a Kalashnikov in Belgium? No prob-lem, says "Nemac" the Serb; a few hundred euros will buy the gun and a place to stash it in a car or truck coming up from the Balkans. A veteran of the Yugoslav wars, talking to Reuters at a drab truckstop outside the Serbian capital, Nemac doesn't smuggle guns himself, he says. But he knows people who can ship assault rifles of the kind used in the Nov 13 Paris attacks. He describes a trove of guns across the Balkans - a legacy of the Yugoslav military.

The main militant threat in Europe has long been the bomb. Yet over the past year, attacks by French and Belgian jihadists returned from Syria has brought fresh scrutiny of gun-running routes into the heart of Europe, for many years the domain of Balkan gangsters supplying criminals in western Europe. The source of all the weapons used in the Paris attack is unclear but at least some were reported on Saturday to have come from a batch made in Belgrade in the late

What is generally clear, however, is that arms are increasingly finding their way into the hands of extremists. "There are plenty of nooks and crannies in a car or truck where you can hide a disassembled gun," said Nemac, whose nom de guerre means "The German". "People hide them in the fuel tank." His associate Milan laid out the price list for weaponry filched from Yugoslav, Albanian and other arsenals: Up to Ä700 for an AK-47 of Yugoslav manufacture; Albanian models and Chinese versions from Maoist Tirana come cheaper. "Silenced weapons cost more, sub-machine guns that are easier to conceal, they cost more," he added. "Pistols are still fairly cheap, around 150 euros apiece."

It's a shopping list that shows the scale of the

problem facing Europe's police forces. "The terrorist threat ... is operating on the boundaries between terrorism and serious crime," said Rob Wainwright, the head of EU police agency Europol, as he warned the European Parliament last week there could be further attacks using guns sold by Balkan crime networks to home grown Western jihadists. The threat is not new. Nor is the connection from the Balkans to France and notably Belgium, where police data show nearly 6,000 firearms seizures a year, more than

But efforts to crack down are struggling to keep pace with events and the proliferation of smuggling routes including from Libya and eastern Ukraine. In May last year, Frenchman Mehdi Nemmouche, 29, back from Syria, used an AK-47, the classic Kalashnikov of the Soviet world, to gun down four people at the Jewish Museum in Brussels. At Charlie Hebdo magazine and a kosher grocery in Paris in January, again Kalashnikovs were used, some acquired in Belgium like those carried by the man accused of trying to cause mayhem on a Brussels to Paris express train in August.

And then there were the guns used by three attackers to mow down 89 people at the Bataclan theatre during a rock concert. Though bearing the Kalashnikov name, the traded guns are mostly versions made many years ago by state firms in Yugoslavia, Albania and China and have nothing to do with the modern-day firm. Kalashnikov itself could not be reached for comment.

The Nov 13 attacks happened just hours after French Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve unveiled an action plan against traffickers from the East. "Arms smuggling is behind many acts of terrorism," he said that day, decrying "military arsenals fallen into the hands of civilians and mafias" in the former Soviet bloc and the Balkans. But for all the new resolve of the European Union to tighten borders and close loopholes in laws that already effectively ban private ownership of rapid-fire assault weapons, Nemac, Milan and a jaded Serbian policeman doubt it can end the

The Serbian police officer, who is involved in counter-trafficking operations, said investigators uncovered maybe a third of shipments at best. The problem was the sheer volume of weapons, he explained, recounting a tale of a man who told customs officers at Serbia's border with the EU that he was a musician and had nothing to declare but his old accordion. When officers checked his car, there was a hole in the fuel tank that was patched with gaffer tape and there were 20 guns inside. On another occasion a handgun was discovered in a bag of pork scratchings, and a gun found hidden in a sandwich.

Balkan Black Market

There are an estimated 80 million firearms in the European Union already. But they are mostly tightly licensed or state owned. It is the availability of old military hardware on the black market that makes the Balkans a focus. "You don't know where these weapons are, who holds them or how they are being used," said Ivan Zverzhanovski of the Clearinghouse for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons, a monitor of weapons proliferation based in Belgrade.

A week before the Paris attacks, Serbia announced that Serbian and French security agencies had rounded up a major gang running guns between the two countries. Few media reported it. Almost simultaneously, German traffic police stopped a VW Golf driven by a man from Serbia's ex-Yugoslav neighbor Montenegro. They found eight Kalashnikov AK-47s, several handguns and explosives. His navigation system showed he was heading for Paris. No direct link has been found with the Nov. 13 attacks, but it is no isolated case.

The ease with which arms are crossing into the EU and then across Europe's open-borders Schengen zone is now contributing, along with the movements of the killers themselves and of hundreds of thousands of migrants, to calls for much tighter frontier checks and new internal EU controls. Yet it seems impossible to eradicate entirely a trade in illegal guns that still flourishes

inside the EU itself. Indeed, there is some irony that Brussels, selfstyled "capital" of the European Union and also home to the NATO military alliance, has become a marketplace for such hardware. "If you have 500 to 1,000 euros you can get a military weapon within half an hour," said Bilal Benyaich, an expert on Islamist radicals at the city's Itinera Institute think-tank. "That makes Brussels look more like a large US city," he added, contrasting it to the norm in Europe, where guns are rare and automatics rarer still compared to the United States.

Some of that is a legacy of past lax Belgian gun laws - they were tightened a decade ago in a country that has long been a major manufacturer and exporter of firearms itself. Belgian police did not respond to requests for comment. The sums Benyaich cites, up to Ä1,000 in Brussels for a Kalashnikov, represent only a 50to 100-percent mark-up on the asking price at source, suggestive of the ease at which illicit guns are crossing Europe's borders despite the risks if caught. "Once the deal is made, local sellers dismantle weapons and ship them," Belgrade contact Milan said. "The main difficulty is to enter the Schengen zone - Hungary undetected. Once inside Schengen, a wise man would change vehicles two or three times. That means you need a network - and the more people get involved, the bigger is the chance of a leak to police." — Reuters

FORMULA ONE: ROSBERG ON TOP AGAIN IN FINAL PRACTICE

ABU DHABI: Nico Rosberg topped the times ahead of his Mercedes team-mate and world champion Lewis Hamilton in yesterday's final free practice session ahead of this weekend's season-ending Abu Dhabi Grand Prix. The 30-year-old German, who is seeking to complete a winning hat-trick in Sunday's race, will bid to continue his current domination of the newly-crowned three-time champion by securing his sixth straight pole in qualifying later at the

spectacular Yas Marina circuit. Hamilton, who spun during a near-frantic effort to deliver a fastest lap, has not been on pole in any of the last six races since the Italian Grand Prix on September 6. Rosberg clocked a best lap of one minute and 41.856 seconds to finish 0.281 seconds ahead of the Briton, whose results have faded since he clinched his third title at last month's United States Grand Prix. Four-time champion Sebastian Vettel was third-fastest for Ferrari ahead of Mexican Sergio Perez of Force India, Finn Kimi Raikkonen in the second Ferrari and Australian Daniel Ricciardo of Red Bull.—AFP

SEVEN MORE KENYAN ATHLETES BANNED FOR DOPING OFFENCES

NAIROBI: Kenya, facing scrutiny from world anti-doping officials and criticism that it is not doing enough to tackle the problem, has banned seven more athletes for doping offences, raising the total number of Kenyan drug cases in the last three years to 40. In a statement late on Friday, Athletics Kenya said it had confirmed the sanctions against seven athletes for a range of drug offences. The list included Emily Chebet, a double world cross country champion and Commonwealth Games bronze medalist. She was handed a fouryear ban after testing positive for a diuretic. Joyce Zakary, a 400 metre runner, and hurdler Koki Manunga were also given four-year bans. Both tested positive for diuretics at this year's world championships in Beijing. The latest list also included four long-distance runners, Agnes Jepkosgei, Bernard Mwendia, Judy Jesire Kimuge and Lilian Moraa Marita. They were each suspended for between two and four years. Kenya boasts some of the world's finest middle and long-distance runners but in recent years has been shaken by a spate of failed drug tests. Some athletes have said the government and Athletics Kenya have not taken the issue seriously.— Reuters

AUSTRALIA'S CAMPBELL SETS 100M FREESTYLE SHORT-COURSE RECORD

SYDNEY: Cate Campbell set a world record for the 100 meters freestyle at the Australian short-course swimming championships yesterday in a race where she eventually finished last. A specialist sprinter, Campbell broke the 100m record during the final of the 200m freestyle when she set off at full speed and reached the halfway point of the eight-lap race in 50.91 seconds. With the record safely in the bag, the 23-year-old then slowed down and coasted to the finish, taking almost another 90 seconds to complete the last four laps and allowing all her rivals to overtake her. "It was pretty unique to get a world record and then finish dead last in your race," Campbell told reporters at Sydney's Olympic pool. "Not many people can claim that but I've always been a trailblazer, so I'll take it." Campbell's split time slashed a tenth of a second off the previous record of 51.01, set by Australian Libby Trickett in 2009. It was also the second short-course world record set in as many days at the Australian championships after Mitch Larkin broke the men's 200m backstroke mark on Friday. Already an Olympic

and world gold medallist, Campbell is one of the spearheads

of Australia's star-studded female swim team expected to

dominated the sprinting events at next year's Rio

Olympics. —Reuters

OHIO: Pittsburgh Penguins' Sidney Crosby (left) collides with Columbus Blue Jackets' Justin Falk during the first period of an NHL hockey game on Friday, Nov 27, 2015, in Columbus, Ohio. —AP

BRUINS EXTEND WINNING STREAK TO A SEASON-HIGH FIVE GAMES

BOSTON: Ryan Spooner and David Krejci scored 2:03 apart late in the third period as the Boston Bruins rallied to beat the New York Rangers 4-3 Friday. Tuukka Rask had 24 saves for the Bruins, who extended their win streak to a season-high five games in a wild finish. Spooner's power-play goal with 3:46 left to play tied it at 3, then Krejci struck again for the Bruins on a deflected slap shot that beat Henrik Lundqvist with 1:43 remaining. Patrice Bergeron and Brett Connolly also scored for the Bruins, who won their third straight at home. Oscar Lindberg, Rick Nash and JT Miller scored for the Rangers and Lundqvist finished with 30 saves.

BLACKHAWKS 3, DUCKS 2, OT

Artem Anisimov scored 1:53 into overtime and Chicago rallied from a two-goal deficit in the final moments of regulation for a victory over Anaheim. Marian Hossa and Duncan Keith scored man-advantage goals in the final 1:41 of regulation, and Brent Seabrook assisted on all three goals. The defending Stanley Cup champions roared from behind in their first trip to Anaheim since winning Game 7 of the Western Conference finals here six months ago. Hossa ended John Gibson's shutout bid during a 6-on-4 power play with 1:41 to play, and Keith got the tying goal with 26.6 seconds left. Patrick Kane extended his points streak to 18 games with an assist on Keith's score, and Corey Crawford stopped 23 shots. Andrew Cogliano and Chris Stewart scored early goals for Anaheim, and Gibson stopped 29 shots.

STARS 3, CANUCKS 2, SO

Tyler Seguin scored on the first shot of the shootout, Antti Niemi stopped all three Vancouver attempts after making 34 saves and Dallas beat Vancouver. Vancouver's Henrik Sedin tied the game on the power play with 4:10 left. Daniel Sedin assisted with a pass across the goal mouth. The Stars outshot the Canucks 6-2 in overtime, but goalie Ryan Miller stopped them even during a power play. Miller finished with 23 saves. Niemi deflected Vancouver's last shootout attempt by Chris Higgins wide of the net. Dallas' Jamie Benn scored his league-leading 17th goal on a tip-in on the power play with 4:33 left in the first period.

COYOTES 2, FLAMES 1, OT

Oliver Ekman-Larsson scored in overtime, Mike Smith stopped 25 shots and Arizona beat Calgary for coach Dave Tippett's 500th career victory. Both teams scored goals in the second period on caroms: Martin Hanzal early for Arizona, Mark Giordano late on a power play for Calgary. The Coyotes withstood a long flurry to start overtime and wore the Flames down with one of their own late. Arizona won it with 39 seconds left on the clock when Brad Richardson sent a pass from behind the goal to Ekman-Larsson, and he one-timed it past Karri Ramos. Ramos stopped 18 in his first loss in five career games against Arizona. The Flames lost for the first time in six overtimes.

RED WINGS 4, OILERS 3, OT

Niklas Kronwall scored 26 seconds into overtime to lift Detroit over Edmonton. Kronwall was stripped in front of his net 10 seconds into the extra period, but Henrik Zetterberg and Dylan Larkin were able to tie up the play without allowing a shot. The puck eventually bounced loose, and Larkin led a 2on-1 rush, with Kronwall one-timing a pass past Cam Talbot for his first goal of the season. Larkin, Gustav Nyquist and Tomas Tatar also scored for Detroit, while liro Pakarinen scored twice for the Oilers and Andrej Sekera added another. Detroit has now gone six games without losing in regulation.

CANADIENS 3, DEVILS 2, SO Alex Galchenyuk and Sven Andrighetto scored in regulation and again in the shootout and Montreal rallied from a two-goal deficit to beat New Jersey for its fourth straight win. Mike Condon started for the injured Carey Price and preserved the win by stopping Patrik Elias with his pad on the Devils' fifth attempt in the shootout. He finished with 25 saves, the same as the Devils' Cory Schneider. Adam Henrique and Lee Stempniak scored for the Devils in regulation and Jacob Josefson had the only New Jersey tally in the shootout. The Devils have lost four of five games. Schneider had two outstanding stops in overtime, including a point-blank save on Max Pacioretty on a power play in the waning seconds and a short-handed stop on Tomas Plekanec's breakaway. Andrighetto pulled Montreal within 2-1 with 4:43 left in the sec8:46 left in the third.

BLUE JACKETS 2, PENGUINS 1, OT

Cam Atkinson scored with 2:18 left in overtime after a dazzling setup by Brandon Dubinsky and Columbus beat Pittsburgh. The game took on the intensity of an old-school playoff battle after Dubinsky cross-checked Penguins star Sidney Crosby in the back of the neck late in the second period. Crosby was slow getting to his skates and went to the locker room with 1:20 left. He returned for the third period and played the rest of the game. Marc-Andre Fleury stopped 41 shots for the Penguins, and Sergei Bobrovsky turned away 24 for Columbus. Evgeni Malkin put Pittsburgh ahead on a power play with 10:45 left, but Ryan Johansen tied it. In overtime, Dubinsky cut in into the slot and patiently curled away from the net and into the right circle before passing to Atkinson in the slot. The goal was Atkinson's sixth this season.

PANTHERS 3, ISLANDERS 2, SO

Aleksander Barkov scored the winner in a five-round shootout and Florida beat New York. The Panthers scored on all five of their attempts, while the Islanders converted four before Roberto Luongo stopped Brock Nelson to end the game. It was the Panthers' third straight win over the Islanders, who host Florida in Brooklyn on Dec 15. With Florida ahead 2-0 after two periods, the Islanders stormed back with a pair of goals just over three minutes apart in the third. Ryan Strome beat Luongo high to the glove side for his second goal of the season to cut the deficit to 2-1 with 5:36 gone, and Josh Bailey converted on a one-timer in traffic for his fourth to tie it up at 8:39. Goals by Brandon Pirri and Jussi Jokinen gave Florida its 2-0 lead.

SABRES 4, HURRICANES 1

Chad Johnson made 27 saves, Jack Eichel got his eighth goal of the season and Buffalo beat Carolina to end a six-game losing streak. Josh Gorges, Brian Gionta and David Legwand also scored for Buffalo, and Jamie McGinn had two assists. The Sabres had lost their last four home games. Victor Rask scored Carolina's only goal, and the Hurricanes failed to pick up a point for the first time in five games. Cam

ond period, and then Galchenyuk tied it with Ward stopped 11 of 14 shots before being replaced by Eddie Lack after two periods. Lack stopped 6 of 7 shots.

CAPITALS 4, LIGHTNING 2

Jason Chimera scored a power-play goal and had an assist during another man advantage to help Washington beat Tampa Bay. Alex Ovechkin and TJ Oshie also scored against Tampa Bay's usually reliable penalty kill. Marcus Johansson added an even-strength goal in the Capitals' fourth straight victory. Braden Holtby made 32 saves for Washington to preserve his sixth consecutive victory. Andrei Vasilevskiy made 33 saves for the Lightning. Brian Boyle and Victor Hedman scored late for Tampa Bay.

JETS 3, WILD 1

Dustin Byfuglien had a goal and assist, Connor Hellebuyck made 14 saves to win his NHL debut and Winnipeg Jets spoiled left winger Zach Parise's return from a knee injury by beating Minnesota. Mathieu Perreault added his second goal in two games and Nikolaj Ehlers' goal late in the third put the game away. The Jets won on the road for the first time in their last seven tries and for just the third time in their last 11 games. Ryan Carter scored for Minnesota, finally getting a shot past Hellebuyck that made it 2-1 midway through the third period. Hellebuyck was college hockey's top goalie in 2013-14 and the goaltender on the US team that won a bronze medal in the 2015 world championships.

FLYERS 3, PREDATORS 2, OT

Shayne Gostisbehere scored on the power play with 52 seconds left in overtime to lift Philadelphia to a win over Nashville. Colin McDonald and Michael Del Zotto also scored for Philadelphia, which won for just the fourth time in 16 games. The Flyers gave up the tying goal to Michael Fisher with 20 seconds left in regulation. Philadelphia went on the power play when Nashville was called for too many men on the ice. Gostisbehere one-timed Claude Giroux's pass from the slot past Pekka Rinne for his third goal of the season and second straight winning goal in overtime. He scored 24 seconds into the extra session Monday in Philadelphia's 3-2 home win over Carolina. Filip Forsberg also scored for Nashville.— AP

NHL results/standings

Boston 4, NY Rangers 3; Philadelphia 3, Nashville 2 (OT); Winnipeg 3, Minnesota 1; Chicago 3, Anaheim 2 (OT); Washington 4, Tampa Bay 2; Buffalo 4, Carolina 1; Montreal 3, New Jersey 2 (SO); Columbus 2, Pittsburgh 1 (OT); Detroit 4, 3 (OT); Florida 3, NY Islanders 2 (SO);

Dallas 3, Vancouver 2 (SO); Arizona 2, Calgary 1 (OT).							
	West	ern Con	ference				
		ntral Div					
	W	L	OTL	GF	GA	PTS	
Dallas	18	5	0	81	59	36	
St. Louis	14	6	3	62	57	31	
Nashville	12	6	4	58	56	28	
Chicago	13	8	2	65	59	28	
Minnesota	11	7	3	60	57	25	
Winnipeg	11	11	2	64	75	24	
Colorado	8	13	1	63	67	17	
	Pa	cific Div	ision				
Los Angeles	13	8	1	55	48	27	
San Jose	13	9	0	61	56	26	
Arizona	12	9	1	61	62	25	
Vancouver	9	8	7	69	65	25	
Anaheim	8	11	5	47	65	21	
Calgary	8	13	2	54	82	18	
Edmonton	7	14	2	59	72	16	
		ern Con					
		antic Di					
Montreal	18	4	2	86	53	38	
Ottawa	12	5	5	73	64	29	
Boston	13	8	1	73	64	27	
Detroit	12	8	3	55	58	27	
Tampa Bay	11	10	3	57	55	25	
Florida	9	9	4	58	58	22	
Buffalo	9	12	2	50	61	20	
Toronto	7	10	_ 5	51	62	19	
10/5		politan					
NY Rangers	16	5	2	70	47	34	
Washington	16	5	1	71	49	33	
Pittsburgh	13	8	1	50	51	27	
NY Islanders	11	8	4	64	57	26	
New Jersey	11	9	2	53	55	24	
Philadelphia	8	10	5	42	65	21	
Carolina	8	11	4	47	66	20	
Columbus	10	14	0	59	73	20	
Note: Overtime lo				ooint ir	the s	tandin	igs
and are not includ	and are not included in the loss column (L)						

JAPAN'S HANYU **SMASHES MYSTICAL** 300-point mark

NAGANO: Japan's high-flying Olympic champion Yuzuru Hanyu became the first skater to break the 300-point mark yesterday as he soared to victory at the NHK Trophy in breathtaking style. The 20-year-old obliterated the mystical barrier in Nagano, posting a combined world record total of 322.40 points after a jaw-dropping free program which also smashed Canadian Patrick Chan's previous high, sending thousands of squealing female fans into raptures. Hanyu's free score of 216.07 was also the first ever to clear the 200-point mark and his astonishing aggregate tally was on a entirely different level to Chan's previous best of 295.27 set in Paris two years ago. "I don't believe it," Hanyu told reporters after being greeted with a bear-hug from Canadian coach Brian Orser and calling out "arigato" (thank you) to his adoring public.

"That score really was a surprise. I was so nervous before I skated but I wanted to go for it. I wanted to show that I'm the Olympic champion, here on a rink where the Olympics were held (in 1998). Despite the score, I still think there is room to improve." It is difficult to see how after an exquisite performance which could redefine the sport. Hanyu, who covered his face with his hands in disbelief as his score was announced, majestically nailed all of his jumps, including four quads and seven triples, in a high-risk program which left his rivals way back. He punched the air in joy at the end of his skate as the crowd erupted before gliding over to a television camera holding his index finger aloft to underline his status as figure skating's crown prince.

Lost for words

"It's hard to describe what I'm feeling right now," said Hanyu, shaking his head. Chinese teenager Jin Boyang posted a score of 170.79 to finish a distant runner-up with a total of 266.43, joining Hanyu in next month's Grand Prix Final in Barcelona. Japan's Takahito Mura took third with a total of 242.21.— AFP



NAGANO: Yuzuru Hanyu of Japan performs during the men's singles event at the ISU Grand Prix figure skating NHK Trophy in Nagano yesterday. — AFP



EUROLEAGUE HOLDERS REAL STUTTER AS SIX RIVALS ADVANCE

BELGRADE: Euroleague holders Real Madrid are staring at an early exit after a dramatic 94-88 defeat at Red Star Belgrade while six of their rivals reached the competition's second group stage with three games to spare on Friday. Spanish contenders Barcelona and Unicaja Malaga, Russians CSKA Moscow and Lokomotiv Krasnodar as well as Fenerbahce Istanbul and Olympiakos Piraeus all progressed to the Top 16, featuring two groups of eight teams. Real's setback at Red Star left them with a 2-5 record and facing an uphill battle to stay in the

BELGRADE: Euroleague holders Real Madrid are staring at an early exit after a dramatic 94-88 defeat at Red Star Belgrade while six of their rivals hunt for a record-extending 10th title, after the hosts swung the absorbing contest their way in front of a fervent 7,000 crowd.

"These are the best basketball fans in the world and I just love how they got behind us tonight," Red Star's American forward Quincy Miller told Reuters after a standing ovation. "We played tough defense when we had to and this win will have boosted our confidence ahead of the last three games," added the 23-year old from Chicago, having racked up 24 points and seven rebounds. Red Star's German centre Maik Zirbes, the

game's top scorer with 26 points, added: "It's a great accomplishment but our chances of advancing are still in the balance and we have to keep up the good work." A roller coaster affair, played in the cauldron of the acoustic Pionir Hall, saw Red Star throw away a 12-point lead midway through the first half and then overcome a 10-point deficit in the third

Ice cool

Miller was instrumental in the win by nailing five three-pointers from seven attempts to galvanize the fans and

Zirbes was ice cool from the free throw line in the home straight. Having the 24-team competition's most porous defense after conceding 84.8 points per game in their opening six matches, Real again allowed their rivals too many open shots. Spain did have something to cheer as Barcelona buried 17 of 26 three-point attempts in a 93-64 away rout of Poles Zielona Gora, while Unicaja brushed aside Maccabi Tel Aviv 82-68.

Maccabi, with five titles, have only a theoretical chance of progressing after slipping to their sixth defeat in seven games. CSKA edged Dinamo Sassari 93-

87 while Zalgiris Kaunas, the 1999 winners, were also humbled by a Russian side after registering their lowest Euroleague tally in an 80-50 drubbing at the hands of irrepressible Lokomotiv. Usually lethal from long range, Zalgiris hit only two of their 11 three-point attempts as the Russian side's steely defense stifled the Lithuanian outfit. Fenerbahce eased to an 81-64 home win over Strasbourg, Czech centre Jan Vesely taking 20 points for the Turks, and Olympiakos overpowered Laboral Kutxa Vitoria 59-52 in a physical contest.—Reuters

JONES MAINTAINS LEAD AT AUSTRALIAN OPEN

SYDNEY: Matt Jones shot a 3-under 68 to hold a three-stroke advantage over a surging Jordan Spieth after the third round of the Australian Open yesterday. Defending champion Spieth holed out with his shot from the fairway on the par-4 17th for an eagle, then had a tap-in birdie on 18 for a 67. With gusty winds again affecting play on The Australian Golf Club course where Jones is a member, the US -based Australian had a 54-hole total of 10-under 203.

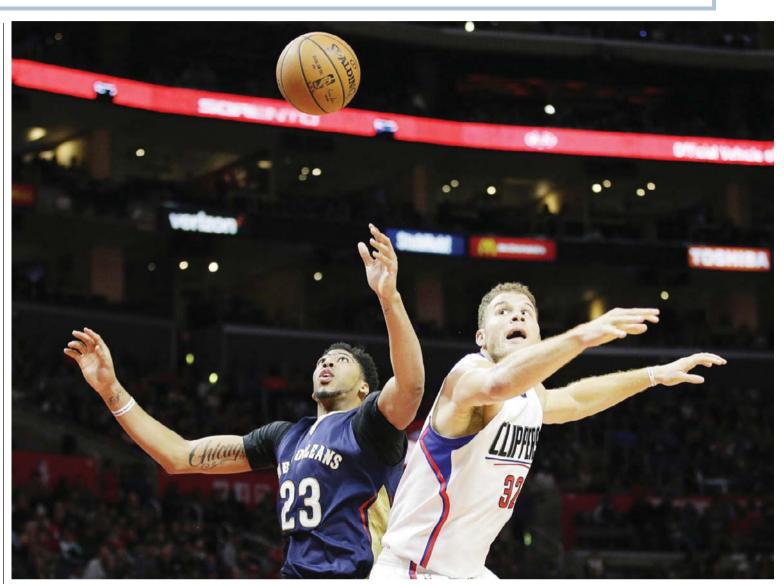
Australian Rhein Gibson was in third after a 68, five behind Jones. Adam Scott rebounded from a 73 on Friday to shoot 68, including an eagle on the 18th. He's tied for seventh, nine strokes behind, as is European Ryder Cup captain Darren Clarke, who shot 70. There were only nine golfers under par. The course has been tough, with only 18 under par after the first round and 12 after the second. Spieth had a roller-coaster of a front nine in which he bogeyed three of his first four holes and birdied the next two before finishing the front nine with a bogey and a birdie - just two pars going out. "I made a couple of bad swings and a couple of bad decisions," Spieth said. "Not many pars."

Spieth settled down initially on the back nine and had two birdies on 12 and 14 with a 10-foot par save on the 13th. The fireworks came with his shot on the 17th - an 8-iron from 181 yards which hit the front edge of the green and rolled straight toward the flag, gently nudging the pin before falling straight down into the hole. The 22-year-old American threw his hands in the air, high-fived his caddie, Michael Greller, then gave him a light punch in the chest. "I struck it nicely, there's not too much room to land it, up there," Spieth said. "It's two extra shots that you don't

expect. Great fightback, one of the bestfought rounds I've had that I can remember." Last year, Spieth shot a final-round 63, a record on the revamped Jack Nicklaus-designed course, to win by six

Jones provided some late theatrics of his own, putting from well off the green on the 17th to hole it for birdie. "One more to go, and I get to play with the No 1 player in the world," Jones said of his finalround pairing with Spieth in the 100th Australian Open. "It will be a lot of fun." "If I go out and shoot two or three under tomorrow, I'm going to be very tough to beat. So it's in my hands. If he shoots something amazing like last year and beats me, that's what I'll have to deal with." Scott ended a birdie drought not with his troublesome putter but by chipping in from just off the green on the third hole. It came after he failed to make a birdie in his Friday round, and Scott said he couldn't recall the last time that had happened.

"It was hard-going out there today, windy, the pins were tucked, but I made some putts," Scott said. "It was a little bit of everything, but it all added up." Scott, who was also nine strokes behind after the second round, said he still felt he has a chance to win today, which would be his second Australian Open title after winning in 2009. Scott, who has not won this year, has a streak of winning at least one tournament every year since 2001. Jones and Spieth will do their best today to make sure Scott isn't around at the end. Yesterday, Spieth was seen and heard having a rather animated exchange with caddie Greller. After his round, Spieth wasn't about to apologize. "I'm passionate," said Spieth. "I'm very involved in each shot. I guess it's who I am."— AP



LOS ANGELES: Los Angeles Clippers' Blake Griffin (right) and New Orleans Pelicans' Anthony Davis watch the ball during the second half of an NBA basketball game on Friday, Nov 27, 2015. — AP

TRADITIONAL PACIFIC FAREWELL FOR LOMU DRAWS THOUSANDS

AUCKLAND: Thousands of people, some wearing traditional Tongan woven mats, gathered in Auckland yesterday for a Pacific island farewell for late rugby legend Jonah Lomu. Former All Blacks Tana Umaga and Michael Jones led mourners at the service which Queen Elizabeth II's representative in New Zealand, Governor General Jerry Mateparae, said was a celebration because "Jonah's life is worth celebrating". "He impressed us with his courage, his humility, his grace under pressure," Mateparae said of the blockbusting wing who is credited with revolutionizing rugby and became the game's first global superstar.

Lomu's career was cut short by a chronic kidney disease and he died unexpectedly at his Auckland home last week aged just 40, leaving a wife and two young sons. The sudden death brought an outpouring of grief around the world, not only from rugby union teammates and rivals but also politicians, Hollywood personalities and sports stars. "His determination to use his influence and his mana (prestige) for the benefit of others was exemplary," Mataparae said. Ahead of Monday's public memorial at the spiritual home of New Zealand rugby-Auckland's Eden Park-the Pacific island communities gathered yesterday for a "family day" to pay a traditional tribute to Lomu who was of Tongan

descent.

His widow Nadene and sons Dhyreille and Brayley-who were wearing All Black jersevs with the name Lomu and the number 11 on the back-led the mourners into the service. Hundreds of Pacific islanders, many wearing a ta'ovala-a mat wrapped around the waist, which is a traditional Tongan dress worn by men and women on special occasions-turned up for the service where former All Black captain Umaga said it was important to gather in South Auckland where Lomu was born. "We come to pay our respects in the area and with the people he grew up with," Umaga said. Jones said the Pacific family day was an "intimate and beautiful part of the mourning and the

Manu Vatuvei, a star in the rival code rugby league, described Lomu as a special man. "When he played on the field he was a beast and no one could stop him but when he was off the field he was a gentle giant," he said. Another former All Black, Ofisa Tonu'u, a spokesman for the gathering, described it as a "joyous" celebration where people could "tell stories and a few eulogies and just to celebrate Jonah's career and the legacy he's left behind". "We have come to celebrate, to celebrate the life of a brother, and a friend," added former All Black Eroni Clarke. —AFP



AUCKLAND: The casket containing the body of Jonah Lomu sits at the front of the Aho Faka Famili memorial for him at Vodafone Events Centre in Auckland yesterday. — AFP

WARRIORS EXTEND UNBEATEN STREAK

PHOENIX: Stephen Curry scored 41 points in three guarters, Draymond Green had a triple-double and the Golden State Warriors beat Phoenix 135-116 on Friday night, extending their NBA-record start to 17-0. The Warriors set a franchise mark for 3-pointers with 22, one shy of the league record. Curry made a season-high nine of his 16 attempts from long range in his 14th career 40-point game, five of them this season. Green had 14 points, 10 rebounds and 10 assists in his third career triple-double, two this season. The Warriors, in their highest-scoring game of the season, set another NBA mark by making 15 3-pointers (in 20 attempts) in the first half. Leandro Barbosa added 21 points on 8-of-9 shooting, including 5 for 5 on 3s. TJ Warren scored a career-high 28 points for the Suns in their third straight loss and fourth in five games.

ROCKETS 116, 76ERS 114

James Harden had 50 points, nine rebounds and eight assists, and Houston beat winless Philadelphia. Harden was 14 for 28 from the field and 16 for 20 at the line in his third career game with 50 or more points. He is averaging 36.2 points in his last five games. Philadelphia moved one loss away from matching the New Jersey Nets' NBA-worst mark of 18 losses to open a season. The Sixers have dropped 27 in a row dating to last season for the longest losing streak in major US professional sports history, passing the NFL's Tampa Bay Buccaneers from 1976 to '77. The previous record was also matched by the 76ers in 2013-14. Robert Covington had 28 points for Philadelphia, which made a franchise-record 16 3pointers in 35 attempts. One day removed from a Boston nightclub altercation, rookie Jahlil Okafor had 11 points and six rebounds.

PACERS 104, BULLS 92

Paul George scored 33 points, CJ Miles had 16 and Indiana earned its fourth consecutive win. The Pacers have won 10 of 12 overall. Monta Ellis had 14 points, and George Hill finished with 10 assists. Nikola Mirotic scored a season-high 25 points for Chicago (9-5), and Jimmy Butler added 16. The Bulls lost for only the second time in six games. Indiana broke out of a sluggish start with a 17-2 run that made it 19-9 midway through the first quarter, and it never trailed again.

CAVALIERS 95, HORNETS 90

LeBron James had 25 points and 13 rebounds for Cleveland, extending his personal run of dominance against Charlotte. James' teams have won 23 straight games against franchises based in Charlotte - both the Hornets and Bobcats. He played in all but two of those. Kevin Love had a double-double at halftime and finished with 18 points and 16 rebounds as the Cavaliers snapped Charlotte's seven-game home winning streak and improved to 4-4 on the road. Kemba Walker had 18 points, and Nicolas Batum added 17 points and eight rebounds for Charlotte.

THUNDER 103, PISTONS 87

Kevin Durant had 34 points and 13 rebounds to help Oklahoma City beat Detroitfor its fourth straight win. Russell Westbrook, Serge Ibaka and Enes Kanter added 14 points apiece for the Thunder. In a matchup of the NBA's top two rebounding teams, the No 2 Thunder outrebounded the No 1 Pistons 58-38. Detroit center Andre Drummond, who was leading the league with 17.8 rebounds per game, finished with seven. Pistons point guard Reggie Jackson was traded by Oklahoma City last season after saying he wanted to be a starter, despite playing behind Westbrook. Jackson was booed loudly during pregame warmups and was jeered most of the time

when he touched the ball. He finished with 15 points

HAWKS 116, GRIZZLIES 101

on 4-for-16 shooting.

Paul Millsap had 23 points and 14 rebounds, leading balanced Atlanta past Memphis. Atlanta, which had lost five of seven, had six players score in double figures. Jeff Teague had 20 points and seven assists, Al Horford scored 16 points, and Kent Bazemore had 14. Millsap was 11 of 13 from the free-throw line. Mike Conley led Memphis with 16 points, but was 4 of 13 from the field. Matt Barnes scored 15, while Courtney Lee and Vince Carter added 14 apiece. The Grizzlies were outscored 63-43 in the second half.

HEAT 97, KNICKS 78

Gerald Green scored a season-high 25 points while starting in place of Luol Deng, and the Heat earned their second victory over the Knicks this week. Chris Bosh added 20 points and Dwyane Wade had 17 for the Heat, who held the Knicks to 78 points in both victories over the last six nights. Green showed off his entire repertoire during a superb fourth-quarter stretch that turned the game into a blowout and sent the Heat to their eighth straight victory over the Knicks, their longest winning streak in the series. Carmelo Anthony and Kristaps Porzingis each scored 11 points for New York in its third straight loss.

MAGIC 114, BUCKS 90

Elfrid Payton had 22 points and 10 assists, leading Orlando to the win. The Magic shot 52.4 percent from the field and limited the Bucks to 41.9 percent shooting. Tobias Harris scored 19 points for Orlando, and Evan Fournier and Victor Oladipo had 17 apiece. Giannis Antetokounmpo and Jerryd Bayless led Milwaukee with 17 points apiece. Khris Middleton had 15. The Magic made each of their six 3-point attempts and 13 of 16 shots (81.3 percent) overall while blowing the game open in the third period. Orlando outscored Milwaukee 37-22 in the quarter to push a six-point halftime lead to 86-65.

SPURS 91, NUGGETS 80

Kawhi Leonard scored 25 points and San Antonio beat Denver for its fourth win in a row. Tony Parker

Eastern Conference

added 13 points and Jonathon Simmons had 12 for the Spurs, who were without Tim Duncan and Manu Ginobili. The veteran stars got the night off to rest with San Antonio playing the second of three games in four nights. Danilo Gallinari had 16 points for the Nuggets, who have lost five in a row. Denver also has lost nine straight to San Antonio.

CLIPPERS 111, PELICANS 90

Blake Griffin and J.J. Redick each scored 20 points before sitting out the fourth quarter, and Los Angeles routed undermanned New Orleans. Griffin, who scored 40 points against Utah on Wednesday in a 102-91 loss that began a six-game homestand, made seven of 15 shots to help fuel the Clippers' sixth straight home victory over New Orleans. Chris Paul had 17 points and eight assists. Anthony Davis had 17 points and six rebounds in 28 minutes for New Orleans. He was carried to the dressing room with 2:48 left in the third quarter because of a bruised right knee. Davis collided with Paul while the All-Star point guard was dribbling up court.

TIMBERWOLVES 101, KINGS 91

Andrew Wiggins scored 22 points, Zach LaVine added 19 points and eight rebounds, and Minnesota got a big game from its reserves to beat Sacramento. Shabazz Muhammad had 15 points and Andre Miller added 12 points and four assists to help the Timberwolves to their third straight win and first over the Kings since March 16, 2014. Minnesota, one of the worst home teams in the NBA this season, also improved to 6-2 on the road. LaVine scored 14 points in the second half of his return to the lineup, helping Minnesota pull away. LaVine was starting in place of Ricky Rubio, who was sidelined by a left ankle injury.

