

Amir returns to Kuwait from positive UN summit



Obaidi at WHO Committee for Eastern Mediterranean



S Korea cap a miserable week for Kuwait



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Kuwait Times Friday Times



Min 24°
Max 39°

www.kuwaittimes.net

NO: 16662- Friday, October 9, 2015

BYE TO BLATTER

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In this June 1, 2011 file photo Swiss FIFA President Joseph Blatter, right, and French UEFA President Michel Platini walk together at the 61st FIFA Congress in Zurich, Switzerland. Yesterday FIFA provisionally banned President Sepp Blatter and UEFA President Michel Platini for 90 days. — AP

Local Spotlight

LIFE IS INCOMPATIBLE HERE



By Muna Al-Fuzai

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A lot of people leave their countries in search of better work, more income, greater stability for their families and perhaps a chance for fame as well, when life becomes impossible because of wars and political crises. All these reasons are logical. But, it is not the same in Kuwait, especially in recent years. It has become noticeable that some educated and intellectual Kuwaitis have other reasons for leaving their country and settling somewhere else. They are not doing this for the normal, well-known goal, which is money, but because they feel incompatible here with their ideas and find it difficult to effect change and development, so they think it is easier to live abroad to enjoy peace.

Fifteen years ago, I met a successful, wealthy Kuwaiti businessman, and during my conversation with him, he said that in spite of all the money he had, he was thinking of leaving Kuwait. I was amazed by this statement and considered his words as a joke, because only rich people say that money is not important. I said to myself only very wealthy people say such silly things, as they have everything in front of them. After these long years, I think that he was right. Money no longer stimulates such thinking to get out of Kuwait in search of a new homeland.

It is no longer surprising that some Kuwaitis want a life outside Kuwait. They love their country certainly, but they feel they are unable to make a speedy and positive transformation, and most of them are smart and successful people in their work, as well as some young people who feel that they can easily cope outside their country because they have the freedom to express themselves and their ideas without being judged either from the community or family. This is a serious matter for a small and limited community like ours, but for the moment, there are not many people talking publicly about this matter.

I know that some people may find this desire of citizens to live outside Kuwait an escape from addressing the situation of their country and its reasons, whether political, social or intellectual, and they should keep trying until the last breath because this is what true citizenship is about. In fact, this argument is a luxurious one to me - the decision to leave home is not easy. Such decisions are made by experts and people with businesses who have families here, but some may feel they have become strangers in their own land, and this is frustrating and despairing. When an individual feels he can't make a difference due to the system, he moves out quietly to settle somewhere else and watches as a spectator both internal and external global conditions.

In recent years, more Kuwaitis are buying real estate abroad. It is becoming an obsession and aspiration to the extent that it is no longer for businessmen, but even those who receive some money from their pension insurance rush to buy property outside town, whether in an Arab or Western country. Countries such as Turkey and Britain have become places to purchase properties and are no longer mere tourist destinations. To own property in a country means the person has the desire to be a resident there for the longest possible period. Some people live abroad for several months and return to the country only on religious occasions such as the month of Ramadan.

Kuwaitis are clever, and they do not want to live poorly outside their country, so they choose to stay in their private properties and not in hotels, as they seem less concerned with appearance and often enjoy the simple lifestyle there. They are still loyal to their homeland, but they want to enjoy life like the rest of humanity without being judged. Is this asking for too much? Not at all. So maybe now money is no longer the only reason life becomes incompatible.

EQUALITY IS KEY

I felt compelled to mention the man's possible nationality....if he had been Kuwaiti or even an Arab, the circumstances would have been a lot different. Unfortunately, the concept of equality and respecting individuals equally in Kuwait and many other parts in the Arab world remains not fully comprehended.

By Ahmad Jabr

The place: A bystreet near a private clinic in Jabriya. The time: Approximately 10 minutes before sunset. A 2012-13 Ford Taurus police patrol pulls over near a power transformer where a man was walking. A police officer steps out of the patrol car, stops the man who from appearance looks to be from Southeast Asia, and asks him for his identification.

So far the scene doesn't seem so very out of the ordinary - at least not in Kuwait. Then while the visibly dumbfounded man was searching inside his handbag for his wallet, something unusual happens: the officer spontaneously thrusts his hand inside the opened bag, and starts inspecting its contents in clear violation of the man's rights. Moments later, the man handed his ID over to the officer; who went back to the patrol vehicle to check his record before ultimately letting him go.

Illegal search and nationality

According to Kuwait's law, police officers are barred from inspecting potential suspects unless they obtain a warrant from the prosecutor. There have been many cases in court in which drug dealers were acquitted of all charges due to incorrect arrest procedures - namely police searching the suspects without obtaining a warrant.

One of the reasons why a search warrant is required - by law - before searching a person is to insure that his rights are not violated. Here the law protects individuals' rights, but as can be seen from the example above, those rights are not necessarily protected by law enforcers all the time. One wonders: Did the policeman in that case know the correct procedures to be taken when stopping a potential suspect? Did he knowingly ignore the law? Or was he improperly trained?

Given the fact that all police officers have to go through thorough training and classes in which they become acquainted with all laws and regulations before they graduate, it is hard to imagine that he never knew that he was not supposed to search the man's bag without obtaining a warrant. So, why did he do what he did?

I felt compelled while writing the first paragraph to mention the man's possible nationality. I honestly believe that if the man was a Kuwaiti national or an Arab citizen, the circumstances would have probably been a lot different - that is if he was even stopped at all. Unfortunately, the concept of equality and respecting individuals equally in Kuwait and many other parts in the Arab world remains not fully comprehended.

Kuwait prides itself by having a constitution and a sophisticated list of laws that protect human rights, yet it

remains stuck in lower tiers in international human rights, freedom and trafficking in persons reports. It is not a contradiction.

Inhumane treatment

What Kuwait sees as sufficient humane treatment of individuals on its land is seen as inadequate by international standards. For example, the long-awaited domestic workers law which was passed in parliament earlier this year still lacks elements to guarantee that the rights of housemaids are not violated. There is no way to insure that a maid who is locked inside her employer's home 24/7 is having her full rights guaranteed. The law primarily deals with organizing the process by which a domestic helper is hired, rather than introducing strict measures to protect workers' rights. A quick glance through the law makes you think that legislators were more concerned about employers' wallets rather than domestic worker rights. Yet, the law has internally been hailed as 'another victory in Kuwait's illustrious human rights record.'

Kuwait can spend millions to build hundreds of shelters and introduce thousands of new laws. But unless it experiences a drastic social change that sees human beings treated and respected equally, it is hard to predict any improvement in the country's human rights record anytime soon.

Photo

o f t h e d a y



KUWAIT: Fatima Mosque in Abdullah Al-Salem area. A blend between tradition and modern architecture. — Photo by Kuna/Ghazy Qaff

DOMESTIC WORKERS learn to shoot

By Athoob Al-Shuaibi

Project 189 is an organization that aims to protect and improve the rights of domestic workers in the Middle East, founded in Kuwait by Ekaterina Porras and Lamma Ghannam. "Our vision is for all domestic workers to be equal and free from all forms of exploitation, discrimination and abuse, and that all states recognize in law and practice domestic work under international labor and human rights laws. Our mission is to strengthen labor and human rights laws in the Middle East through advocacy, awareness, empowerment and the promotion of Convention 189," said Ekaterina, referring to the International Labor Organization's convention concerning decent work for domestic workers.

As part of their work to empower domestic workers, Project 189 launched a photography workshop to help domestic workers in Kuwait learn new skills.

Project 189 was inspired by the story of Xyza Cruz Bacani, a Filipino domestic worker in Hong Kong who has now become an ambassador for Fujifilm, and received special merit at the 2015 human rights press awards, along with a fellowship from the Magnum Foundation for human rights. Her eye-opening documentary on the brutality faced by domestic workers was discussed by media all around the world.

Hope

Project 189 believes in the importance of photography and how it can change the life of an individual. "The photography workshop gave domestic workers a feeling of hope, they were able to do something new outside from their everyday jobs and learn a new skill. They told us they were happy to be able to prove to themselves that they are capable of learning and implementing a new skill. The workshop provided them a platform to learn photography. We hope that all participants will be excited to take pictures and be able to



Lamma Ghannam (left) and Ekaterina



Chat Chay taking pictures at Al-kout



Cameras were given to all participants

As part of their work to empower domestic workers, Project 189 launched a photography workshop to help domestic workers in Kuwait learn new skills.

speak through their pictures. We also hope that they will be able to, through this workshop and project, to find interest in photography as a form of art that is accessible and which allows them to express themselves," said Lamma.

Lamma said they started off with 11 domestic workers who signed up for the course. Their employers were completely supportive over their participation in the project and were very excited for them. Some workers also signed up on their own. After the first workshop, around seven more people wanted to sign up for the second workshop.

The tutors were from FQ8, a group of motivated and well-experienced photographers who have taken a pledge to foster interest in photography in the society and provide a common platform to launch newbies into the world of advanced areas of photography under the leadership of internationally renowned experts. The group considers this workshop a chance to give back to the community.

They started the workshop by discussing the theoretical topics of photography. Then, they moved to the technical part. After that, all participants were provided with digital cameras which they took with them at the end of the workshop. They practiced their first shots during the workshop and were given additional weeks to apply the learned lessons.

Challenges

Lamma also spoke about the obstacles they encounter. "We faced two challenges. Although we had positive support from the employers of the domestic workers to participate in the workshop, it has been a challenge to gather the total numbers that we need to complete the project. This may be due to various reasons, because this is the first-of-its-

kind project here in Kuwait, or because information about it has not reached wide enough within the society. The second challenge was that most domestic workers, despite the law that stipulates one day off a week, only have a day or two off in a month. This limits our ability to reach out to them and it does not give them enough time to be able to enroll in the workshop and have time to take pictures," she explained.

Ekaterina said both the domestic workers and their employers will be acknowledged. The workers will have to take photographs of the surroundings outside their employers' houses on their days off. The best photographs will be collected in a publication with briefs of those who participated, in addition to an exhibition where their photographic works will go on sale.

Last week, Kuwait Times met Chat Chay, 31-year-old woman from the Philippines. She has been a domestic worker in Kuwait for almost five years and a mother of two. Chay agreed to take us with her on her "free day" to practice her newfound photography skills. "My employers earlier allowed me to study at the ICSA training centre and I'm now certified in computer, secretarial and office management. I found out about this workshop through Facebook, and decided to join although I wasn't sure what it was about," she said. She met Ekaterina who explained to her the objectives of the workshop. Chay didn't have any experience in photography or had ever purchased a camera before. "I don't have any other hobby besides working in the house. Photography will add color to my life," she enthused.



Bishara Mustafa and Shafimon from FQ8 Photography Group — Photos by Athoob Al-Shuaibi



— Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat

The not-so-secret lives of **Kuwait's bees**

By Nawara Fattahova

A variety of honey from Kuwait won the gold medal at an international conference and competition held recently in South Korea. Over 100 countries participated in this event. Kuwaiti apiarist Abdulaziz Al-Barjas received the gold medal for four kinds of Sidr (*Ziziphus spinaristi*) honey, while the spring flower honey with nuts scooped the silver medal. He is a member of the Kuwait Science Club (KSC), which provides services for beekeepers.

The apiaries have been in operation at KSC since 1996, and it manages beehives in other locations in Fintas, Mishref, Bayan and others. "We do surveys to check the number of pastures and honeycombs to check the bee density, and

accordingly, we distribute them in various apiaries, as we avoid a high concentration of bees in one place," Ahmad Al-Tarmoum, Director of the Bee Research Department at KSC, told Kuwait Times.

Kuwait imports 18,000 hives (including 20-60,000 bees) every year. "The majority of these are imported from Egypt, although there are a few imports from other countries such as Italy, Australia and others. The honey produced from KSC's apiaries is sold in the local market," Tarmoum said.

The quality of honey depends on the plant source. "It differs if it comes from a tree, bush, herb or other plant, and this makes a difference in taste, smell, color and density (liquidity). Kuwaiti honey has the best quality and purity. Some kinds of honey are internationally classified as medical honey and these do not participate in competitions, and we have many local producers of this kind of



Ahmad Al-Tarmoum



honey. Kuwaiti honey is only sold locally as we don't produce enough quantity to export it yet, but I hope we will in the future," Tarmoum pointed out.

Feminine World

The bees don't live long. "It's a feminine world. The females are those who work (worker bees), and live between 45 days to three months depending on their work. The male bees cannot eat by themselves, so the females have to feed them as their long tube-like tongues are short and can't reach the flowers. So they completely depend on the females, and this is the reason behind killing them after getting their mission done, which is fertilization. The females kill all males either directly or by expelling them from the hives, as they won't be able to survive alone without being fed. This male massacre usually takes place in March," he noted.