CELTICS 111, WIZARDS 78

Jared Sullinger had 18 points and 15 rebounds in three quarters and Isaiah Thomas scored 21 points, leading Boston past Washington. Jae Crowder scored 17 and Avery Bradley had 16 points for the Celtics, who posted a runaway win against the Wizards for the second time in three weeks. Kelly Olynyk scored nine of his 12 points in the fourth quarter as both coaches left the finish to their reserves. Jared Dudley scored 19 points for Washington.— AP

Western Conference

NBA Results/Standings

Cleveland 95, Charlotte 90; Orlando 114, Milwaukee 90; Boston 111, Washington 78; Miami 97, NY Knicks 78; Indiana 104, Chicago 92; Houston 116, Philadelphia 114; Atlanta 116, Memphis 101; Oklahoma City 103, Detroit 87; San Antonio 91, Denver 80; Golden State 135, Phoenix 116; Minnesota 101, Sacramento 91; LA Clippers 111, New Orleans 90.

Atlantic Division					Northwest	Divisio	n				
		W	L	PCT	GB	Oklahoma City	11	6	.647	-	
	Toronto	10	6	.625	-	Minnesota	8	8	.500	2.5	
	Boston	9	7	.563	1	Utah	7	7	.500	2.5	
	NY Knicks	8	9	.471	2.5	Denver	6	10	.375	4.5	
	Brooklyn	3	12	.200	6.5	Portland	6	10	.375	4.5	
	Philadelphia	0	17	0	10.5		Pacific D	ivision			
		Central D				Golden State	17	0	1.000	_	
	Cleveland	12	4	.750	-	LA Clippers	8	8	.500	8.5	
	Indiana	10	5	.667	1.5	Phoenix	7	9	.438	9.5	
	Chicago	9	5	.643	2	Sacramento	6	11	.353	11	
	Detroit	8	8	.500	4	LA Lakers	2	12	.143	13.5	
	Milwaukee	6	10	.375	6	LA Lakeis	Southwest			13.3	
		Southeast	Divisio	n							
	Miami	10	5	.667	-	San Antonio	13	3	.813	-	
	Atlanta	11	7	.611	0.5	Dallas	9	7	.563	4	
	Charlotte	9	7	.563	1.5	Memphis	9	8	.529	4.5	
	Orlando	8	8	.500	2.5	Houston	6	10	.375	7	
	Washington	6	7	.462	3	New Orleans	4	12	.250	9	

Kuwait Zimes SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2015

TERROR ALERT AS ETOILE, PIRATES SEEK CAF GLORY

JOHANNESBURG: Terrorism in Tunisia has forced a kick-off time change and a limited crowd for the CAF Confederation Cup final second leg today between Etoile Sahel and Orlando Pirates from South Africa. Twelve presidential guards were killed by a suicide bomber in Tunis this week, triggering a daily eight-hour curfew in the capital and a nationwide state of emergency. Etoile and Pirates, who drew 1-1 in Soweto last Saturday, meet at the Stade Olympique in Mediterranean resort Sousse, close to where 38 foreign tourists died in a beach massacre last June.

Jihadist terror group Islamic State claimed responsibility for the Tunis and Sousse attacks. Originally scheduled for 1930 local time (1830 GMT), the last match of the CAF club season has been brought forward to 1500 local time (1400 GMT). And the initial crowd limit of 20,000 in the 25,000-seat stadium has been halved to 10,000 on the orders of Tunisian authorities. South African ambassador to Tunisia Harold Hoyana said Pirates officials had been informed of security arrangements and were satisfied. "The Tunisian authorities have put in place stringent security measures to protect their citizens and foreign visitors," Hoyana told South African reporters.

Pirates are familiar with Tunisia, beating CS Sfaxien 1-0 in a Confederation Cup group game in Sfax, 135 kilometers south of Sousse, four months ago. Having snatched a late equaliser in South Africa through centre-back Ammar Jemal, deputising as captain for injured goalkeeper Aymen Mathlouthi, Etoile are favoured to claim a ninth CAF title. They are the only club to lift all five CAF trophies, winning the Champions League and Confederation Cup once and the Super Cup, African Cup Winners Cup and CAF Cup twice. What the Tunisian Red Devils have not achieved is a victory in two home and three away matches in Confederation Cup finals.

'No nasty surprises'

Etoile beat FAR Rabat of Morocco on away goals after two draws in 2006 and lost on away goals to Sfaxien two years later after two more draws. They could achieve another victory-less final triumph this weekend as a 0-0 draw would give them the trophy on away goals and a 1-1 draw would present a chance to win via a penalty shootout. Should Etoile succeed, it will be the fifth Tunisian success in 12 finals of the African equivalent of the Europa League with Sfaxien having triumphed a record three times.

Both clubs remain confident they can end long waits for an African title with the last for Etoile coming in the 2008 Super Cup. Pirates, hoping to end a 14-year African trophy drought by South African clubs, won the 1995 African Cup of Champions Clubs (now CAF Champions League) and the 1996 Super Cup. Etoile coach Faouzi Benzarti, a greying 65-year-old seeking a third CAF club title, told Tunisian reporters that "the second leg is the real final. "We must be compact, vigilant and focused to ensure there are no nasty surprises," said the widely travelled handler now in his fifth spell at the Sousse club. "Pirates are a good attacking side, but we closed them down effectively on the wings in the first leg. The way they play has not really changed during their Confederation Cup campaign."— AFP



NEW ZEALAND STRUGGLE AS WICKETS TUMBLE AGAIN IN DAY-NIGHT TEST

ADELAIDE: New Zealand held a tenuous 94-run lead in the absorbing day-night third Test after a second day of tumbling wickets at the Adelaide Oval yesterday. The Kiwis, trailing 1-0 in the series, struggled to build a defendable total to present Australia in the fourth innings after another fast-paced day's cricket of 13 wickets before 42,372 fans. At the close, the Black Caps were finding batting difficult under lights and were 116 for five with a result looming today's third day in the scheduled five-day Test.

New Zealand had lost their top batsmen and at the crease were BJ Watling on seven with debutant Mitchell Santner not out 13. "Definitely no figure. Whatever we end up with we're just going to have to get some wickets but more importantly having that new ball as close to twilight as possible," senior batsman Ross Taylor said. "If we can keep them out there and keep our bowlers from bowling not as many overs tomorrow, then we give ourselves the best chance." Josh Hazlewood led the Australian attack with three wickets in the absence of injured spearhead Mitchell Starc as the pink ball again dominated the bat.

Hazlewood removed both openers with mesmerizing ball movement under lights. Martin Guptill sliced to Mitch Marsh in the gully for 17 and Tom Latham was tempted by a wider delivery and was caught behind for 10. Hazlewood had Kane Williamson dropped on one by Adam Voges in the slips but the star Kiwi batsman soon feathered a catch to Nevill off Mitch Marsh for nine to complete a low-scoring match. Captain Brendon McCullum followed for 20, leg before wicket to Marsh and Perth Test double centurymaker Taylor fell the same way to Hazlewood for 32. "The wicket's not that bad to have so many wickets taken in two days," Hazlewood said. "We had a middle-order collapse today. We should probably be still batting now. We'll try and fix that for the second innings."

The second day turned on a contentious challenge decision in Australia's favor before dinner, enabling them to go on and grab a 22-run innings lead. Nathan Lyon survived a review in which 'Hot Spot' revealed a mark on the back of his bat before he had scored. The review was churned over for minutes before the TV umpire Nigel Llong decided there was not enough to go on despite the Hot Spot evidence to give Lyon out, caught off spinner Santner, with Australia reeling at 118 for eight and trailing the Kiwis by 84 runs. Lyon walked three-quarters of the way off the ground believing he was out before he returned to continue batting and join in a record Australian trans-Tasman series 74-run ninthwicket stand with Peter Nevill. Lyon was eventually out for 34 as the Australians hit back to take an innings lead with incapacitated Mitchell Starc smashing two massive sixes off spinner Mark Craig. Starc, who came into bat at No 11 after being diagnosed with a stress foot fracture on

Friday, thrilled the home crowd with his prodi-

gious hitting. Nevill was the hero and was the last man out for his highest Test score of 66 leaving the hobbling Starc unbeaten on 24 which included two sixes and three fours.

Doug Bracewell finished his side's best bowler with three for 18 off 12.1 overs. It was rough justice for the Kiwis, who have been on the receiving end of some controversial umpiring decisions. Australia were in dire trouble at 116 for eight at tea after a rampant Kiwi bowling performance in the first session. The Black Caps snared Steve Smith's prized wicket when he charged off-spinner Craig only to be caught by wicketkeeper Watling. The Kiwis had the Australians well on the back foot with Peter Siddle out four balls later in the same Craig over and then Hazlewood was bowled by Santner for four in the final over before tea. Just 62 runs were scored by Australia for the loss of six wickets in the first session off 29.5 overs. — AFP

SCOREBOARD

ADELAIDE, Australia: Scores at dinner on the second day of the third Test between Australia and New Zealand at the Adelaide Oval vesterday

New Zealand 1st innings 202 (T. Latham 50; M.		(M. Marsh), 6-109
	(Smith), 7-109 (Siddle), 8-116	(Hazlewood), 9-190
nt)	(Lyon), 10-224 (Nevill)	
14	Bowling: Southee 17-1-50-1	, Boult 17-5-41-2
1	•	
53		
13	10 1 33 2.	
2	Now Zooland and innings	
4	•	
66		not out
0		
4	M. Guptill	not out
34	10	
24	Extras (lb2)	2
9	Total (0 wicket; 7 overs)	22
224	Bowling: Hazlewood 4-0-15	-0, Siddle 2-1-2-0
4 (Burns), 3-63	M.Marsh 1-0-3-0.	
	14 1 53 13 2 4 66 0 4 34 24	(Smith), 7-109 (Siddle), 8-116 (Lyon), 10-224 (Nevill) 14 Bowling: Southee 17-1-50-1 1 Bracewell 12.1-3-18-3 (1w), Sant 53 10-1-53-2. 13 2 New Zealand 2nd innings T. Latham 10 4 M. Guptill 34 10 24 Extras (lb2) 9 Total (0 wicket; 7 overs) 224 Bowling: Hazlewood 4-0-15

KLOPP'S RED REVOLUTION **GATHERS PACE**

LIVERPOOL: Having qualified for the last 32 of the Europa League, Liverpool return to the Premier League today with an ideal opportunity to continue their revival under Jurgen Klopp when struggling Swansea visit Anfield. Liverpool have lost just once since the former Borussia Dortmund manager took over nine games ago - a defeat to Crystal Palace in their last home league game. Since then, Klopp's side have won 4-1 at Manchester City and on Thursday beat Bordeaux 2-1 at Anfield to secure their progress to the knock-out stages of Europe's second tier competition.

Next, Liverpool are at home to the Swans, who have won just one of their last 10 matches to slide down to 14th in the Premier League. Liverpool are ninth, eight points leaders Leicester, who played second-placed Manchester United yesterday. Klopp is refusing to focus on the top of the table but wants to get closer to the leading pack, who remain in touching distance thanks to Liverpool's resurgence since the German replaced the sacked Brendan Rodgers.

"I don't know in this moment who will win he league and I don't care," Klopp said. "At this moment it's only important to be concentrated on your own situation and your progress. "If it would help to think about the end of the season I would do it. "But it's always important how far you are away from the position you dream off. It's better to be eight than 20 but two would be better than eight, so we have to try and close this gap if possible and that's what we try."

Injury problems

Liverpool are likely to be without joint leading scorer Philippe Coutinho due to a hamstring injury, while Daniel Sturridge is also expected to continue his injury absence after pulling out of a planned midweek comeback with a foot problem. Klopp has told Sturridge he may have to play through the pain to improve his appearance record after a catalogue of injuries. But provided Christian Benteke is able to play a second game in four days following his own recent injury problems, Klopp - who is also without long-term absentee Danny Ings and suspended midfielder Lucas Leiva - insists he is not concerned about his attacking resources.

"It's not the most difficult situation with the strikers because we have Christian Benteke, Divock Origi and Roberto (Firmino)," he said. "But of course we need all of them because of the big number of games." Swansea's recent problems have placed pressure on manager Garry Monk. But Monk, who guided the club to their best ever Premier League finish of eighth place last season, insists he retains the backing of club chairman Huw Jenkins and has been charged with leading an upturn in fortunes. "I know Huw and the board very well. —AFP



LIVERPOOL: Liverpool's manager Juergen Klopp (left) walks from the pitch with Lucas Leiva after their team's 2-1 in the Europa League Group B soccer match between Liverpool and Bordeaux at Anfield Stadium. — AP

AFC BOSS 'CONFIDENT' NEXT FIFA LEADER WILL BE ASIAN

NEW DELHI: Asia's football chief has won strongest of the five current candidates. unanimous backing from his executive committee as the man to "rebuild FIFA" as he strengthens his campaign to take over the corruption-tarnished world body. The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) executive committee also pledged to lobby its members to support President Sheikh Salman bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa, in a meeting ahead of Sunday's AFC awards. The Bahraini royal will appear before hundreds of delegates at the awards show in New Delhi after emerging as a leading candidate for the February 26 FIFA presidential vote. "The (exco) meeting expressed their utmost confidence in Sheikh Salman's ability to restore FIFA's credibility," said an AFC statement from the Indian capital. "They added that Sheikh Salman has demonstrated his leadership qualities since taking over as AFC president and it was crucial to elect Sheikh Salman as he was 'someone who could rebuild FIFA and make FIFA better in the future'." Sheikh Salman's odds have narrowed after UEFA president Michel Platini was suspended over a suspect \$2 million payment. Platini's lawyer says FIFA's ethics committee is seeking a life ban. As head of one of FIFA's biggest confederations, and with the backing of powerful Kuwaiti FIFA exco member Sheikh Ahmad Al

Fahad Al Sabah, Sheikh Salman is among the

Growing confidence

In a sign of his rising fortunes, the AFC boss said he was "confident" the next FIFA head would come from Asia, a development which would break new ground for world football. "It is a big support for my campaign, as well as an honor for me, to have the endorsement and full backing of the AFC Executive Committee," Sheikh Salman said in the statement. "Since you are the elected representatives of the AFC member associations, it also sends a strong message that Asia is behind one candidate. "I thank you for your support and invaluable advice. I am confident that the next president of FIFA will be from Asia.

"This would not only be a recognition of the ever-increasing role that Asia and Asian football has, but also will allow us to have a say in shaping a better future for this great game."The former ally of suspended FIFA chief Sepp Blatter faces challenges from UEFA general secretary Gianni Infantino and Asian rival Prince Ali Al Hussein of Jordan, who have both pledged a path of reform. FIFA has become mired in a mess of corruption claims, many of them surrounding alleged bribes during bidding to host World Cups including Qatar 2022, with several officials in the firing line.—AFP

Chelsea defense can nullify the threat of in-form Harry Kane even if John Terry fails to recover in time to face London rivals Tottenham Hotspur today. Mourinho's side head to White Hart Lane after keeping two confidence-boosting clean sheets, first in last weekend's victory over Norwich City and then in the midweek Champions League success at Maccabi Tel Aviv. Terry limped out of the game in Israel and the Blues captain remains doubtful for the Spurs clash, when Chelsea will attempt to record back-

to-back Premier League wins for the first time this season. A victory in north London will strengthen Mourinho's belief his side have turned the corner after a disastrous start to the campaign that has left them in 15th position. Their hopes of gaining revenge for the 5-3 defeat in the corresponding fixture last season will be enhanced if they can prevent Kane from extending a scoring streak that has brought the

Tottenham striker nine goals in his last six club games. And Chelsea manager Mourinho has no doubts a patched up central-defensive pairing of Gary Cahill and Kurt Zouma can keep England international Kane quiet if Terry is unfit. "I have complete trust in Gary Cahill and Kurt Zouma, which is why in an important match for us on Tuesday I left Kurt out after the good performances he is having to show Gary that confidence.

They are ready," Mourinho said. "I am not saying Papy Djilobodji is ready because he did not have chances to play and his is a different situation, but Zouma and Cahill are both ready and if John doesn't play, I go with them. "I don't know about John. I don't want to say that it is impossible he plays because maybe he plays and people will say that I was hiding it and I am not hiding. "Today he didn't train but we have a little hope that it is possible. "Ramires is the same situation as John, I don't know, let's wait and see. He has a

Unfair

Mauricio Pochettino's Tottenham are unbeaten in the league since their opening-day defeat

LONDON: Jose Mourinho is confident his at Manchester United and come into the game on the back of a 1-0 Europa League win over Qarabag on Thursday. The effects of making a long journey to Azerbaijan have caused concern for Pochettino, who claims it is unfair Chelsea could take advantage of their extra two days rest. But left-back Danny Rose remains confident Spurs can build on last weekend's 4-1 victory against West Ham United. "It needs to be the same again from us. Obviously Chelsea have had a difficult run but that doesn't make them a bad

MOURINHO BACKS CHELSEA

TO SUBDUE RED-HOT KANE

team," Rose said. "They've got a world-class squad, a world-class manager and it's a derby, so form goes out of the window. "It's going to be a difficult game but we just hope that we can perform and give the same energy and commitment as we did against West Ham. If we do that, it will be a difficult game for them. "From our side, we've got a great sense of belief inside the changing room and inside the club, so as long as we keep doing what the head coach asks then we know we'll be in for an exciting season."—AFP



Tottenham Hotspur's English striker Harry Kane

PSG CROWNED AUTUMN CHAMPIONS AFTER WIN ON EMOTIONAL DAY

PARIS: Paris Saint-Germain are guaranteed to end 2015 on top of the Ligue 1 table after a 4-1 win against Troyes on a day marked by tributes to the victims of the recent terror attacks. It was a routine win for PSG with Edinson Cavani and Layvin Kurzawa finding the net either side of a Zlatan Ibrahimovic penalty before youngster Jean-Kevin Augustin wrapped up the points. Thomas Ayasse got one back for the away side but the win for Paris means they are still unbeaten domestically this season and are so far clear of their rivals that they have already secured the symbolic title of autumn champions for the team that tops the table at Christmas.

But the match was also significant for being the first top-level game to be played in the French capital since the terror attacks in the city and outside the Stade de France during France's game with Germany on November 13 that left 130 dead and many more injured. With France still in a state of emergency, there were stringent security checks on the way into the Parc des Princes, and there was also a moving tribute before the game kicked off.

The likes of Lionel Messi, Neymar, Wayne Rooney, Cristiano Ronaldo and other sporting superstars appeared on a video played on big screens with each repeating the slogan 'Je Suis Paris' (I am Paris) that PSG also sported on their shirts. A huge French flag greeted the players as they came out while 'La Marseillaise' was sung and a minute's silence held, just as had been the case across France and elsewhere in Europe last weekend. France's Prime Minister Manuel Valls and the Emir of Qatar were also among the crowd for the game as the club owned by the Gulf state further demonstrated their dominance over the rest of Ligue 1.

One-sided

PSG were looking to make 24 Ligue 1 games unbeaten against a Troyes side who had still not won since returning to the top flight in the summer and it was a largely one-sided contest. Cavani had already come close twice before he opened the scoring 20 minutes in, meeting Angel Di Maria's assist with a firsttime finish after the visitors lost possession cheaply in their own half.

At the other end Kevin Trapp had to intervene twice with good saves from Fabien Camus and Benjamin Nivet to ensure Paris remained in front going into half-time. The hosts went on to double their lead just before the hour, however. A penalty was awarded when Lucas was brought down inside the area by Chris Mavinga and Ibrahimovic stepped up to send Paul Bernardoni the wrong way from the spot and score his 10th league goal of the campaign. The third goal arrived midway through the second half when a Di Maria cross was headed away by the Troyes defense but only as far as Kurzawa, who controlled on his chest before volleying low into the bottomright corner.

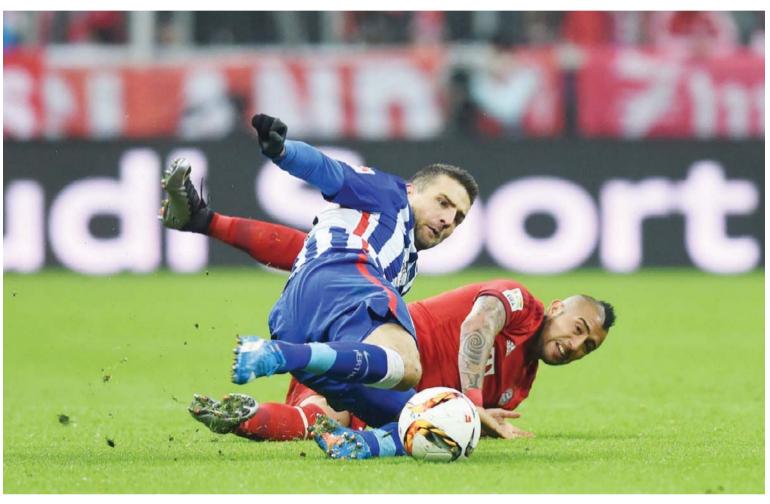
Augustin, who had replaced Cavani, got the fourth goal with six minutes left, his shot from 25 yards going through the legs of Bernardoni. Ayasse got one back with a fine strike in injury time but Troyes remain rooted to the foot of the table. Paris are provisionally a huge 16 points clear of second-placed Lyon despite being only 15 games into the season, although that advantage could be reduced later with Nice having the



PARIS: Paris Saint-Germain's Italian midfielder Thiago Motta (right) jumps to head the ball with Troyes' French defender Matthieu Saunier (left) during the French L1 football match between Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) and Troyes yesterday. —AFP

chance to go second with a win at recent struggles continued when they Toulouse. Knocked out of the Champions League in midweek, Lyon's Friday. —AFP

lost 4-2 at home to Montpellier on



MUNICH: Berlin's Bosnian striker Vedad Ibisevic (left) and Bayern Munich's Chilean midfielder Arturo Vidal vie for the ball during the German first division Bundesliga football match FC Bayern Munich vs Hertha Berlin yesterday. — AFP

GERMAN LEAGUE ROUNDUP

BAYERN MUNICH GO 11 CLEAR, EXTEND HERTHA 38-YEAR WAIT

BERLIN: Bayern Munich went 11 points clear at the top of the Bundesliga yesterday with a 2-0 win at home to Hertha Berlin who have now gone 38 years without a win at the German giants. With second-placed Borussia Dortmund hosting VfB Stuttgart today,

14 7 2

14 6 2

13 6 2

14 1 3 10 42 5 40

13 6 2 5 17 17 20

2 36 18 29

5 18 17 23

6 20 20 20

5 17 19 20

23 15 24

28 22 23

17 18 21

against, points):

Bayern Munich

VfL Wolfsburg

Bor. Moen'ch

Hertha Berlin

Hamburg

Mainz 05

Leverkusen

Schalke 04

Dortmund

Bayern took the chance to extend their lead with first-half goals by Germany forward Thomas Mueller and France Under-21 winger Kingsley Coman. Bayern show no signs of loosening their iron-grip on the Bundesliga title as they picked up their 13th win from 14

10 14 19

14 19 15

18 22 14

8 17 24 14

9 14 28 13

9 17 31 10

8 17 25 9

7 15 23

league games to give them 40 from a possi-

ble 42 points. This was the first time in eight home games that Bayern failed to score at least four goals. Bayern coach Pep Guardiola experimented with the starting line-up by pushing Germany centre-back Jerome Boateng into a midfield role, which led to their second goal. They took the lead at Munich's Allianz Arena when Chile midfielder Arturo Vidal's cross found Medhi Benatia, whose shot was heading wide, but Mueller was on hand to head home on 34 minutes.

Bayern doubled their lead on 41 minutes when Boateng lobbed the ball into Javi Martinez, whose pass found Coman and the French winger did the rest to make it 2-0 at the break. Hertha, who last won in Munich in 1977, are in fifth place after Borussia Moechengladbach leap-frogged them into fourth with a 3-3 draw at Hoffenheim. Gladbach's head coach Andre Schubert preserved his nine-game unbeaten record in the lead since taking charge two months ago. Borussia took an early lead thanks to USA international Fabian Johnson, who then scored their equaliser to rescue a point.

Hoffenheim, chasing their first win since September, took a 3-1 lead just after the break thanks to goals by Steven Zuber, Eugen Polanski and Nadiem Amiri. But Swiss striker Josip Drmic pulled it back to 3-2 for Gladbach before Johnson claimed his second with a superb shot three minutes from time. Hamburg are up to sixth after their 3-1 win at Werder Bremen in the north German derby. Hamburg raced into an early 2-0 lead as Croatia midfielder Ivo Ilicevic scored on their opening attack, then striker Michael Gregoritsch doubled their lead on 26 min-

Nigeria's Anthony Ujah pulled a goal back for Werder on 62 minutes, then Germany forward Nicolai Mueller made it 3-1 to Hamburg on 68 minutes when Ilicevic's final pass put him in behind the hosts' defence. Hanover eased the pressure on coach Michael Frontzeck with a 4-0 thumping at home to Ingolstadt which lifted them up to 14th and pulled them away from the relegation zone. Japan striker Yoshinori Muto scored his seventh goal of the season in Mainz's 2-1 win at Eintracht Frankfurt. His forward partner Yunus Malli added their second to claim his eighth while Frankfurt had captain Alex Meier sent off for a second yellow card.—AFP

ZAMORA SENDS BRIGHTON BACK TO THE TOP OF CHAMPIONSHIP

LONDON: Brighton climbed back to the top of the Championship as Bobby Zamora's second-half strike sealed a 2-1 win against Birmingham yesterday. Chris Hughton's side had surrendered first place following Derby's 2-0 victory at Hull on Friday, but Zamora's decisive intervention at the Amex Stadium ensured the Seagulls leapfrogged their promotion rivals to reclaim pole position. Solly March put Brighton in front in the 17th minute before Jon Toral headed an equalizer four minutes later for sixth placed Birmingham.

Former Tottenham and West Ham striker Zamora, in his second spell at the club where he made his name, extended Brighton's 18-match unbeaten start to their league campaign when he scored from close-range after March's effort had been blocked in the 47th minute. Middlesbrough moved into second place as they claimed a sixth win from seven matches in all competitions by beating struggling Huddersfield 2-0 at the John Smith's Stadium.

Adam Clayton's deflected ninth-minute effort put Boro in front and despite a strong performance from the hosts, the lead was doubled by Emilio Nsue with six minutes left. Ipswich are seventh after a 3-0 win at Charlton that was clinched by two goals from Daryl Murphy and one from Freddie Sears. Fifth placed Burnley extended their unbeaten run to nine matches as Matthew Connolly's 93rd-minute own goal salvaged a 2-2 draw at Cardiff.

Lucas Joao's seventh goal of the season came six minutes from full-time to give Sheffield Wednesday a 2-2 draw at Blackburn. At the bottom of the table, Rotherham secured back-to-back victories with a 3-0 home win over Bristol City. Nottingham Forest claimed just a second win in 11 games with a 3-1 victory over Reading at the City Ground. Matej Vydra's cool finish in the 14th minute gave the Royals the lead but Forest stormed back as Chris O'Grady leveled from a Ryan Mendes

Mendes was heavily involved in the goal that put Forest ahead as he led a counterattack and played in Nelson Oliveira to score after half an hour's play. Oliveira added Forest's third in the 49th minute and the hosts held on despite Jack Hobbs' dismissal in the 66th minute. Charlie Austin came off the bench to give QPR a 1-0 win over Leeds with his 58th minute strike at Loftus Road. Ross McCormack notched his 12th of the season to rescue a 1-1 draw for Fulham at home to Preston, while Wolves and Milton Keynes Dons shared a goalless stalemate at Molineux.—AFP

WENGER EXPECTS TITLE CHARGE FROM ARSENAL

NORWICH: Arene Wenger remains confident Arsenal can shake off their inconsistent form and mount a serious challenge for the Premier League title. Wenger's side will attempt to bounce back from last weekend's surprise loss at West Bromwich Albion when they travel to Norwich City today, five days after keeping alive their hopes of reaching the Champions League knockout stages with vital victory over Dinamo Zagreb. With their European campaign on the back-burner for two weeks, fourthplaced Arsenal can focus on catching unexpected top-tier leaders Leicester City.

Wenger believes that, with no one team dominating the title race so far, his side are still well placed in their bid to be crowned English champions for the first time since 2004. "It is so tight and I don't even look at the league anymore because it is very, very tight," Wenger said. "Last week we had a bad result against West Brom and so did Manchester City (against Liverpool) so it compacted the whole table.

"I believe it is a big opportunity for us but many teams can tell you that. We are in a position where you want to be after 13 games but there are 25 to go. "If there are five or six to go and we are in the race, of course we are contenders. I think we have a chance but it is very early. "I know people always want to know what will happen in the future but let's take care of the game today." Arsenal's frustration at losing to West Brom was compounded by the fact they took the lead through Olivier Giroud.

Eradicate

But Wenger insists this was not an indication his side remain vulnerable. "You want to eradicate games like that. For us, it was a bad result. "But in the last 38 games when we scored first, and we were 1-0 up, we won 37 times. in the last 25 games before West Brom, when we scored first we won 25 times. You have to consider that mathematically as an accident. "I believe that we gave everything and that can happen. Football is as well fantastic because it's not always predictable." Arsenal midfielder Francis Coquelin will again be missing after being ruled out for three months with knee ligament damage, while Mikel Arteta and

Theo Walcott are also sidelined. Aaron Ramsey is in line to make his first start since suffering a hamstring problem in late October and Mathieu Flamini is expected to make only his second Premier League start of the season. Alex Neil's Norwich side suffered a narrow 1-0 defeat at Chelsea last time out that left them in 16th place, three points above the relegation places. But goalkeeper John Ruddy believes there have been enough positives in the club's recent performances to strengthen confidence ahead of the visit of Arsenal. "Our performances at Manchester City and Chelsea showed we can frustrate good teams. Coming away from those games disappointed with narrow defeats is a good sign for us," he said.

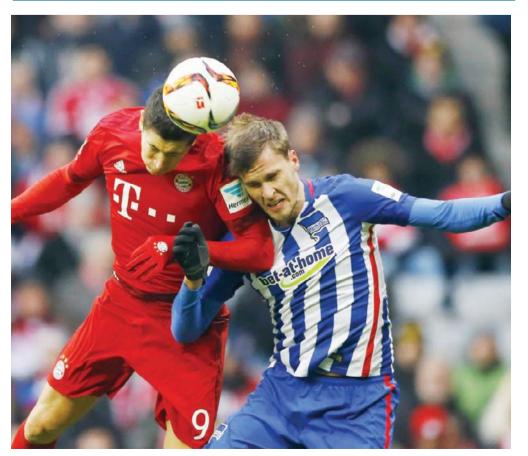
"It's now about finding the balance between being defensively solid and still causing problems for teams. "There are a lot of points on offer at this stage of the season, and we want to pick up as many as possible. "That starts today for us. If the crowd are behind us and we play to our capabilities then I don't see why we can't get a result." Ruddy, 29, will make his 200th appearance for the club but admits his displays have been below par this season. "Personally, I don't think I've been as good this season as I have in previous years," he added. "That's football, but form is temporary. I'm confident in my own ability as a goalkeeper because I've played at the highest level."—AFP

MURRAYS PUT BRITAIN ON BRINK OF DAVIS CUP TITLE

GHENT: The magnificent Murrays, Andy and Jamie, put Britain within touching distance of a first Davis Cup triumph for 79 years with a doubles victory over Belgium duo David Goffin and Steve Darcis in Ghent yesterday. A match played out in an electrifying atmosphere ebbed and flowed before the brothers took charge to carve out a 6-4 4-6 6-3 6-2 victory and give Britain a 2-1 lead. World number two Andy was inspired, as he has been throughout Britain's run to a first final since 1978, and can deliver the winning point in Sunday's first reverse singles against Belgium's top player Goffin.

Older brother Jamie, the seventh best doubles player in the world, struggled at times, but his nerve proved solid as he served for the match. When Darcis screwed a forehand wide the brothers embraced and the hundreds of British fans wedged into the claustrophobic 13.000-seat arena in the Flanders Expo roared their approval. "There was so much noise, it was mental. We were shouting to each other at times but it's brilliant," Jamie said on court as a brass band led a rendition of "We're gonna win the Cup." "To play in a Davis Cup final with your

brother and to win a point for your country is great. We may never get the chance to do that again," Andy Murray told reporters. "But it's far from over. Obviously to be up 2-1 gives us a better chance of winning. But I'm not getting ahead of myself. I know how good a player Goffin is." — Reuters



German League results/standings

German Bundesliga table after yesterday's matches (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, goals

Cologne

Ingolstadt 04

Darmstadt

Frankfurt

Hanover 96

Augsburg

Hoffenheim

Werder Bremen

VfB Stuttgart

14

13 3 1

13 2 3

14 1 6

MUNICH: Bayern's Robert Lewandowski (left) and Berlin's Sebastian Langkamp challenge for the ball during the German Bundesliga soccer match between FC Bayern Munich and Hertha BSC Berlin yesterday.—AP



EPL results/standings LONDON: English Premier League table after yesterday's matches (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, goals against, points): Man City 2 3 30 14 29 Watford 5 4 5 15 16 19 14 5 1 29 21 29 Stoke 4 5 11 14 19 West Brom 2 6 12 17 17 2 3 23 11 26 5 5 14 18 14 Arsenal Swansea 24 11 24 Chelsea 2 7 17 23 14 Sunderland 14 3 27 19 21 16 26 12 4 24 20 21 17 30 10 5 4 20 17 20 13 5 5 3 17 15 20 Aston Villa 14 1 2 11 12 27 5

SUNDERLAND BLANK STOKE

STANISLAS CAPS CRAZY FINISH AS

BOURNEMOUTH RESCUE A POINT



SUNDERLAND: Two goals in two minutes late in the game gave Sunderland a 2-0 victory over Stoke City yesterday that took the Black Cats out of the relegation zone. Dutch forward Patrick Van Aanholt and English youngster Duncan Watmore scored inside the final 10 minutes to punish 10-man Stoke who had Ryan Shawcross sent-off for two bookings. The result moved Sam Allardyce's men above north-east rivals Newcastle United and out of the Premier League's bottom three. But until Shawcross's dismissal, Stoke had been the better side and had created the clearer chances.

A tepid first half saw Sunderland lose striker Jermain Defoe to a thigh injury around the half-hour mark. Moments later, Stoke almost went ahead but Costel Pantilimon produced a miraculous save from Jon Walters's close range shot. Just as the half drew to a close, Charlie Adam went close for the visitors but glanced his header over the bar. Sunderland had enjoyed plenty of possession but looked toothless up front. That all changed, though, after Shawcross's 47th minute sending off as he received a second yellow for tripping Watmore, having been booked in the first half for a foul on Steven Fletcher.

That was the cue for Sunderland to turn the screw and Stoke goalkeeper Jack Butland had to make two saves in quick succession from Yann M'Vila and a Sebastian Coates header. But 10 minutes from time, the away side's resistance crumbled as Van Aanholt sent home a screamer from 25 yards. Two minutes later, Watmore broke free down the right after a defensive error before drilling home low across goal. That gave Allardyce a third win in six games since replacing Dick Advocaat and strengthened the feeling around the Stadium of Light that they have the right manager

Light that they have the right manager to beat the drop this season.— AFP



BOURNEMOUTH: Junior Stanislas grabbed a dramatic equalizer eight minutes into stoppage-time as Bournemouth staged a remarkable fightback to draw 3-3 against Everton yesterday. Eddie Howe's side looked dead and buried with 10 minutes remaining at Dean Court after falling two goals behind to first half strikes from Argentina defender Ramiro Funes Mori and Belgian forward Romelu Lukaku.

But Adam Smith got one back for the hosts, who appeared to have completed their revival after Stanislas equalized with three minutes left. In a jaw-dropping conclusion, Ross Barkley put Everton back in front deep into stoppage-time, only for Stanislas to equalize again with virtually the last kick. Bournemouth remain in the relegation zone after failing to win for an eighth successive league match, but they are only two points from safety and the manner of this spirited draw suggests they won't go quietly in their first ever top-flight campaign. Bournemouth's failure to turn their early pressure into a tangible reward was punished as Everton took the lead in the 25th minute. Roberto Martinez's side breached the creaky Bournemouth rearguard through Funes Mori, who rose highest from a corner to head his first Everton goal since his pre-season move from River Plate. With Everton now firmly in the ascendancy, Lukaku doubled their lead in the 36th minute with his eighth goal in his last eight league games. Gerard Deulofeu curled a superb long pass towards Lukaku's run and the powerful Belgian took one touch on his thigh before lashing his shot beyond Adam Federici. Federici was forced off with an injury at half-time, but Bournemouth were much improved after the break and a Stanislas effort was turned away by Tim Howard, who also had to be alert to keep out a Ritchie drive.

With 10 minutes left, Smith gave Howe's side hope when he smashed a superb 25-yard strike past Howard. Everton found it impossible to stem the tide of Bournemouth attacks and the equaliser arrived in the 87th minute. King surged past Brendon Galloway before cutting the ball back to Stanislas, who was perfectly placed to fire home. It seemed Everton had recovered to snatch the points five minutes into stoppage-time as Barkley's shot trickled under substitute goalkeeper Ryan Allsop's weak attempted save. But Stanislas rescued a point in the final seconds, heading in from Ritchie's cross to spark wild celebrations from the home fans.—AFP

	Matches on TV
00	(Local Timings)

ENGLISH PREMIE	R LEAGUE
Hotspur v Chelsea	15:00
beIN SPORTS	
West Ham v Albion	17:05
beIN SPORTS	
Liverpool v Swansea	19:15
beIN SPORTS	
Norwich v Arsenal	19:15
beIN SPORTS	

SPANISH LEAGUE

OTTE TIOTT ELITO	~ ~
Las Palmas v Coruna	0:00
beIN SPORTS 12 HD EN	
Vigo v Gijon	0:05
beIN SPORTS 7 HD.	
Getafe v Villarreal	14:00
beIN SPORTS	
Eibar v Real Madrid	18:00
beIN SPORTS	
Rayo Vallecano v Bilbao	20:15
beIN SPORTS	
Sevilla v Valencia	22:30
beIN SPORTS	

ITALIAN LEAG	UE
Chievo v Calcio	17:00
beIN SPORTS	
Calcio v Hellas	17:00
beIN SPORTS	
Genoa v Carpi	17:00
beIN SPORTS	
Roma v Atalanta	17:00
beIN SPORTS	
Empoli v Lazio	20:00
beIN SPORTS	
Citta v Juventus	22:45
beIN SPORTS	

GERMAN LEAGUE

Borussia v Stuttgart	17:30
beIN SPORTS	
Bayer v Schalke	19:30
beIN SPORTS	
Augsburg v Wolfsburg	19:30
beIN SPORTS	

FRENCH LEAGUE

TRENCH LEAGUE		
Etienne v Guingamp	16:00	
beIN SPORTS		
Girondins v Caen	19:00	
beIN SPORTS		
Marseille v Monaco	23:00	
beIN SPORTS		



LONDON: Crystal Palace's English midfielder Jason Puncheon (left) vies against Newcastle United's French midfielder Moussa Sissoko during the English Premier League football match between Crystal Palace and Newcastle United yesterday. —AFP

FIVE-STAR PALACE DEEPEN MCCLAREN'S GLOOM



LONDON: Yannick Bolasie and James McArthur each scored twice in a 5-1 victory as Crystal Palace manager Alan Pardew heaped fresh misery on his Newcastle United successor Steve McClaren yesterday. Beaten 3-0 at home by Leicester City last weekend, Newcastle's defense was torn apart again as Pardew, who left St James' Park in January, sent his old club back into the Premier League relegation zone.

Newcastle took a 10th-minute lead through Papiss Cisse at Selhurst Park, but ex-

Sunderland striker Connor Wickham set up goals for McArthur, Bolasie and Wilfried Zaha to put the hosts 3-1 up by half-time. Bolasie and McArthur netted again in the second half, sealing Palace's first win over Newcastle since March 1998 and ramping up the pressure on the beleaguered McClaren, whose side host Liverpool next weekend.

Palace climb four places to sixth in the table, while Newcastle drop into the bottom three, two points from safety. While Palace were unchanged, Newcastle made two changes, with Cisse and the fit-again Jack Colback replacing Aleksandar Kolarov and the injured Cheick Tiote. The newcomers were quick to leave a mark. Colback became embroiled in a flare-up with Zaha after chopping the Palace winger down in the early stages and after the dust had settled, Cisse nodded in Daryl Janmaat's cross to put Newcastle ahead. But Newcastle's lead was

to last just four minutes as Wickham did brilliantly to hold off Fabricio Coloccini and tee up McArthur for a shot that found the net via a sizeable deflection off Paul Dummett.

The visitors' defending left much to be desired and three minutes later Palace went in front when Wickham's low cross was allowed to reach Bolasie, who drilled in at the back post. Palace extended their lead in the 41st minute with Wickham again the provider, the former England Under-21 international crossing for Zaha to score with a volley that hit the turf and looped over Rob Elliot. Any hopes of a Newcastle comeback were dashed within two minutes of kick-off in the second period when Bolasie pounced on a Damian Delaney knock-down to deepen the misery of the travelling fans. McArthur completed the rout in stoppage time, finishing from close range after Bolasie's cross was not cleared.— AFP



BIRMINGHAM: Aston Villa's Micah Richards (left) scores his side's first goal of the game against Watford during the English Premier League match at Villa Park yesterday. — AP

WATFORD EDGE VILLA IN FIVE-GOAL THRILLER



BIRMINGHAM: Rock-bottom Aston Villa were beaten 3-2 by an Odion Ighalo inspired Watford yesterday and have just five points after a deflating 11th defeat in 14 Premier League games. Villa's recently-installed boss Remi Garde oversaw a draw with Manchester City in his first

game in charge before last week's 4-0 thumping at Everton.

Watford's Spanish coach Quique Sanchez Flores seems to have instilled a vibrant feelgood factor in his charges, who have now notched up 19 points from 14 games. Their 26-year-old Nigerian striker Odion Ighalo was the man of the match as he scored one and had a hand in Watford's other two goals. First he took his season's tally to eight on 17 minutes when a loose ball fell to him eight yards out and he stroked it past Brad Guzan in the Villa goal. Former Manchester City defender Micah Richards bagged an equalizer for Villa just before the break with a glancing header after he rose to meet a deep free kick.

Play was held up for six minutes as Watford keeper Heurelho Gomes was stretchered off after a nasty head collision with his own defender Craig Cathcart. But an Alan Hutton own goal put Watford back in front as play restarted on 69 minutes when he toe-poked the ball past his own 'keeper in a desperate attempt to stop the ball rolling to Ighalo to make it 2-1. The Nigerian was in the thick of the third goal too, swiveling before lashing in a shot from the edge of the area that Richards blocked before the onrushing Troy Deeney headed powerfully home to make it 3-1 for the visitors. Ghana international Jordan Ayew then curled in a peach of a consolation goal late in the game to peg it back to 3-2.— AFP

Bayern go 11 points clear, extend Hertha 38-year wait



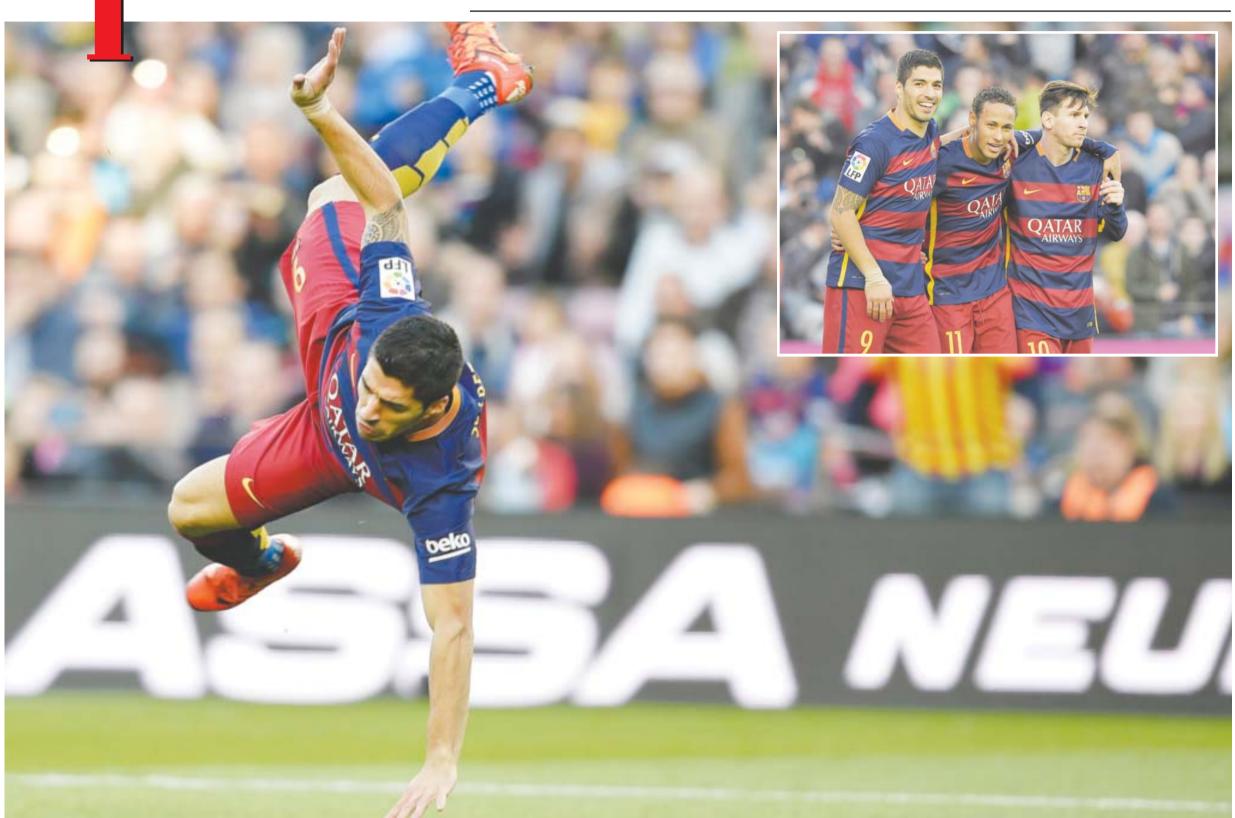
5-star Crystal Palace deepen McClaren's gloom



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2015

Traditional Pacific farewell for Lomu draws thousands

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BARCELONA: Barcelona's Uruguayan forward Luis Suarez falls during the Spanish league football match FC Barcelona vs Real Sociedad de Futbol at the Camp Nou stadium yesterday. (Inset) Barcelona's Brazilian forward Neymar (center) celebrates with Barcelona's Uruguayan forward Luis Suarez (left) and Barcelona's Argentinean forward Lionel Messi after scoring their third goal. — AFP

BARCELONA CRUSH SOCIEDAD 4-0, EXTEND LEAD

Messi, Neymar, Suarez strike to keep Barca rolling

MADRID: Barcelona stretched their advantage at the top of La Liga to seven points yesterday thanks to another clinical display from Lionel Messi, Neymar and Luis Suarez to down Real Sociedad 4-0. Messi was making his first league start in two months as he continues his comeback from knee ligament damage. But the Argentine was initially outshone by his strike partners as they each swept home from two Dani Alves crosses to put Barca in command at the break. Neymar then added his second shortly after the half-time before teeing up Messi for his first league goal since September in stoppage time. Atletico Madrid can close the gap at the top to four points when they host Espanyol later. Meanwhile, Real Madrid are now

nine points adrift ahead of their trip to Eibar today.

Barca boss Luis Enrique made four changes from the side that destroyed Roma 6-1 in the Champions League in midweek, but with Messi, Suarez and Neymar deployed once more in attack, the Catalans didn't miss a beat. Suarez should have opened the scoring after just two minutes when he was brilliantly played in by Neymar, but Geronimo Rulli rushed from his line to bravely smother the Uruguayan's effort just inside his area. The Argentine goalkeeper did well once more to deny Neymar at a narrow angle from Messi's wonderful through ball eight minutes later. Even when Rulli was beaten, the woodwork saved Sociedad when Andres

Iniesta headed Suarez's perfectly measured cross against the post. The visitors' luck eventually ran out on 22 minutes, though, when Messi released Alves down the right and Neymar was quickest to meet his low cross and drive the ball into the top corner. Alves was the creator once more for Barca's second just before the break as his floated cross picked out Suarez to acrobatically volley into the far corner. Barca had to wait just eight minutes after the break for a third with the full-backs proving Sociedad's downfall again as this time Jeremy Mathieu squared for Neymar to apply a simple finish. That strike took Neymar and Suarez's tally in La Liga this season to 26 - the same as the entire Real Madrid squad.

However, both then turned their hand to trying to set up Messi. The four-time World Player of the Year fired into the side-netting and then straight at Rulli from two Neymar crosses before pulling a free-kick inches wide of the far post. It looked like being a forlorn afternoon for Messi when his brilliant curling effort came back off the crossbar four minutes from time. However, a final piece of magic between Neymar and Suarez allowed the Brazilian to roll the ball invitingly across goal for Messi to slot into an empty net and seal a fantastic week for Barca which has seen them take a strangle hold of La Liga and clinch their place in the last 16 of the Champions League.— AFP

VARDY SETS EPL RECORD



LEICESTER: Jamie Vardy set a new Premier League record by scoring in an 11th consecutive top-flight match as Leicester City drew 1-1 with Manchester United yesterday. Victory would have returned second placed Leicester to the Premier League summit, but Bastian Schweinsteiger equalised just before the interval to stretch United's unbeaten run to 10 games and keep them firmly in title contention. But the fixture was all about Vardy, who took until just the 24th minute to produce the historic goal that the Leicester faithful, and many neutrals, were hoping for.

It made the England striker the first player in the history of the Premier League to score in 11 successive appearances, breaking the tie he had of 10 in a row shared with former Manchester United star Ruud van Nistelrooy. It was a goal that illustrated the blistering pace possessed not only by Vardy himself but his team as a whole and came on the counter-attack from a United corner taken by Daley Blind and gathered by Kasper Schmeichel in the Leicester goal. A quick break upfield ended with full-back Christian Fuchs playing a magnificent pass inside United defender Matteo Darmian for Vardy to chase, beat his marker and score with a superb finish under David de Gea.

The Leicester fans, who had greeted Vardy's every move and touch with great expectancy until

that point, erupted in celebrating a goal that looked capable of returning Leicester to the top of the Premier League table. For all their critics, however, United have shown great resilience under Louis van Gaal, and were level before the interval, the equaliser coming from another right-wing Blind corner. This time, the Dutchman's delivery was met by Schweinsteiger, who easily shrugged off the ineffective attempts of Shinji Okazaki to impede him, and powered a close-range header past the helpless Schmeichel.

That was the culmination of a half that had centred around Vardy, the former non-league player who has only been in the ranks of full-time professional football for three-and-a-half years. After 14 minutes, his determination allowed him to dispossess Michael Carrick and set up N'Golo Kante for a shot which was deflected behind the United goal. And just after the half hour, de Gea was forced to save with his legs from a Riyad Mahrez shot who then followed up by almost setting up Okazaki for a second goal.

Instead, it was United who finally began to grow into the game with Schweinsteiger missing their first decent opening, after 21 minutes, when his shot from an Anthony Martial cross was easily blocked. There as more excitement for the home supporters soon after the restart as Marc Albrighton's lobbed pass almost found Vardy, the ball passing inches over his head. But United were looking in more direct and determined mood with Schweinsteiger drawing a fine reflex save from Schmeichel with another powerful header, this time from an Ashley Young free-kick, and Wayne Rooney heading the rebound wide, albeit from an offside position.

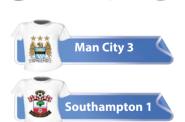
Rooney was injured in the process and would soon be replaced by Memphis Depay as both sides pressed for a winning goal that would lift them above leaders Manchester City. Mahrez



LEICESTER: Leicester's Jamie Vardy celebrates after scoring against Manchester United during the English Premier League soccer match between Leicester City and Manchester United at the King Power Stadium yesterday. — AP

launched another lightning attack and passed to substitute Leonardo Ulloa whose shot was kept out by de Gea, when a pass to the unmarked Vardy looked a better option, and the same striker failed with an ambitious high shot from outside the area. Juan Mata saw a closerange shot deflected behind and Depay latched onto Darmian's neat header only to shoot well

DE BRUYNE GETS MAN CITY BACK ON TRACK



MANCHESTER: Belgium international Kevin De Bruyne starred as Manchester City ended Southampton's unbeaten away record in the Premier League this season with a disjointed 3-1 win yesterday. Having lost at Juventus in the Champions League in mid-week and dropped five points in their previous two league games to slip from the summit, City needed any kind of victory to restore their momentum. And despite the threat of a Southampton fightback early in the second half, Pellegrini's side did enough thanks to early goals from De Bruyne and Fabian Delph, and a third, 20 minutes from time, by Aleksandar Kolarov.

City saw key striker Sergio Aguero hobble off with what appeared to be an ankle injury mid-way through the second half, but Pellegrini played down the extent of the problem. After their abject performance in losing 4-1 at home to Liverpool last weekend, City showed their intent from the start at a rain-lashed Etihad Stadium. It looked as though they had the game won inside the opening quarter as

De Bruyne scored his seventh goal of the season and Delph his first for the club.

Southampton goalkeeper Maarten Stekelenburg had already been forced to make saves from Raheem Sterling and Kolarov's curling free-kick when he was beaten by De Bruyne in the ninth minute. The Netherlands international had no chance of keeping out De Bruyne's tap-in, but the ball would never have got that far had Maya Yoshida not conceded possession to Sterling wide on the Saints right. The City winger was given an uninterrupted run into the box and picked out his team-mate with a low cross. Southampton, missing suspended top scorer Graziano Pelle, did not help their cause by constantly giving the ball away in dangerous areas and with 20 minutes gone they were 2-0

Steven Davis was not penalized when a header from Fernandinho struck his arm, but from the resulting corner De Bruyne teed up Delph to drill home from 25 yards with the help of a deflection off defender Virgil van Dijk. Van Dijk tried to make amends with a fierce 25-yard shot that hit the post while City goalkeeper Willy Caballero, playing in place of the injured Joe Hart, then saved from Victor Wanyama. City failed to heed that warning and rather than kill off the visitors-Yaya Toure wasting a chance just before the break-found themselves dragged back into a contest four minutes into the second half. — AFP

BUSINESS

Solid job market, rising pay rev up US economy

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Strong public investment spurs Qatar growth

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Mohamed Naser Al-Sayer & Toyota announces winners of first raffle draw

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KSE STOCKS ADVANCE ON POSITIVE SENTIMENT

NEW YORK: Shoppers walk out of Uniqlo on 666 5th Avenue in New York City on Black Friday. Although Black Friday sales are expected to be strong, many shoppers are opting to buy online or retailers are offering year round sales and other incentives that are expected to ease crowds. — AP

HOLIDAY SHOPPERS GET A HEAD START ON THANKSGIVING

STORES PUSH DISCOUNTS, RETAILERS EYE UP TO 5% RISE IN SALES

holiday shopping season, but now time they did last year - about 5 pm or 6 pm. Inanksgiving Day is the new tradition for some shoppers. Macy's officials said about 15,000 people were at the 6 pm opening at its flagship store in Manhattan. An hour and a half before the Toys R Us in New York's Times Square opened at 5 pm, about 40 people stood in line.

And at the 24-hour Wal-Mart store in Naperville, Illinois, the aisles were clogged with people and carts by 6 pm, when employees began pulling shrink wrap off palettes of merchandise to mark the official start of Black Friday deals.

Outside, the scene was much the same. With the parking lot filled to capacity, drivers circled slowly looking for spaces, causing a backup of traffic trying to pull into the lot. Some gave up and parked in the near-empty lot of a fitness center and a Starbucks across

"It's the worst wonderful time of the year!" an employee laughed as he collected shopping carts. Shopper Julie Desireau snagged a \$10 crockpot and the last \$10 deep fryer and promptly hid them under a rack of women's flannel pajamas. Then the 29-year-old from Chicago called her husband, who was in the toy department with their cart, and told him to come pick her up. "There's no way I'm going back there," she said. After opening earlier and earlier on the holiday, this year, most of the more than dozen major retailers like Macy's,

One big exception: JC Penney, which is opening two hours earlier at 3 pm on the holiday. Staples has reversed course and will close on the holiday. Sporting goods chain REI, which was always closed on Thanksgiving, is bowing out of Black Friday altogether and is asking employees and customers to spend time outdoors and not go shopping.

Still, stores aren't waiting around to push discounts on holiday goods until the official weekend. Increasingly, they've been discounting holiday merchandise earlier in the month. In fact, according to the National Retail Federation, the nation's largest retail trade group, nearly 60 percent of holiday shoppers have already started holiday shopping as of

That should take a bite out of the sales this weekend, though Black Friday should still rank as either number one or two in sales for the year. Overall, the National Retail Federation estimates that about 135.8 million consumers will be shopping this weekend, compared with 133.7 million last year. The trade group expects about 30 million will be shopping on Thanksgiving, compared with 99.7 million on Black Friday.

Rise in sales

The group also expects a 3.7 percent increase in sales this year to \$630.5 billion for

NEW YORK: Black Friday used to kick off the Target and Kohl's opened around the same the season. But grabbing those dollars will be women's boots, on sale for \$19.99 "This is my tough. While the economy has been improving, snoppers remain tight-fisted. Unemployment has settled into a healthy 5 percent rate, but shoppers still grapple with stagnant wages that are not keeping pace with rising daily costs like rent. Stores also are contending with an increasing shift to researching and buying online. In response, Wal-Mart and Target made all deals available later in the stores online Thanksgiving morning. New this year at Target: shoppers who spend \$75 or more on Friday will receive a 20 percent discount to use toward a future purchase on any day between Dec. 4

Target CEO Brian Cornell told reporters on a conference call Thursday night that early results show that the discount chain is seeing higher traffic at its stores than last year and shoppers are buying items across the store, from clothing to electronics to toys. He also said that he has been pleased with strong results in online sales. Among some of the most popular doorbuster deals is a Westinghouse TV, marked down to \$249.99, a savings of \$350, he said. Target also offered 40 percent off of all fashion and acces-

"This is the start of a really good shopping season," he said. Some shoppers came out for the first time on the holiday. Maria Garcia-Chavez, who lives in Denver, stood in line in the snow with her husband and four children to get into JC Penney. She came looking for

first time shopping on Thanksgiving. I want the deals," she said. "You have to come the first day If we come back tomorrow, you can maybe get the same price-if you're here at 6 a.m. I'm not going to get up that early. I'd rather sleep." But not everyone is impressed with the Thanksgiving lines. By about an hour before Toys R Us in Times Square opened the line swelled to over 100. "Black Friday isn't what it used to be," said Keith Nelson, 54, who works in security in the Brooklyn and was third in line after arriving about 2:15. "Lines used to be longer, people would be sleeping and bringing lounge chairs out here." Lisa Gutierrez of Aurora, Illinois, thought her strategy of waiting to go shopping until after kickoff of Thursday night's Chicago Bears vs Green Bay Packers game was a good one. Until she arrived at the Target near her home and found out the flat screen TVs she had her eye on were sold out almost immediately after the store opened at 6

"That's a bummer," she said. On the bright side, "at least it's not a total madhouse in here." The Naperville, Illinois, Target was busy but calm about two hours after opening. Most but not all checkout lanes were open and lines were short. Parking was readily available. Alan Zagier in St. Louis, Sara Burnett in Naperville, Illinois, Kristen Wyatt in Denver and Mae Anderson in New York contributed to this

CAR SALES REV UP ON US HOLIDAY WEEKEND

DETROIT: US retailers faced competition for customers from car sellers on Thanksgiving weekend, as auto dealers offered bargains on vehicles as alluring as any discounted TV or stereo system.

The mad dash for midnight "Black Friday" deals at stores like Walmart and Target the day after Thanksgiving has become an annual ritual. Less noticed are the crowds flocking to car dealers. November has long been a notoriously slow month for car sales. But in recent years car dealers have joined in the Thanksgiving weekend sales extravaganza, making November one of the best months of the year for auto sales in recent years, said Jessica Caldwell, director of industry analysis for Edmunds.com.

"Last year, Thanksgiving weekend accounted for twice as many sales as any other weekend in November. We expect to see both trends continue this year," Caldwell said in a preweekend note to investors.

Autos and Xboxes

The activity Friday in a cluster of new car dealerships near a busy intersection just outside Detroit confirmed the trend. "It's going to be one of the busiest days of the year," said Melvin Holmes, a sales consultant at Tamaroff Honda, one of the dealerships. National advertising by Honda and special promotions by the dealership-everyone buying a car Friday or Saturday will get a tablet computer, an Xbox or Wii game system, or a 350-dollar gift card-were helping draw crowds, Holmes said.

At Serra Chevrolet a few doors away, customers were prowling through the used car lot despite the light rain. "We're already busy," said Chaz Suomala, one of Serra's sales consultants. "It was crazy last year" he said. "We just thought it would be a good day to come out and start the process," said Lana Crain, who was waiting with her husband to take a test drive at another dealership selling Chrysler, Dodge and Jeep vehicles. Customers often go online to research what car they want to buy, and with what options.

Brian Brewer, a car dealer, said that the day after Thanksgiving had now become a popular time to check out a desired set of wheels at closer quarters.

Buyers 'expect' bargains

Honda, Toyota, Lexus, Mercedes-Benz, Chevrolet, Ford and FCA US (formerly the Chrysler Group) all run special promotions for Black Friday-with deals often extending to today-and the Christmas holidays. Motorists have come to expect the holiday promotions, said Toyota spokesman Greg Thome. Eric Lyman with TrueCar.com, a vehicle pricing and information website for buyers and dealers, said that Black Friday sales could help set a record and push the seasonally adjusted annualized rate (SAAR) for light vehicle sales in November to 18.6 million units, the strongest pace of any month this year. "This continues to be a standout year for the industry, with November sales likely setting a monthly record," Lyman said. "Consumers are excited about Black Friday promotions and these month-long events appear to be resonating with car buyers." Overall US vehicle sales have been rising steadily since sinking to a monthly low of 9.95 million units in June 2009, a figure not seen since the 1980s, according to US Commerce Department figures. In the past five years car sales have consistently peaked in November and December, going from 12.03 million in December 2010 to 17.22 million in December 2014. Figures for November sales were slightly higher than December in 2013 and 2014, at 16.48 million and 17.44 million respectively. —AP

IRAN UNVEILS UPGRADED MODEL FOR OIL CONTRACTS

TEHRAN: Iran unveiled a new model of oil contracts yesterday aimed at attracting foreign investment once sanctions are lifted under a landmark nuclear deal reached earlier this year and said US companies would be welcome to participate. The new Iran Petroleum Contract replaces a previous buyback model, in which contractors paid up-front investment costs in return for proceeds from the oil produced under the deal.

Iran has sweetened the terms, hoping to bring in \$30 billion in new investment. The new contracts last 15-20 years and allow for the full recovery of costs. The older contracts were shorter term, and investors complained of heavy risks and suffering losses. Some 50 upstream oil, gas and petrochemical projects are being introduced during a two-day conference in Tehran that began yesterdayt. Iran will pay foreign oil companies larger fees under the new contracts to provide greater incentives to investors. Oil Minister Bijan Namdar Zanganeh told the conference that under the new contracts, foreign investors will be required to form a joint company with an Iranian partner to carry out exploration, development and production

"Any foreign company that wants to work in Iran in this new period must have an Iranian E&P (Exploration & Production) company on its side as a partner," he told the conference. "To continue to play the role (as a major oil supplier), we hope to enjoy working with reputable international oil companies under a win-win sit-

uation." Zanganeh welcomed US investment in Iran's energy sector. "We have no objection to and problem with the participation of American companies. The way for the presence of these companies in Iran's oil industry is open," he said. Mahdi Hosseini, a senior official in charge of the new contracts, told the conference that the new model is an attempt to repair Iran's relations with the industrialized world.

"The new model of oil contracts is an instrument to repair (our) relations with the industrialized world," he said. Iran is hoping to attract over \$150 billion in foreign investment in five years to rebuild its energy industry, which has suffered from sanctions.

OPEC member Iran currently exports 1.1 million barrels of crude oil per day and hopes to get back to its pre-sanctions level of 2.2 million, last reached in 2012. Iran's total production now stands at 3.1 million barrels per day. International sanctions on Iran's oil industry were tightened in 2012 over its controversial nuclear program. Western nations have long suspected Iran of secretly pursuing nuclear weapons, charges denied by Tehran, which insists the program is entirely peaceful.

Under the agreement reached in July with the US, Britain, France, Germany, Russia and China, Iran will curb its nuclear activities in exchange for the lifting of sanctions. Zanganeh said last week that Iran will export an additional 500,000 barrels of oil a day after sanctions are lifted - likely in early 2016 - to reclaim its market share despite low prices.— AP



MOSCOW: A trader prepares vegetables for customers at Dorogomilovsky food market in Moscow on Friday. Since the plane was shot down Tuesday on the Syria-Turkey border, Russia has already restricted tourism, left Turkish trucks stranded at the border and confiscated large quantities of Turkish food imports. —AP



LOOKING FOR A SAFE WAY TO MAKE EXTRA MONEY? TRY AFFILIATE MARKETING

BAYT.COM WEEKLY MARKET REPORT

amous among website owners as a safe and reliable way to make extra money, affiliate marketing can be defined as a marketing program where members of the program can earn money by generating sales leads for a parent company. The Bayt.com Affiliate program is an example of such programs and a gateway to a large number of possibilities. Through this program, Bayt.com partners with affiliates (or website owners) in order to make Bayt.com known to job seekers who visit these websites and help them discover thousands of job opportunities available for them on the Bayt.com website. It's a win-win situation,

Are you looking for a new and simple to earn extra income? Here are just five reasons why you should consider the Bayt.com Affiliate program:

1. Little to no cost

You must have heard of various affiliate programs that have some hidden fees. The Bayt.com Affiliate program isn't like the others. In the case of Bayt.com, joining its Affiliate program is completely free and has no additional charges. This means that there are only profits for you to look forward to.

2. Easy to use

Linking your website to Bayt.com will

be very easy and Bayt.com will provide you with various options to do this, such as ready-to-use widgets and other simple tools. You won't have to sit for hours working on a complicated code or pay for online advertisements.

3. Earning revenue starts immediately Instead of waiting several months to

receive your revenue from your partnership with Bayt.com, we will offer you a commission for each active job seeker or employer you refer to us on a monthly basis. Joining the Bayt.com Affiliate program gives you access to your very own personal account through which you can view your traffic and earnings report. Your account will help you strategize what to do in order to earn more in the future. The system is extremely organized, and the more referrals we get from your site, the higher your chances of making more money.

4. You will stand on the shoulders of giants

Bayt.com is currently the number one job site in the Middle East. Having said this, we offer only the highest-quality tools and services to our partners. The recruitment solutions we provide are the most flexible and most sophisticated in the Middle East, and we assure you that Bayt.com is committed to the highest

quality in customer service, as well. This is guaranteed to not only earn you revenue, but also enhance your website traffic and online reputation as someone who cares about the greater good.

5. You will provide a great service to your users

At Bayt.com, our mission is to empower others to lead better lives. We do this by connecting between job seekers who are looking for a job and employers who are searching for top candidates for their job vacancies. Becoming a Bayt.com affiliate will provide your users with a faster, easier, and more effective way to find a job - and ultimately, lead a better life.



LOS ANGELES: Best Buy staff load a television during a Black Friday sale in Los Angeles, California on Friday. — AFP

SOLID JOB MARKET, RISING PAY RÉV UP US ECONOMY

SIGNS OF STEADY GROWTH AS BUSINESS SPENDING REBOUNDS

WASHINGTON: Americans' pay is up, fewer people need unemployment aid, more are buying new homes and business spending is rebounding. A flurry of data released signaled that the fundamentals of the US economy remain solid, if unspectacular, three weeks before the Federal Reserve will likely begin raising inter-

Consumers appear relatively confident in the economy and may be poised to spend a decent chunk of their rising incomes during the holiday shopping season. In addition, businesses are stepping up their investment in machinery and equipment, removing a persistent drag on the economy. The steady consumer and business demand in the United States is powering the economy through economic pressures from overseas, which jolted financial markets during August and September and raised doubts about global growth.

With the US job market on solid footing and wages beginning to rise, the Fed is widely expected to raise short-term rates in mid-December for the first time in nine years. Wages and salaries jumped 0.6 percent in October, the Commerce Department said Wednesday, and data for the spring and summer was revised substantially higher. US paychecks were 4.9 percent higher in October than they were a year earlier, a sizable gain. By contrast, in the first four years after the Great Recession ended in 2009, paychecks typically rose only about 2 percent to 3 percent.

"The extra growth in wage income is good news for retailers hoping for a strong holiday shopping season," said Jim O'Sullivan, chief US economist at High Frequency Economics.

O'Sullivan forecasts that the economy's annual

growth rate could reach 2.7 percent in the final three months of the year, from 2.1 percent in the third quar-

Consumer spending rose only 0.1 percent in October, though that weak showing occurred partly because the month was unusually warm and Americans paid less for heat. In the second and third quarters, consumer spending topped 3 percent, a his-

With incomes revised higher, the savings rate jumped last month to 5.6 percent, the highest since 2012. "History tells us that a chunk of that savings will eventually get spent," said Stephen Stanley, chief economist at Amherst Pierpont.

Measures of consumer confidence have been mixed but generally paint an optimistic picture. According to Gallup, Americans plan to spend on average \$830 on holiday shopping this winter - the most since 2007, just before the recession officially began.

And consumer sentiment ticked up this month. according to a survey by the University of Michigan. Lower and middle-income Americans were more optimistic about their personal finances in the coming year than higher-income households were, the survey found. Still, a separate measure of consumer confidence from the Conference Board, a business research group, fell in November to its lowest point in more than a year. It found that fewer Americans expected their incomes to rise.

Even so, Americans are unleashing pent-up demand for big-ticket items such as homes and cars. Sales of new homes jumped last month and have increased 15.7 percent through the first 10 months of 2015. Home sales have been bolstered by strong hiring and low mortgage rates. Sales of existing homes are on track to reach their highest level since 2007, even though rising prices are sidelining many potential buy-

Separately, US factories in October received more orders for long-lasting goods, including steel, machinery and computers. The increase added to other evidence that manufacturing is recovering after a generally brutal year. A higher-valued dollar has made US goods more expensive overseas.

And factory output has also been held back by low oil prices, which forced oil and gas drillers to slash orders for steel pipe and other equipment. Now, though, those drags appear to be fading.

Consistent hiring has underpinned most of the improvement in the economy this year. Employers added 271,000 jobs in October, the most since last December, and the unemployment rate reached 5 percent, the lowest level since the spring of 2008. Solid job gains are likely to continue, at least judging from how few people are losing jobs. The number of people seeking unemployment benefits, which generally mirrors the pace of layoffs, fell to nearly 40-year lows last

Year-over-year inflation, which had remained stubbornly below the Fed's target rate, has now reached 1.7 percent according to a measure compiled by the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas. That's not far from the Fed's 2 percent target. And Americans expect slightly higher inflation in coming months, according to the University of Michigan's survey. That could bolster the case for the Fed to raise rates at its next meeting. — AP

GULF BANK ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF AL-DANAH DAILY DRAWS

KUWAIT: Gulf Bank held its Al-Danah daily draws on 22 November 2015 announcing the names of its winners for the week of 15 November - 19 November 2015. The Al-Danah daily draws include draws each and every working day for two prizes of KD1,000 per winner. The winners are:

(Sunday 15/11): Sayed Ameer Bouj, Shaikha Abdulaziz Khalifa Al-Musallam

(Monday 16/11): Lama Alaa Sami Ali Rajab, Hasan Sulaiman Hasan Al-Awadhi

(Tuesday 17/11): Hamdah Halefi Taibi Shemair, Raja Abdullah Mohammed

(Wednesday 18/11): Zahra Maki Abdulaziz

Al-Qallaf, Deemah Khaled Mahmoud Al-Naser (Thursday 19/11): Sheikh/ Ahmed Jaber Al-Ahmed Al-Sabah, Fahad Abdulaziz Soud Atiah

Gulf Bank's Al-Danah 2015 draw lineup includes daily draws (2 winners per working day each receive KD1,000). The final Al-Danah draw for One Million Dinars will be held on 7 January 2016. The Al Danah Millionaire will be announced alongside winners of KD250,000 and KD50,000 cash prizes.

Five reasons why the Al-Danah account is the

1) Kuwait's single biggest yearly cash prize of KD

- 2) Kuwait's biggest quarterly cash prizes, up to KD500,000
- 3) Two winners of KD1,000 every working day 4) The most opportunities to win (64 draws a
- year, and up to 532 winners) 5) Only Bank that transfers your chances to win

from year to year

Open an account and Deposit now to win big, live big, with Al-Danah 2015.

Al-Danah also offers a number of unique services including: the Al-Danah Deposit Only ATM card which helps account holders deposit their money at their convenience; as well as the Al-Danah calculator to help customers calculate their chances of becoming an Al-Danah winner.

Gulf Bank's Al-Danah account is open to Kuwaitis and all residents of Kuwait. Customers who open an account and/ or deposit more will enter the draw within two days. To take part in the Al-Danah 2015 upcoming yearly draw, customers must have an Al-Danah account containing at least KD 200. To be part of the Al-Danah draws, customers can visit one of Gulf Bank's 56 branches, transfer on line, or call the customer contact Center on 1805805 for assistance and guidance. Customers can also log on to www.egulfbank.com/aldanahwinners, to find out more about Al-Danah and its winners.



Philippine economy grew 6% IN 3Q AS SERVICES EXPANDED

MANILA: The Philippine economy expanded 6 percent in the third quarter and officials forecast at least the same growth rate for the full year but warned of risks from the El Nino dry spell and presidential elections in 2016. Service industries which include real estate and retailing were the main driver of growth in the third quarter, expanding 7.3 percent, which was the fastest pace since 2013. Agriculture showed signs of recovery, growing 0.4 percent compared with a contraction a year earlier.