Only the queen bee lives longer - between four to seven years. "There is a queen in each cell. When the queen gets old and cannot lay eggs, we destroy it and replace it with a new queen. Sometimes the queen dies, so the cell is destroyed and fake queens or fake mothers appear, who lay sterile eggs (only males). The queen is fertilized only once, and this is enough for her entire life. She can lay up to 2,000 eggs in one day. Two elements are most important - the pollen and the honey, and these affect the number of eggs. The queen only eats royal jelly for nutrition. This royal jelly is a white substance taken from the brain gland of the worker bee, and consumes it directly from the worker's mouth," Tarmoum explained.

"The worker bee has a shorter life depending on the work she does. Her life is divided into stages, and only those of a certain age feed the queen. When the worker reaches 21 days of age, she starts flying outside the hive and brings the nectar from outside. Depending on her duty, she can also bring water or pollen. She has two stomachs - one for food and the other for honey, and five eyes - two moving and three fixed," Tarmoum added.

The male bee looks different and doesn't have a stinger, while the female worker bee does. "The male dies after fertilizing the queen bee, as she cuts his organ to keep the sperm inside. If her reservoir is not full yet, she then calls for another male bee to fertilize her till she obtains the desired level of



sperm. The queen goes out of the cell and produces a sound that can reach as far as 4 km that she is ready for fertilization, and the strongest male pollinates her. Then she returns to the cell, and the bees celebrate this occasion with a wedding celebration after cleaning the place for her to lay the eggs. The workers also remove the organ from her. The queen chooses the gender of the bees she produces," he noted.

Harsh Climate

The weather in Kuwait is not suitable for bee breeding. "We don't live in a bee environment - all this work is an initiative by the beekeepers. We import Egyptian bees as they are the closest to our environment. Italian bees, for instance, require a specialist and expert to deal with them, so the majority of apirists seek the simpler bees. Also, the Italian bee honey has nutrients, but we aim to produce honey without nutrients.

Although Italian breeders are keen to produce pure honey, if the honey contains nutrients, then it's not med honey anymore. This is not easy to find out - only experts or laboratories can find out," stressed Tarmoum.

Honey has nutrients when the bee consumes water and sugar and not only nectar, while med honey is pure, only from nectar. "Here at the club, we aim to only produce med honey. The bees can acclimatize themselves according to the environment. So if there are not enough flowers, they live by consuming the dew from the trees, and this is called the 'honeydew' honey (Nadwa). Or they consume jujube nectar and produce Sidr honey, which is produced by bees who only feed on the nectar of Sidr trees," he stated.

The bees fly within a distance of 5 km three times a day to get food. "There are bee scouts who fly horizontally to discover the place if it is safe, especially from birds that eat insects,



Photo shows bee cells at the Kuwait Science Club

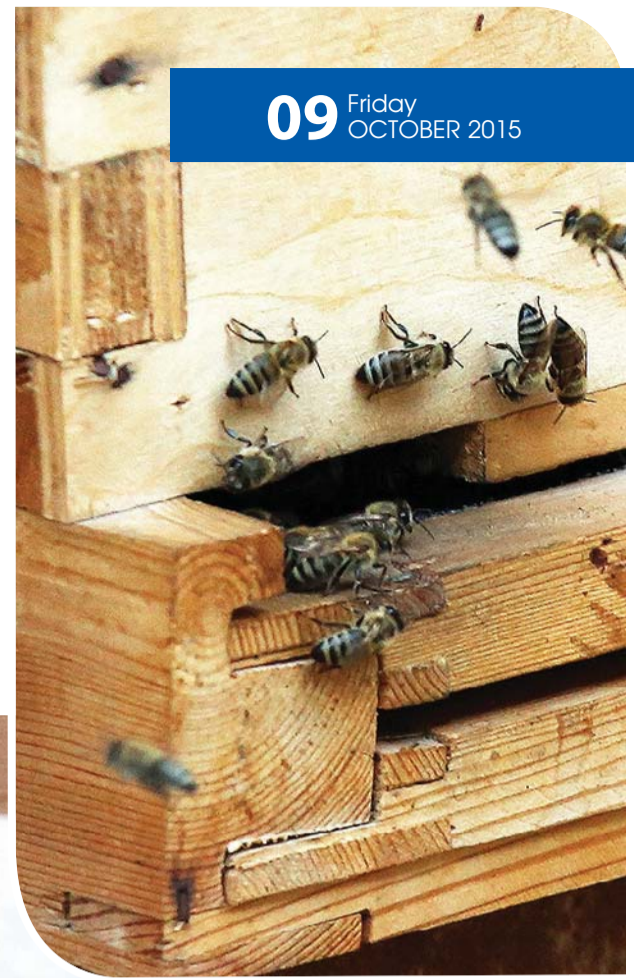
The quality of honey depends on the plant source. "It differs if it comes from a tree, bush, herb or other plant, and this makes a difference in taste, smell, color and density (liquidity)."

especially bees. They take samples of the nectar to the worker bees, who taste this nectar, and they then produce rhythmic movements inside the honeycomb so bees in other cells don't steal their plan. The worker bees then fly to the place provided by the scouts. If the nectar from that place is not enough for the worker bees, the scouts fly to discover other places. The beekeeper can recognize the scouts from the workers. Bees between 18- to 21-days-old do the function of guards. Those which don't fly to bring nectar will prepare a list of needed items such as water, pollens and nectar, or if there is damage in a cell and so on. Some worker bees produce wax, which is produced at a certain age. The bee kingdom has a very high degree of organization," highlighted Tarmoum.

Active Community

There are about 300 beekeepers who are members of the KSC. "They keep their beehives at the club and the staff there takes care of them. The club also holds a monthly gathering of these members to discuss new developments in this field and exchange experiences. The club also informs them about related events and news. The club holds courses in beekeeping and provides advice and information to any breeder or interested person even if he isn't a member. KSC also provides bee fighting services with its volunteer teams, as firemen were doing this job in the past," he said.

Tarmoum also spoke about the benefits of a bee's sting. "The person can get similar results of Botox and other medicines through bee stings. The problem is not during the sting, but after it. The person who is stung should carefully remove the stinger, and regarding the pain, an ice cube will heal it," concluded Tarmoum, mentioning two of his experiences using honey as treatment for healing both injury and inflammation.



MEMORIES OF BLOCK 10

DIWALI, DABBAHS AND TUITIONS IN SALMIYA'S LITTLE INDIA

By Aakash Bakaya

One of my earliest memories of Salmiya was when my family and I had gone door-to-door singing Christmas carols around the big neighborhood, commonly known as 'Block 10'. It was a big group of people (around 50) and the caroling tour had gone on for more than five hours. It never seemed that long though cause every house we went to (regardless of religion) made us feel welcome and each flat and building had its own unique charm. Ever since then I've associated the place with good memories, and I'm sure there are many others who do the same.