The Philippines has been one of the best performing economies in Asia for several years, growing at an average rate of 6.3 percent between 2010 and 2014. Despite increased government efforts to raise living standards, the country still faces considerable challenges including its vulnerability to typhoons and other natural disasters, poverty, corruption and poor infrastructure. Officials said risks to the growth outlook include El Nino's effect on agriculture and potential political uncertainty as President Beniano Aquino III's six year term draws to a close. Elections are set for May. "We are confident that after five years we

have laid our house with firmer foundations," said Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima. "But reform is a game that has no end. Increasingly we look to our next set of leaders to carry the work of charting our future." He said the government's 2016 budget will meet its goal of investing five percent of gross domestic product in infrastructure. Weakness in the global economy hurt trade in the third quarter. The Philippines posted a trade deficit of 58.8 billion peso (\$1.25 billion) for the three months compared with a surplus of 7.3 billion pesos (\$155.3 million) a year earlier. Economic Planning Secretary Arsenio Balisacan said growth of 6 percent for the full year is "very likely" because of an expected acceleration in the fourth quarter. Second-quarter growth was revised to 5.8 percent from 5.6 percent. — AP

EXCHANGE RATES

AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

	ASIAN COUNTRIES
Japanese Yen	2.489
Indian Rupees	4.602
Pakistani Rupees	2.894
Srilankan Rupees	2.139
Nepali Rupees	2.880
Singapore Dollar	217.500
Hongkong Dollar	39.361
Bangladesh Taka	3.864
Philippine Peso	6.485
Thai Baht	8.515

	GCC COUNTRIES
Saudi Riyal	81.390
Qatari Riyal	83.839
Omani Riyal	792.750
Bahraini Dinar	810.550
JAE Dirham	83.097

ARAB COUNTRIES

Egyptian Pound - Cash	37.900
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	39.026
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.424
Tunisian Dinar	148.800
Jordanian Dinar	429.800
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.034
Syrian Lira	2.175
Morocco Dirham	30.813

EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES

US Dollar Transfer	305.050
Euro	325.640
Sterling Pound	462.760
Canadian dollar	230.230
Turkish lira	105.740
Swiss Franc	299.510
Australian dollar	222.080
US Dollar Buying	303.850

	GOLD
20 gram	219.53
10 gram	112.46
5 gram	56.92

UAE EXCHANGE CENTRE WLL

CURRENCIES	TELEX TRANSFER PER 100
Australian Dollar	204.98
Canadian Dollar	233.02
Swiss Franc	304.26
Euro	328.08
US Dollar	305.15
Sterling Pound	463.25
Japanese Yen	2.53
Bangladesh Taka	3.870
Indian Rupee	4.602
Sri Lankan Rupee	2.143
Nepali Rupee	2.876
Pakistani Rupee	2.890
UAE Dirhams	0.08304
Bahraini Dinar	0.8110
Egyptian Pound	0.03888
Jordanian Dinar	0.4340
Omani Riyal	0.7924
Qatari Riyal	0.08413
Saudi Rival	0.08134

DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

Rate for Transfer	Selling Rate
US Dollar	305.200
Canadian Dollar	231.580
Sterling Pound	461.650
Euro	326.430
Swiss Frank	311.325
Bahrain Dinar	810.045
UAE Dirhams	83.390
Qatari Riyals	91.430

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

RALIDAINI EVOLIANICE COMPANIV

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY						
CURRENCY	BUY Europe	SELL				
British Pound	0.452808	0.461808				
Czech Korune	0.003990	0.015990				
Danish Krone	0.039403	0.044403				
Euro	0.318524	0.326524				
Norwegian Krone	0.031204	0.036404				
Romanian Leu	0.087507	0.087507				
Slovakia	0.009130	0.019130				
Swedish Krona	0.030949	0.35949				
Swiss Franc	0.290349	0.300549				
Turkish Lira	0.100616	0.110916				
	Australasia					
Australian Dollar	0.211741	0.223241				
New Zealand Dollar	0.191828	0.201328				
	America					
Canadian Dollar	0.223148	0.231648				
US Dollars	0.300950	0.305450				

US Dollars Mint 0.301450 0.305450 Bangladesh Taka 0.003517 0.004117 0.046279 0.049779 Chinese Yuan 0.037258 0.040008 Hong Kong Dollar

0.004341 0.004731

Indian upee Indonesian Rupiah 0.000018 0.000024 0.002409 0.002589 Japanese Yen Kenyan Shilling 0.003170 0.003170 0.000254 0.000269 Korean Won 0.068464 0.074464 Malaysian Ringgit Nepalese Rupee 0.002923 0.003093 Pakistan Rupee 0.002707 0.002987 0.006404 0.006684 Philippine Peso 0.000068 0.000074 Sierra Leone Singapore Dollar 0.213342 0.219342 South African Rand 0.015354 0.023854 Sri Lankan Rupee 0.001771 0.009265 0.009445 Thai Baht 0.008206 0.008756

Bahraini Dinar	0.802259	0.810259
Egyptian Pound	0.037520	0.040350
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000086
Iraqi Dinar	0.000204	0.000264
Jordanian Dinar	0.426264	0.433764
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000153	0.000253
Moroccan Dirhams	0.022197	0.046197
Nigerian Naira	0.001263	0.001898
Omani Riyal	0.785917	0.791597
Qatar Riyal	0.083078	0.084291
Saudi Riyal	0.080710	0.081410
Syrian Pound	0.001293	0.001513
Tunisian Dinar	0.144374	0.152374
Turkish Lira	0.100616	0.110916
UAE Dirhams	0.082073	0.083222
Yemeni Riyal	0.001379	0.001459

STRONG PUBLIC INVESTMENT SPURS QATAR GROWTH

NBK ECONOMIC REPORT

KUWAIT: Despite lower oil prices, high public investment in the country's \$200 billion development plan and gas output gains linked to the launch of the Barzan production facility should see Qatar's economic performance remain relatively strong through 2016 and 2017. Inflation is expected to edge up slowly, once the deflationary effect of soft international food and commodity prices begins to ease and once rental costs resume their upward trajectory. A stronger dollar should keep imported inflation in check, however.

With oil and gas revenues down by 40 percent, Qatar is expected to record in 2016 its first fiscal deficit since 1999. Consequently, non-essential capital projects are likely to be scaled back amid a drive to rationalize spending and stimulate the private sector. As low energy prices feed through to the banking sector in the form of slowing deposit, credit and asset growth, liquidity has tightened and rates have risen. CDS spreads have also widened. Nevertheless, with strong fiscal and external buffers, including net external assets equivalent to 132 percent of GDP, Qatar is better placed than most of its peers to negotiate the current downturn.

Risks to the outlook center on the trajectory of energy prices, the performance of the global economy, volatility in financial markets and delivery of the authorities' domestic infrastructure program ahead of the World Cup in 2022. Qatar's position as the leading LNG exporter in the world is also likely to come under pressure by the arrival of Australia and the US as major LNG competitors in 2016.

Real economic growth

Real GDP is forecast to grow by 5.4 percent in 2016 and 5.1 percent in 2017, from an expected increase of 4.9 percent in 2015. This figure, while down from the 9.2 percent annual average witnessed during 2010-2014, still puts Qatar among the most dynamic economies in the GCC.

Hydrocarbon sector output, having plateaued with the attainment of maximum LNG capacity in 2012, is expected to receive a boost from the commissioning of Barzan in late 2015, which should reach full production of 1.4 billion cubic feet per day (bcf/d) in 2016. Consequently, real hydrocarbon growth is expected to clock in at 0.7 percent in 2015 and 1.7 percent in 2016, before falling to 1.0 percent in 2017.

Barzan was the last project sanctioned before the 2005 moratorium on gas extraction from the country's giant North Field was put in place. Once fully operational, the facility should supply additional volumes of gas by-products such as condensates and natural gas liquids (NGLs). These took over from crude oil as the dominant liquid fuel products once crude output from Qatar's maturing oil fields began to decline in 2007. Crude output averaged 0.66 mb/d 2015. (Chart 2.) Output had been as high as 0.85 mb/d in 2007.

In contrast, the non-hydrocarbon sector remains the main determinant of Qatar's economic growth. Underpinned by government spending, output is forecast to expand by 9.1 percent y/y on average between 2015 and 2017. Financial services, construction and trade and hospitality will continue to drive Qatar's non-hydrocarbon sector. Economic expansion is also being propelled by burgeoning population growth of 8.8 percent y/y, which is helping to boost domestic consumption.

The authorities have indicated that they remain committed to executing the country's \$200 billion development and diversification plan regardless of the decline in oil prices. The need to roll out World Cup and related infrastructure by 2022 imparts a measure of urgency to government efforts. High profile projects such as the Qatar Integrated Railway (\$40 billion), Hamad Port (\$7 billion), the Lusail Mixed-Use Development (\$45 billion) and the local roads and drainage program (\$14.6 billion) look set to proceed apace. Non-essential capital projects, however, will be downgraded and scaled back in the current cost-conscious environment.

Inflation likely to rise

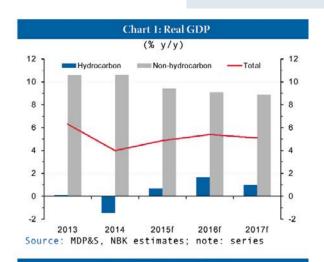
Headline inflation is projected to rise gradually over the next two years, from an expected 1.7 percent in 2015 to 3.0 percent in 2017 (on an annual average basis). Rising rental costs and slowly rebounding global food and commodity prices are likely to be the predominant inflationary impulses. While rental inflation slowed to 1.8 percent y/y in October, rapid population growth owing to the influx of expatriate workers is expected to continue exerting pressure on the country's limited residential housing stock. The price of land and buildings, as measured by the real estate price index (REPI), was up 18.2 percent y/y last September, although it has been moderating over the last year. (Chart 4.) A strengthening US dollar-to which the Qatari riyal is pegged-has helped restrain imported inflation.

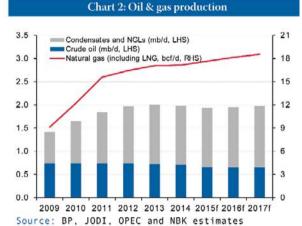
Fiscal and current account surpluses

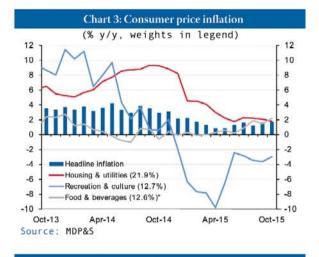
Qatar's fiscal balance is likely to swing into deficit in 2016, for the first time since 1999. With spending levels remaining relatively elevated amid a 40 percent decline in hydrocarbon revenues, the fiscal surplus is forecast to narrow from 16.1 percent of GDP in 2014 to -0.5 percent of GDP in 2016. In 2017, the fiscal account should just about balance. Similarly, the current account surplus is likely to narrow considerably.

On the fiscal side, future spending is likely to be rationalized. While current spending will be restrained, capital spending will need to rise as the authorities make up for previous below-budget outlays, due to delays and capacity constraints, and push ahead with implementing their development plan ahead of the World Cup in 2022. As mentioned, however, non-essential projects will be scaled back.

The prospect of a sustained period of low energy prices has prompted the government to proceed with reforming the state's finances. New measures include: the introduc-









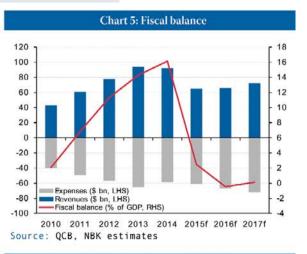
tion of a QAR 600 billion (\$165 billion) spending cap on new investment projects for 10 years; the creation of a macro-fiscal unit and public investment management department (PIM); the shift to a calendar rather than a fiscal year budget (effective in 2016); the withdrawal of subsidies to certain state institutions; and the privatization of semi-government institutions. The last two measures were announced by the Amir in November 2015 and form part of an effort to shrink state monopolies and boost the economic contribution of the private sector.

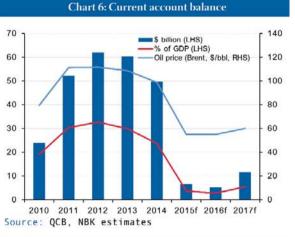
Sufficient fiscal buffers

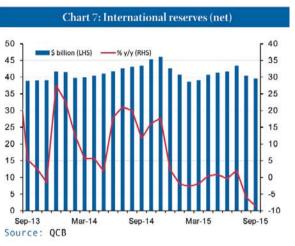
With \$39.6 billion in international reserves (excluding the \$256 billion SWF)-equivalent to 7.4 months of imports-and strong credit ratings, however, Qatar has sufficient assets to finance capital spending and weather the fall in energy prices-certainly over the forecast period. Were oil prices (and gas prices by extension) to remain in the \$40-50 range for longer, then, like Saudi Arabia, the authorities would probably envisage stepping up bond issuance, perhaps with a view to attract international investors, given domestic liquidity concerns. Gross central government debt had dropped to 31.0 percent of GDP in 2014 from a high of 42.0 percent of GDP in 2010 after the authorities paid back maturing public debt. This trend could reverse, however.

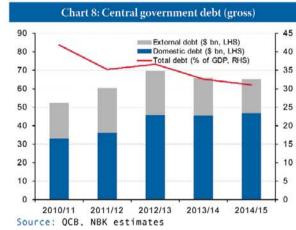
Banking sector

Credit growth has been moderating over the last year owing to a slowdown and contraction in public sector borrowing. The most recent data showed overall bank credit growing by 12.0 percent y/y in September, with credit to the public sector contracting by -6.6 percent y/y. In contrast, credit growth to the private sector has averaged 22.0 percent y/y for most of the year (compared to 15.6 percent in 2014), as banks continue expanding credit lines to the real estate, industrial and retail sectors of the economy. Foreign lending has also proceeded apace, with growth averaging 45.2 percent y/y in 2015. In view of the govern-









ment's commitment to continue spending on infrastructure and expand private sector participation in the development plan, the outlook for credit growth remains positive.

Lower deposit flows

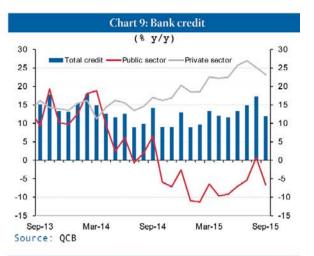
Reduced government deposits in the banking system resulting from lower oil and gas prices have slowed overall deposit growth considerably over the previous year. Total banking sector deposits grew by 7.1 percent y/y as of end-September, down from the average annual growth rates of 13.8 percent and 30.6 percent in 2014 and 2013, respectively. Public sector deposits were down by -13.9 percent y/y last September-the steepest contraction since the financial crisis. Public sector deposits, as a share of total bank deposits, stood at 25.0 percent, which is a decline from their high of 32.0 percent in 2013 and 2014. (Chart 11.) Private sector deposit growth has remained in double

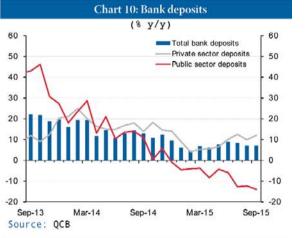
digits, however.

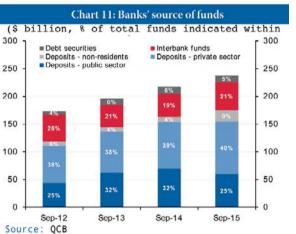
With deposit growth slowing and trailing credit growththe loan-to-deposit ratio (LDR) remained elevated at 111.4
percent last September-banks are increasingly facing funding pressures. In response, banks are increasing their exposure to the costlier and more volatile interbank funds as
well as to the debt markets; interbank funds as a share of
total funds was back up to 21.4 percent in September

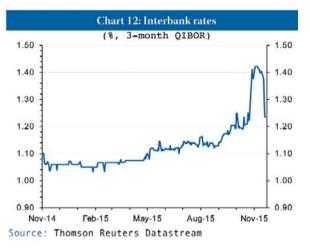
Interbank rates tacked sharply upward since July, reflecting once again concerns over tightening liquidity. In order to alleviate potential liquidity constraints, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), in its Article IV Consultation, suggested that the authorities reallocate deposits from government and related institutions, including from the overseas SWF, and reduce the size of the central bank's T-bill and bond auctions.

Government securities form the bulk of commercial banks' liquid assets, and, along with deposits at the central bank, provide some measure of liquidity cover. While liquid banking assets accounted for 27.0 percent of total tangible









assets in December 2015, this figure looks likely to fall to between 22.0-25.0 percent by the end of 2015.

With the Qatari riyal pegged to the US dollar, domestic interest rates tend to be closely aligned with US interest rates. The US Federal Reserve is expected to raise its benchmark Federal Funds rate by the turn of 2016, which will likely mean that Qatar's key lending and deposit rates will follow suit, possibly with some lag.

Qatari equities roiled

With the oil price slump continuing to negatively affect market sentiment, the benchmark Qatar Exchange Index (QE) had been in negative territory (ytd) for close to 7 months by mid-November 2015. This is despite the fact that Qatari corporates had posted the highest earnings growth in the GCC, of 13 percent, during the first 6 months of 2015. As of 20 November, the index was down -8.1 percent to 10,860. Low trading volumes have reflected weak buyer interest. Investors have also been concerned that the government would be forced to rein in spending, including cutting subsidies, and consider corporate tax increases in a bid to boost state coffers.

The trajectory of energy prices

With its sizeable fiscal buffers and AA credit rating, Qatar remains well positioned to weather the current period of low energy prices. Nevertheless, the longer oil and gas prices remain depressed, the more pressure Qatar will face on its finances and banking sector. Growth will undoubtedly be affected. In a sign of rising pressures, along with a rise in the forward currency curve, the 5-year sovereign credit default swap spread widened significantly, by 14 bps, during the second half of the year. The likely arrival in 2016 of Australia and the US as LNG exporters is another concern, as it will challenge Qatar's position as the world's largest LNG exporter. Qatar's low gas production cost base, however, should enable it to compete effectively in this new environment.

TOKYO: A shopper walks past a clothing shop display at a shopping street of Ginza area in Tokyo. Japan's jobless rate fell to a 20-year low in October, but consumer spending and incomes also edged lower as the tight labor market failed to spur significant increases in wages. —AP

JAPAN'S JOBLESS RATE AT 20-YEAR LOW, CONSUMER SPENDING DROPS

TOKYO: Japan's jobless rate fell to a 20-year low in October, but consumer spending and incomes also edged down as the tight labor market failed to spur significant increases in wages. The latest figures are likely to help Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's effort to cajole companies into offering higher wages, to accelerate inflation by raising consumer demand through higher incomes. So far, short-handed employers have resorted to use of overtime and hiring more temporary workers, seeking to avoid increases in base wages that would be difficult to reverse if the economy takes a turn for the worse.

The government reported Friday that unemployment in the world's No 3 economy dipped to 3.1 percent in October, compared with 3.4 percent in September. It was the low-

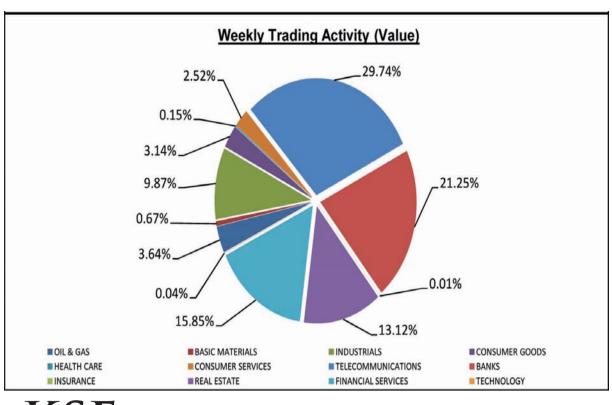
est level since July 1995. Consumer spending, meanwhile, fell 2.4 percent from the same month a year earlier, and average incomes fell 0.9 percent.

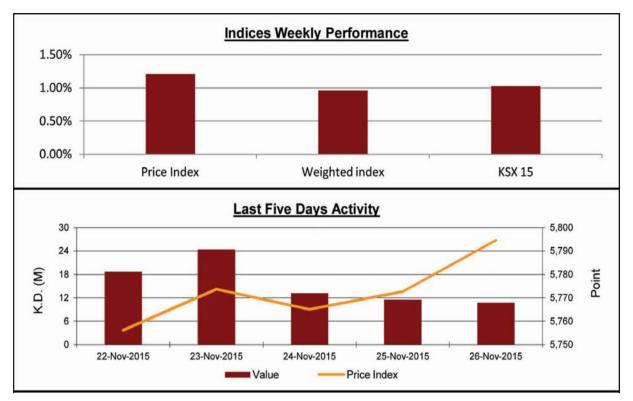
Japan's inflation rate also was lower in October, with core inflation excluding volatile food prices down 0.1 percent for the third month in a row. The success of the government's "Abenomics" policies hinges on getting consumers and companies spend to more. Abe has also launched social welfare initiatives aimed at easing the burden of child care and elder care to help encourage more women to work.

This week, Abe appealed to business leaders to offer bigger wage increases during next year's spring "shunto," or "labor offensive," when unions and companies hash out pay

agreements for the year.

Abe has pledged to slash corporate taxes in exchange for progress on wages. The government also intends to raise the minimum wage, which is now at a modest 798 yen (\$6.50) an hour on average, by 3 percent a year, aiming to get it up to 1,000 yen (\$8.15) an hour by 2020. Big companies, reaping record profits thanks to strong export earnings, can afford that. However, most people paid the minimum wage work for small and medium-size companies that cannot afford to pay more, said economist Masamichi Adachi of JPMorgan. "Those small tiny firms, which are always losing money and don't pay taxes, are not making money at all. If they have to raise wages their losses will grow and they will find it hard to survive," he said. —AP





KSE STOCKS ADVANCE ON POSITIVE SENTIMENT

KUWAIT: Kuwait Stock Exchange uidity during the last week, where such came in light of an optimism

(KSE) ended last week in the green zone. The Price Index closed at 5,794.64 points, up by 1.21 percent from the week before closing, the Weighted Index increased by 0.96 percent after closing at 394.60 points, whereas the KSX-15 Index closed at 943.56 points up by 1.02 percent. Furthermore, last week's average daily turnover increased by 13.92 percent, compared to the preceding week, reaching KD 15.69 million, whereas trading volume average was 131.23 million shares, recording a loss of 1.04 percent.

The stock market indicators returned to close in the green zone once again, after several weeks of mixed performance, as the market received support from the purchasing powers and the collection operations that included many stocks of different headed by Telecommunications which acquired nearly 30 percent of the market liq-

spread among the investors as a result to the incoming news of the acquisition deal of 74 percent of the Viva listed stocks in the official market.

In addition, the market started its first sessions of the week with good increase to its three indicators, especially the Weighted Index and KSX-15 Index which recorded good gains by the end of the session affected by the purchasing trend that the market witnessed on the large-cap stocks, which positively reflected on the trading activity in the market, especially the value which recorded high increase of about 68 percent compared to the previous session. The Market continued recording gains for the second session as a result to the continued active purchasing trend on many stocks, and in light of the increased liquidity for the second consecutive session.

However on the mid-week session,

MARKET A	CTIVITY				
	Las	t Week	Previou	Ch. %	
Volume	656	,174,763	663,04	43,274	-1.04%
Value (K.D)	78,	455,391	68,86	8,647	13.92%
Deals	1	7,351	16,	424	5.64%
MARKET C	APITALISAT	ION (K.D.)			
La	st	Previo	ous	Weekly Ch.	Annual Ch.
We	ek	Wee	ek	%	%
26,221,	210,596	25,961,93	35,093	1.00%	-6.299
TOP GAIN	ERS OF THE	WEEK			
Company	Last Week Closing	Previous Week Closing	ek Ch. (fils)		Ch. %
HUMANSOFT	900.00	740.00	160.0		21.62%
YIACO	170.00	144.00	26.0		18.06%
NRE	97.00	86.00	11	0	12.79%
VIVA	1,080.00	970.00	11	0.0	11.34%
KPPC	61.00	55.00	6	.0	10.91%
TOP LOOS	ERS OF THE	WEEK			
Company	Last Week Closing	Previous Week Closing	Ch. (fils)		Ch. %
LOGISTICS	61.00	69.00	-8.0		-11.59%
ARZAN	37.50	41.00	-3	.5	-8.54%
ZIMAH	112.00	120.00	-8	.0	-6.67%
MARAKEZ	24.00	25.50	-1	.5	-5.88%
ALAFCO	218.00	230.00	30.00 -12.0		

BAYAN WEEKLY MARKET REPORT

KSE INDICES							
		Price Index	Weighted index	KSX 15			
	Last week	5,794.64	394.60	943.56			
Weekly	Previous week	5,725.41	390.84	933.99			
vveekiy	Change (Point)	69.23	3.76	9.57			
	Change (%)	1.21%	0.96%	1.02%			
	Last year	6,535.72	438.88	1,059.95			
Annual	Change (Point)	-741.08	-44.28	-116.39			
	Change (%)	-11.34%	-10.09%	-10.98%			

SECTORS' WEEKLY TRADING ACTIVITY					SECTORS INDICES PERFORMANCE				
Sector	Volume	To Market %	Value	To Market %	Sector	Last Week Closing	Previous Week Closing	Weekly Ch. %	Annual Ch.
OIL & GAS	60,456,106	9.21%	2,854,450	3.64%	OIL & GAS	782.16	776.64	0.71%	-26.42%
BASIC MATERIALS	2,110,449	0.32%	524,256	0.67%	BASIC MATERIALS	1,023.78	1,032.49	-0.84%	-9.51%
INDUSTRIALS	61,446,870	9.36%	7,745,852	9.87%	INDUSTRIALS	1,069.44	1,048.87	1.96%	-0.09%
CONSUMER GOODS	6,944,640	1.06%	2,465,023	3.14%	CONSUMER GOODS	1,108.74	1,114.75	-0.54%	-9.56%
HEALTH CARE	698,377	0.11%	115,008	0.15%	HEALTH CARE	984.39	960.44	2.49%	4.69%
CONSUMER SERVICES	12,102,452	1.84%	1,978,259	2.52%	CONSUMER SERVICES	1,025.24	1,013.94	1.11%	-5.21%
TELECOMMUNICATIONS	78,783,702	12.01%	23,333,232	29.74%	TELECOMMUNICATIONS	634.77	594.07	6.85%	11.28%
BANKS	51,085,003	7.79%	16,675,323	21.25%	BANKS	929.54	928.07	0.16%	-7.52%
INSURANCE	97,878	0.01%	7,730	0.01%	INSURANCE	1,098.13	1,123.57	-2.26%	-6.73%
REAL ESTATE	170,516,851	25.99%	10,290,040	13.12%	REAL ESTATE	980.44	962.31	1.88%	-13.23%
FINANCIAL SERVICES	211,560,509	32.24%	12,435,487	15.85%	FINANCIAL SERVICES	635.20	627.54	1.22%	-23.67%
TECHNOLOGY	371,926	0.06%	30,730	0.04%	TECHNOLOGY	871.80	888.65	-1.90%	-4.86%

the market stopped in the profit collection station, among declined liquidity levels again, which pushed the three indices to close in the red zone, although considered normal after the good gains realized by many stocks in the previous two sessions. Also, the market returned for its grouped increase for the three indices on Wednesday and Thursday's sessions, due to the return of the purchasing and speculations operations in controlling the trading direction, among a continued decline in the value, however in minimal percentages.

Moreover, the market cap for Kuwait Stock Exchange reached by the end of last week KD 26.22 billion, increasing by 1 percent compared to its level in a week earlier which was KD 25.96 billion. However on the annual level, the market cap for the listed companies in KSF recorded a decline of 6.29 percent from its value at end of 2014, where it reached then KD 27.98 billion.

As far as KSE annual performance, the Price Index ended last week recording 11.34 percent annual loss compared to its closing in 2014, while the Weighted Index decreased by 10.09 percent, and the KSX-15 contracted by 10.98 percent.

Sectors' Indices

Eight of KSE's sectors ended last week in the green zone, while the other four recorded declines. Last week's highest gainer was the Telecommunications sector, achieving 6.85 percent growth rate as its index closed at 634.77 points.

Whereas, in the second place, the 211.56 million shares changing hands Health Care sector's index closed at 984.39 points recording 2.49 percent increase. The Industrial sector came in third as its index achieved 1.96 percent growth, ending the week at 1,069.44 points.

On the other hand, the Insurance sector headed the losers list as its index declined by 2.26 percent to end the week's activity at 1,098.13 points. The Technology sector was second on the losers' list, which index declined by 1.90 percent, closing at 871.80 points, followed by the Basic Materials sector, as its index closed at 1,023.78 points at a loss of 0.84 percent.

Sectors' Activity

The Financial Services sector dominated a total trade volume of around

during last week, representing 32.24 percent of the total market trading volume. The Real Estate sector was second in terms of trading volume as the sector's traded shares were 25.99 percent of last week's total trading volume, with a total of around 170.52 million shares. the other hand, the Telecommunications sector's stocks were the highest traded in terms of value; with a turnover of around K.D 23.33 million or 29.74 percent of last week's total market trading value.

The Banks sector took the second place as the sector's last week turnover was approx. KD 16.68 million representing 21.25 percent of the total market trading value.

— Prepared by the Studies & Research Department, Bayan Investment Co.

STOCKS INCH HIGHER IN QUIET TRADING, DISNEY STUMBLES

WALL STREET WEEKLY REPORT

NEW YORK: US stocks finished mostly higher Friday as they wrapped up a quiet week of trading. The Standard & Poor's 500 index fluctuated early on, but managed to eke out a small gain as telecommunications and financial stocks rose. Disney dragged down the Dow Jones industrial average after the company said ESPN lost 3 million subscribers in the last year. Oil prices slumped, dragging down energy stocks. The Dow fell 14.90 points, or 0.1 percent, to 17,798.49. The S&P 500 picked up 1.24 points, or less than 0.1 percent, to 2,090.11. The Nasdaq composite index added

11.38 points, or 0.2 percent, to 5,127.52. US markets were closed Thursday for the Thanksgiving holiday, and closed at 1 p.m. on Friday. Stocks didn't have much momentum in a week of light trading. The market made its biggest weekly gain of 2015 last week, but this week the Dow fell 0.1 percent and the S&P 500 rose less than 0.1 percent.

Oil prices dropped. Benchmark US crude fell \$1.33, or 3.1 percent, to \$41.71 a barrel in New York. Brent crude, a benchmark for international oils, gave up 60 cents, or 1.3 percent, to \$44.86 a barrel in London.

The largest losers on the S&P 500 were energy stocks. Consol Energy lost 52 cents, or 6.5 percent, to \$7.48 and Southwestern Energy gave up 68 cents, or 7.2 percent, to \$8.74. Prudential Financial market strategist Quincy Krosby said oil prices gained a premium this week because of geopolitical concerns like increased military action against the Islamic State and growing tensions between Russia and Turkey after Turkey shot down a Russian fighter plane on Tuesday.

Krosby said those gains may not last long. Next week OPEC will hold a meeting in Vienna, and the group could send oil prices higher by deciding to cut back on production. Or, it could decide to keep producing oil at its present rate, which might make prices fall further. That premium on the price of oil "can move

up dramatically but also come down or dissipate just as quickly," Krosby said. Disney fell \$3.54, or 3 percent, to \$115.13, its biggest oneday loss since August. Late Wednesday, Disney disclosed that US subscribers to its ESPN sports channel fell for the second year in a row, to 92 million as of Oct. 3, matching the lowest total since 2006. ESPN's subscriber totals had hovered around 100 million for years.

Disney has said that ESPN has lost subscribers, but investors appeared shaken by the size of the losses. Small but growing numbers of people are opting out of traditional cable TV

bundles and buying smaller, less expensive groups of channels instead. Investors in media companies are worried about potential losses of subscribers and revenue.

A dispute over the health and mental capacity of media mogul Sumner Redstone hit shares of Viacom, the owner of media properties including Paramount Pictures, Comedy

Central, MTV and Nickelodeon. In a lawsuit filed Wednesday, Manuela Herzer, Redstone's former companion, said the 92-year-old executive can't make informed decisions anymore and needs medical care at all times. Lawyers for Redstone, who controls the shareholder vote at Viacom as well as at CBS, disputed the

Viacom's Class B shares fell \$1.19, or 2.3 percent, to \$51.16. Spam maker Hormel didn't miss a beat over the holiday break, rising \$1.46, or 2 percent, to \$75.01. Earlier this week Hormel posted strong-quarterly results and announced a planned stock split. Its shares rose 10 percent this week.

Hewlett Packard Enterprise also continued to rise. The technology services company, formerly part of Hewlett-Packard, saw an increase in sales of data-center hardware during the fourth quarter. Its shares added 23 cents, or 1.3 percent, to \$14.35 after picking up 3 percent Wednesday.

Retail stocks didn't move much on Black Friday, when millions of shoppers hit the stores in search of bargains. Target rose 28 cents to \$73.44 and Wal-Mart Stores dipped 35 cents to \$59.89. Amazon fell \$2.08 to \$673.26. In other energy trading, wholesale gasoline fell 0.6 cents to \$1.391 a gallon. Heating oil fell 5 cents, or 3.6 percent, to \$1.352 a gallon. Natural gas inched up 0.6 cents to \$2.206 per 1,000 cubic feet.

Gold fell \$13.80, or 1.3 percent, to \$1,056.20 an ounce. Silver declined 15 cents, or 1.1 percent, to \$14.008 an ounce. Copper inched up 0.5 cents to \$2.051 a pound. US government bond prices rose. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note fell to 2.22 percent from 2.24 percent late Wednesday. The euro fell to \$1.0597 from \$1.0617 and dollar rose to 122.84 yen from 122.72 yen. —AP



NEW YORK: Trader Peter Tuchman, right, works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. —AP

Nissan Al Babtain announced the arrival of the all new Nissan Maxima 2016 to Kuwait



A bdulmohsen Abdulaziz Al Babtain Co., the exclusive agent of Nissan vehicles in the state of Kuwait, unveiled the new generation of Nissan Maxima, which presents a revolution in the region. The completely redesigned 8th generation model is the sportiest most powerful Maxima ever

Abdulmohsen Abdulaziz Al Babtain Co. held the launching ceremony of the new Nissan Maxima 2016 at its showroom located at Al Rai, which was attended by the members of the board of Al Babtain Group and media representatives.

On this occasion, Mr. Mohammed Shalaby, COO, Al Babtain Group said: "The totally new model of Nissan Maxima is the ideal choice for the passionate drivers due to its unique features on the roads in its category. It set new criteria with its creative design and great performance in addition to the modern technology of the large sedan vehicles."

The attendees praised the popular Nissan Maxima in Kuwait, for its new and different design of the previous generation equipped with new technology that makes it well deserved to rank on top of the sedan vehicles category. Maxima has the leading position for many years, and is one of the most dependent vehicles at all.

Shalaby added saying that: "The new Nissan Maxima with its all new design is one of the most significant in its category as it's powered with sports performance, which results in a mixture beating all levels". Shalabi also spoke about the systematic efforts of the Abdulmohsen Abdulaziz Al Babtain Co., in presenting its promotions and services to preserve its leading position among the car agents in Kuwait.

The high performance, top-end sedan will support Nissan's ambitious business target. Nissan expects the all-new Nissan Maxima 2016 will command a 12 per cent share in the E-segment in the GCC, with a goal of selling around 7,000 vehicles, an increase of more than 70 per cent in sales compared to 2014.

Key Evatures in the All New Nissan Maxima 2016:

Aura

Nissan Maxima's styling showcases Nissan's new design language including V Motion front end, signature boomerang lights, kick-up C-pillars and unique floating roof appearance. Inside, the Nissan Maxima's premium class-above, bespoke interior is anchored by a driver's cockpit that rivals luxury vehicles.

The new vehicle was developed under the inspiration of the Blue Angels at the Naval Air Station in Pensacola – Florida, United States. It holds a specific style inspired by the 'jet fighter' styling theme and ergonomic layout.



The futuristic appearance is finished with large dual exhaust chrome tailpipe finishers and 18 inch machined aluminum-alloy wheels. The Nissan Maxima SR adds 19 inch aluminum alloy wheels that use a unique diamond-cut machined finish.

The Nissan Maxima's totally redesigned interior is anchored by a "command centre" driver's cockpit and a premium bespoke style crafted execution. The console also features luxurious padding on the sides with contrasted stitching. A new Display Commander control on the console allows fingertip control of the center display as befitting a premium sport sedan.

The Nissan Maxima's interior execution was a strong focus from the onset of development, with the goal of offering an interior that truly rivals luxury vehicles. It offers genuine stitching on the instrument panel, doors and console, available ambient lighting, available premium leather seating surfaces with diamond-quilted inserts, unique faceted finishers and a sporty

D shaped (flat bottom) steering wheel.

The all-new Nissan Maxima 2016's comfort is inspired by Nissan's 'Zero Gravity Seats' design with added foam topper pad for initial softness and long-term comfort that consists of acoustic laminated glass (windshield and front side glass), and Active Noise Cancellation System for a quieter cabin.

As with the exterior, interior colors were carefully considered to fit with Maxima's exclusive sportspremium personality.

Performance

In a number of aspects the Nissan Maxima's performance substantially eclipses market performance and is on a par with many sports cars, moving it closer to its big brother - the Nissan GT-R.

The Nissan Maxima's 3.5-liter VQ-series V6 has been redesigned with more than 60 percent new parts (compared to the previous generation 3.5-liter



a high specific output of 85.7 horsepower/liter. The revised engine helps it achieve an anticipated 15 percent increase in highway fuel economy to an EPA estimated 30 miles per gallon*.

Complementing the revised powerplant is a new, performance-oriented Xtronic transmission featuring a wider ratio range, which allows for stronger acceleration from a standing start and an all-new D-Step shifting logic that provides rapid shifts at high throttle openings.

Technology

The Nissan Maxima's next-generation premium-level technology features include an 8.0 inch color display features multi-touch control for intuitive smartphone-like gestures such as swiping and pinch-to-zoom. The system is paired with a standard 7.0-inch Advanced Drive Assist Display (ADAD) within the instrument cluster.

The vehicle boasts an extensive range of safety, security and driving aids, including Predictive Forward Collision Warning (PFCW), Intelligent Cruise Control (ICC), Forward Emergency Braking (FEB), Rear Cross Traffic Alert (CTA) and Blind Spot Warning (BSW). The Nissan Maxima also offers an available Driver Attention Alert (DAA) system which monitors steering input patterns to establish a baseline and helps alert the driver when drowsy or inattentive driving is detected (only on Nissan Maxima SR grade).

Convenience features befitting a luxury vehicle are part of the Nissan Maxima's suite of available equipment. Many of these features are not even offered on many luxury nameplates and are found standard on most of Nissan Maxima grades. These include a power tilt/telescoping steering wheel with an "Easy Entry" system, Around View® Monitor, Remote Start via Key Fob and a power rear sunshade.