Salmiya doesn't have the best reputation for many in Kuwait, but it holds a special place in our hearts for those of us who did our schooling here in the last 10 to 15 years. Regardless if you actually went to school in Salmiya, it remained a main hub of social activity. From the numerous pool and gaming parlors to the great variety of cheap eateries scattered around the area. You either hung-out in Salmiya or was called to Salmiya to hang out. For a period of time, there was no escaping that place. For thousands of students, it was the only place to be.

Festivities

Block 10 easily the most populous block of the district, filled with people from India, Pakistan and other sub-continent denizens. It's little wonder why it is called 'Little India' from time to time. And from the moment you walk

its streets you can sense it. It really feels like a thick, urban neighborhood, positively brimming with life. During Diwali, the Indian festival of lights, the big sand lot in front of the famous 'Titanic residential complex' becomes a concert of sound, light and smoke. The crowds are enormous and you always came across familiar faces. It is a grand occasion of people bringing their country and customs into another land. Unfortunately over the years, the police have slowly put an end to any sort of big Diwali gatherings and they make sure no fireworks are used. Today, it is a shell of what it once was - a censored, subdued celebration without its soul.

Street food

Back then when it came to restaurants, 'Thakkar' and 'Amman Bhel-puri' were easily the most popular. Two competing Indian dabbaahs (small Indian cafes) situated right next to each other. So close in fact, two tables in opposite restaurants could hold a conversation with

each other. Both restaurants had almost identical menus and to be honest most people couldn't tell the difference. So in truth, the 'rivalry' was more partnership than cutthroat business. This definitely contributed to the positive vibes no matter which joint you were sitting in. Now though, Amman is located diagonally across the street from Thakkar and neither dabbaah has the same atmosphere it once had. Besides, there are so many imitators all round you won't know which one to choose from. And if you ask many of the residents, they'll tell you to go Kuwait City or Hawally for good Indian food.

Extra time in extra class

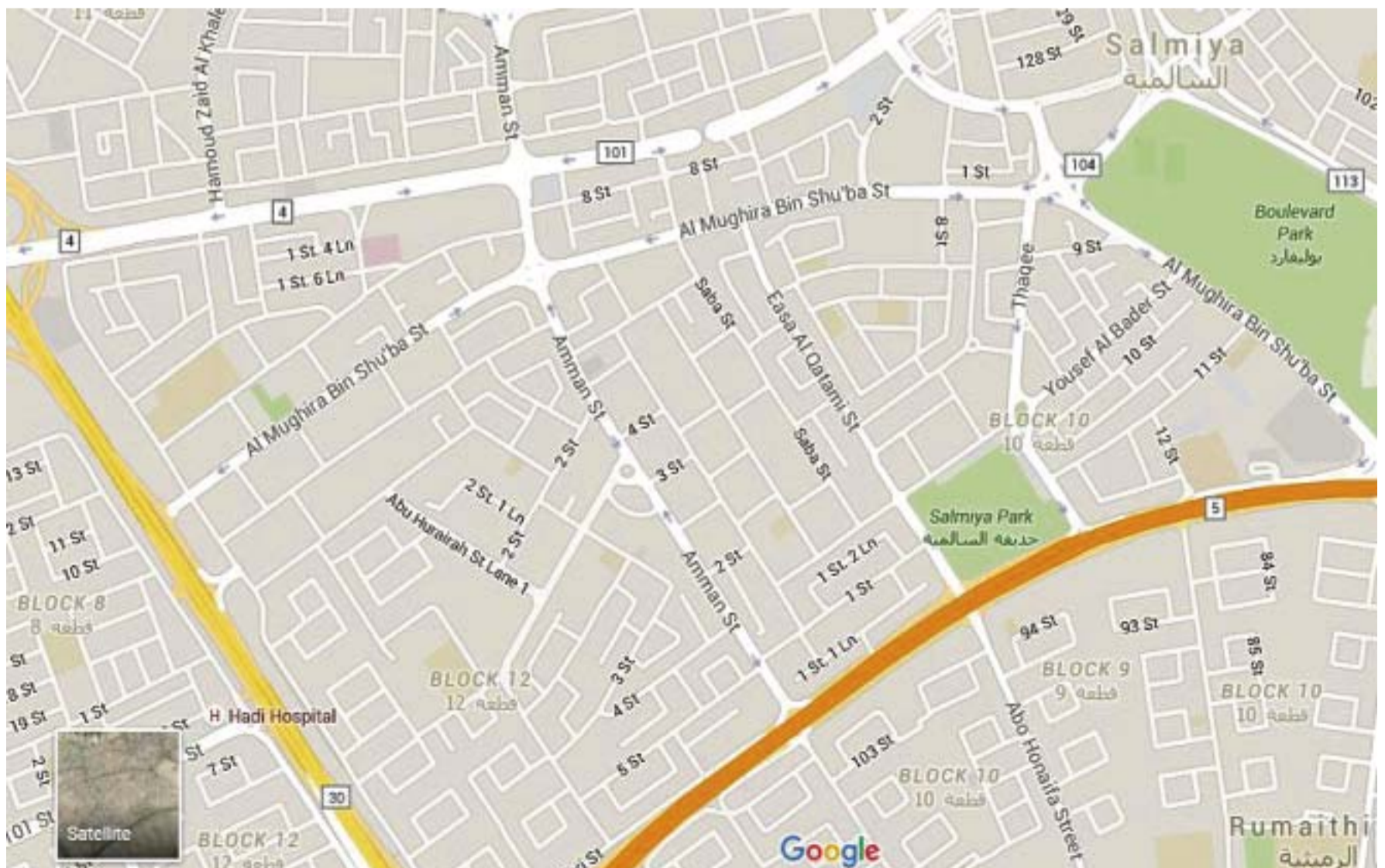
Indian Salmiya however, is more than its apartment blocks, residents, festivities and restaurants. Many of the streets themselves had their own personality attached to them. I would say that is because of the countless tuitions that students came here for. After school classes or tuitions are still quite popular but when the dreaded 'Board Exams' were at

their hardest, students were shipped off to tuitions to refine their studies. Thus most spend an almost equivalent amount of time in tuitions than they did in actual school. We identified the streets by the teachers that lived nearby and we grew accustomed to the areas shortcuts and alleys to make sure we got to tuition on time. Till today, I know Salmiya better than any other district in Kuwait (other than my own living area of course) and you can bet that there are a thousand other students who could claim the same.