Nissan's commitment to the highest standards and best value in total cost of maintenance is steady and to the fore with the all-new Nissan Maxima 2016. Nissan's safety rating and commitment to keep total cost of maintenance very competitive across the Middle East will bolster sales substantially over the coming years. Additionally a host of factors contribute to the Nissan Maxima's lower running costs such as greater fuel efficiency, new technologies, build quality, durability and safety.

The all-new Nissan Maxima 2016, now offered in three grade levels including new S, SV and SR grade, will have a price ranging between \$29,999 and \$41,000 in the GCC. Prices per market will be revealed at their respective launches and will vary from region to region.











MOHAMED NASER AL-SAYER & TOYOTA ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF FIRST RAFFLE DRAW

FIRST PRIZE 2016 LAND CRUISER V6, SECOND PRIZE PRADO TX AWARDED TO WINNERS

KUWAIT: Mohamed Naser Al Sayer & Sons, the exclusive dealer for Toyota in Kuwait has announced winners of the first raffle draw from the "biggest promotion ever" on New Toyota models. The draw on 11 November 2015 was organized by Ministry of Commerce & Industry - for Consumer protection affairs.

According to Johan Heislitz Senior Business Director Toyota Kuwait "The biggest promotion ever carries the spirit of Toyota to make ever better cars. 2015 was an outstanding year as Toyota has retained the position of the most valuable automotive brand. There is no better time than now to celebrate this success and through this we appreciate the trust and support from all customers, to make this promotion a huge success".

Grand Prizes of the Raffle Draw -2016 Land Cruiser V6 and Prado TX

The vehicle awarding ceremony held at Toyota new cars delivery center Ardiya was attended by Masoud Wahba, General Manager Toyota Sales, Bader Faisal Al-Sayer Deputy Manager Marketing and representatives from Group Toyota sales and delivery sections.

Bader Faisal Al-Sayer awarded the grand prizes to Reni George Varghese, Land Cruiser winner and Adel Mubarak Fahad Alazmi, winner of Prado.

Reni George, who won the first prize said "I bought a Camry from Toyota Al-Sayer and they have awarded a Land Cruiser through a raffle draw. Receiving two outstanding Toyota models at the same time is incredible. Winning the Land Cruiser is a dream come true for me and my family. Toyota offers the best products and after-sales services. Land Cruiser is a legendary SUV, 2016 Land Cruiser is even more better new look and features. I am really excited to get behind the wheels and look forward to pleasure filled driving trips.

"I feel proud to own a Toyota car, they guarantee durability and satisfaction. As a winner of Prado, I feel delighted and I am thankful to Al Sayer for bringing this great promotion" said Mr. Adel Mubarak who took home the second grand prize.

Greatest Toyota promotion ever

Popular Toyota models included in the "biggest promotion" are Yaris and Yaris hatch back, Corolla, Camry, Aurion, Avalon, RAV4, Fortuner, FJ, Prado, Sequoia and Land Cruiser.

The biggest promotion on Toyota guarantees variety of fabulous prizes totaling to 1 million liters of petrol, 15KG of gold, extended service packages, canon cameras, Sun Control Protection film during the promotion period.

In addition to this customers will benefit from greatest value offers including 5 years warranty unlimited mileage, 3rd party insurance, 2 years' service / 30000km, car registration, T-Connect and GardX protection.

The 2 remaining draws of this promotion will be held during December 2015 and January 2016. Al-Sayer Group congratulates all winners from the first draw and encourages all potential customers to come forward and take advantage of this spectacular



FATEMAH ARAFAH WINS A BENTLEY FROM KALYAN JEWELLERS AT MEGA DRAW IN KUWAIT

KUWAIT: Kalyan Jewellers announced that Fatemah Arafah, an Egyptian national, is the winpulled out by Ahmed Mohammed Al-Hamad from the Department of Consumer Protection, Ministry of Commerce, Kuwait. Kalyan Jewellers has created history for being the first ever jewellery brand to give away a Bentley worth KD 76,500 as a prize in two markets - Kuwait and UAE. N R Venkatraman, Head Overseas Operations, Kalyan Jewellers along with Sheikh Dawoud Salman Al-Sabah and Bader Naser Turki Al-Otaibi was also present at the event.

T S Kalyanaraman, Chairman & Managing Director, Kalyan Jewellers said, "I'm very happy and excited to announce the winner of our

Kuwait leg of the Bentley campaign. The core DNA of Kalyan Jewellers is built around customer ner of the prestigious Bentley campaign post the service and delight. We received an overwhelmmega draw held at its showroom in Kuwait City ing response in Kuwait and are thrilled to see that enabling buyers to win an instant prize of diaon November 24. The winning raffle coupon was this campaign has been able to infuse high levels of customer engagement in target markets. Kalyan Jewellers strives to be an integral part of the joys and aspirations of our customers to create a closer bond and reinforces our market lead-

> Fatamah will drive away the coveted Bentley at a special ceremony being organized by Kalyan Jewellers soon. This milestone initiative concluded on November 21 across all Kalyan Jewellers outlets in Kuwait. There has been a similar mega draw for UAE recently. Customers who had made a minimum purchase of KD 75 were entitled to enter the mega draw. Those who bought gold

received one coupon, while those buying diamonds received two coupons. A special 'Scratch and Win' feature was also built into the coupons, mond jewellery worth KD 65.

Within a short span of time, Kalyan has scaled up its presence in the GCC, with 10 showrooms within UAE and three showrooms in Kuwait. Overall - Kalyan Jewellers has a total of 86 showrooms spread across India and Middle East. The brand has acquired a loyal customer base of over 250,000 customers in a short span of less than two years in the GCC and has been aggressively rolling out a slew of initiatives to establish its market leadership. The company was the first to launch a Goldback credit card with RAKBANK in the UAE. And it is now the first to gift two Bentley Spurs - one in Kuwait and one in the UAE.





OOREDOO ANNOUNCES 'NOJOOM' PARTNERSHIP WITH BEC

KUWAIT: Ooredoo Kuwait, a member of the international Ooredoo Group, announced yesterday the partnership of its 'Nojoom' loyalty program with the Bahrain Exchange Company; a Kuwait leader in the business of foreign exchange and the international money transfers industry. The partnership comes in line with the 'Nojoom' external expansion strategy.

The 'Nojoom' loyalty program is an award winning program that rewards customers with points each and every time they use an Ooredoo service. These points are then redeemed in exchange for products and services that cater to customers' different needs. Today, Ooredoo is taking this program to the next level and granting customers the opportunity to benefit from their points by offering services under the 'banking and money transfer'

category by collaborating with BEC.

Commenting on the partnership and its benefits to member, Mijbil Alayoub, Director of Corporate Communications at Ooredoo Kuwait said: "We look forward to our collaboration with BEC. This will allow us to further build on the great success we have witnessed so far with the Nojoom program, and more importantly, will present our customers with the opportunity to redeem their points outside of the direct telecom domain."

'Nojoom' members can redeem their points in exchange for BEC vouchers through the web portal or the call center, for amounts of KD 0.500, 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5. By visiting any of the BEC branches, members could claim the reward by sharing the reference code and the SMS voucher shared by

Nojoom is the biggest telecom rewards program in Kuwait and is designed to enhance your daily life. Nojoom offers you a chance to earn points for the Ooredoo services you use and you can then exchange these points for a diverse range of rewarding experiences such as electronics, travel, leisure, restaurants and others.

Ooredoo's operations in Kuwait date back to December 1999 when it launched wireless services as the second operator. The company today provides mobile, broadband internet and corporate managed services tailored to the needs of customers and businesses. Ooredoo is guided by its vision of enriching people's lives and its belief that it can stimulate human growth by leveraging communications to help people achieve their full



TREG OFFERS PROJECTS IN FRANCE AND SWITZERLAND

KUWAIT: Waleed Al-Qadoumi, Managing Director, Top Real Estate Group (TREG), paid a field visit to Switzerland and France to inspect and review the real estate projects in progress undertaken by France tions in French and Swiss territories. Both parties agreed that TREG and its Qatarbased Utopia Properties will represent the Company on exclusive basis in GCC and Middle East region. Al-Qadoumi said that TREG is proud of offering to its customers a high end impressive collection of real estate projects developed by Imaprim Co. in several cities of France and Switzerland, all of which are close to Geneva and Geneva airport with some locations being immediately adjacent to French-Swiss borders. Al-Qadoumi expressed his admiration of the projects and their prime locations where certain projects overlook lake while others are located among mountains and green areas and fascinating nature. He added that given charming beauty of

Al-Qadoumi stated that TREG will be offer a set of residential projects during the current phase in several cities and villages

where the Company is working, prominently Annecy-le-Vieux, Veigy-Foncenex and Ornex. Al-Qadoumi said that the projects are residential buildings comprising several apartments containing one room based company Imagrim in several locator four bedrooms and amenities. Furthermore, buildings are characterized by their proximity to service centers in the city in addition to quality construction and finishing, which the developer emphasizes in various projects. Al-Qadoumi explained that ownership in such projects is freehold and available for all nationalities, indicating that the unit price starts from Euros 200 thousand and will be ready for occupation by mid-2016.

Al-Qadoumi said that GCC citizens were among first people who acquired properties since 1970s in these and other areas such as Devon and Evian. He pointed out that these areas still attract specific distinct class of investors who appreciate the value of these areas and living therein where most of them spend long times for stay in summer or winter seasons. Al-Qadoumi said that TREG seeks, through the marketing these projects in the region, to attract this unique category of investors.



Al-Qadoumi and Oliver Gallais, Imaprim Co President during a visit to a project.

Qalaa Holdings signs sale AND PURCHASE AGREEMENT FOR RASHIDI EL-MIZAN

KUWAIT: Qalaa Holdings, an African leader in infrastructure and industry, announced today that its business unit Gozour has signed a sale and purchase agreement with Saudi Arabia's Olayan Financing Company and its subsidiaries - for the sale of 100 percent of confectioner Rashidi El-Mizan, for a total consideration (equity value) of EGP 518 million.

Qalaa Holdings currently has an effective ownership of 55 percent in Rashidi El-

In addition to Qalaa's proceeds from the

sale, the transaction further delivers on Qalaa's strategy for 2015 with a key element being deleveraging at the holding and platform company levels; a further EGP 237 million in debt will be deconsolidated from Qalaa's consolidated financial statement as a result of the transaction.

EFG Hermes acted as Financial Advisor and Arab Legal Consultants as Legal Advisor to Qalaa Holdings on the transaction. CI Capital acted as Financial Advisor and Helmy, Hamza & Partners as Legal Advisor to Olayan Financing Company.





FACEBOOK RAMPS PAID LEAVE TIME FOR NEW DADS

SAN FRANCISCO: With Facebook cofounder Mark Zuckerberg about to become a dad, the social network boosted the amount of time fathers can take off to bond with their new babies. Beginning with the new year, dads working full-time for Facebook anywhere in the world will have the option of taking four months' paid leave. All new dads working for Facebook outside the US currently get a minimum of four weeks' paternity leave, with more time offered in locations where required by local law, according to

Same-sex partners who are not pri-

mary caregivers for babies get the same paid leave time as dads, the social network said. The change, effective January 1, essentially raises parental leave time for dads and non-custodial same-sex partners from four weeks to four months. The change puts paternity leave outside the US on par with maternity leave at Facebook workplaces around the world, and extends the benefit to same-sex counles

"In reviewing our parental leave policies, we have decided to make this change because it's the right thing to do for our people and their families," human

resources boss Lori Matloff Goler said in a post on her Facebook page. "This expanded benefit primarily affects new fathers and people in same-sex relationships outside the US." The paid time off can be taken any time during the year after a baby is born and includes adopted babies. Maternity leave offered to Facebook employees around the world is already four months, and the benefit was available to both moms and dads in the United States.

Baby bonusFacebook also gives a \$4,000 bonus for

parents to help meet the needs of new babies. Zuckerberg, who heads the company, announced last week that he will take two months' paternity leave after his wife gives birth to their first child. "This is a very personal decision, and I've decided to take two months of paternity leave when our daughter arrives," Zuckerberg said in a post on his Facebook page. "Studies show that when working parents take time to be with their newborns, outcomes are better for the children and families."

California-based Facebook gives US employees the option of taking as long as

four months paid maternity or paternity leave, letting them divide the time as they wish over the course of a year. Zuckerberg and his doctor wife, Priscilla, revealed in July that they were expecting their first child, a girl, after a series of miscarriages. Leading streaming music service Spotify last week announced that all full-time employees will have the option to take as long as six months' parental leave at full pay during the first three years after having children. Internet giants ramping leave time for parents could put pressure on other firms to do the same to attract talent in a competitive industry. —AFP



GUESSING: Bernhard Deutsch, the mayor of nearby Strem, pumps a green fuel at the Guessing Energy Technologies research centre at Austrian town of Guessing. —AFP

ROTTING WOOD TURNING AUSTRIA'S POOREST TOWN INTO GREEN MODEL

GUESSING: Broke, remote and deprived of jobs-just 25 years ago, the border town of Guessing close to Hungary was one of the poorest in Austria, a forgotten frontier along the Iron Curtain trail. Yet today, the municipality of 4,000 people has morphed into a global flagship model for green energy, after becoming the first community in the European Union to produce all its heat and power from renewable sources back in 2001.

Latest figures show the town is already 80 percent carbon neutral, a clear frontrunner in the bloc's race for reducing C02 emissions. "The whole world should become Guessing," enthused Austria's most famous green advocate, Arnold Schwarzenegger, during a visit two years ago. In many ways, it all began with a "pile of rotting wood", said engineer Reinhold Koch, one of the masterminds behind the dramatic transformation. While Guessing lacked a motorway and train lines, there was one thing it had in abundance: forests and therefore timber leftovers from logging companies.

"A major reason why we were so poor in the early 1990s was because we spent millions on buying foreign fossil fuels, while wood offcuts were decaying on the ground," Koch said in an interview ahead of crunch climate change talks in Paris. "I realized that the solution was right in front of our eyes. We could produce our own energy and thereby keep the money here." This, Koch hoped, would also put an end to the mass exodus Guessing was facing at the time. Some 70 percent of the region's 27,000 inhabitants were forced to commute to the capital Vienna for work as a consequence of having been cut off from industrial development for several decades. "I wanted to stop Guessing from dying," said Koch, matter-offactly.

Digging up the town

The engineer found a willing ear in Guessing's then-mayor, Peter Vadasz, a conservative politician known for his environmental commitment. Together, the pair set about implementing an ambitious green transition plan. Firstly, all public buildings were thermally insulated and stopped using fossil fuels-a move that would halve local government spending on energy. Austria's EU accession in 1995 enabled Guessing to

obtain subsidies and build a wood burning heating plant. This proved a crucial first step toward reviving the region's stagnant economy, as Guessing was suddenly able to offer companies attractive deals.

By producing our own energy, we decentralized power and brought it back to our region," said Vadasz. "My first question to potential new businesses was always: 'How many jobs can you create?" But the switch also meant adapting existing infrastructure and convincing locals to abandon fossil fuels. Authorities began digging up the town's streets one by one. "If 50 percent living on a street wanted to join, we would lay the pipes in the remaining homes too, in case they wanted to join later-and they eventually did," recalled Vadasz. "Green energy had a competitive market price and our best publicity was word-of-mouth, neighbors telling other neighbors that they weren't paying more."

From zero to hero

The real breakthrough, however, came in 2001 when Guessing launched a pioneering biomass plant with the help of Viennese scientist Hermann Hofbauer. The expert had created a system able to produce power by turning wood into a clean gas instead of burning it, thereby strongly reducing CO2 emissions. The innovative technology would not only achieve Guessing's dream of green autarky, but also propelled it to global fame. "It can produce clean energy in any region in the world, as long as it has natural resources," explained Koch. Today the giant metal construction, which also serves as a research facility, supplies nearly half of Guessing's heat, with the rest provided by other green sources.

Much of the biomass plant's wood comes from Austria's two largest parquet flooring firms which are among 50 new companies to have settled in Guessing in recent years-despite there still not being a motorway or train lines. The success story also had a knock-on effect, with some 20 power plants now producing renewable energy for the entire region. "Experts call Guessing the mecca of renewable energy and say you have to make the pilgrimage at least once in your lifetime to see for yourself that this kind of thing is possible," said Koch, smiling. —AFP

WHY US GOVERNMENT AND TECH CAN'T AGREE ABOUT ENCRYPTION

Uncle Sam uncomfortable as Phone Privacy Gets Better

NEW YORK: Your phone is getting better and better at protecting your privacy. But Uncle Sam isn't totally comfortable with that, because it's also complicating the work of tracking criminals and potential national-security threats. For decades, tech companies have steadily expanded the use of encryption - a data-scrambling technology that shields information from prying eyes, whether it's sent over the Internet or stored on phones and computers. For almost as long, police and intelligence agencies have sought to poke holes in the security technology, which can thwart investigators even when they have a legal warrant for, say, possibly incriminating text messages stored on a phone.

The authorities haven't fared well; strong encryption now keeps strangers out of everything from your iMessages to app data stored on the latest Android phones. But in the wake of the Paris attacks, US officials are again pushing for limits on encryption, even though there's still no evidence the extremists used it to safeguard their communications. While various experts are exploring ways of resolving the impasse, none are making much headway. For now, the status quo favors civil libertarians and the tech industry, although that could change quickly for instance, should another attack lead to mass US casualties.

Such a scenario could stampede Congress into passing hasty and potentially counterproductive restrictions on encryption. "There are completely reasonable concerns on both sides," said Yeshiva University law professor Deborah Pearlstein. The aftermath of an attack, however, "is the least practical time to have a rational discussion about these issues." Encryption plays a little heralded, yet crucial role in the modern economy and daily life. It protects everything from corporate secrets to the credit-card numbers of online shoppers to the communications of democracy advocates fighting totalitarian regimes.

At the same time, recent decisions by Apple and Google to encrypt smartphone data by default have rankled law enforcement officials, who complain of growing difficulty in getting access to the data they feel they need to build criminal cases and prevent attacks. For months, the Obama administration - which has steered away from legislative restrictions on encryption has been in talks with technology companies to brainstorm ways of giving investigators legal access to encrypted information.

But technology experts and their allies say there's no way to grant law enforcement such access without mak-

ing everyone more vulnerable to cybercriminals and identity thieves. "It would put American bank accounts and their health records, and their phones, at a huge risk to hackers and foreign criminals and spies, while at the same time doing little or nothing to stop terrorists," Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore, said in an interview Monday.

Lawmakers on the US Senate Select Committee on Intelligence remain on what they call an "exploratory" search for options that might expand access for law enforcement, although they're not necessarily looking at new legislation. The FBI and police have other

founder of the Baltimore, Marylandbased data security firm Terbium Labs, noted that police have managed to take down online criminals even without bypassing encryption. He pointed to the 2013 take down of Silk Road, a massive online drug bazaar that operated on the "dark Web," essentially the underworld of the Internet.

"The way they figured that out was through good old-fashioned police work, not by breaking cryptography," Moore said. "I don't think there's a shortcut to good police work in that regard." Others argue that the very notion of "compromise" makes no

unlock for government searches - in essence, forcing them to hold the keys to user data. In a report on the subject, the office called its suggestion a "limited proposal" that would only apply to data stored on smartphones and restrict searches to devices that authorities had already seized. Privacy advocates and tech companies aren't sold, saying it would weaken security for phones that are already too vulnerable to attack.

Marcus Thomas, the chief technology officer at Subsentio and former assistant director of the FBI's operational technology division, argued that



NEW YORK: A C3 flip phone from Pantech is shown on a keyboard for size comparison, in New York. More than 90 percent of smartphone users trade up for newer models within two years, according to experts. But a fraction of the population continues to cling to older phones, some 3 to 4 years old, or more. —AP

options even if they can't read encrypted files and messages. So-called metadata - basically, a record of everyone an individual contacts via phone, email or text message - isn't encrypted, and service providers can make it available when served with subpoenas.

Data stored on remote computers in the cloud - for instance, on Apple's iCloud service or Google's Drive - is also often available to investigators with search warrants. (Apple and Google encrypt that data, but also hold the keys.) Some security experts suggest that should be enough. Michael Moore, chief technology officer and co-

sense where encryption is concerned. "Encryption fundamentally is about math," said Mike McNerney, a fellow on the Truman National Security Project and a former cyber policy adviser to the Secretary of Defense. "How do you compromise on math?" He called the idea of backdoors "silly."

'Race against time'

Some in law enforcement have compromise ideas of their own. The Manhattan District Attorney's office, for instance, recently called for a federal law that would require smartphone companies to sell phones they could

it's too late to turn back the clock on strong encryption, putting law enforcement in a "race against time" to obtain investigatory data whenever and wherever it can. But he urged security experts to find ways to help out investigators as they design next generation encryption systems. The idea of allowing law enforcement secure access to encrypted information doesn't faze Nate Cardozo, a staff attorney for the San Francisco-based Electronic Frontier Foundation - provided a warrant is involved. Unfortunately, he says, cryptographers agree that the prospect is a "pure fantasy." — AP

BETTER BATTERIES TO BEAT GLOBAL WARMING: A RACE AGAINST TIME

WASHINGTON: One of the key technologies that could help wean the globe off fossil fuel is probably at your fingertips or in your pocket right now: the battery. If batteries can get better, cheaper and store more power safely, then electric cars and solar- or wind- powered homes become more viable - even on cloudy days or when the wind isn't blowing. These types of technological solutions will be one of the more hopeful aspects of United Nations climate talks that begin next week in Paris.

"If you are serious about eliminating combustion of fossil fuels to power anything - a house, a city, a state - you can't do it without (energy) storage," which usually means batteries, said Carnegie Mellon University battery expert and inventor Jay Whitacre. Former Vice President Al Gore, former US Geological Survey chief (and current editor-in-chief of the journal Science) Marcia McNutt and others point to better batteries as one of the bright spots in the fight against climate change. While batteries have been around for more than 200 years, this year the technology has amped up.

In October, an international team of scientists announced a breakthrough in overcoming major obstacles in next generation energy storage and creating a battery that has five to 10 times the energy density of the best batteries on the market now. In September, Whitacre won a \$500,000 invention prize for his eco-friendly water-oriented battery. And in April, Elon Musk announced plans for his Tesla Motors to sell high-tech batteries for homes with solar panels to store electricity for night time and cloudy day

use, weaning the homes off dirtier power from the burning of coal, oil and gas.

"The pace of innovation does seem to be accelerating," said JB Straubel, chief technical officer and co-founder of Tesla with Musk. "We're kind of right at the tipping point where the current performance and lifetime of batteries roughly equal that of fossil fuels. If you are able to double that, the prospects are huge." At its massive Nevada Gigafactory, Tesla has started producing powerwalls to store energy in homes. They can't make them fast enough for customers worldwide.

In November, a Texas utility announced it was giving wind-generated electricity free to customers at night because it couldn't be stored. That's where Tesla hopes to come in - not just in cars, but in homes. Within 10 years, Straubel figures it will be considerably cheaper (and cleaner) to get energy through wind and solar power and store it with batteries than to use coal, oil or gas.

"What has changed is the Gigafactory," said Venkat Srinivasan, deputy director of the Joint Center for Energy Storage Research at the Lawrence Berkeley National Lab. "Two years ago I didn't think anyone would have thought you'd invest \$5 billion in a big (battery) factory." Tesla is using existing technology, just mass producing and marketing it. That's one of two key changes in the field. The other is work to make the battery itself much more efficient.

Start with that lithium ion battery in your pocket. It was invented by John Goodenough, a professor at the University of Texas. His next task is a safer battery that uses sodium, a more plen-

tiful element that can produce a faster charge. "Now I hope to help free yourself from your dependence on fossil fuels," he said on the same October day he was awarded part of a \$1 million innovation-in-alternative-fuels prize from Israel. "I believe in the next year there will be a breakthrough," he said. "I'm hopeful, but we're not there yet." Glenn Amatucci, director of the energy storage research group at Rutgers University, called it "a race against time. Every day and every hour is critical in terms of getting an advance."

But Goodenough is in a special hurry, working more than eight hours a day on his battery: He's 93. There are many teams around the world working on breakthrough batteries of different types. One of the most promising materials is lithium oxygen, which theoretically could store five to 10 times the energy of a lithium ion battery, but there have been all sorts of roadblocks that made it very inefficient. Then, last month a team led by Clare Grey at the University of Cambridge announced in the journal Science that they had, on a small scale, overcome one obstacle so that its efficiency could compete with lithium ion batteries.

The potential gains in this technology are high, but it is still at least seven to 10 years from commercial availability, Grey said. At Carnegie Mellon and Aquion Energy, Whitacre is honing a water-oriented battery with sodium and carbon. Others are looking at magnesium. Tesla's Straubel sees all sorts of different battery possibilities. "It's an ongoing revolution," Straubel said. "It's a critical piece in the whole puzzle in how we stop burning fossil fuels completely." —AP

GOLD LEVEL, GOLD EDUCATION PARTNER CERTIFICATIONS JWAIT: Gulfnet Communications, one of es in offering valuable support for data in

GULFNET ACHIEVES MICROSOFT

KUWAIT: Gulfnet Communications, one of Kuwait's leading technology providers, said yesterday that it has successfully achieved the renowned Microsoft Gold Level Partnership and the Gold Education Partner certifications. Earning these accolades demonstrates



Gulfnet's CEO Dr Ahmad

Gulfnet's best in-class ability and commitment to meet customers' evolving needs in today's dynamic business environment. By becoming Microsoft's Gold Certified Partner, Gulfnet is now recognized as Microsoft's most highly accredited independent technical support provider in Kuwait.

ovider in Kuwait.

The company has provided utmost servic-

es in offering valuable support for data management and software development, in addition to using Microsoft's technology as the primary platform for the company. Attaining the Gold Level Education Partnership certification positions Gulfnet as an authorized company to sell Microsoft products at academic prices to qualified educational users. This also allows Gulfnet to deliver world-class learning experiences while achieving effective sales and business outcomes.

Dr Ahmad Salih Gulfnet's Chief Executive Officer commented on this achievement, saying: "We are very proud of our latest accomplishment and recognitions by one of the world's leading software giants. The Gold Level achievement identifies Gulfnet as a true thought and market-leader, attesting depth of knowledge and expertise. To attain this milestone, our teams have conducted several exams, while providing customer reference and maintaining certified devices and applications." The Microsoft Partner Network helps partners strengthen their capabilities to showcase leadership in the marketplace on the latest technology, in order to better serve customers and to easily connect with one of the most active, diverse networks in the world.

OIL COUNTRIES ONLY SLOWLY WARMING TO CLIMATE CHALLENGE

PARIS: Global oil producers, who provide the world with much of the fossil fuel that causes global warming, are in no hurry to brighten up their own image as climate dinosaurs. Some Gulf countries have timidly started investing in renewable energy, but experts say the initiatives are just a tiny crack in producers' otherwise solid front of indifference to climate change.

"So far exporting countries, especially Gulf countries, have done everything to make any progress on international climate agreements difficult," said Patrick Criqui, an energy expert.

Major oil exporters are getting bad

press for topping the list of per capita greenhouse gas emissions, but they usually just shrug off the bad rap. They say "don't point the finger at us too much because we produce the hydrocarbons that are used the world over", observed Francis Perrin, president of Strategy and Energy Policy publications.

Some are, however, starting to "smooth the edges," in the face of global mobilisation for the environment, he said. But slowly.

FNH, a foundation run by French environmental activist Nicolas Hulot, said Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates had never put a number on

greenhouse gas reduction targets, and Venezuela, Nigeria and Angola had failed to formulate any kind of commitment at all. Russia meanwhile has just said it expects its emissions to remain steady.

"Overall and unsurprisingly, oil-producing countries make minimal commitments, or none at all," FNH said. It is true that dependence on oil income, which accounts for 96 percent of exports for Venezuela and 70 percent of government revenue for Nigeria, makes the search for alternatives a hard sell.

What's more, half of OPEC's members are developing countries that are finding it hard to absorb the serious squeeze on

their budgets due to sharply lower oil prices, and don't want to, or can't, shell out on cost-intensive green investment.

Countries like Algeria, which hopes to cover over a quarter of its energy needs with renewables within 15 years, demands financial aid from developed countries before going seriously green.

"For them, like for all developing countries, the fight against poverty and access to energy are the priorities and will remain so for a long time," Perrin said.

But Gulf countries, still comfortably off despite cutbacks, are starting to look at alternatives, including nuclear options for Abu Dhabi and Saudi Arabia, and gas, which emits far less CO2 than oil.

The United Arab Emirates are turning to solar energy, with an ambitious sustainable urban project, Masdar City, and Shams-1, the world's biggest concentrating solar power centre.

And Saudi Arabia is the first country in the Middle East to have launched a carbon capture and stocking scheme. But any sense of urgency is undermined by projections suggesting that fossil fuels including oil will remain king over the next decades. Fossil fuels, experts predict, will still cover three quarters of the world's energy needs 25 years from

MANY HEALTH IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

PARIS: Medical experts say climate change said. Climate change will also lead to affects human health in direct ways, by the spread of water- and mosquito-borne diseases for example, and indirectly, such as through hunger. Here is a snapshot of the problem.

Thousands more dead

Between 2030 and 2050, climate change could result in nearly 250,000 deaths per yearan estimated 38,000 from high temperatures, 48,000 deaths from diarrhoea, 60,000 from malaria and 95,000 from malnutrition, according to the World Health Organization (WHO).

By 2030, the direct damage costs to health will be a whopping two to four billion US dollars (1.9 to 3.8 billion euros) per year, according to the WHO.

Cause and effect

Patrice Halimi, the secretary general of France's environmental health association, said it is a multi-faceted issue. "Like any other slow-onset disaster, there is not one cause that leads to one effect," he said. "It's a series of

Halimi said it is not necessarily global warming itself that would lead to a cholera epidemic, but warmer temperatures conducive to deadly outbreaks. Robert Barouki of the French National Institute of Health and Medical Research said that the real difficulty lies in "measuring the part that global warming plays in health issues."

Direct links

Scorching temperatures can cause cardiovascular and respiratory problems, especially in elderly people. "There have always been heatwaves, but their frequency and intensity have increased," Barouki said.

During the widespread 2003 heatwave in Europe, more than 70,000 deaths were recorded. And with more sunlight comes more UV-related risks, like skin cancer, Barouki

increased deaths from natural disasters such as floods and hurricanes.

Weather-related disasters have tripled since the 1960s, WHO says, adding that "every year, these disasters result in over 60,000 deaths, mainly in developing countries."

Infectious diseases

Halimi says global warming will facilitate the spread of infectious diseases which depend on carriers such as mosquitoes. WHO said that climate change is likely to lengthen the transmission seasons of these "vectorborne" diseases-which are spread by a vector, or carrier-and to alter their geographic range. Malaria already kills around 800,000 people per year, according to WHO.

Mosquitoes also spread the deadly dengue fever, and some studies suggest that global warming could lead to two billion more people being at risk from the disease by

The UN agency estimates that China will see an increase in a disease called Schistosomiasis, spread by snails in many underdeveloped regions. Some 240 million people worldwide already suffer from

Pollution and asthma

Bruno Housset, head of the French Federation of Pneumology, says an increase in forest fires caused by global warming, especially in the north, would result in more fine particles in the air. These particles are capable of penetrating deep into the lungs and can lead to lung cancer and asthma. Around 300 million people suffer from asthma worldwide, and WHO says the "ongoing temperature increases are expected to increase this burden." Warmer temperatures will also likely help allergy-inducing plants multiply, with Europe's pollen concentration expected to swell fourfold by 2050. — AFP



MANILA: Protesters attend a climate change march on a highway in Manila yesterday. Thousands turned out for climate change marches in Manila and Brisbane yesterday, part of a weekend of action across the globe to demand results from next week's historic Paris summit. — AFP

THOUSANDS MARCH ON CLIMATE CHANGE IN MANILA, BRISBANE

MANILA: Thousands turned out for climate change marches in Manila and Brisbane yesterday, part of a weekend of action across the globe to demand results from next week's historic Paris summit. Religious clergy, students and activists marched through the Philippine capital calling for curbs on emissions to mute the impact of climate change, which is blamed for a spike in typhoons and extreme weather that has wreaked havoc on the nation.

The march, attended by more than 2,500 people according to police and expected to build throughout the day, was one of a number of events scheduled in different parts of the country. The Philippines has been identified as one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change. "Protect our common home," and "climate justice," were written on the placards held aloft by the surging crowd. "We want to send a message to the rest of the world, especially the world leaders at the climate talks, to say that our survival is not negotiable," said Denise Fontanilla, spokeswoman for the Asian People's Movement on Debt and Development.

Under heightened security two weeks after France's worst terror attack, some 150 heads of state and government will tomorrow launch a highly anticipated UN conference tasked with inking a post-2020 195-nation climate rescue pact. In Australia, where Melbourne on Friday kicked off the weekend rallies, some 5,000 people gathered in the northeastern city of Brisbane for a march led by Aboriginal and Pacific islander representatives and youth groups. "We are walking together because we know what it's like to protect our country," said Larissa Baldwin, from an indigenous climate youth network. Pacific islands are particularly at risk from the fallout of climate change, especially rising sea

Clean energy

"These are people that are calling for a just transition to renewable energy," Baldwin told AFP. Senator Larissa Waters from the Greens party said the turnout, after tens of thousands marched in Melbourne, showed the strength of opposition to plans to develop more of Australia's vast coal deposits. "They don't want new coal mines, they don't want massive land clearing, they actually want the environmental protection and job opportunities that comes from embracing clean energy," Waters told national television. Organisers in Paris expect hundreds of thousands to take to the streets Saturday in Asian cities as well as Johannesburg and Edinburgh, with similar events set for Sunday in Seoul, Rio de Janeiro, New York and Mexico City. In Paris, French authorities cancelled two rallies following the onslaught by gunmen and suicide bombers which killed 130 people at restaurant terraces, a concert hall and the national stadium on November 13. Activists now plan to create a two-kilometre (1.2-mile) human chain along the original march route on Sunday. They will break the chain as they pass the Bataclan concert hall, where the worst violence claimed 90 lives, as a mark of respect to the victims. The goal of the Paris talks is to limit average global warming to two degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit) over pre-Industrial Revolution levels by curbing fossil fuel emissions blamed for climate change. This week, the UN's weather body said the average global temperature for the year 2015 is set to touch the halfway mark at 1 C. — AFP



PARIS: French President Francois Hollande, center, his Foreign Affairs Minister Laurent Fabius, left, and Ecology Minister Segolene Royal meet with representatives of NGOs specialized in environmental issue at the Elysee Palace in Paris, yesterday. French President Francois Hollande was meeting with environmental groups, pushing for an ambitious global deal to reduce man-made emissions blamed for global warming. — AP

PROTESTERS PUSH LEADERS TO **AVERT CLIMATE CATASTROPHE**

Nations seek new limits on gas emissions from 2020

yesterday demanding leaders craft a pact to avert a climate catastrophe when they gather in a still-shaken Paris. From Australia to New Zealand, the Philippines, Bangladesh and Japan, people rallied at the start of a weekend of popular protests pleading for world powers to overcome the logjams when the UN climate summit officially opens in the French capital tomorrow.

"Protect our common home" declared placards held aloft as thousands gathered in Melbourne. Some 150 leaders including US President Barack Obama, China's Xi Jinping, India's Narendra Modi and Russian President Vladimir Putin will attend the start of the Paris conference, which is tasked with reaching the first truly universal climate pact.

The goal is to limit average global warming to two degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit), perhaps less, over pre-Industrial Revolution levels by curbing fossil fuel emissions blamed for climate change.

Superstorms, drought

If they fail to do so, scientists warn of a world that will be increasingly inhospitable to human life, with superstorms, drought, and rising sea levels that swamp vast areas of land. On the eve ofyesterday's protests, French President François Hollande, host of the November 30-December 11 talks, warned of the obstacles ahead for the 195 nations seeking new limits on heat-trapping gas emissions from 2020.

"Man is the worst enemy of man. We can see it with terrorism," said Hollande, who spoke after leading ceremonies in Paris to mourn the victims of the November 13 bombing and shooting attacks that sowed terror in the French capital. "But we can say the same when it comes to climate. Human beings are destroying nature, damaging the environment. It is therefore for human

PARIS: Protesters joined a worldwide wave of marches beings to face up to their responsibilities for the good November 13. French authorities placed 24 climate of future generations."

The French leader called for "a binding agreement, a powers declared after the Paris attacks. universal agreement, one that is ambitious:

But he also spoke of fears that a handful countrieswhich he did not name-may stymie consensus if they felt the deal lacked guarantees. Potential stumbling blocks in Paris abound, ranging from financing for climate-vulnerable countries to scrutiny of commitments to curb greenhouse gases and even the legal status of the accord. The last attempt to forge a global deal-the ill-tempered 2009 Copenhagen summit-foundered upon divisions between rich and poor countries.

"We must do our utmost to avoid the blocking of an agreement because of irreconcilable principles," French Prime Minister Laurent Fabius said in an interview with a handful of international newspapers published yesterday. On a positive note, billions of dollars in environmental aid were revealed Friday.

Human chain after Paris attacks

In Ottawa, the Canadian government announced climate funding of 2.65 billion Canadian dollars (\$1.98 billion. 1.87 billion euros) over the next five years, while the 53-nation Commonwealth bloc agreed to set up a billion-dollar "Green Finance Facility" for environmental projects. Protest organisers say they expect hundreds of thousands of people to take to the streets overall this weekend with further rallies planned in Johannesburg and Edinburgh Saturday, while similar events were set for Sunday in Seoul, Rio de Janeiro, New York and

In Paris, French authorities cancelled two demonstrations following the onslaught by gunmen and suicide bombers which killed 130 people at restaurant terraces, a concert hall and the national stadium on activists under house arrest using state of emergency

Activists now plan to create a two-kilometre (1.2mile) human chain along the original march route on Sunday. They will break the chain as they pass the Bataclan concert hall, where the worst violence claimed 90 lives, as a mark of respect to the victims.