Much like those early memories of caroling through the streets, some of my very last memories of school and adolescence also happened here. My school's board exam center was situated at ICSK (Indian Community School Kuwait), which is right in the heart of Block 10. We went into those exam halls with our hearts beating and bodies tensed with the sun barely up yet and we came out three hours later laughing and relieved with sunlight stinging our sheltered eyes. After our last exam of our last year of school, exiting that hall was simultaneously strange, joyous and tremendously sad. We had survived the most difficult series of exams we've ever had but we also closed this chapter of our lives all at the same time.

And even for the students who didn't have their exams in Salmiya itself, I'm sure they all came back here to celebrate because in those days, there was nowhere else to be. The entire country seemed to exist on those streets. For some, it still does.

Salmiya holds a special place in the hearts of those who did our schooling here in the last 10 to 15 years



An aerial view from Google Map shows Salmiya's residential district



KUWAIT: Kuwait's Minister of Health Dr Ali Al-Obaidi during the 62nd session of the WHO Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean. — KUNA photos

OBAIDI AT WHO COMMITTEE FOR EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN

HEALTH MINISTER'S SPEECH CLOSES FOUR-DAY EVENT

KUWAIT: Kuwait has incorporated psychological health into its network of primary care, said Kuwait's Minister of Health Dr Ali Al-Obaidi in a speech ending the 62nd session of the WHO Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean, held here in Kuwait for the past four days.

Health Minister Dr Ali Al-Obaidi said health ministers in the Middle East Region discussed several issues in regards to important and emergent matters the region is facing. The meetings began at 8am until 6pm, adding that such meetings are important in discussing issues and benefit from other nation's experiences in health matters.

Al-Obaidi said several issues were discussed including the vaccinations plans, hepatitis-C, in addition to having the Saudi health minister present the latest on the "Middle East Respiratory Syndrome, Coronavirus (MERS), and how the Kingdom is facing it". The appearance of Cholera in Iraq and how authorities there are handling it was also discussed. He said all topics were discussed in total transparency.

He said the regional office has three prizes, one for Dr Shousha, another in the name of Kuwait about cancer, heart and diabetes diseases and those were distributed, the third prize about "Down's Syndrome" was withheld until next year. Al-Obaidi said five proposed

decisions were reached and approved by heads of delegations. They are the final regional report for 2014, accounting for international health rules, following the political declaration issued by the United Nations in 2011 about non-infections chronic diseases in addition to two proposed decisions that directly concerns the doctor and patient continued medical education, and preparing a clear working plan for psychological health care in the region's countries. He said all five decisions were unanimously approved by those present.

Director of the Eastern Mediterranean region of WHO Dr Alaa Olwan said several recommendations and important decisions came out of the 62 meetings of the region held in Kuwait. He said there is a decision on the report presented by WHO E Mediterranean region about the organization's activities for 2014 and 2015 that included recommendations on several important programs in the fields of strengthening health systems, health security and fighting infectious diseases.

Olwan explained that there is a very important decision on the health security and evaluating the abilities of the region's countries to prevent any type of infectious disease, adding that there are some negative results from Ebola virus in three countries of West Africa and its

destruction of the health system, as well as its affect on the social and economic development and on the national security of these countries.

Olwan also said it is important to have all countries of the region ready and have the ability to prevent and remove the threat of these viruses and epidemics, adding that this decision will be implemented by all countries of the region in cooperation with WHO which cooperates with every country and conducts a comprehensive evaluation for all preparations for such health problems. "The ministry is continuously in touch with citizens through mass media in order to report new statistics. In case of an outbreak of epidemic diseases, the ministry will immediately inform the WHO," he added. However, the minister warned of rumors and unofficial statements about the health situation in the country. On the 62nd Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean Region of the World Health Organization (WHO) held here Tuesday, the minister said the conferees had discussed several health issues, chiefly medical treatment costs. They also addressed the subject of evaluating health technology and boosting the capacity of health systems through appropriate and effective methods to assess health technology and choose better health care, he noted.

KUWAIT SENDS 200 TONS OF FOOD AID TO YEMEN

KUWAIT: Kuwait Red Crescent sent 200 tons of food aid to Yemen due to the worsening humanitarian conditions in the war-ravaged country. The ship carrying ten thousand food packages arrived in Yemen yesterday, the society's Chairman of the Board Hilal Al-Sayer

told Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) yesterday. The aid packages will be delivered to all areas of Aden Governorate, he added. Meanwhile, Al-Sayer noted that the society will also send another 15,000 food packages (about 375 tons) to be delivered to different Yemeni gov-

ernorates. The total cost of aid sent to Yemen until now has totaled USD four million, said the official, adding that His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah has already donated USD 100 million to provide aid to Yemenis in need. — KUNA

Crime Report

TWO POLICEMEN JAILED FOR PARKING IN HANDICAPPED SPOT

KUWAIT: The capital security director ordered two policemen jailed for seven days for parking their patrol car in a handicapped place at the Amiri hospital. The action was taken following complaints from citizens. The two claimed they were transferring a prisoner to the hospital and were afraid he may escape from them so they parked close by.

Egyptians fight in Hawally
An Egyptian man who was ridiculed by four others while smoking shisha and answered back was beaten by the four men. He sustained various fractures in his body. Hawally detectives are looking for the four.

Fire in Shuwaikh
Shuwaikh firemen put out a fire at a factory in industrial Shuwaikh. It took firemen three hours to bring the blaze under control. Faulty wiring is thought to have caused the fire. No injuries were reported.

Student brawl
Several students beat a new student and caused him extensive injuries. The fight was in front of Sabahiya high school, and a police patrol saw the student being beaten, so he was taken to Adan Hospital. Several of the attackers were arrested.

Suicide attempt
A citizen was taken to Amiri Hospital following an attempted suicide by slitting his wrists with a screw driver in Rawda. A woman called police and told them her brother was not normal and when officers arrived they found him in a hysterical condition.

Brothers fight
A citizen accused another of beating his brother. A security source said the culprit used a sharp object and caused a deep wound in the left side of the chest, and had to be taken to Jahra hospital. The fight was in front of Jahra traffic department between a sports trainer and the father of juvenile player.

Daughter kidnapped
A woman told Nuwaiseeb police that another woman kidnapped her daughter. She said a 4WD with three people inside kidnapped her daughter. Investigations are underway. —Al-Anbaa

INDIAN DOMESTIC LABOR STILL ON HOLD

By A Saleh
KUWAIT: Interior Ministry Assistant Undersecretary for Nationality and Residency Affairs Maj Gen Sheikh Mazen Al-Jarrah said a meeting will be held with Ministry Undersecretary Lt General Sulaiman Al-Fahad to discuss the mechanism of bringing in farm workers from abroad. He said that the door is open for Bangladeshi labor to work in Kuwait but according to certain conditions. He said "Indian labor is still on hold as Indian authorities imposed a bank guarantee for their domestic helpers, as a condition to bring them to Kuwait". He rejected to "have the citizen hear any additional burden to bring in labor, and there is a total rejection of the bank guarantee imposed by India lately".



MORE THAN 30 COUNTRIES TAKE PART IN OIL, GAS CONFERENCE

KUWAIT: More than 30 countries and representatives from governments and international organizations will be participating in the Kuwait Oil and Gas Conference, said Hosnia Hashim, Vice President of Operations for Kuwait Foreign Petroleum Exploration Company (KUFPEC).



Hosnia Hashim

In a statement yesterday, Hashim said the conference, which will cover vital issues on oil and gas sectors next October 11-14, will be under the auspices of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. The statement noted that activities will include seminars and 27 discussion sessions which will

see participation of a number of local and international academic experts.

Established in April 1981 by its parent company KPC, KUFPEC is an international oil company which engages in exploration, development and production of crude oil and natural gas outside Kuwait and is active in Africa, Middle East, Asia, UK, Norway, Canada and Australia. KUFPEC participates in joint ventures with similar companies of Oil and Gas both as an operator and partner.—KUNA

AL-FINTAS KUWAIT'S HISTORICALLY CHARMING VILLAGE

By Sarah Al-Mukhaizeem

KUWAIT: Al-Fintas, the wonderful village almost 26 kilometers south of Kuwait City, carries the Arabic equivalent of a 'water tank'. The name implies that this coastal area once had dozens of water wells, where sailors used to fill their tanks before embarking on sea voyages.

Al-Fintas was well-known for agricultural activities and pearl diving. It was inhabited by the Arab famous tribe of 'Banu Khalid', who used to live in Kuwait before Al-Sabah family came to power.

Under Al-Sabah family, Al-Fintas, located on Al-Adan coast on the Arabian Gulf, acquired more significance as a water supplying station. Thanks to its fantastic farms and shores, as well as moderate weather and the surrounding Sidr and palm trees, the area was a refuge for Kuwaitis who used to spend some quality outdoor times, especially during spring and summer.

Historians wrote that Al-Fintas used to have up to 30 wells, the most known of them were Al-Beldani, in addition to Suleisel, the latter mainly provided water for cattle.

The village has had artistic features that distinguished it from other Kuwaiti villages, and was famous for 'Al-Samri', researcher in Kuwait history Yaqoub Al-Ghuneim told KUNA in a previous interview. Al-Samri is singing poetry while the drum is being played. Two rows of men, seated on the knees, sway to the rhythm. In 1945, a boys' school was built there, and students reached 45 in 1951, when a girls' school was built.

Medical services were offered in Al-Fintas through a vehicle that served like a mobile clinic, with a doctor and a nurse, provided with necessary tools and supplies available then. A medical center opened there in 1953.

Among the famous men in the history of Al-Fintas was 'Noukhetha' (sea captain) Mohammad Al-Haqqaan, who was appointed as chief of the village by Kuwait's ruler then Sheikh Ahmad Al-Jaber A-Sabah in the 1940s. With the export of the first oil shipment, Al-Fintas inhabitants started to sell their farms and seek government jobs. Al-Fintas is a calm area, far from traffic jams and pollution, and has been bestowed with clear and comfortable sea scenes. In addition, the area enjoys various other public services, namely Al-Fintas Public Park, Agaila Beach Park, Safir Hotel, Al-Fintas Beach, the Fishermen Diwaniya, Sabah Al-Ahmad Coast Guard Base and the Marine Science Center, an affiliate of Kuwait University. As many foreigners have recently gone to live in Al-Fintas, the area is now busy with leading restaurants and cafe chains, together with high-level housing complexes. Moreover, it is few minutes from business centers in Fahaheel and Al-Kout Mall. It is also near the American University of Middle East in Egaila and the Box Hill College Kuwait in Abu Halifa.—KUNA



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah arrives in Kuwait where he was received by His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.—KUNA photo

AMIR RETURNS TO KUWAIT FROM POSITIVE UN SUMMIT

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and the accompanying delegation arrived in Kuwait after attending the UN Sustainable Development Summit 2015 and the UN leaders-level Summit on Countering Violent Extremism 2015 held in New York.

HH the Amir was received at Kuwait International Airport by HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Speaker of the National Assembly Marzouq Al-Ghanim, HH

Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Minister of the Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Acting Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Anas Al-Saleh, in addition to

Ministers and senior officials of the state.

His Highness Sheikh Sabah was accompanied during his participation by head of the Amiri office Ahmad Al-Fahad, Amiri Diwan Adviser Mohammad Abdullah Abul-Hassan, Head of Amiri Protocols Sheikh Khaled Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah Al-Nasser Al-Sabah, Amiri Diwan Media and Cultural Adviser Yousef Al-Roumi, and Undersecretary for political and economic affairs at the Amiri Diwan Sheikh Fawaz Saud Nasser Saud Al-Sabah.—KUNA

MP PLANS TO GRILL EDUCATION MINISTER OVER SYLLABUS

'MP TURAJJI CRITICIZES PLANS FOR FAIR GROUNDS SALE'

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: Islamist MP Abdulrahman Al-Jeeran said yesterday that he will submit a request to grill Education Minister Bader Al-Issa over a variety of issues including plans to change school syllabus and administrative decisions. Jeeran's announcement raises the number of ministers threatened with questioning to around six. They include the ministers of social affairs and labor, commerce and industry, finance, oil and minister of public works in addition to education minister.

The lawmaker said that the grilling will be filed at the start of the new parliamentary term on October 27. He said the issues to be included in the questioning include plans to change or amend the school syllabus, administrative decisions and suspicious financial dealings at Kuwait University.

The issues also include the minister's statements on sex segregation at Kuwait University, the issue of university buildings

and standards used in selecting cultural attaches at Kuwait missions abroad, Jeeran said. The lawmaker also criticized what he described as deterioration in the level of education in the country and the allegation that many students resort to cheating.

In another development, MP Abdullah Al-Turaiji yesterday called on Finance Minister Anas Al-Saleh to intervene and stop the proposed sale of the International Fair Grounds by Kuwait Investment Co. (KIC) and Kuwait Investment Authority (KIA), both state-owned firms.