Protesters also plan to leave scores of shoes on Place de la Republique square to symbolise the thousands left frustrated in their plans to march.

One pair of shoes will be placed on behalf of Pope Francis, inscribed with his name and the name of the Papal encyclical he issued earlier this on the threat of global warming.

Around the world, protesters declared their solidarity with Paris activists who were unable to rally with a social media campaign tagged #march4me.

In a sign of the urgency of the talks ahead, the start of the climate negotiations themselves, conducted by rank-and-file bureaucrats, have been brought forward to Sunday on the eve of the official opening. The Paris conference will gather some 40,000 people, including 10.000 delegates from 195 countries, plus journalists, observers, scientists, exhibitors and visitors.

About 2,800 police and soldiers will secure the conference site, and 6,300 others will deploy in Paris.

Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve said nearly 1,000 people thought to pose security risks have been denied entry into France since stepped-up border controls were imposed ahead of the climate talks.

Obama has urged world leaders not to let a recent string of extremist attacks around the world deter them from coming to Paris, where questions of world security are likely to intermingle with climate on the conference agenda. — AFP



DHAKA: Bangladesh people attend a Climate March rally expressing solidarity with Global Climate March, in Dhaka yesterday. Today, hours before world leaders meet at the Paris Climate Summit, the Global Climate March will take place to ask political leaders to commit to bold action to solve the climate change crisis. — AFP

US ABORTIONS CONTINUE TO DECLINE, DOWN 4% IN 2012

NEW YORK: US abortions continue to fall, according to a new federal report released. Federal statistics show abortions have been in a general decline for about 25 years. The number of reported abortions dropped 4 percent in 2012, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported. About 699,000

NEW YORK: US abortions continue to abortions were reported to the federal fall, according to a new federal report government that year.

That's about 31,000 fewer than the year before. Experts offer various reasons for the recent drop: Better use of birth control and the lingering effects of the economic recession. Others argue there's been a cultural shift and

more women opt to continue their pregnancy.

In 2012, the abortion rate fell 5 percent to 13 abortions per 1,000 women of child-bearing age. That is about half what it was in 1974, the year after the landmark Supreme Court decision that established a nationwide right to

abortion.

The CDC data is not a complete national picture. It's based on reports from health departments in 47 states, Washington and New York City. California, Maryland and New Hampshire don't report abortion

Earlier this year, The Associated Press surveyed health departments in 45 states, gathering more recent data, mostly from 2013 and 2014. The AP found that abortions continued to fall in those years. Declines were seen in states that have passed anti-abortion laws as well as in more liberal states.— AP



SEATTLE: In this Tuesday, Nov 24, 2015, file photo, cars fill the parking lot of a Costco store in Seattle. A California farm is recalling a vegetable mix believed to be the source of E.coli in Costco chicken salad that has been linked to an outbreak that has sickened several people in multiple states, the Food and Drug Administration said Thursday. — AP

FDA TESTS POINT TOWARD E COLI IN SALAD VEGETABLES

SEATTLE: Testing has pointed toward a vegetable mix from a California food wholesaler as the source of E. coli in Costco chicken salad that has been linked to an outbreak that has sickened 19 people in seven states, a Costco official said Wednesday.

Craig Wilson, Costco vice president of food safety and quality assurance, said he was told by the Food and Drug Administration that the strain of E. coli seems to be connected to an onion and celery mix. The company uses one supplier for those vegetables in the chicken salad sold in all its US stores, Wilson said. One additional test is needed to confirm that the vegetables carried the same E. coli strain connected with the outbreak, he said. Wilson identified the supplier as Taylor Farms in Salinas, California. Phone calls to the company did not get answered on Wednesday afternoon. A message left with the FDA was not immediately returned.

The number of people sickened in the outbreak will likely grow over the next few weeks, even though the product has been removed from store shelves, the federal Centers for Disease Control and prevention said earlier in the day.

The spread of foodborne illness takes time to track, especially when it's happening in multiple states, said Dr. Robert Tauxe, deputy director of the CDC's Division of Foodborne, Waterborne and Environmental Diseases.

State health officials, particularly those in Utah, discovered the outbreak and helped find links between the 19 illnesses in seven states, Tauxe said. "Very quickly they noticed these people did have something in common. They really liked and ate the rotisserie chicken salad," he said.

The big-box retailer based in Issaquah, Washington, pulled the chicken salad off store shelves nationwide, posted signs in its stores and provided detailed purchase logs to the CDC to help it track who bought the product and where the salad ingredients came from, Tauxe said.

Costco is working closely with the CDC, FDA and local health officials to find the source of the E. coli and has encouraged its suppliers to do the same, Wilson said. "We feel terrible about the people who got sick," he said. The strain of Shiga toxin-producing E. coli can be life-threatening, but no deaths

have been reported. Five people have been hospitalized, including two with kidney failure. The CDC has been told they are all getting better, Tauxe said.

The CDC has identified a DNA fingerprint of the E. coli strain connecting all 19 patients. As health departments get more reports of foodborne illness, additional people will be checked for the fingerprint and the case count will likely rise, Tauxe said.

"All the evidence that we have points to this chicken salad," he said. Tauxe emphasized that the agency does not have any evidence that other Costco food was contaminated. Wilson said chickens have not been connected to the outbreak, and no other Costco products use the same other ingredients found in the chicken salad.

"We're pretty confident the path that everyone seems to be on is correct," he said. Investigators were testing food removed from the stores, including chicken salad and other products, and talking to those who have gotten sick. All but two have reported eating the chicken salad made and sold by the retailer. Six people got sick in Montana, five in Utah, four in Colorado, and one each in California, Missouri, Virginia and Washington state. The CDC said the illness reports began on Oct. 6 and involved people from age 5 to 84.

Health officials urged people who bought chicken salad at any US Costco store on or before Nov. 20 to throw it away, even if no one has gotten sick. The Costco-linked illnesses are not related to a recent E. coli outbreak tied to Chipotle that sickened more than 40 people. Chipotle voluntarily closed 43 restaurants in Washington and Oregon and reopened them after deep cleaning and ordering new ingredients.

Tauxe said both investigations are ongoing and he hopes they will eventually find the exact cause of both outbreaks. "I think we're going to learn something important from both ultimately," he said. Symptoms of E. coli infection include diarrhea, abdominal cramps, nausea and vomiting. The incubation period is three to seven days from the time of exposure.

Health officials urge anyone with the symptoms, especially people who have eaten Costco chicken salad, to go to their doctor. — AP

AGENCY NOT DOING ENOUGH AGAINST DENGUE FEVER

PROGRAM TO EDUCATE PEOPLE ABOUT THE ILLNESS

HONOLULU: Hawaii state Sen. Russell Ruderman worries whenever there's a mosquito buzzing in his home. Until recently, he didn't give the common pests much thought, but now his wife is six months pregnant and there's a growing dengue fever outbreak on the Big Island, where they live.

"It could threaten her pregnancy, as well as her health," he said of the mosquito-borne illness. The state Department of Health says there were 107 confirmed cases of dengue fever on the Big Island as of Thursday.

It says it's working with the county to spray 155 properties, including schools, and has started an outreach program to educate people about the illness. In addition, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is sending an entomologist and a technician to the Big Island next week to further assess the situation.

However, Ruderman and other Big Island lawmakers say the department is downplaying the problem. "They are not warning people appropriately," said state Rep. Richard Creagan, a non-practicing physician. "It's not a little outbreak now. It's a big outbreak."

Creagan said he wants state health officials to encourage voluntary isolation of people who are infected, be more aggressive about trapping mosquitoes, and warn pregnant women who could suffer complications. Symptoms of dengue fever include high fever, headache, nausea, muscle aches, bone and joint pain and rash. There's no specific treatment, but bed rest and acetaminophen for fever and pain are recommended.

Symptoms usually go away completely within 2 weeks. The illness is not endemic to Hawaii but can be spread by mosquitoes that bite infected travelers from endemic areas. Dr. Lyle Petersen, the director of the CDC's Division of Vector-Borne Diseases who will be on the island next week, previously said the outbreak isn't huge compared to other parts of the

"The level of alarm is a little higher than it needs to be," added state Health Director Dr Ginny Pressler. "We're trying to raise awareness. We're not trying to raise fear." The department received an emergency appropriation of up to \$75,000 to hire public relations firm Bennet Group Strategic Communications to help with communications efforts. The firm created the department's "Fight the Bite" campaign to educate people about ways to control mosquitoes.

Mosquito-breeding areas

The same company was hired to help with a 2001 outbreak that lasted more

than eight months, with 92 cases on Maui, 26 on Oahu and four on Kauai. "Why don't they spend one-tenth of that PR money on medical response?" Ruderman asked. "Don't worry, they're telling us, but there's no one here on the Big Island who isn't worrying."

Stores are selling lots of bug spray, but residents generally aren't changing their attire in light of the outbreak. Many are still wearing shorts and T-shirts instead of long sleeves and pants, as health officials recommend. There's concern the outbreak will hurt the tourism industry, but officials say they have not seen significant visitor cancelations.

At the Sheraton Kona Resort & Spa at Keauhou Bay, grounds maintenance and landscape workers are taking extra measures to clear standing water that can serve as mosquito-breeding areas, said spokeswoman Katie Vanes. "Our associates are prepared to speak with concerned guests, but we have not received a significant or frequent amount of inquiries," she said.

Kirstin Kahaloa, executive director of the Kona-Kohala Chamber of Commerce, hopes tourists aren't nervous about visiting the Big Island. "It's still a safe place to visit as long as you're following CDC recommendations to be careful," she said. "We're here and we're OK. We're taking precautions." — AP

EPA MOVES TO WITHDRAW APPROVAL OF CONTROVERSIAL WEED KILLER

WASHINGTON: The Environmental Protection Agency is taking steps to withdraw approval of a controversial new weed killer to be used on genetically modified corn and soybeans. The EPA announced in a court filing that it had received new information from manufacturer Dow AgroSciences that a weed killer called Enlist Duo is probably more toxic to other plants than previously thought.

In a filing with the 9th US Circuit Court of Appeals, EPA said it "might not have issued the existing registration had it been aware" of the new information when it originally approved the product a year ago to be used with new strains of genetically modified corn and soybeans. EPA asked the court for the authority to reverse its decision while it reconsiders the herbicide in light of the new information, including whether wider buffer zones might be required to protect nontarget plants.

The seeds are engineered to resist the herbicide, so farmers can spray the fields after the plants emerge and kill the weeds while leaving crops unharmed. EPA's move was welcomed by environ-

mental and food safety groups that had sued to rescind approval of the potent new herbicide. But it is sure to create anxiety for the agriculture industry, since many weeds have become resistant to glyphosate, an herbicide commonly used on genetically modified corn and soybeans now. Enlist includes a combination of glyphosate and an updated version of an older herbicide named 2,4-D.

"With this action, EPA confirms the toxic nature of this lethal cocktail of chemicals, and has stepped back from the brink," said Earthjustice Managing Attorney Paul Achitoff. "Glyphosate is a probable carcinogen and is wiping out the monarch butterfly, 2,4-D also causes serious human health effects, and the combination also threatens endangered wildlife. This must not, and will not, be how we grow our food."

Dow AgroSciences issued a statement calling for rapid resolution of the matter, citing "the pressing needs of US farmers for access to Enlist Duo to counter the rapidly increasing spread of resistant weeds" and predicting that "these new evaluations will result in a prompt resolution of all outstanding issues."

EPA's decision means that Enlist Duo, which is currently on the market, won't be in wide use for plantings next spring. EPA hasn't said whether farmers already in possession of the herbicide will be able to use it, and that could be a topic for future litigation, said Andrew Kimbrell of the Center for Food Safety.

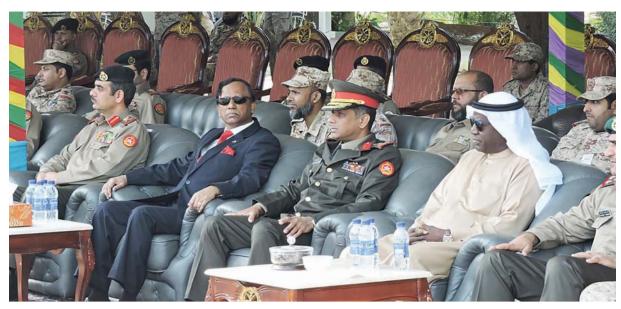
Critics say they're concerned the increased use of 2,4-D could endanger public health and more study on the chemical is needed. The USDA has predicted that the use of 2,4-D could increase by an estimated 200 percent to 600 percent by the year 2020.

EPA had earlier said when approving the new weed killer that agency officials had used "highly conservative and protective assumptions to evaluate human health and ecological risks." The EPA said at the time that the herbicide met safety standards for the public, agricultural workers and endangered species. Now, EPA says it has "has received new information from Dow AgroSciences - the registrant of Enlist Duo - that suggests two active ingredients could result in greater toxicity to non-target plants." — AP



Kuwait 📤 Times 248 33 199











AMBASSADOR LAUDS KUWAIT-BANGLADESH RELATION AS HISTORIC, OUTSTANDING

Celebration of Bangladesh Armed Forces Day-2015

n the occasion the Armed Forces Day-2015, The Ambassador of Bangladesh Major General Ashab Uddin, ndc, psc (Retd) and Major General Bader Ahmed Al Awadhi, Chief of Military Inspection of Kuwait Armed Forces lauded very highly the relation between both countries' Armed Forces as historic and outstanding. They had been speaking on the occasion, the reception hosted by the Defence Wing of Bangladesh Embassy in Crowne Plaza hotel and program organized by the Bangladesh Military Contingent (BMC) separately on 22 November 2015.

The Ambassador mentioned that Kuwait and Bangaldesh are strategic partners in different fields including military. The relations and bondage between the two countries are inseparable and historically connected. Bangladesh Armed Forces has participated in Operation Desert Storm along with the Allied Forces in 1990/91. Bangladesh Army supporting Kuwait in different fields like mine clearance, explosive disposal, medical, maintenance and service support since 1991. The friendship is deep rooted through supreme sacrifices of 71 Bangladeshi soldiers during

liberation and reconstruction phase of Kuwait. The Ambassador expressed the thanks and deep gratitude to HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the Prime Minister HH Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Defense Minister Lieutenant General (Retd) Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah, Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Mohammad K Al-Khadher on the occasion of Armed Forces Day

Major General Bader also lauded and

praised the contribution made by Bangladeshi Armed Personnel in liberating Kuwait and supporting them thereafter.

Bangladesh is one of the largest troops contributing in UN Peace Keeping Operations 15 different countries. So far, Bangladesh Armed Forces have participated in 54 missions abroad and 1,35,384 including 1011 female peacekeepers have participated for establishing global peace.

The Ambassador further expressed with great respect and honor the Father of the nation Bangubandhu Sheikh Mujibur

Rahman, valiant soldiers, man, woman in war of Independence of Bangaldesh and particularly from Armed Forced who sacrificed their lives. Remembered the great contribution of soldiers who sacrificed their lives for Kuwait and UN Peace Keeping Missions in the line of duty.

A good number of Diplomats, Defense attache and military officers of various countries, Officers of Bangladesh Military Contingent and other guest from Kuwait, other countries and Bangladesh Community of Kuwait attended both the events.





SAFIR HOTEL, RESIDENCES FINTAS VISIT DASMAN DIABETES INSTITUTE

afir Hotel and Residences Kuwait - Al Fintas organized a trip to visit Dasman Diabetes institute on the 12 of

November 2015. Hotels' Associates and Managers participated in the visit which included an effective contribution to the Annual Open Day of "World Diabetes Day." The Program of the trip included clinical consultations, valuable information and complimentary medical

testing and screening.

The trip was concluded with a tour in the premises explaining the valuable and important activities and services that the institute provides to public. Safir Hotel and Residences

Kuwait - Al Fintas keen on participating in the social activities that serves the community especially with medical and awareness nature to assist in spreading awareness of such conical disease as diabetes and how to live with it.

General Manager of Safir Hotel and Residences Kuwait - Al Fintas Saif Eddin Mohammed always supports and encourages such activities believing in the important role of the hotel to support building a better community.









SWISS BELHOTEL PLAZA KUWAIT OFFERING JAPANESE, FILIPINO CUISINE AT KOREAN ARIRANG RESTAURANT



xperience the excitement and novelty of Asian cuisine at Arirang, one of the finest Korean restaurants in Kuwait. The decor portrays a rich elegant style with soft lighting, beautiful furnishings in intricate Korean designs and swaths of fabric in red, gold and blue.

Understand the luscious flavors of Korea with several well-known Korean specialty dishes at Arirang, including the Kalbi Gui, beef short ribs marinated in Korean soy sauce and grilled to perfection. Another popular Arirang dish is the Dolsot Bibimbap, warm white rice along with a delicious mix of beef and vegetables, topped with an egg yolk and served in a dolshot (Korean hot pot) along with gochujang (Korean chili paste).

The restaurant's latest menu features

some great offerings that enable guests to sample, in addition to traditional Korean specialties, several new dishes from Philippines and Japanese cuisines. While priding itself on maintaining the authenticity of the different cuisines, Arirang empowers them with distinct fla-

Talented chefs skillfully recreate
Japanese and Filipino culinary delights
with a focus on creativity. Boundaryblurring dishes which derive inspirations
from Japanese and Filipino cuisines are a
unique treat at the restaurant. Most
dishes on the menu retain their original
recipes with emphasis on the healthy
quotient of Asian food, while enriching it
with Arirang's own modern style of culinary experimentation.





Students from Oxford Academy and Manarat School recently visited Kuwait Times where they were taken in tours to learn about the process of making news and printing the newspaper. Adnan Saad, Deputy General Manager, Jamie Etheridge, Managing Editor, and Islam Al-Sharaa, IT Manager gave lectures and important notes to the students. —Photos by Joseph Shagra





















SOUTH AFRICAN EMBASSY HOSTS NELSON MANDELA CRICKET CUP

he South African Embassy in collaboration with Kuwait Cricket, the official governing body of Cricket in the State of Kuwait, will host the 2015 Nelson Mandela Cricket Tournament for youth development. The event will feature young cricketers from various schools in Kuwait and will take place the whole day on 5 December 2015 at the Sulaibiya Cricket Ground.

The Nelson Mandela Cup aims at celebrating and honoring the legacy of former President Nelson Mandela, in line with the objectives of

the Nelson Mandela International Day and in accordance with the United Nations resolutions. It is also held in tribute to His Highness, the Amir of the State of Kuwait, for his recognition by the United Nations as a Global Humanitarian Leader.

Nelson Mandela is considered one of the world's most significant moral and principled leaders. He was instrumental in moving South Africa towards democratic rule and he is internationally revered as an icon in the fight for justice, human rights, racial equality, national reconciliation and nation building. In order to preserve his

visionary and humanitarian legacy, South Africans and the international community celebrate Nelson Mandela Day every year aimed at service delivery and promotion of social justice.

Sports has played an important role in the history of South Africa. The international sports sanctions to isolate the apartheid regime and the utilization of sports by Nelson Mandela to bring about national reconciliation and social cohesion in South Africa's democratic transition remain important milestones in the country's history.

As cricket is one of the fastest developing

sports in Kuwait, the Mandela Cricket Cup will also serve as an inspiration to the upcoming young cricketers and contribute further to the development of cricket amongst Kuwaiti youth. Prominent local companies will be invited to inspire the youth and to display their products through exhibition booths.

School/Club teams interested to participate in the Nelson Mandela Cup should contact the coordinator of Youth Development of Kuwait Cricket, Murali Kutticode at 99542107 or at muralikutticode@gmail.com Kuwait Times

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00:50 Gator Boys

01:45 Call Of The Wildman 02:15 Call Of The Wildman 02:40 Biggest And Baddest 03:35 Tanked 04:25 Austin Stevens

Snakemaster 05:15 Gator Boys 06:02 Treehouse Masters 06:49 Shamwari: A Wild Life

07:12 Shamwari: A Wild Life 07:36 Call Of The Wildman 08:00 Call Of The Wildman 08:25 Dog Rescuers

09:15 Austin Stevens Snakemaster 10:10 Treehouse Masters 11:05 Tanked 12:00 Dog Rescuers

13:50 Biggest And Baddest 14:45 Austin Stevens: Snakemaster 15:40 Treehouse Masters16:35 Tanked

12:55 Bondi Vet

17:30 Shamwari: A Wild Life 17:55 Shamwari: A Wild Life 18:25 Austin Stevens: Snakemaster

19:20 Monster Croc Invasion 20:15 Tanked 21:10 Night

21:35 Night 22:05 Treehouse Masters 23:00 Monster Croc Invasion 23:55 Austin Stevens:

00:20 Fast N' Loud 01:10 Ed Stafford: Into The Unknown 02:00 Boy To Man 02:50 River Monsters 03:40 Auction Hunters

04:05 Garage Gold 04:30 Baggage Battles 05:00 Backvard Oil 05:30 How It's Made 06:00 Alaskan Bush People 06:50 Classic Car Rescue

07:40 Fast N' Loud 08:30 Auction Hunters 08:55 Garage Gold 09:20 Baggage Battles 09:45 Backyard Oil 10:10 How It's Made

10:35 Ed Stafford: Into The Unknown 11:25 Dual Survival 12:15 River Monsters 13:05 Auction Hunters 13:30 Garage Gold

13:55 Baggage Battles 14:20 Alaskan Bush People 15:10 Classic Car Rescue 16:00 Fast N' Loud 16:50 Backyard Oil 17:15 How It's Made

17:40 Troy 18:30 What Happened Next? 18:55 What Happened Next?19:20 Kings Of The Wild

20:10 Garage Gold 20:35 Baggage Battles 21:00 Troy 21:50 Superhuman Science

22:15 Superhuman Science You Have Been Warned 23:30

DISCOVERY

00:40 Strangest Weather On Earth

01:05 Strangest Weather On Earth 01:30 Weird Connections 01:55 Weird Connections You Can't Lick Your Elbow 02:45 You Can't Lick Your Elbow

03:10 What Could Possibly Go Wrong? 04:00 Mythbusters 04:48 NASA's Unexplained Files You Can't Lick Your Elbow 05:59 You Can't Lick Your Elbow

06:24 What Could Possibly Go Wrong? 07:12 Weird Connections 07:36 Weird Connections Strangest Weather On Earth 08:25 Strangest Weather On Earth 08:50 Food Factory

Food Factory 09:40 How It's Made 10:05 How It's Made NASA's Unexplained Files

11:20 Home Factory 11:45 Home Factor 12:10 NASA's Greatest Missions 13:00 Mythbusters 13:50 How It's Made

14:15 How It's Made 14:40 Food Factory 15:05 Food Factory Home Factory 15:55 Home Factory 16:20 NASA's Greatest Missions 17:10 Weird Connections

17:35 Weird Connections 18:00 How It's Made

18:25 How It's Made

food 00:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives 00:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives

01:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives

02:00 Man Finds Food

02:30 Man Finds Food

19:15 Food Factory 19:40 What Could Possibly Go 20:30 NASA's Greatest Missions 21:20 Mythbusters 22:10 NASA's Unexplained Files 23:00 What Could Possibly Go

23:50 NASA's Greatest Missions

18:50 Food Factory

Wrona?

00:00 Violetta

00:45 The Hive

Teenage Witch

Teenage Witch

01:40 Wolfblood

02:05 Wolfblood

02:30 Violetta

03:15 The Hive

Teenage Witch

04:10 Wolfblood

04:35 Wolfblood

05:50 Mouk

06:00 Lolirock

Teenage Witch

Teenage Witch 09:45 Austin & Ally

10:10 Austin & Ally

11:50 Jessie 12:20 Hank Zipzer

12:45 Gravity Falls

14:55 Lolirock

16:10 Violetta

19:30 Violetta

Teenage Witch

23:10 Wolfblood

23:35 Wolfblood

15:20 Austin & Ally

13:10 Good Luck Charlie 13:35 | Didn't Do It

14:00 Dog With A Blog

15:45 Girl Meets World

17:00 The Next Step

17:25 Mako Mermaids 17:50 Girl Meets World

18:15 Dog With A Blog

18:40 Gravity Falls 19:05 H2O: Just Add Water

20:20 The Next Step 20:45 Good Luck Charlie

21:10 Good Luck Charlie

21:35 Wizards Of Waverly Place 22:00 Binny And The Ghost

22:25 Sabrina: Secrets Of A

Teenage Witch 22:50 Sabrina: Secrets Of A

00:00 Stewarts And Hamiltons

00:55 The Grace Helbig Show

03:15 Christina Milian Turned Up

05:05 The E! True Hollywood Story

04:10 E! Entertainment Special

06:00 Kourtney And Kim Take

06:55 Kourtney And Kim Take

11:10 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills

12:05 The Grace Helbig Show 12:35 The Grace Helbig Show

Fashion Bloggers

15:00 Keeping Up With The

16:00 Live From The Red Carpet:

20:00 Fashion Police: The 2015

13:35 Fashion Bloggers 14:05 Dash Dolls

Kardashians

18:00 E! News

American Music.

22:00 F! News

23:00 WAGs

19:00 Dash Dolls

20:30 Fashion Bloggers

21:00 House Of DVF

#RichKids Of Beverly Hills

01:25 Keeping Up With The

02:20 Giuliana & Bill

07:50 Style Star

08:20 New Money 08:45 New Money

09:15 Giuliana & Bill

10:15 Giuliana & Bill

14:30 H2O: Just Add Water

11:25 Jessie

Violetta

The Hive

06:25 Hank Zipzer 06:50 Girl Meets World

H2O: Just Add Water

07:40 Jessie 08:05 Wizards Of Waverly Place

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Wizards Of Waverly Place

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01:15 Sabrina: Secrets Of A

03:20 Sabrina: Secrets Of A

Teenage Witch 03:45 Sabrina: Secrets Of A

06:00 Chopped 07:00 Man Fire Food 07:30 Man Fire Food 08:00 Chopped 09:00 Guy's Grocery Games 10:00 The Kitchen

05:00 Guy's Grocery Games

04:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives

04:30 Diners. Drive-Ins And Dives

03:00 Man Fire Food

03:30 Man Fire Food

11:00 Barefoot Contessa: Back To 11:30 Barefoot Contessa: Back To 12:00 Chopped 13:00 Guy's Big Bite

13:30 Guy's Big Bite 14:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives14:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives 15:00 Guy's Grocery Games 16:00 Chopped 17:00 The Kitchen 18:00 Jenny And Reza's Fabulous

Food Academy 18:30 Trisha's Southern Kitchen 19:00 Chopped 20:00 Guy's Grocery Games 21:00 Chopped 22:00 Rachael vs. Guy: Celebrity Cook Off

23:00 Iron Chef America

CHOICE

01:05 Seven Days With,Ķ 02:00 Emmerdale 02:25 Coach Trip 02:55 Coronation Street 03:25 I'm A Celebrity...Get Me Out

04:45 Paul O'Grady: For The Love Of Dogs 05:15 Take On The Twisters 06:10 Seven Days With, A¶ 07:05 Coronation Street 07:30 I'm A Celebrity...Get Me Out Of Here!

08:50 Paul O'Grady: For The Love 09:20 Peter Andre's 60 Minute Makeover 10:10 Seven Days With,Ķ 11:05 Dancing On Ice 12:30 Take On The Twisters

13:25 Emmerdale 13:50 Emmerdale 14:20 Coronation Street 14:45 Peter Andre's 60 Minute Makeover 15:35 The Jonathan Ross Show

Of Here! 17:25 Love And Marriage: A 20th Century Romance 18:20 Take On The Twisters 19:10 Coronation Street 19:35 The Jonathan Ross Show 20:30 I'm A Celebrity...Get Me Out Of Here!

16:30 I'm A Celebrity...Get Me Out

21:25 Love And Marriage: A 20th Century Romance 22:20 Coach Trip 22:50 Peter Andre's 60 Minute 23:40 Dancing On Ice

ON FIRST HID COMEDY

04:30 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon 07:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers 11:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon 17:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers

19:00 Hot In Čleveland The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon 23:30 Late Night With Seth Meyers

ON FIRST HD

00:00 Salem 01:00 Blood & Oil 02:00 Downton Abbey 12:00 Emmerdale 12:30 Coronation Street

16:00 Emmerdale 16:30 Coronation Street The Ellen DeGeneres Show 19:00 The Voice 20:00 Supergirl

21:00 Marvel's Agents Of S.H.I.E.L.D. 22:00 The Flash 23:00 American Horror Story: Hotel

O/n FIRST

07:00 Emmerdale 07:30 Coronation Street 10:00 Emmerdale 10:30 Coronation Street

> **MOVIES ACTION**

02:00 Mercenaries-PG15

04:00 Destruction: Las Vegas-06:00 Clockstoppers-FAM 08:00 Son Of Batman-PG15

10:00 The Aggression Scale-PG1512:00 The Courier-PG15

14:00 The Assault-PG15 16:00 Clockstoppers-FAM 18:00 Assassin's Bullet-PG15 19:45 Star Trek-PG15 22:00 Transit-PG15

OM MOVIES HID

04:00 Destruction: Las Vegas-06:00 Clockstoppers-FAM 08:00 Son Of Batman-PG15 10:00 The Aggression Scale-PG15

02:00 Mercenaries-PG15

ACTION

12:00 The Courier-PG15 14:00 The Assault-PG15 16:00 Clockstoppers-FAM 18:00 Assassin's Bullet-PG15 19:45 Star Trek-PG15

22:00 Transit-PG15

MOVIES HD COMEDY

00:00 Welcome To The Jungle 02:00 The Ladykillers 04:00 The Love Guide

06:00 The Little Rascals Save The Day 08:00 Problem Child 10:00 The Love Guide

14:00 Life With Mikey 16:00 Problem Child 18:00 The Naked Gun: From The Files Of Police Squad 20:00 Pretty Woman

12:00 The Ladykillers

22:15 Not Another Teen Movie

MOVIES DRAMA

01:00 A Promise-PG15 05:15 At Middleton-PG15 07:00 Won't Back Down-PG15 09:00 The Truth About Emanuel PG15 11:00 At Middleton-PG15 15:15 Sunshine On Leith-PG15

17:00 The Truth About Emanuel-PG15 19:00 Second Coming-PG15 21:00 Ask Me Anything-PG15

01:30 Jodorowsky's Dune 03:00 Pawn 05:00 One Chance 07:00 The Way We Were 09:00 The Nightmare Before Christmas 11:00 One Chance

13:00 Against The Ropes 15:00 We Are Family 17:00 The Nightmare Before Christmas

19:00 The Savages 21:00 Collaborator 23:00 Venus In Fur

MOVIES HD 01:15 Sabotage-PG15 03:15 Lost Christmas-PG15 05:15 JLA Adventures: Trapped In

06:45 Step Up All In-PG15 09:00 Annie-PG 11:00 Le Weekend-PG15 13:00 Postman Pat: The Movie-PG

14:45 Into The Woods-PG 17:00 Annie-PG 19:00 Let's Be Cops-PG15

21:00 Hot Tub Time Machine 2-18 23:00 John Wick-18

MOVIES

01:15 Bolts And Blip 03:00 Pim And Pom: The Big

Adventure 04:30 Zarafa 06:00 Ice Age: The Meltdown 08:00 Tom And Jerry: The Lost Dragon 09:30 Delhi Safari

11:15 Vampire Dog 13:00 Pim And Pom: The Big Adventure 16:00 Jungle Shuffle 18:00 Delhi Safari

20:00 Tarzan 23:30 Jungle Shuffle **MOVIES**

PREMIERE 00:00 Deliverance Creek-PG15 02:00 Lucy-PG15

04:00 Planes: Fire And Rescue-PG 06:00 40 Days And Nights-PG15 08:00 Maleficent-PG 10:00 Recoil-PG15 12:00 Fatal Instinct-PG15 14:00 10 Years-PG15

16:00 Maleficent-PG 17:45 Ender's Game-PG15 19:45 Snowpiercer-PG15



03:35 Johnny Test 05:05 Total Drama: Revenge Of The Island

05:27 Total Drama: Revenge Of The Island 05:50 Regular Show 06:00 The Amazing World Of

Gumball 07:00 Uncle Grandpa 07:25 Adventure Time 07:50 Teen Titans Go! Ninjago: Masters Of Spinjitzu 09:00 Ben 10 Omniverse 09:45 Regular Show

Clarence 10:55 Dreamworks Dragons: Defenders Of Berk 11:20 Total Drama World Tour 11:40 Total Drama World Tour 12:05 Johnny Test Steven Universe

13:02 Steven Universe 13:15 Uncle Grandpa 13:40 Regular Show 14:25 Adventure Time 15:10 New The Amazing World Of Gumball

15:21 The Amazing World Of Gumball 15:35 The Amazing World Of Gumball

16:00 Ben 10 Omniverse

03:10 Deadly Affairs

05:30 The Haunted Forensic Detectives

07:10 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones 08:00 Nightmare Next Door 08:50 On The Case With Paula Zahn

10:30 Murder Shift 11:20 Forensic Detectives 13:00 The Will 13:50 I Almost Got Away With It

16:45 On The Case With Paula Zahn 17:35 Murder Shift 18:25 I Almost Got Away With It 19:15 Forensic Detectives

21:20 The Will 22:10 Who On Earth Did I Marry? 22:35 Who On Earth Did I Marry? 23:00 Scorned: Crimes Of Passion 23:50 Blood Relatives 00:40 Who On Earth Did I Marry?

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

05:25 Henry Hugglemonster 05:35 Calimero 05:50 Zou 06:00 Loopdidoo 06:15 Art Attack 06:50 Calimero

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

08:25 Limon And Oli

TRANSIT ON OSN MOVIES HD ACTION 08:35 Jake And The Never Land **Pirates**

12:25 Doc McStuffins

14:45 Calimero

15:30 Zou

17:10 Aladdin

18:55 Cars Toons

Aladdin

23:30 Lilo & Stitch

00:20 Calimero

01:05 Art Attack

01:45 Calimero

02:15 Loopdidoo

02:30 Art Attack

07:25 Supa Strikas

08:40 Lab Rats

Much Everything 10:00 Annedroids 10:30 Phineas And Ferb

07:50 Supa Strikas 08:15 K.C Undercover

10:55 Rocket Monkeys

11:20 Boyster 11:45 Super Matrak

12:10 Super Matrak

13:30 Supa Strikas

14:25 Pokemon: XY

16:35 Kirby Buckets

14:50 Phineas And Ferb

14:00 Kickin' It

02:00 Zou

02:55

00:35 Zou 00:50 Loopdidoo

00:00 Nina Needs To Go

01:30 Henry Hugglemonster

Pirates

Pirates

Bears

00:05

15:00 Doc McStuffins

16:15 Sofia The First

Loopdidoo

13:10 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse 13:35 Sheriff Callie's Wild West

15:45 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse

16:45 Jake And The Never Land

17:40 Adventures Of The Gummi

18:40 Jake And The Never Land

19:00 Miles From Tomorrow19:30 Sofia The First

Doc McStuffins

20:15 Jake And The Never Land

23:00 Chip n Dale Rescue Rangers

Henry Hugglemonster

Henry Hugglemonster

07:00 Penn Zero: Part Time Hero

09:10 Star vs The Forces Of Evil 09:35 Gamer's Guide To Pretty

12:40 Mighty Med13:05 Marvel Avengers Assemble

15:15 Rocket Monkeys 15:40 Penn Zero: Part Time Hero

16:10 Star vs The Forces Of Evil

17:00 Gamer's Guide To Pretty

18:10 Chip n Dale Rescue Rangers

Sofia The First

14:30 Henry Hugglemonster

09:05 Sofia The First Teen Titans Go! 09:30 Miles From Tomorrow 18:20 Regular Show 19:05 New The Amazing World Of 10:00 Mickev Mouse Clubhouse 10:30 Doc McStuffins 11:00 Sofia The First

19:16 The Amazing World Of 11:30 Captain Jake And The Never Land Pirates 11:55 Miles From Tomorrow

Gumball 19:30 The Amazing World Of Gumball 19:51 Adventure Time

16:45 Ninjago: Masters Of Spinjitzu

17:10 Ninjago: Masters Of Spinjitzu

20:15 Steven Universe 20:27 Steven Universe 20:40 Uncle Grandpa 21:50 Ben 10 Omniverse 22:40 Adventure Time

00:10 Regular Show 01:40 Total Drama Action 02:03 Total Drama Action 02:26 Total Drama Action

02:51 Grojband

04:00 Deadly Women 04:45 Who On Earth Did I Marry? 05:10 Who On Earth Did I Marry?

Pirates 20:45 Sheriff Callie's Wild West 21:05 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse 21:35 Sofia The First 22:00 09:40 Fatal Encounters 22:30 Adventures Of The Gummi

12:10 True Crime With Aphrodite 14:40 California Investigator 15:05 Nightmare Next Door 15:55 Fatal Encounters

20:05 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones 20:55 California Investigator

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



06:35 Henry Hugglemonster

Much Everything 17:25 K.C Undercover 17:55 Supa Strikas 18:20 Lab Rats 18:45 Mighty Med 19:10 Annedroids

20:05 K.C Undercover 20:30 Supa Strikas 20:55 Lab Rats

21:25 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything 21:50 Kickin' It 22:15 Mighty Med

22:40 Phineas And Ferb

23:05 Penn Zero: Part Time Hero 23:30 Phineas And Ferb 00:00 Programmes Start At 7:00am

NAT GEO

03:45 World's Weirdest Pets 04:40 World's Deadliest Killers Africa's Deadliest 06:30 World's Deadliest Killer Three

07:25 World's Weirdest Pets 08:20 The Croc Catchers 09:15 Built For The Kill

10:10 Australia's Deadliest 10:35 Australia's Deadliest 11:05 Amazonia 12:00 Kingdom Of The Oceans

12:55 World's Deadliest Animals 13:50 World's Deadliest Killers 14:45 World's Weirdest Pets 15:40 Outback Wrangler 16:35 Built For The Kill

17:30 Australia's Deadliest 18:25 Amazonia 19:20 World's Weirdest Pets

20:10 Outback Wrangler 21:00 Built For The Kill 21:50 Australia's Deadliest 22:40 Amazonia

23:30 Kingdom Of The Oceans 00:20 World's Deadliest Animals 01:10 World's Deadliest Killers 02:00 Ultimate Animal Countdown

02:50 Ultimate Animals

03:40 Ultimate Shopper 04:30 Jon & Kate Plus 8 05:00 Little People, Big World 05:30 Cake Boss 06:00 Say Yes To The Dress 06:25 The Face UK

Toddlers & Tiaras 08:05 Oprah: Where Are They Now? Oprah's Master Class 09:45 Jon & Kate Plus 8

10:10 Little People, Big World Sister Wives 11:25 Cake Boss 11:50 Say Yes To The Dress: Randy Knows Best

12:15 Say Yes To The Dress: Randy Knows Best 12:40 The Face UK 13:30 Cake Boss 13:55 Cake Boss 14:20 Perfect Look

15:10 Jon & Kate Plus 8 15:35 Little People, Big World Toddlers & Tiaras Sister Wives 17:40 Cake Boss 18:05 Say Yes To The Dress

18:30 Ultimate Shopper 19:20 Oprah: Where Are They 20:10 The Face UK 21:00 Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners

21:50 The Day I Almost Died 22:40 Long Island Medium 23:05 90 Days To Wed 23:55 Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners

00:45 The Day I Almost Died 01:35 Long Island Medium 02:00 90 Days To Wed 02:50 Sister Wives



THE COURIER ON OSN MOVIES ACTION

THE GURIER



CLASSIFIEDS

Kuwait Times

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2015





Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page (www.kuwait-airport.com.kw)

Di	rect	orate (General of Civil A	viation Ho	me Pa	ge (www.k	uwait-airport.co	om.kw)
Airlines	Flt	Arrival Fl Rout	ights on Sunday 29/11/2015 te	Time	Airlines	Flt	•	Flights on Sunday 29/11/201 e	15 Time
MSC		415	Sohag	00:05	AIC		988	Hyderabad/Chennai	00:05
JZR JZR		239 267	Amman Beirut	00:25 00:30	JAD FDB		302 072	Amman Dubai	00:15 00:40
JZR		539	Cairo	00:40	JAI		573	Mumbai	00:55
FDB RJA		069 642	Dubai Amman	00:55 01:05	MSC MSC		404 416	Asyut Sohag	00:55 01:00
THY MSR		772 614	Istanbul Cairo	01:05 01:20	UAL		981	IAD	01:10
ETH		3402	Addis Ababa/Riyadh	01:30	MSR THY		615 773	Cairo Istanbul	02:20 02:30
DLH ETH		635 620	Doha Addis Ababa	01:35 01:45	DLH		635	Frankfurt	02:35
PGT		858	Istanbul	02:00	ETH ETH		621 3403	Addis Ababa Addis Ababa	02:45 03:05
JZR UAE		555 853	Alexandria Dubai	02:25 02:30	UAE		854	Dubai	03:45
GFA		211	Bahrain	02:30	PGT OMA		859 644	Istanbul Muscat	03:55 03:55
OMA FDB		643 067	Muscat Dubai	02:55 03:05	FDB		068	Dubai	04:00
MSR		612	Cairo	03:10	MSR ETD		613 306	Cairo Abu Dhabi	04:10 04:15
QTR CEB		1076 7694	Doha Manila	03:15 03:15	KKK		6508	Istanbul	04:13
KKK		6507	Istanbul	03:20	QTR LMU		1077 511	Doha Cairo	05:00 05:05
ETD THY		305 1464	Abu Dhabi Istanbul	03:25 03:25	THY		765	Istanbul	05:05
KAC LMU		544 510	Cairo Cairo	03:35 04:05	CEB JZR		7695 560	Manila Sohag	05:20 06:10
DHX		170	Bahrain	05:40	FDB		070	Dubai	06:30
THY THY		764 770	Istanbul Istanbul	05:55 05:55	JZR THY		164 1465	Dubai Istanbul	06:55 06:55
QTR		8511	Doha	06:10	RJA		643	Amman	07:05
FDB BAW		5061 157	Dubai London	06:30 06:40	THY FDB		771 5062	Istanbul Dubai	07:05 07:10
KAC		412	Manila/Bangkok	07:20	GFA		212	Bahrain	07:10
QTR FDB		1086 053	Doha Dubai	07:40 07:45	QTR		8512	Doha	07:40
SVA		512	Riyadh	07:50	FDB QTR		054 1087	Dubai Doha	08:30 08:40
KAC KAC		302 382	Mumbai Delhi	07:50 08:00	BAW		156	London	08:45
OMA KAC		641 354	Muscat BLR	08:00 08:15	SVA OMA		513 642	Riyadh Muscat	08:50 08:55
KAC		352	Kochi	08:20	KAC		171	Frankfurt	09:05
KAC KAC		206 346	Islamabad Ahmedabad	08:25 08:30	KAC ABY		787 126	Jeddah Sharjah	09:25 09:40
UAE		855	Dubai	08:40	KAC		117	New York	09:55
KAC ABY		332 125	Trivandrum Sharjah	08:50 09:00	UAE KAC		856 541	Dubai Cairo	09:55 09:55
KAC		362	Colombo	09:00	KAC		561	Amman	10:00
KAC ETD		284 301	Dhaka Abu Dhabi	09:10 09:20	KAC ETD		671 302	Dubai Abu Dhabi	10:05 10:25
QTR		1070	Doha	09:25	KAC		501	Beirut	10:30
FDB IRA		055 665	Dubai Shiraz	09:40 09:40	JZR FDB		482 056	Istanbul Dubai	10:35 10:35
IRC		528	Ahwaz	10:00	IRA		664	Shiraz	10:40
IRC GFA		6507 213	Shiraz Bahrain	10:30 10:40	KAC QTR		677 1071	Abu Dhabi/Muscat Doha	10:50 11:00
UAE		873	Dubai	11:05	IRC		529	Ahwaz	11:00
SYR JZR		341 165	Damascus Dubai	11:25 11:30	GFA IRC		214 6508	Bahrain Shiraz	11:25 11:30
AGY MEA		682 404	Asyut Beirut	11:40 11:55	JZR		776	Jeddah	12:20
SAW		701	Damascus	12:20	SYR KAC		342 103	Damascus London	12:25 12:25
FDB JZR		075 561	Dubai Sohag	12:25 12:45	UAE		874	Dubai	12:30
UAE		871	Dubai	12:50	AGY MEA		683 405	Alexandria Beirut	12:40 12:55
MSR FDB		610 057	Cairo Dubai	13:00 14:10	KAC		785	Jeddah	13:00
QTR		1078	Doha	14:10	JZR FDB		786 076	Riyadh Dubai	13:10 13:10
AXB SVA		393 500	Kozhikode Jeddah	14:20 14:30	KAC		791	Madinah	13:10
KNE		472	Jeddah	14:35	SAW JZR		702 176	Damascus Dubai	13:35 13:45
KAC KAC		672 788	Dubai Jeddah	14:45 14:50	MSR		611	Cairo	14:00
GFA		221	Bahrain	15:00	UAE IZG		872 4168	Dubai Mashhad	14:15 14:55
OMA KAC		645 562	Muscat Amman	15:30 15:40	KAC		673	Dubai	15:00
ABY		127	Sharjah	15:45	QTR		1079 058	Doha Dubai	15:10
UAE QTR		857 1072	Dubai Doha	15:45 16:10	FDB AXB		394	Kozhikode	15:10 15:20
JZR		787	Riyadh	16:25	KNE		473	Jeddah	15:35
FDB ETD		051 303	Dubai Abu Dhabi	16:30 16:40	SVA GFA		503 222	Madinah/Jeddah Bahrain	15:45 15:45
RJA		640	Amman	16:55	KAC		617	Doha	15:45
KAC SVA		542 510	Cairo Riyadh	16:55 17:15	KAC KAC		773 741	Riyadh Dammam	15:50 15:55
GFA		215	Bahrain	17:30	ABY		128	Sharjah	16:25 16:30
KAC JZR		678 777	Muscat/Abu Dhabi Jeddah	17:50 17:55	OMA JZR		646 266	Muscat Beirut	17:05
KAC		502	Beirut	18:00	JZR		238	Amman	17:30
UAE FDB		875 063	Dubai Dubai	18:00 18:05	ETD FDB		304 052	Abu Dhabi Dubai	17:30 17:35
KAC		792 982	Madinah	18:10	QTR JZR		1073 538	Doha Cairo	17:40 17:45
UAL JZR		177	IAD Dubai	18:15 18:20	UAE		858	Cairo Dubai	17:45 17:45
KAC ABY		786 123	Jeddah Sharjah	18:30 18:45	RJA SVA		641 511	Amman Riyadh	17:55 18:15
QTR		1080	Doha	18:55	GFA		216	Bahrain	18:20
KAC KAC		742	Dammam	19:05	JZR		184	Dubai	18:40
GFA		774 217	Riyadh Bahrain	19:25 19:30	JZR FDB		124 064	Bahrain Dubai	19:10 19:20
KAC KAC		166 618	Paris/Rome Doha	19:30 19:35	ABY UAE		124	Sharjah	19:25
JZR		483	Istanbul	19:35	UAL		876 982	Dubai Bahrain	19:30 19:30
KAC KAC		674 102	Dubai New York/London	19:45 19:55	GFA		218	Bahrain	20:15
FDB		061	Dubai	20:20	KAC KAC		283 361	Dhaka Colombo	20:35 20:45
OMA MSR		647 606	Muscat Luxor	20:20 20:45	QTR		1081 351	Doha Kochi	20:50
FDB		5053	Dubai	20:50	KAC OMA		351 648	Kochi Muscat	20:55 21:20
JAI DLH		572 634	Mumbai Frankfurt	20:55 20:55	FDB MSR		062 619	Dubai Alexandria	21:20 21:45
MEA		402	Beirut	21:20	MSR DLH		619 634	Alexandria Doha	21:45 21:45
ETD ALK		307 229	Abu Dhabi Colombo	21:20 21:25	DHX		171	Bahrain Dubai	21:50
UAE		859	Dubai	21:40	FDB JAI		5054 571	Dubai Mumbai	21:50 21:55
GFA QTR		219 1082	Bahrain Doha	21:45 22:00	JZR		502	Luxor	22:00
JZR		125	Bahrain	22:00	KAC KAC		381 301	Delhi Mumbai	22:00 22:10
KLM AIC		417 981	Amsterdam Chennai/Ahmedabad	22:05 22:25	ETD		308	Abu Dhabi	22:10
ETD		309	Abu Dhabi	22:25	MEA ALK		403 230	Beirut Colombo	22:20 22:25
FDB KAC		059 172	Dubai Frankfurt	22:30 22:35	GFA		220	Bahrain	22:30
MSC		501	Alexandria	23:00	UAE QTR		860 1083	Dubai Doha	22:55 23:05
JZR JZR		239 185	Amman Dubai	23:05 23:15	KLM		417	Dammam/Amsterdam	23:05
UAL		981	Bahrain	23:25	KAC ETD		205 310	Islamabad Abu Dhabi	23:10 23:15
PIA FDB		205 071	Lahore Dubai	23:40 23:45	FDB		060	Dubai	23:35
JAI		574	Mumbai	23:55	KAC KAC		411 415	Bangkok/Manila Kuala Lumpur/Jakarta	23:35 23:40
									20

DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

Interpreter/Translator wanted

One of the South Asian Embassies is looking for a competent Arabic Translator cum Interpreter with the following requirements.

Age, preferably below 45 years High proficiency in English and Arabic Languages Acceptable Educational qualification, preferable Degrees

Salary negotiable, Candidates with above qualifications may forward their resume by e-mail before 15.12.2015.

e-mail: appstranslator@gmail.com

Embassy of Brazil in Kuwait invites applicants for the following vacancy:

Cook

Requirements:

- Diploma in Hospitality or Hotel Management preferred
- Excellent command of written and spoken English Minimum experience of 5 years in international cuisine

CVs must be delivered at: West Mishref- Mubarak Abdullah Al-Jaber Area, Block 1, Street 116, Villa 47 (Between 9:30am-1:00pm)

Required

Maintenance Technician

Excellent in English and computer skills

Experienced with general maintenance work

Last date to submit CV: Dec.10th 2015

REQUIRED **INDIAN MALE COOK**

for a Kuwaiti Family in Dahiya Abdalla Salem

- * Should be specialised in cooking all Indian and Kuwaiti Food.
- * Should be well versed in English (speaking, reading & writing).

Excellent salary offered to right candidate

Suitable candidates may call Tel 1808010Ext. 701or Mobile 99217747 between 8 am to 1pm & from 2 pm to 5 pm (Saturday to Thursday)

including two or more of the following: air conditioner units, plumbing systems, electrical appliances, Lighting, sound systems

Age Between 25 and 45

Duty Time: from 7 am to 3:30 pm

Interested applicants please

send cover letter and resume

recruitment@abs.edu.kw

REQUIRED Technicians / Mechanics for:

- Changing Tires
- Fix Window Cracks

Email: carmedic.hr@gmail.com TEL: 94064565

REQUIRED

JEWELRY SALESMAN

Minimum 2 years Exp. in Jewelry Sales

Send CV to:

thasleem86@gmail.com Contact No: 97220117 - Fax No: 24928460

cent divorcee) invite pro-

cms, working in London

Hospital (UK). Contact:

NRI Orthodox parents

daughter, MSc Nurse,

invite proposals for their

30/150, born & brought up in Kuwait, Asst. Professor in Bangalore, shortly joining

MOH, from parents of professionally qualified, well settled Orthodox boys.

kurien_v@yahoo.com

(C 5081)

Contact:

(C 5083)

22-11-2015

posals for their son 35/180

drproposal2015@gmail.com

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

MATRIMONIAL

Jacobite parents invite proposals for their son, post graduate Engineer, working in Kuwait, 28/172. Contact: pdakn2015@gmail.com (C 5085) 25-11-2015

Christian Orthodox Parents of specialist Doctor (inno-

Urgently Required

Female Photographers Female Videographers Female Photoshop Artists Female Video Editor

Conditions:

One-year experience **Transferable Residency**

Send you CV On jobs_kw@hotmail.com

THE PUBLIC AUTHORITY FOR CIVIL INFORMATION

Automated enquiry about the Civil ID card is

1889988

Prayer timings

Fajr:	04:58
Shorook	06:22
Duhr:	11:36
Asr:	14:30
Maghrib:	16:49
Isha:	18:11



No: 16712 Kuwait Times	
Ads will not be accepted of	over the fax
TEXT OF ADVERTISEMENT TO BE PUBLISHED	1. Ads must be on the original coupon. 2. Ads of personal nature. will be accepted for KD 2 for 3 days. 3. Semi-commercial ads i.e. Baby-Sitting, Matrimonial, Tuition &
Sender's NameAddress, Tel. No:	Transport available will be accepted for KD 5 for 3 days. 4. Ads must not exceed 25 words.

Kuwait Times

p34_p34 stars 11/28/15 8:30 PM Page 1

CROSSWORD 1094

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ACROSS

5. An unintentional but embarrassing blunder.

- 1. A neutral middle vowel.
- 12. Mythical bird of prey having enormous size and strength.
- 15. Deprive (infants) of mother's milk. 16. The supreme commander of a fleet.
- 17. Group insurance that entitles members to services of participating hospitals and clinics and physicians.
- 18. A lyric poet.
- 19. A benevolent aspect of Devi.
- 20. At right angles to the length of a ship or airplane.
- 22. Not dense.
- 23. Shiny substance that resemble enamel and is secreted by the corium of certain fishes (especially ganoid fishes) and composes the outer layer of their scales.
- 25. A brittle silver-white metalloid element that is related to selenium and sulfur.
- 26. Kamarupan languages spoken in northeastern India and western Burma.
- 29. Made agreeably cold (especially by ice). 30. (statistics) Approximating the statistical
- norm or average or expected value. 32. Any of numerous perennial bulbous herbs having linear or broadly lanceolate leaves
- and usually a single showy flower. 34. Botswanan statesman who was the first
- president of Botswana (1921-1980). 37. A member of the Semitic speaking people
- of northern Ethiopia.
- 39. A period marked by distinctive character
- or reckoned from a fixed point or event. 40. The food served and eaten at one time.
- 41. A unit of information equal to one million
- (1,048,576) bytes. 45. Unknown god.
- 46. Stem of the rattan palm used for making canes and umbrella handles.
- 51. A highly unstable radioactive element (the heaviest of the halogen series).
- 52. A trivalent metallic element of the rare
- earth group. 53. A republic in West Africa on the Gulf of
- Guinea. 55. Completely lacking nobility in character or
- quality or purpose. 57. Widely cultivated in tropical and subtropi-
- cal regions for its fragrant flowers and colorful fruits.
- 59. A Russian prison camp for political prison-
- 61. Using the voice.
- 62. A state in east central United States. 63. A fictitious name used when the person performs a particular social role.
- 64. A large number or amount. 69. Small terrestrial lizard of warm regions of
- the Old World.
- 72. Relating to the blood vessels or blood. 73. A town in central Belgium.
- 75. An Arabic speaking person who lives in Arabia or North Africa.
- 76. A religious belief of African origin involving witchcraft and sorcery.
- 77. Relating to ocean depths from 2000 to 5000 meters.
- 79. (archaic or Scottish) Faithful and true. 80. Of a dull grayish brown to brownish gray
- 81. An ACE inhibitor (trade name Vasotec) that
- blocks the formation of angiotensin in the kidney and so results in vasodilation. 82. A river in north central Switzerland that

runs northeast into the Rhine.

- 1. The compass point that is one point south of southwest.

DOWN

- 2. A collection of objects laid on top of each other.
- 3. Straggling shrub with narrow leaves and conspicuous red flowers in dense globu-
- lar racemes. 4. A bee that is a a member of the genus Andrena.
- 5. Deep purplish red n 1.
- 6. An agency of the United Nations affiliated with the World Bank.
- 7. Distributed or sold illicitly.
- 8. Term of address for a man.
- 9. (of persons) Neat and smart in appearance. 10. (Akkadian) God of wisdom.
- 11. German physicist whose explanation of blackbody radiation in the context of quantized energy emissions initiated quantum theory (1858-1947).
- 12. A family of birds coextensive with the order Rheiformes.
- 13. A strategically located monarchy on the southern and eastern coasts of the Arabian Peninsula.
- 14. Move toward, travel toward something or somebody or approach something or somebody.
- 21. German mystic and theosophist who
- founded modern theosophy. 24. The branch of computer science that deal with writing computer programs that can
- 27. A soft yellow malleable ductile (trivalent

solve problems creatively.

- and univalent) metallic element. 28. Affected manners intended to impress
- others.
- 31. Go on board.
- 33. An informal term for a father.
- 35. A mountain in the Himalayas in Nepal
- (27,790 feet high). 36. Having winglike extensions.
- 38. Possessing material wealth.
- 42. (Irish) Mother of the Tuatha De Danann.
- 43. Call upon in supplication. 44. Any of several tropical and subtropical treelike herbs of the genus Musa having a terminal crown of large entire leaves and
- gated fruits. 47. A temporally organized plan for matters to be attended to.

usually bearing hanging clusters of elon-

- 48. An enclosure made or wire or metal bars in
- which birds or animals are kept. 49. A category in some early taxonomies.
- 50. Type genus of the Polygalaceae. 54. A silvery ductile metallic element found
- primarily in bauxite. 56. Large genus of tropical American vines
- having showy often spotted umbellate flowers.
- 58. A soft cotton or worsted fabric with an open mesh.
- 60. A town in central Belgium. 65. An important seaport on the Island of Cebu in the Philippines.
- 66. Speaking a Slavic language. 67. The time during which someone's life con-
- tinues.
- 68. In addition. 70. A flat-bottomed volcanic crater that was formed by an explosion.
- 71. (usually followed by `to') Having the necessary means or skill or know-how or authority to do something. 74. Considerate and solicitous care.
- 78. A soft silvery metallic element of the alkali earth group.

Yesterday's Solution

Α	P	T		Е	N	I	W	Е	Т	0	K		Α	В	M
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D	Е	D		Т	U	Α	Т	A	R	A		L	Е	N	A

STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

Your promise means business today, for once you make a decision you won't be able to easily change your mind. Unfortunately, your judgment might be off if you assume you can talk your way out of a commitment. Whether you are considering making a move, changing jobs or switching schools, it's crucial to take your time and think through all your options before choosing what to do next. Patience is a virtue, especially when there is so much at stake.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

You may need to manage some money matters today, and it could be a hassle dealing with all the details. The Sun-Saturn conjunction falls in your 8th House of Shared Resources, requiring you to have a heart-to-heart talk with a family member or business partner. Or, perhaps, tax or insurance issues need to be ironed out. Whatever serious concerns come to light, don't procrastinate. Take care of business now or it could become even more complicated in the future. A stitch in time saves nine.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

If you try to avoid taking full responsibility for your actions today, someone else might do it for you. But if others point out your shortcomings now, your reaction may be to blame them for complicating your life. Even if people just want to help, it could be difficult to respond positively to their constructive criticism. Nevertheless, you might have to modify your behavior even if it turns your life upside down. Don't expect to see changes until you're willing to make them yourself.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

The plot of your personal story thickens as your previous commitments take precedence over fun and games. There are many aspects of your life that are dependent on others and you often take the lead from the cues of those around you. You may be eager to kick back and relax today, but someone else might have an entirely different plan in mind for you. Resistance is futile now; it's best to meet your obligations with a positive attitude and a smile



Leo (July 23-August 22)

Although there are chores that must be completed today, you won't need to forego all pursuits of pleasure. In fact, establishing a predetermined amount of time for structured recreation can be exactly what you need to be more productive in the long run. Don't just impulsively bolt from your work whenever you feel like it; instead, take advantage of Saturn's persistence by creating a schedule and sticking to it. Demonstrate your willingness to play by the rules by showing up and doing your job whether you feel like it or not.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

You might be required to make a significant choice today that will impact your personal life or your future plans for the family. Perhaps you need to participate in serious discussions about the care of an elderly relative or the schooling of a youngster. Maybe someone is overstepping your boundaries in a way that threatens your sense of independence. Whatever the specifics are now, allow enough time to resolve your domestic dilemma so you can have more freedom to roam later on.

WORD SEARCH

STEPHEN KING BOOKS WORD SEARCH PUZZLE

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BAG OF BONES CARRIE CHRISTINE DARK VISIONS

DESPERATION

DOLORES CLAIBORNE DREAMCATCHER FIRESTARTER HEARTS IN ATLANTIS INSOMNIA

MISERY **NEEDFUL THINGS** NIGHT SHIFT PET SEMATARY **ROADWORK**

ROSE MADDER SECRET WINDOWS THE SHINING THE STAND UNDER THE DOME

Libra (September 23-October 22)

Although many people celebrate this as a day of rest, your schedule won't likely allow you much room to to recharge your batteries. Today's Sun-Saturn conjunction adds weight to your 3rd House of Learning, making this an ideal time to begin a new course of study. But your current interest in education is not meant to be a frivolous exercise to distract yourself from what's important. Choose a subject that is practical enough to improve your everyday life in a positive and



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

You may be overly self-critical today as you compare your achievements with your failures. The Sun illuminates your shortcomings when it joins judgmental Saturn in your 2nd House of Self-Esteem. Concentrate your energy on completing tasks that will make you feel good about your accomplishments. Regrets are wasted energy; if your thoughts begin to turn to what you did wrong in the past, quickly shift your focus to what you can do right in the present moment. Energy flows where attention goes.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Sometimes your innate ability to project generalized concepts so far into the future complicates your decision-making about a specific event in the here and now. However, you're successfully able to narrow your field of vision today so you can focus your intentions on whatever you consider most important. Don't worry about losing sight of the big picture. You will be given an opportunity later on to balance your ambitious drive with your need to be fair. The present moment is where the real action is at.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Vacillating between accurate analysis and fuzzy thinking can be a bit exhausting today, especially if you can't tell which is which. However, if you do get confused, don't be afraid to ask for help. Usually, you are the one assisting others with your pragmatic perspective, but now it's your turn to lean on someone else for a change. Thankfully, your trust won't likely be misplaced if you pick your allies



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

Your social calendar may be a source of concern now, especially if you have overcommitted your time. The Sun-Saturn conjunction crystallizes the energy in your 11th House of Long-Term Goals, enabling you to be more realistic than ever while making plans for your future. But remember that Saturn can also bend your thoughts in a pessimistic direction. There's no need to sing the blues today because the clouds should begin to lift by tomorrow.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

You don't have to accept the negativity if someone rains on your parade today. There's no reason to just assume that you have done something wrong. Instead, look directly at the resistance you now face as a lesson from the universe. Even if your original attempt was not met with much enthusiasm, don't give up on your goals. Instead, work even harder to prove that you're willing to sacrifice immediate gratification for the possibility of an enduring success.

Yesterday Solution

SOLUTION TO TEXAS PUZZLE

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Daily SuDoku

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		8			4		1	6

Yesterday's Solution

3 8 9 6 4 8 9 3 5 6 2 5 9 6 8 4 5 3 4 9 6 8 5 3 8 6 4 9 5 3 9 6 4 8 3 5 9 4 6 8 5 8 7 6 9 3 4 5

Sabah Hospital

Amiri Hospital

Chest Hospital

Adan Hospital

Ibn Sina Hospital

Al-Razi Hospital

Kaizen center

Rawda

Adaliya

Khaldiya

Shamiya

Shuwaikh

Nuzha

Qadsiya

Dasmah

Shaab

Qibla

Mirqab

Sharq

Salmiya

Jabriya

Bayan

Mishref

Sabah

Jahra

W Hawally

New Jahra

West Jahra

South Jahra

North Jahra

North Jleeb

Ardhiya

Firdous

Omariya

N Khaitan

Fintas

Bneid Al-Gar

Ayoun Al-Qibla

Maidan Hawally

Abdullah Salem

Industrial Shuwaikh

Kaifan

Physiotherapy Hospital

Maternity Hospital

Farwaniya Hospital

Mubarak Al-Kabir Hospital

00352

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Luxembourg

Macedonia

Madagascar

Majorca

Malawi

Malaysia

Maldives

Marshall Islands

Martinique

Mauritania

Mauritius

Mayotte

Mexico

Micronesia

Mali

Malta

Macau

INTERNATIONAL

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Afghanistan

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Algeria

Andorra

Angola

Anguilla

Antiga

Argentina

Armenia

Australia

Austria

Bahamas

Bahrain

Bangladesh

Barbados

Belarus

INFORMATION

For labor-related inquiries and complaints:

Hospitals

Clinics

24812000

22450005

24843100

25312700

24849400

24892010

23940620

24840300

24846000

24874330/9

25716707

22517733

22517144

24848075

24849807

24848913

24814507

22549134

22526804

24814764

22515088

22532265

22531908

22518752

22459381

22451082

22456536

22465401

25746401

25316254

25623444

25388462

25381200

22630786

24810221

24770319

24575755

24772608

24775066

24775992

24311795

24884079

24892674

24719048

24710044

23900322

Call MSAL hotline 128

PHARMACIES ON 24 HRS DUTY

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

STATE OF KUWAIT DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



Tel: (+965) 161 Ext: 2627 - 2630 Fax: (+965) 24348714 www.met.gov.kw

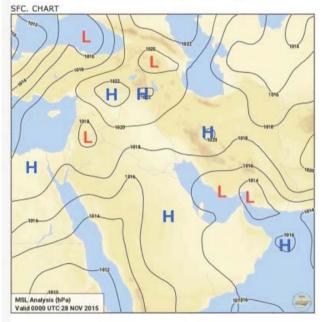


Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours Issued 28/11/2015-07:00 LT UTC +3hr

MAX Temperature 28 °C

By Day: Fair with light variable wind changing to light to moderate north westerly wind, with speed of 06 - 26 km/h and some high clouds will appear

By Night: Cool with light variable wind changing to light to moderate north westerly wind, with speed of 06 - 26 km/h with a chance for fog forming at night



Four-Day	Forecast
8	

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
	*	*	***	**
Expected Weather	fair	partly cloudy	partly cloudy + scattered rain	partly cloudy + scattered rain
Min Temp °C	14	12	14	17
Max Temp °C	27	26	28	29
Wind Direction	variable wind changing to light to moderate north westerly	variable wind changing to light to moderate southerly	southerly to south easterly	south easterly
Wind Speed km/h	06 - 26	06 - 26	12 - 32	15 - 40

Warnings NO CURRENT WARNINGS

Kuwait Forecast		
Station	MIN °C REC	Max °C EXP
KUWAIT CITY	19	27
KUWAIT AIRPORT	14	28
ABDALY	15	28
BUBYAN	16	24
JAHRA	17	28
FAILAKA ISLAND	17	25
SALMIYAH	20	23
AHMADI	20	24
JAL ALIYAH	16	26
QAROH ISLAND	22	24
UMM AL-MARADEM	22	25
NUWAISIB	17	28
WAFRA	15	27
MANAGISH	15	26
SALMY	16	25
MUTRIBA	15	27

Max Tem	p (°C)	27
Min Tem	p (°C)	14
Max Rel	Hum (%)	100
Min Rel I	Hum (%)	46
Max Win and Dire	d Speed (km/h) ction	14 SW
TOTAL R	AINFALL IN 24 HR	0 mm
1	Sunrise	06:22
_	Sunset	16:49
rayer T	imes	
Fair	04:	58

Prayer Times	
Fajr	04:58
Sunrise	06:22
Zuhr	11:36
Asr	14:30
Sunset	16:49
Isha	18:11

PRIVATE CLINICS

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

Ophthalmologis	its				
Dr. Abidallah Al-Mansoor	25622444				
Dr. Samy Al-Rabeea	25752222				
Dr. Masoma Habeeb	25321171				
Dr. Mubarak Al-Ajmy	25739999				
Dr. Mohsen Abel	25757700				
Dr Adnan Hasan Alwayl	25732223				
Dr. Abdallah Al-Baghly	25732223				
Ear, Nose & Throat	(ENT)				
Dr. Ahmed Fouad Mouner	24555050 Ext 510				
Dr. Abdallah Al-Ali	25644660				
Dr. Abd Al-Hameed Al-Taweel	25646478				
Dr. Sanad Al-Fathalah	25311996				
Dr. Mohammad Al-Daaory	25731988				
Dr. Ismail Al-Fodary	22620166				
Dr. Mahmoud Al-Booz	25651426				
General Practition	General Practitioners				
Dr. Mohamme Y Majidi	24555050 Ext 123				
Dr. Yousef Al-Omar	24719312				
Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhazeem	23926920				
Dr. Kathem Maarafi	25730465				
Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadah	25655528				
Dr. Nabeel Al-Ayoobi	24577781				
Dr. Dina Abidallah Al-Refae	25333501				
Urologists					
Dr. Ali Naser Al-Serfy	22641534				
Dr. Fawzi Taher Abul	22639955				
Dr. Khaleel Abidallah Al-Awad	i 22616660				
Dr. Adel Al-Hunayan FRCS (C)	25313120				

Psychologists

/Psychotherapists

Plastic Surgeons					
Dr. Mohammad Al-Khalaf	22547272				
Dr. Abdal-Redha Lari	22617700				
Dr. Abdel Quttainah	25625030/60				
Family Doctor					
Dr Divya Damodar	23729596/23729581				
Psychiatris	its				
Dr. Esam Al-Ansari	22635047				
Dr Eisa M. Al-Balhan	22613623/0				
Gynaecologists & O	bstetricians				
DrAdrian arbe	23729596/23729581				
Dr. Verginia s.Marin	2572-6666 ext 8321				
Dr. Fozeya Ali Al-Qatan	22655539				
Dr. Majeda Khalefa Aliytami	25343406				
Dr. Ahmad Al-Khooly	25739272				
Dr. Salem soso	22618787				
General Surgeons					
Dr. Amer Zawaz Al-Amer	22610044				
Dr. Mohammad Yousef Bash	er 25327148				
Internists, Chest & Heart					
Dr. Adnan Ebil	22639939				
Dr. Mousa Khadada	22666300				
Dr. Latefa Al-Duweisan	25728004				
Dr. Nadem Al-Ghabra	25355515				
Dr. Mobarak Aldoub	24726446				
Dr Nasser Behbehani	25654300/3				

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Tel: 2290-1677

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Paediatricians					
Dr. Khaled Hamadi	25665898				
Dr. Abd Al-Aziz Al-Rashed	25340300				
Dr. Zahra Qabazard	25710444				
Dr. Sohail Qamar	22621099				
Dr. Snaa Maaroof	25713514				
Dr. Pradip Gujare	23713100				
Dr. Zacharias Mathew	24334282				
Dermatolog	ıy				
Dr. Mohammed Salam					
Bern University	23845955				
Dentists					
Dr Anil Thomas	3729596/3729581				
Dr. Shamah Al-Matar	22641071/2				
Dr. Anesah Al-Rasheed	22562226				
Dr. Abidallah Al-Amer	22561444				
Dr. Faysal Al-Fozan	22619557				
Dr. Abdallateef Al-Katrash	22525888				
Dr. Abidallah Al-Duweisan	25653755				
Dr. Bader Al-Ansari	25620111				
Neurologists					
Dr. Sohal Najem Al-Shemeri	25633324				
Dr. Jasem Mola Hassan	25345875				
Gastrologis	Gastrologists				
Dr. Sami Aman	22636464				
Dr. Mohammad Al-Shamaly	25322030				
Dr. Foad Abidallah Al-Ali	22633135				

Kaizen center

25716707

Noor Clinic

23845955

	Endocrinologist					
_	Dr. Abd Al-Naser Al-Othman	25339330				
	Dr. Ahmad Al-Ansari 25658888					
	Dr. Kamal Al-Shomr 25329924					
	Physiotherapists & VD					
	Dr. Deyaa Shehab 25722291					
	Dr. Musaed Faraj Khamees	22666288				
	Rheumatologists:					
	Dr. Adel Al-Awadi 25330060					
31	Dr. Khaled Al-Jarallah	25722290				
	Di. Maica Ai Jaranan	23/22230				
	Internist, Chest &					
	Internist, Chest &	Heart 24555050 Ext 210				
	Internist, Chest & DR.Mohammes Akkad Dr. Mohammad Zubaid MB, ChB, FRCPC, PACC Assistant Professor Of Medicin Head, Division of Cardiology	24555050 Ext 210 ne 25339667				
	Internist, Chest & DR.Mohammes Akkad Dr. Mohammad Zubaid MB, ChB, FRCPC, PACC Assistant Professor Of Medicin Head, Division of Cardiology Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital	24555050 Ext 210 ne 25339667				

William Schuilenberg, RPC 2290-1677

Zaina Al Zabin, M.Sc. 2290-1677

Belgium	0032	Micronesia	00691
Belize	00501	Moldova	00373
Benin	00229	Monaco	00377
Bermuda	001441	Mongolia	00976
Bhutan	00975	Montserrat	001664
Bolivia	00591	Morocco	00212
Bosnia	00387	Mozambique	00258
Botswana	00267	Myanmar (Burma) Namibia	0095
Brazil Brunei	0055 00673	Nepal	00264
Bulgaria	00359	Netherlands	00377
Burkina	00226	Netherlands Antilles	
Burundi	00257	New Caledonia	00687
Cambodia	00855	New Zealand	0064
Cameroon	00237	Nicaragua	00505
Canada	001	Nigar	00227
Cape Verde	00238	Nigeria	00234
Cayman Islands	001345	Niue	00683
Central African	00236	Norfolk Island	00672
Chad	00235	N. Ireland (UK)	0044
Chile	0056	North Korea	00850
China	0086	Norway	0047
Colombia	0057	Oman	00968
Comoros	00269	Pakistan	0092
Congo Cook Islands	00242 00682	Palau Panama	00680
Cook Islands Costa Rica	00506		00507
Croatia	00306	Papua New Guinea Paraguay	00595
Croatia	00385	Paraguay	00595
Cyprus	00357	Philippines	0063
Cyprus (Northern)	0090392	Poland	0048
Czech Republic	00420	Portugal	00351
Denmark	0045	Puerto Rico	001787
Diego Garcia	00246	Qatar	00974
Djibouti	00253	Romania	0040
Dominica	001767	Russian Federation	007
Dominican Republic		Rwanda	00250
Ecuador	00593	Saint Helena	00290
Egypt El Salvador	0020 00503	Saint Kitts Saint Lucia	001869 001758
England (UK)	00303	Saint Lucia Saint Pierre	00508
Equatorial Guinea	00240	Saint Vincent	001784
Eritrea	00291	Samoa US	00684
Estonia	00372	Samoa West	00685
Ethiopia	00251	San Marino	00378
Falkland Islands	00500	Sao Tone	00239
Faroe Islands	00298	Saudi Arabia	00966
Fiji	00679	Scotland (UK)	0044
Finland	00358	Senegal	00221
France French Guiana	0033 00594	Seychelles Sierra Leone	00284 00232
French Polynesia	00594	Singapore	00232
Gabon	00241	Slovakia	00421
Gambia	00220	Slovenia	00386
Georgia	00995	Solomon Islands	00677
Germany	0049	Somalia	00252
Ghana	00233	South Africa	0027
Gibraltar	00350	South Korea	0082
Greece	0030	Spain	0034
Greenland Grenada	00299 001473	Sri Lanka Sudan	0094 00249
Guadeloupe	001473	Suriname	00597
Guam	001671	Swaziland	00268
Guatemala	00502	Sweden	0046
Guinea	00224	Switzerland	0041
Guyana	00592	Syria	00963
Haiti	00509	Serbia	00381
Holland (Netherlands)	0031	Taiwan	00886
Honduras	00504	Tanzania	00255
Hong Kong	00852	Thailand	0066
Hungary	0036	Toga	00228
Ibiza (Spain)	0034 00354	Tonga Tokelau	00676 00690
India	00354	Trinidad	00690
Indian Ocean	00873	Tunisia	00216
Indonesia	0062	Turkey	0090
Iran	0098	Tuvalu	00688
Iraq	00964	Uganda	00256
Ireland	00353	Ukraine	00380
Italy	0039	United Arab Emirates	
Ivory Coast	00225	United Kingdom	0044
Jamaica	001876	Uruguay	00598
Japan Jordan	0081	USA Uzbekistan	001 00998
Kazakhstan	00962	Vanuatu	00998
Kenya	00254	Venezuela	00582
Kiribati	00686	Vietnam	0084
Kuwait	00965	Virgin Islands UK	001284
Kyrgyzstan	00996	Virgin Islands US	001340
Laos	00856	Wales (UK)	0044
Latvia	00371	Yemen	00967
Lebanon	00961	Yugoslavia	00381
Liberia Libya	00231 00218	Zambia Zimbabwe	00260 00263
Libya	00218	Jabwe	50E00

Gossip



Selena Gomez asks Taylor Swift for dating advice

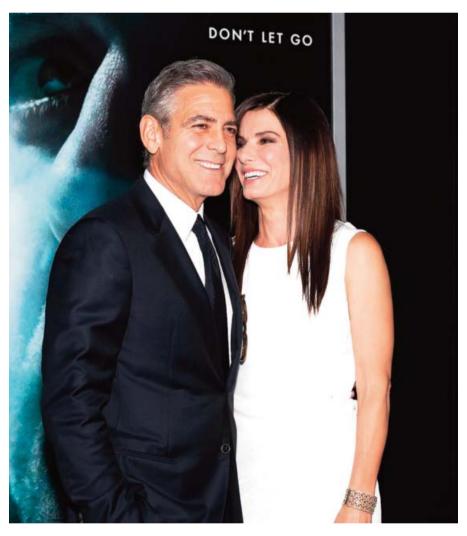
he 'Good For You' singer, 23, who split from her boyfriend Justin Bieber last year following four years of on/off dating, has admitted she automatically turns to the 25-year-old starlet when she needs help in the "boy department." Speaking to Britain's InStyle magazine, she said: "I'll be like, 'I think I totally screwed up,' but Taylor says, 'Actually, you didn't,' and shows me how to make my mistakes into something great. People have this fantasy that we're in our underwear, having pillow fights. We just play good music - sometimes live and eat, and hang out." And the pair, who formed a friendship eight years ago, are so close that they even refer to one another as like family. Speaking of the 'Blank Space' hitmaker, Selena said recently: "She's

like a sister to me." But it's not just dating advice Taylor dishes out to the brunette beauty as she's also been there to pick up the pieces when Selena was going through a tough time. She explained: "We met when she was 18. I was 15 or 16. She was so great to me. Then we became best friends. She would fly out to see me when I was going through something really hard. We'd eat a lot of fattening food and

Sandra Bullock knew Clooney 'found the right person' to marry

■he 51-year-old actress and her pal were both committed to not marrying again but once the eternal bachelor introduced her to the British human rights lawyer in 2014 she was convinced they would become husband and wife. In an interview with Italian magazine IO Donna, she said: "I knew that George had found the right person. He made the right choice and so did Amal: they prove that you have to resist to the pressure of a world that wants to see you married." Despite George making the decision to take the plunge and tie the knot for a second time, Sandra - who starred with the Hollywood hunk in 'Gravity' - doesn't think she'll ever

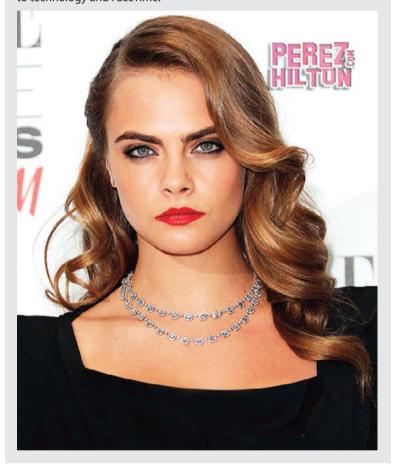
walk down the aisle again. The Oscar winner - who was previously wed to Jesse James from 2005 to 2010 - is happy to concentrate on her son Louis and her career rather than wait to meet a new 'Mr. Right' who may pop the question to her. Joking about George's marriage, she said: "I know, he put me in a very bad situation. Now I'm the only one saying around, 'Don't get married again! There's no need to do it." She added: "Never say never (about marriage), but I can tell you that I don't feel the necessity to do it. One day, maybe, I could get high in Las Vegas and finding myself married the day after!"