Turaiji wondered how can the finance minister allow KIC chairman negotiate to sell the fair grounds at a time he is under probe for alleged misuse of public fund, adding that he should at least wait until the end of the probe. The lawmaker said that moves by the KIC chairman are very provocative and these will not be allowed to pass smoothly in the national assembly. He also urged the finance minister to safeguard public funds by exercising his constitutional powers. The finance minister is the

head of KIA which owns KIC. Turaiji said that it is not acceptable for KIA to continue to sell profit-making companies while the Audit Bureau is conducting a study on the issue and that the study is about to be completed and submitted to the national assembly. The lawmaker said that the public funds protection committee in the national assembly will hold a meeting soon to discuss the issue. He said that the meeting will invite the finance minister, directors of KIC and KIA and the Audit Bureau. The meeting will study the issue of selling state-owned companies and the reason for rushing the sale while the Audit Bureau is studying the matter. Turaiji said he will send questions to the finance minister about the sale of profitable companies.

In the meantime, MP Ahmad Lari encouraged the government to sell its holdings to achieve the free market policy and reduce the administrative burdens. He said that the government should let the private sector run such facilities but insisted that any sale should be made at market prices.

International

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2015

Syria army in 'vast offensive' backed by Russian forces



Clinton subject to hacks from China, Korea



N Korea gears up for celebration



TAEZ: Female fighters from the Popular Resistance Committees, supporting forces loyal to Yemen's Saudi-backed President Abedrabbo Mansour Hadi, demonstrate their skills during a graduation ceremony of the affiliate special forces of the Popular Resistance yesterday in the country's third city Taez. — AFP

AIRSTRIKE KILLS 28 AT WEDDING IN YEMEN SAUDI DENIES ROLE AS US PEACE MOVES MAKE HEADWAY

SANAA: A suspected Saudi-led air strike killed at least 28 people at a wedding in a rebel-held town in Yemen, witnesses and rebels said yesterday, even as UN peace efforts made headway. The Saudi-led coalition, under mounting criticism over the civilian death toll of its bombing campaign against Iran-backed rebels, denied any involvement in the latest attack.

It was the second alleged coalition air strike on a Yemeni wedding party in just over a week. The new raid hit a house where dozens of people were celebrating on Wednesday evening in the town of Sanban in Dhamar province, 100 kilometers (60 miles) south of the capital Sanaa, residents said.

"Coalition warplanes launched the attack. The house was completely destroyed," said resident Taha Al-Zuba. "Warplanes were heard in the area ahead of the attack."

The rebels' Almasirah television said on Twitter that the wedding was hit by "aggression warplanes", referring to the coalition. Medical sources said 28 people were killed, raising an earlier toll of 13 dead.

Another 10 people were wounded, the sources said. Coalition spokesman Brigadier General Ahmed Al-Assiri said the allies did not launch any air strikes in the vicinity. "We did not conduct any operation in Dhamar... No strikes there, definitely," he said.

A suspected coalition strike killed at least 131 civilians at a wedding last month near the Red Sea city of Mokha, which the UN said may have been the deadliest single attack since March. The coalition denied involvement. The latest strike came as the United Nations announced that Houthi rebels, who control the capital and much of central and northern Yemen, had accepted a UN Security Council resolution calling for an end to the seven-month conflict.

The Houthis' refusal to agree to abide by Resolution 2216 passed in April-demanding their withdrawal from territory they seized since overrunning the capital in September 2013 — had stymied previous peace efforts. President Abedrabbo Mansour Hadi, who fled to neighboring Saudi Arabia in March but whose forces have since recaptured southern provinces with the support of coalition ground troops, had refused to join UN-brokered peace talks until the rebels signed up.

But UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric announced late on Wednesday that both the rebels and their allies confirmed they were willing to enter talks based on the UN resolution.

"This is an important step," he said. The Shiite Houthi rebels, whose heartland is in the mountains of the far north, have been backed by renegade troops still loyal to Hadi's ousted predecessor Ali Abdullah Saleh.

Saleh's political party also announced that it had accepted the UN peace plan following secret talks with UN envoy Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed. But a member of Hadi's delegation, Abdulwahab al-Homayqani, said the rebels "did not announce their commitment to implement UN Resolution 2216" demanding their withdrawal. Rights groups have repeatedly criticized the coalition's strikes in Yemen, saying they have hit areas that don't contain military targets. In late August, an air strike hit a bottled water factory in the northern province of Hajja, killing 17 civilians and 14 rebels.

Warplanes in July struck staff residences at a power plant in the Red Sea port of Mokha, killing 65 civilians, while an April raid on a dairy plant in Hodeida further north left 35 civilians dead. The rebels too have come under heavy criticism for "indiscriminate" shelling of civilian-populated areas. A Western-backed resolution calling for a UN investigation into abuses committed during the Yemen conflict was withdrawn due to protests from Saudi Arabia, Human Rights Watch said last week.

A fresh challenge for the coalition emerged this week after the Islamic State group claimed an attack on Yemen's government and coalition bases in main southern city Aden. Fifteen loyalist and coalition troops were killed and several ministers suffered minor wounds. — AFP



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'HAJJ DISASTER MAY HAVE KILLED AT LEAST 1,310'

DUBAI: A crush and stampede last month outside of Saudi Arabia's holy city of Makkah killed at least 1,313 people during the annual Hajj pilgrimage to the kingdom, an Associated Press count showed yesterday, over 500 deaths more than the official toll.

The AP count of dead from the disaster - the worst tragedy to strike the hajj in a quarter-century - is based on tolls offered by 17 countries through their officials or state media broadcasts, saying specifically the deceased were killed in Mina, near Makkah.

That puts the Sept. 24 tragedy, as hundreds still reported missing, even closer to the deadliest disaster to ever strike the hajj: a stampede in 1990 that killed 1,426 people at an overcrowded pedestrian tunnel leading to holy sites in Makkah. Saudi officials

have said their official figure of 769 killed and 934 injured in the Mina disaster remains accurate, though an investigation into its causes is ongoing. Health authorities in the kingdom previously said civil defense officials would be offering any new casualty figures, though no new toll has been released by authorities since Sept. 26.

Authorities have said the Mina crush and stampede happened as two waves of pilgrims converged on a narrow road, causing hundreds of people to suffocate or be trampled to death. Shiite power Iran, the Mideast rival of Sunni Saudi Arabia, has blamed the disaster on the kingdom's "mismanagement." It also accused Riyadh of a cover-up, saying the real death toll exceeds 4,700, without providing evidence to support its

claim. Diplomats in Indonesia, Pakistan and India have said Saudi officials gave them some 1,100 photographs of dead from the Mina disaster. Saudi officials say those photographs include pilgrims who died of natural causes at the hajj as well. Recent Indian paperwork from the disaster also refers to at least 2,046 photographs of the dead in Saudi Arabia, though its consular officials say some bodies were photographed multiple times.