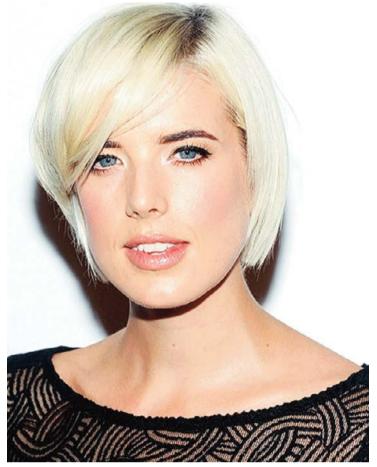


Sara Y)elevigne

believes sexiness comes from within

he 23-year-old model-and-actress - who is dating singer St. Vincent - needs a positive mindset to feel attractive, insisting it doesn't matter what she's wearing when she feels good. Asked what makes her feel sexy, she said: "It's about my mindset, more so than what I wear." Cara has a number of tattoos but her favourite was a Sak Yant symbol which she got while in Thailand as it felt so "spiritual". She said: "It's hard to pick my favourite, but maybe the one I got on the back of my neck in Thailand. It was a spiritual process." Despite being regarded as a style icon, the 'Paper Towns' actress doesn't think she always looks good but just prefers to feel comfortable in what she is wearing. She said: "I'm still trying to figure it out" I usually wear what's comfortable but that doesn't always mean it looks good." Cara is thankful for modern technology as it helps her stay in touch while she's working away a lot. She told LOOK magazine: "I have a lot of very understanding people in my life who support my schedule "Let's just say I am grateful to technology and FaceTime."





Agyness Deyn feels the same as she did when she was a child

divorced actor Giobanni Ribisi earlier this year after three began to take its toll on her. She years of marriage - admits she has explained: "If someone is patting a lot more life experience to draw you on the back and being like, on these days, but doesn't think she's changed as a person. She said: "I am the same as when I was a child. I just have a lot more experience. "I am inherently the same person but I just know a few more things." Agyness quit modelling when she was at the peak of her popularity, and with hindsight can see it was a "crazy" decision. She said: "It wasn't as if my career had started to decrease. I stopped modelling when things were going good. "I look back and think it's kind of crazy I did that." But the

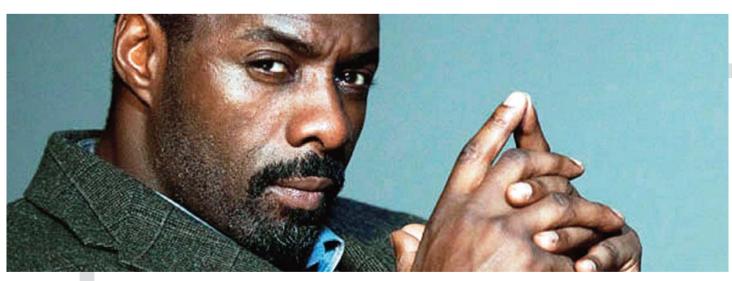
■he 32-year-old model- 'Sunset Song' star thinks it was the turned-actress - who right thing to do because being celebrated just for her looks 'You're great, the way you look is great', that's where it becomes a little off kilter because maybe you don't feel that way inside." Instead, Agyness found fulfilment when she studied drama. She explained to Britain's Grazia magazine: "It was like the excitement I got when I started modelling and that was electric to me. "It's like if you are in a relationship and you start having feelings for someone else. It's terrible to stay with that per-

Harry Potter named his middle child Albus Severus out of 'forgiveness and respect'

.K. Rowling - the author of the bestselling books - has explained the origin of the characters' name, explaining it was a mark of gratitude to the former Potions teacher and Hogwarts' headmaster. During an exchange with a fan on Twitter, Rowling was asked: "Why did you pick Snape to name Harry's kid after? I'm genuinely curious as he was nothing but abusive towards everyone." However, Rowling disputed the idea that Snape truly disliked the wizard and she proved her point by saying Snape sacrificed himself for the sake of Harry's family. The author replied: "Snape

died for Harry out of love for Lily. Harry paid him tribute in forgiveness and gratitude." Later, she added: "There's a whole essay in why Harry gave his son Snape's name, but the decision goes to the heart of who Harry was, post-war. "In honouring Snape, Harry hoped in his heart that he too would be forgiven. The deaths at the Battle of Hogwarts would haunt Harry forever. "I've got to say this: you lot have been arguing about Snape for years. My timeline just exploded with love & fury yet again.





Idris Elba sat in his slippers when Madonna asked him to open her concert

before the 'Queen of Pop' performed in Berlin, Germany, on her 'Rebel Heart Tour'. When Idris got the call from her manager with the job offer, Idris was sat at home relaxing in his casual clothes and was shocked that Madonna wanted to use him at her concert. During an appearance on 'The Jonathan Ross Show', he said: "Here's the story, I was sitting in my house on a Sunday in my slippers, the phone goes and her manager calls me and says, 'Listen, Madonna would love you to DJ on Tuesday in Berlin.' I was like 'What?' He calls me back, I go, 'Are you joking?' He goes, 'No, seriously do you fancy the job?' And my mates were like you, 'Don't say no to Madge, you've just got to do it, you've just got to do the job.' So I ended up going to Berlin and doing that!" Speaking about why he loves DJing, Idris - who is in a relationship with Naiyana Garth, with whom he has young son Winston - admits it brings him back down to Earth after the dizzying heights of acting in Hollywood. He

■he 'Pacific Rim' star played a DJ set earlier this month said: "The truth is it's my reset button. I go off and be an actor and then you come back and you get a lot of love for it but as actors can tend to just float away on clouds ... When you DJ for 17,000 people, no one cares that you were in 'Absolutely Fabulous', no one cares you're just an actor, play your music and be good and that's what grounds me, it sort of resets me." As well as being one of the world's most indemand actors and a DJ, Idris has now turned his hand to fashion. The 43-year-old actor has created his own signature autumn winter collection for Superdry. He attended the launch of his menswear range at the company's flagship store on Regent Store in London on Thursday night (26.11.15) with other guests including ex-world champion boxer David Hayes, Made In Chelsea's Oliver Proudlock, 'X Factor' contestant Chloe Paige and Amy Jackson. Hundreds of fans queued for hours to get into the store for a chance to meet their idol Idris.

Gossip



Miranda Lambert says she and Blake **Shelton** battled hard to save marriage

he country music stars shocked fans when they divorced earlier this year after four years of marriage but Miranda, 32, insists they "gave it our best college try" before splitting up. She told Cosmopolitan magazine: "Marriage is a tough business, and we gave it our best college try." And while their relationship is over, Miranda has nothing but kind words for her 39-year-old former husband, who recently started dating Gwen Stefani. She said: "I had a great relationship with an amazing man, so I know what good is. I have a great launching pad for the future. I will never take that for granted." However, Miranda admitted that the split hasn't

always been easy. Speaking about trying to move on, she said: "Some of that might mean nights on my porch crying, drinking whiskey, and going, 'Man, this sucks right now." Miranda also revealed that she is throwing herself into her music and she feels "sexiest" when she is performing. She said: "I feel the sexiest when I'm in my element, which is playing music. It doesn't really matter what I'm wearing necessarily or where I'm at, just on stage with my band playing music is sort of where I feel like I belong and that makes me feel sexy."



Nathan Sykes

gets 'really shy' when he fancies a girl

■he 'Kiss Me Quick' hitmaker - who dated Ariana Grande for four months in 2013 - becomes nervous and very timid when he meets a beautiful woman he wants to romance and he's not a great dater. The 22-yearold star shared: "I'm really, really shy. So whenever I see someone that I really like I go all giggly. And I'm just like... (sucks in breath)." Speaking of how he gets around his dating difficulties, he added: "I'm really bad at dating. I don't date. You know what it is? I always become friends with whoever I'm dating first, so it kinda just falls into being a relationship, kinda just, trip and fall into. 'Oh we're dating now. Brilliant!' I'm not one of those people who says, 'Oh are we going on a date now?' Because they can go, 'Oh ... I don't really know.' But the former member of 'The Wanted' Over Again' is rising in the charts. Speaking on UKTV show 'Loose Women', he gushed: "After 'X Factor' on Sunday I flew into LA the Monday morning to film something Monday night and I flew back yesterday. But when I landed in LA, the first thing I did was go to the charts. "I gave this poor lady the fright of her life, because I'd been asleep for the whole flight, and I just opened my phone, and went 'Yeaaah!!!' And it was 4am. This poor lady, she went, 'Is everything alright love?' And I was like, 'Yeah I'm brilliant!! Do not worry about me, I'm fine!"



Mariah Carey is 'oblivious' to ageing

■he 45-year-old singer insisted she isn't worried about getting older because she just doesn't acknowledge her age. She told PEOPLE: "I think I have to remain eternally oblivious to age. Honestly, when you put a number on it yourself, it's just like, Why? Why do that?" Mariah also revealed that a "good hair and makeup team" help her to feel beautiful but insisted she is quite low-key when she isn't working. She said: "If you're not wearing a lot of makeup, you don't have to take a lot of it off. So, my goal is to wear the least amount of makeup possible so I don't have to steam my face and take it all off. "I do [have bad hair days], and then I have to apply my 500 hours of beauty school. If it's really bad, I'll just slick it back and put it in a bun. "When I was growing up I used to go into the girl's bathroom and fix the front with a brush on a hand dryer because it would come up. And the back was never smooth cause I couldn't really reach it. So, I try not to blow dry my own hair. If I have to do my hair from scratch, I'll keep it natural."



breakouts. She said: "A few years ago, I was diagnosed with Hashimoto's, which is a

thyroid autoimmune disorder [that can

interfere with thyroid function and affect metabolism]. "They had put me on this thyroid medication, and I think the levels were too high for me because it caused my skin to break out. All my life I've always had great skin, so it was really devastating. Also, at first, I was losing a lot of weight, then I went on tour and I started gaining weight, and it was the most I'd ever gained in my life. I was, like, 115 pounds. Then when I filmed a movie last summer, I actually went under 100 pounds. It was crazy, but things have leveled out, and I'm back to normal. "I still have Hashimoto's. But my numbers are back to normal, and I'm not on medication. I feel good."



Benedict Cumberbatch wants more children

Sophie Hunter welcomed their first child, son Christopher Carlton, in June and joked he would love to have a "Cumber-batch of boys". During an interview on BBC One's 'The Graham Norton Show', which airrd on Friday, Benedict said: "I've become a father and a husband, and in the right order - just! I might go for a Cumber-batch of boys!" Benedict also revealed he loved coming home to his happy family after playing Hamlet on stage every night during a recent production of the play in London. He said: "It's everything. I have a new life form that needs his father's help in the world and his mother needs a little help once in a while. It's what

■he 39-year-old actor and his wife excuse to get away from what I am doing, it's what I ought to be doing and after three and half hours of Hamlet I think that's okay." Meanwhile, Johnny Depp recently claimed Benedict is like a "real-life brother" to him after they played siblings James 'Whitey' Bulger and Billy Bulger in 'Black Mass'. Johnny, 52, told BBC News: "He is a beautiful man of exceptional talent. He became like a real-life brother. The set-up we were playing was an unusual one - one brother becomes a politician, the other is king of the underworld. "They still meet up for family dinners and church, just from opposing sides. It takes an actor with a lot of ability, like Benedict, to make that credi-



Anne Hathaway pregnant

he 32-year-old actress and her producer husband Adam Shulman, 34, will welcome their first child into the world next year. A source told E! News: "Anne is in her second trimester and feeling great!" Anne was spotted out and about in Beverly Hills earlier this week with what appeared to be a large baby bump. Anne and Adam married in 2012 and she has previously spoken of her desire to start a family. The 'Princess Diaries' star said: "Oh, my God. I want to be a mother, and I anticipate loving my children quite fiercely. I think about it all the time, though it's a silly thing to think about because the kind of mother I'll be depends on the kind of children I have. I can't wait to meet them." Anne also admitted that she and Adam had been trying to decide where to live once they have children as she wants to keep their offspring out of the spotlight. She said: "I'm thinking about that [the paparazzi] because I really want to have a baby, and my husband and I are like, 'Where are we gonna







Regency going from strength to strength

Satisfied employees behind luxury hotel's success

By Ben Garcia

ehind successful companies are satisfied employees. This is the mantra of The Regency Kuwait General Manager Aurelio Giraudo. "Employees are the most important part of any business, which has been proven to be the most effective formula used by many top companies to win and retain customers and be successful," he told Kuwait Times at Regency's spacious and majestic hotel lobby in Salwa. "They are the backbone of any business - if you have satisfied employees, you'll get satisfied guests, and it means more business to follow, because they will share their experiences with others, "Giraudo said.

"In my first three years at the hotel as general manager, I saw to it that every employee we hired was satisfied and contented. We give them the best of what we can offer, so they are also satisfied and give the best they can to our guests," he said. According to Giraudo, his goal in 2016-2017 will be to generate even more business. "Our focus is to reward back our employer because during my first three years, he gave me space to appreciate and look after the workers. I have done this, so my next mission is to give more back to the owner," he said. Situated on a private beach on the Arabian Gulf coast in Kuwait, this luxurious 5-star resort offers elegant rooms with Italian furniture and marble bathrooms. Facilities include five swimming pools, and rooms have free Internet access, Egyptian cotton bed linen, large flat-screen TVs and walk-in rain showers. Many rooms have a private balcony or terrace with panoramic garden or sea views. The Regency Kuwait's freshwater swimming pools include a lap pool, an infinity pool, two children's pools and one ladies-only pool. The well-equipped fitness center is open 24 hours a day.

Authentic

"The hotel operates independently and is genuinely local. This is a hotel which stands on its own feet - authentically Kuwaiti but with an international touch, respecting the standards of a luxuri-

ous hotel," Giraudo told Kuwait Times. The hotel takes pride in the newly refurbished Balsamico restaurant, which offers authentic Italian dishes and an elegant and inviting environment. "Balsamico is Italian and we offer the best of Italian food. Another restaurant is Gourmet Boutique, where we serve fresh pastries, a selection of gourmet coffees, espressos and cappuccinos complimented with your favorite cakes made by our award-winning pastry team. These are available 24/7 in the hotel lobby too," he added.

The Ladies' Lounge at The Regency offers an exclusive ladies-only sanctuary in Kuwait. It opens during the summer and spring season and features a swimming pool, a waterfall plunge pool, a private lounge area with an extensive menu and a private beach with direct views of the Arabian Gulf. The Regency Hotel is less than a 5-minute drive from the Salmiya souk and 15 minutes from Kuwait International Airport. Asked about the effect of the ongoing wars and crises in the region, Giraudo said it hasn't had much of an impact on the hotel business, although activities have slowed down a bit. "In 2013-2014, lots of international business activities took place in Kuwait, but during the course of 2015, the pace reduced a bit. The fewer the international activities that are held here, the lesser our revenues get. But from what I've heard, the slowdown is related to the fall in oil prices and not the turmoil in the neighborhood," he said.

Business Hub

"There was a bombing in Kuwait in Ramadan, but the fallout was immediately contained because the Kuwaiti government acted rapidly, so we didn't see any effect to our business at all," Giraud mentioned. Kuwait is a business hub for many international travelers but not designed for travelers seeking pleasure. "While we've got fewer activities in 2015, we can see more and more international business conferences come 2016 and 2017. Four big events related to government initiated projects are slated for 2016, and every hotel in Kuwait will benefit from them. We'll get our share of



The Regency Kuwait General Manager Aurelio Giraudo.
— Photos by Joseph Shagra

the pie," he said. Giraudo noted since he started handling the hotel's operation in the last part of 2012, the hotel's standards have appreciated. "We started getting international awards and recognitions. For three consecutive years, we've been mentioned by many magazines internationally as being among the best hotels in the Gulf. We have won many awards Internationally, including several five-star and seven-star awards, luxury awards and travel awards.Booking.com ranks us as number one. We have been voted as one of the most preferred hotels internationally, so we are being mentioned and we are getting business not just locally, but internationally too," he beamed.

With regards to competition, Giraudo said that many international hotels in Kuwait are opening soon. "Many five-star hotels in Kuwait will open either late this year or next year. Being a luxury hotel, our direct competitors are Jumeirah Hotel, Sheraton, Symphony, JW Marriott and Marina Hotel. But we are in the best position because we are located in the best spot ever," Giraudo

said. "We have the best view of the beach and are pretty close to the airport, and not too affected by the traffic," he said. "Luxury hotels are coming up like the Intercontinental Hotel and Grand Hyatt Hotel. If you invest millions if not billions of dinars in the country, you know what to expect. The government's plan is to make Kuwait a business hub in the Mideast. We are seeing this happen slowly but surely," he pointed out.

Giraudo is a confident and versatile senior manager, with extensive experience and in-depth knowledge and skills developing, directing and sustaining cost-effective and profitable operations for world leading premier establishments across the hospitality industry, competing within national and international markets. Giraudo's responsibilities in the hotel include being the director of development. Acknowledged as a highly focused and committed professional, with a strong understanding of marketing and promoting resorts and hotel outlets within extremely competitive markets, he possesses excellent customer relation skills, building and recruiting teams to ensure the smooth running of day-to-day operations, delivering maximum profits and required investment returns. He also generates new ideas for hotel management and development of the company. He supports and liaises with the owners in the exploration of opening new hotels in the Middle East, focusing and carrying out market analyses on

restaurants, airport lounges and hospital catering projects.
The Regency Hotel Awards/Recognitions
Winner of 2014 World Luxury Hotel Award
Winner of 2012-2013-2014 World Travel Award
Kuwait's Leading Luxury Hotel
Kuwait's Leading Conference Hotel

Seven Star Global Luxury Award, June 2013-2014 Tripadvisor Certificate of Excellence 2013-2014 Consecutive number one on Tripadvisor 2012-2013-2014-2015.







FROM COUNTRYSIDE TO CATWALK, THAI TEEN DESIGNER TAKES ON PREJUDICE

skirts made from bamboo chicken cages and billowy dresses crafted from mosquito nets-a Thai teen is elevating everyday items of rural life to the catwalk to challenge entrenched prejudice among the Bangkok elite.

Apichet Atilattana, a 16-year-old from Khon Kaen in Thailand's northeastern rice bowl region, launched his designs on Facebook. But on Friday night his inventive, humourous, and somewhat bizarre concepts made their catwalk debut at a fashion show in Bangkok. His materials-bamboo rice steamers, banana leaves and hand-held fansare loaded with symbolism in a country divided

between the wealth and power of Bangkok and a rural majority who provide the backbone of the economy. "I want to show people in Bangkok that Isaan people can be creative," he told AFP, using the name for the poor but populous northeastern region. "People in Bangkok should start thinking out of the box... They have this idea that people in Isaan are dirty, uneducated, but there are a lot who are successful."

Apichet's sleepy home town of Khon Kaen is a creative hub. Cannes Palme d'Or winning (2010) director Apichatpong Weerasethakul also hails from the city.

It is also a focal point of opposition to the ruling junta. The military seized power from the elected government in 2014, disenfranchising millions of Isaan people who voted for the toppled administration of Yingluck Shinawatra.

It was the second coup in less than a decade supported by a Bangkok elite who refuse to accept losing at the polls.

Politics has reinforced the sense of separation between the Bangkok elite and the people of Isaan who they stereotype as ill-educated, unrefined and

sily led. While Apichet, better known by his nickname Madeaw, is avowedly non-political, he hopes his fashion can in some way help bridge the social

"I want to transform things seen as without value, useless things, into ones with value," he said. "I had chicken cages at home. I noticed the hole, I put the cage on my body and it looked beautiful... I want to imply that you can't judge people by how they look." — AFP







Thai teen designer Apichet Atilattana, 16, posing at the Alliance Française in Bangkok. Skirts made from bamboo chicken cages and billowy dresses crafted from mosquito nets — a Thai teen is elevating everyday items of rural life to the catwalk to challenge entrenched prejudice among the Bangkok elite. — AFP



A file photo taken on May 18, 2015, shows exhibitors dressed as "The Hatter" (L) 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



Actress Tonia Miller from the performing arts group Teatro Vivo perform during a "Mad Hattter's Tea Party" during an event marking the 150th anniversary of the publication of "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland" at The Story Museum in

Alice still shapeshifting 150 years after Wonderland

century and a half after first being published, the surreal classic "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland" still fascinates readers and inspires artists with its eerie and iconic fantasy world. An exhibition in the British Library traces how the story and its characters quickly took on a life of their own after the publication of the book in 1865, inspiring spin-off merchandising, music and early film.

Visitors to the show in London wander through large distorted mirrors and illustrations that walk them through the plot of the book, before discovering the history of how it became a classic.

James Devine, 66, spoke rapturously of the book as he remembered reading it as a child in 1950s Glasgow. "It's fascinating. It takes you into another world. I loved it, particularly the Cheshire Cat," Devine told AFP. "You get carried away with it."

The exhibition begins with how the story was born: on a summer's day in Oxford in 1862, when Charles Dodgson, a maths tutor who took the pen name Lewis Carroll, took a boat trip with 10-yearold Alice Liddell and two of her sisters, and told them a story.

At the heart of the exhibits is a display of the original leather-bound manuscript later written down by Carroll by hand with 37 careful illustrations and presented to Alice in 1865 with the dedication "a Christmas gift to a dear child, in memory

of a summer day". Liddell sold the manuscript for a record price in 1928 to an American collector, but it was gifted to the British Museum after World War II "as an expression of thanks to a noble people who kept Hitler at bay for a long period single-handed".

A book of the original manuscript, with its old title "Alice's Adventures Under Ground" has been published this year in a luxury edition by French publishing house Les Saint Peres to mark the 150th anniversary.

Dodgson revised the manuscript, taking out personal passages and adding new sections for publication under his pen name "Lewis Carroll". "Lewis Carroll was as charming, imaginative and attractive as the tutor Charles Dodgson was boring, dull and stern," said Belgian writer Amelie Nothomb who wrote the introduction to the newly published early version. The book came out in November 1865 with illustrations by artist John Tenniel that were to make the story and its characters iconic. "It's now part of our cultural consciousness," said Helen Melody, a curator of the exhibition.

"The text of the story is very rich but doesn't contain much description... there's a lot of room in the story for different interpretations, different ways to imagine."

'There's darkness in there'

The exhibition makes clear how central the visu-

al interpretation of Carroll's world has been throughout the decades, tracing how Alice has been re-imagined many times over and continues to shapeshift.

Alice was depicted as a cherubic redhead by illustrator Mabel Lucie Attwell, and with the true dark hair of the real Liddell by others, in images alternately sweet and sinister, many coloured by the context of the time, such as the world wars.

Several visitors to the show recalled that the book frightened them when they were children.

Alicia Phyall, 24, a pink-haired theatre assistant from Kent, got an Alice-themed tattoo on her leg in honour of the 150th anniversary. "I just love it," she said. "It's so different. It's scary, I remember when my dad read it to me first I was terrified."

"It's not all sweetness and light, there's darkness in there," added her mother Helen Merchant, 58. The blonde Alice with the blue dress began to emerge as the definitive image in the first half of the 20th century, and was cemented by Disney in their 1951 animated film that introduced the work to new readers.

Visitors can explore decades of artists' inspiration from the work, from a 1903 silent film, to art and music such as Jefferson Airplane's "White Rabbit" in the psychedelic 1960s, to a modern-day video game.

Due to the quick success of the book after its ini-



tial publication, Carroll began to work on a sequel and helped develop merchandise linked to the book like teacups, toys and biscuit tins.

The tradition is continued with a pop-up sou-

venir shop linked to the exhibition, filled with

Alice-themed dolls, bow ties and jewellery. — AFP

Actress Sarah Finigan from the performing arts group Teatro Vivo who plays the role of Queen of hearts attends a mock trial during an event marking the 150th anniversary of the publication of "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland". — AP

STUDS & DROPS **FESTIVAL**

Studs & Drops festival at Malabar **Gold & Diamonds**

alabar Gold & Diamonds, the leading jewellery retailer announced the details of its unique campaign - 'Studs & Drops Festival' in the entire showrooms in Kuwait showcasing an extensive collection of earrings, giving their customers a unique chance to witness and own studs and drops from over 20 countries in gold, diamond and platinum. This festival runs

from 26 Nov to 05 Dec 2015. The jewellery chain presents a marvelous range of ear rings and studs for today's woman, keeping in mind the different roles she plays at work and at home and the way she adorn herself differently on special occasions and in everyday life. This exclusive festival gives their customers a unique chance to choose from a stunning collection of earrings designed and handcrafted by skilled artisans around the world, ranging from lightweight daily wear to heavy party wear in traditional as well as

international designs to suit every occasion. Their branded jewellery, Era- uncut diamond jewellery, Ethnix- hand crafted designer jewellery, Mine- diamonds unlimited, Divine- Heritage jewellery, Precia- precious gem jewellery and Starletkids jewellery will also be on display during the festival.

To add customer's delight, the group also offers 'Zero Deduction Exchange' facility through which customers can update their old ornaments to the latest collection of Malabar Gold & Diamonds without any loss. Any 22 ct old gold ornaments can be exchanged with the latest Malabar Gold & Diamonds designs by paying only making charges ensuring they don't lose any value on the rate of gold. The customers also get a fabulous chance to buy 8 gm gold coins with absolutely no making charges from any of Malabar Gold & Diamonds outlets in GCC during this period.

Malabar Gold & Diamonds is always at the forefront when it comes to promotions and festivals. The immaculate collection of studs and drops are available at their outlets in Kuwait with their unique exchange offers and buyback policies. The jewellery chain offers lifetime free repair and maintenance service for all its products.

Theatre keeps hope alive in the mud, tears of Calais 'Jungle'

t's approaching 7pm and some among the crowd at the entrance to "the Jungle" in Calais are growing tired of the spectacle. For three hours riot police have fired tear gas down onto them from a motorway bridge to keep them inside Europe's most notorious migrant camp on the north coast of France. Stones whizz back in response. For once, the residents of what Doctors Without Borders calls this "shameful... squalid, state-sanctioned shanty town" are grateful for the fierce wind whipping in from the Channel.

Time to go to the theatre

A small group of Afghans peels off to walk arm-in-arm back through the second-hand clothes market at the crossroads between "Afghanistan" and the Sudanese section, past "Eritrea" with its large plywood Orthodox church, to the big white domed tent rising from the mud of this former rubbish dump. Their beacon in the darkness is the Good Chance Theatre, set up in September by two young British playwrights known as "Joe and Joe". There's some kind of performance every night, and Wednesday's was a two-hour variety show, a kind of "The Jungle's Got Talent". A cheeky version of "Clandestino", Manu Chao's song about illegal immigrants in the US-"Africano clandestino, Afghani clandestino, Pakistani clandestino"-is met with cheers and howls of laughter. Then a young Iranian in a hoodie comes in, bent from the cold, and asks for a guitar.

'Mission Impossible'

He takes off his gloves and flicks out his fingers like a gunslinger and begins to play a concerto by the Spanish composer Rodrigo. As it finishes, all you can hear is the sound of the wind and the lorries on the motorway heading

camp in Calais, northern France. — AFP photos



Migrants take part in theatre and music lessons in a makeshift theatre. — AFP

to the port and on to England, where almost everyone in the room is risking their life to get

Seventeen have died in the attempt since June. Every night the migrants wait for the traffic to slow as it backs up from the ferry terminal before trying to clamber into moving lorries. A young Kurdish man nurses a wound on his hand where he claims a lorry driver slashed him with a knife as he clung onto his cab earlier in the day. "He was afraid. I was afraid, he wanted to kill me," he said. Others walk the 15 kilometres (nine miles) to try their luck at the heavily-guarded entrance to the Channel Tunnel. "There is a scene in the first 'Mission Impossible' film where they jump on top of a moving Eurostar train. That happens every night here," said Joe Robertson, who set up the theatre with his cowriter Joe Murphy. They stumbled into "the Jungle" in August on their way south to research Europe's migrant crisis only to realise the "worst refugee situation of all" was on their doorstep.

NGOs accuse the British and French governments of trying to make life in "the Jungle" as unbearable as possible to deter further migrants. A site is now being cleared to put up weatherproof tents for 1,500 people, less than half"the Jungle's" present population.

"How could people care if they don't know who these people are?" Murphy said.

"That is where the theatre comes in, it allows people to tell their stories... and to explain who they are to the rest of the world through Twitter, Instagram and Facebook."

Refugees-including an actor who says he dubbed "Tom and Jerry" into Kurdish in Iraq-not only star in the nightly shows, but also give daytime workshops in everything from drawing to

kung fu. Leading British stage figures, including Oscar-nominated director Stephen Daldry, pitched in to get the theatre off the ground and it has now morphed into "the Jungle's town hall", Murphy said.

Cholera fear

"The reason 'the Jungle' is so bad is because this is not classified as a refugee situation," said Robertson. "Which is why we have unaccompanied children walking around looking for their next meal and why I am worried cholera is going to become a problem this winter." Robertson spent eight days in hospital after falling ill following a month in the camp.

"There were people in there with broken leas and backs from trying to get to England. People don't realise the power of hope. It is not Tom Cruise or James Bond doing this, it is little 13year-olds like Mohammad (an Afghan boy) who came up with a strategy to scale the three fences around the Channel Tunnel entrance with his

"They lay still without food and water during daylight and climbed one fence every night. His uncle got through but Mohammad was caught and came back to the theatre half dead but happy his uncle had made it." After two hours of non-stop singing, the night's show ends with a frenzied Pashtun drummer that gets most of the 200 or so people inside up dancing. Baraa, a 31year-old English teacher from the Syrian city of Hama, has spent the day photographing the camp and the clashes with police to make "postcards" of life at the site. "I will try to get to England tonight," he said. "You cannot hold back humanity with a fence." — AFP



Migrants dance and play music in a makeshift theatre, in the so-called "Jungle" migrant Migrants listen to a guitarist performing in a makeshift theatre.





RunQ8 garners great support for children's rehabilitation with 1,800 participants

5th edition of the 10km run



unQ8, one of Kuwait's most prominent charity sporting events, had yet another successful year with around 1,800 people taking part in the fifth edition of the race. Organized by the Fawzia Sultan Rehabilitation Institute (FSRI), the annual race took place on the morning of November 28th at Marina Crescent.

RunQ8 aims to raise awareness and funds to support the Children's Evaluation and Rehabilitation Center (CERC), FSRI's non-profit pediatrics facility, providing specialized and multidisciplinary treatment and support for children with disabilities. The Center provides comprehensive programs that include physical therapy, speech therapy, psychology and occupational therapy.

This year RunQ8 was held in cooperation with the Ministry of Interior, in addition to support from RunQ8's founding partner Agility and a number of other major local organizations that included, Burgan Bank, Al-Ruwayeh & Partners (ASAR), Diyar United Company (DUC), Openware, Jumeriah Messilah Beach Hotel & Spa, Royal Pharmacies, The Athlete's Foot, Al Jarida, Kuwait Times, Good Health Arabia, 6abeeby and Everything Kuwait.

The 10km race proved to be an exciting challenge for the competitive athletes and avid run-

ners amongst the participants, with the fastest runner completing the race in less than 35 minutes. Wendy Ulrich came in first in the women's division, with Abigail Bartholomew and Nadya Mayahi rounding up the top 3 in that category, in second and third place respectively. Amongst the male participants, Greg Ziembinski nabbed first place followed by Mohammed Abdullah and then Kedir Amino Abdo. As for the youth category, Helga Quint came in first amongst females, with Abdulmohsen Al-Ali placing first amongst the male participants.

However, the race was just as fun and exciting for everyone else who chose to walk, jog or even just stroll to simply take part and show their support for the great cause. Families and friends of participants lent their support by gathering at the RunQ8 race village where an eclectic mix of local vendors and businesses had set up booths, offering snacks, beverages and much more. The race village also featured a number of fun activities throughout the day, including yoga, holistic fitness and a Cross Fit demonstration.

"We continue to be amazed every year by the level of support we see from our sponsors, partners, participants and of course the public. We are immensely grateful for every single person who

came out today to show their support for such a worthy cause" said Dr Elham Al-Hamdan, President & Medical Director of FSRI. "RunQ8 is more than just a race; it is an important social initiative that aims to not only raise awareness of, but also gather much needed funds to support children's rehabilitation in Kuwait."

All proceeds from the race go towards enabling CERC to continue providing highly specialized quality care to children in Kuwait, who otherwise may not get access to the care they need. Majority of the raised funds from RunQ8 are used to help children and families suffering from financial difficulties, providing them treatment at a subsidized lower cost, or even for free in some cases.

Dr. Elham further added "The money that we

Dr. Elham further added "The money that we have raised in the past through RunQ8 proved crucial towards improving the lives of so many families, helping to provide their children with the life changing treatment they so urgently needed. This is why we continue to organize this race year after year. The support of the local community is vital to us as a non-profit institution, and goes a long way towards helping us carry out our mission to provide specialized care for people across all segments of society."