The AP count of the dead includes totals from 17 of the over 180 countries that sent pilgrims to this year's hajj. Iran said it had 465 pilgrims killed, while Egypt had 148 and Indonesia 120.

Others include Pakistan with 89; India 81; Mali 70; Nigeria 64; Bangladesh 63; Senegal 54; Cameroon 42; Ethiopia 31; Morocco 27;

Algeria 25; Ghana 12; Chad 11; Kenya eight and Turkey with three. Hundreds of pilgrims still remain missing, according to these countries.

In previous years, the hajj has drawn more than 3 million pilgrims without any major incidents and Saudi Arabia has spent billions to prepare for the pilgrimage in recent years. Able-bodied Muslims are required to perform the five-day pilgrimage once in their lifetime, and each year poses a massive logistical challenge for the kingdom.

The crush and stampede was the second disaster to strike Saudi Arabia around the hajj this year. On Sept 11, a construction crane crashed into Mecca's Grand Mosque, killing at least 111 people. — AP

300 MIGRANTS ARRESTED IN LIBYA

TRIPOLI: Libyan authorities said almost 300 migrants, a third of them from Senegal, were arrested yesterday as they prepared to board boats for the Mediterranean crossing to Europe.

"After having received information on their meeting place, we managed to apprehend 289 migrants preparing to cross the Mediterranean headed for Europe," said Taher el-Naas, a senior official in Libya's anti-illegal immigration unit.

A colleague said the migrants, including more than 100 Senegalese and found 10 kilometres (six miles) east of Tripoli, were transferred to a detention facility in the centre of Libya's capital.

The incident came one day after European warships launched "Operation Sophia" to seize traffickers' boats in international waters and stem the tide of people making the perilous Mediterranean crossing. At least 3,080 people have died or are feared drowned in the Mediterranean since the start of this year in their attempts to reach Europe, according to the UN refugee Agency (UNHCR). Libya has for years been a stepping stone for migrants seeking to travel to Europe. People smugglers have taken advantage of conflict and political chaos in the North African country since its 2011 revolution to step up their lucrative business. —AFP



IRBIL: Fourth grade students participate in a lesson at a makeshift school in a Syrian Refugee camp, Irbil, northern Iraq. As many teachers have migrated from Iraq to Europe, schools are facing a severe shortage so that often more than 45 students have to study in each class. —AP

SYRIA ARMY IN 'VAST OFFENSIVE' BACKED BY RUSSIAN STRIKES

NATO VOICED ALARM AT ESCALATING RUSSIAN MILITARY ACTIVITY

BEIRUT: Regime forces advanced yesterday in western Syria in a "vast offensive" against armed opposition groups, as NATO voiced alarm at escalating Russian military activity in the war-torn country.

Moscow has dramatically stepped up its nine-day-old air war against foes of President Bashar al-Assad, with heavy bombing by warplanes and cruise missile strikes from the Caspian Sea.

A Syrian military source told AFP yesterday that the army, backed by Russian raids and allied militia including the powerful Lebanese group Hezbollah, had advanced in a key mountain range.

"They have seized most of the hilly region of Jeb Al-Ahmar" which overlooks the strategic Sahl Al-Ghab plain to the east and Assad's coastal stronghold of Latakia to the west, the source said. The plain has been the focus of a months-long offensive by a rebel alliance including Al-Qaeda's Syrian affiliate, Al-Nusra Front.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a British-based monitoring group, confirmed that regime forces had advanced in the area. Moscow says it is

striking the Islamic State jihadist organization and "other terrorists". But Washington has accused Russia of targeting groups other than IS or Al-Nusra in more than 90 per cent of its raids.

'Consequences for Russia'

US Defense Secretary Ashton Carter said yesterday Russia would soon begin to suffer casualties. "This will have consequences for Russia itself which is rightly fearful of attacks ... in coming days, the Russians will begin to suffer from casualties," Carter said at a NATO defence ministers meeting in Brussels. NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg said there had been a "troubling escalation" in Moscow's air campaign.

"We will assess the latest developments and their implications for the security of the alliance," he added. "This is particularly relevant in view of the recent violations of NATO's airspace by Russian aircraft," Stoltenberg said. Tensions between Russia and NATO member Turkey shot up this week after Russian aircraft infringed on Turkish airspace at least twice.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan

yesterday warned Russia risked losing a deal to build his country's first nuclear power plant and its status as its main gas supplier, as the diplomatic row intensified. The Russian air war has provided cover for Assad's ground troops, who have lost swathes of the north, east and south of the country to jihadists and rebel groups since the conflict erupted in 2011.

The army appeared to regain ground yesterday, after its chief of staff General Ali Abdullah Ayoub announced "a vast offensive to defeat the terrorist groups" and restore control over opposition-held areas. Although Ayoub did not specify where the operation would take place, Syrian state TV reported that the army had targeted "terrorist positions" in the central province of Hama, killing 32 militants and destroying four armored vehicles.

Russian and Syrian warplanes also conducted "precise strikes" on positions held by Al-Nusra Front in Latakia province, it said. A military source on the ground in the Sahl Al-Ghab plain told AFP that Russian air strikes had targeted at least three villages there yesterday morning. —AFP

IS USED MUSTARD GAS IN IRAQ ATTACK: KURDS

SULAIMANIYAH, Iraq: Blood tests show the Islamic State used mustard agent in an attack on Kurdish peshmerga forces in August, the autonomous Iraqi region's government said yesterday. "The results of the tests on blood samples from 35 Kurdish fighters reveal traces of mustard gas," the peshmerga ministry said.

"During the attack on Gweyr and Makhmur, Daesh (IS) launched around 50 mortar rounds," a statement said, referring to two frontline towns southwest of the regional capital of Arbil.

The ministry said 37 of them released white dust and black liquid when they exploded. Thirty-five peshmerga fighters were exposed and some taken abroad for treatment. The Kurdish authorities did not say how seriously the affected peshmerga were wounded in the August 11 attack.

The ministry urged all countries battling the jihadist group to provide the peshmerga with anti-chemical gear. At the time of the attack, the Wall Street Journal cited US officials as saying they believed IS had used mustard agent.

At that point, the peshmerga only spoken of the possible use of chlorine and minimised the incident. —AFP

NATO CHIEF: ALLIANCE OKS CHANGES TO MEET NEW THREATS

BRUSSELS: NATO's chief yesterday signaled its readiness to deploy forces if needed to protect Turkey against any threat from Russia, as the alliance agreed on more changes to meet today's security threats. "All of this sends a clear message to all NATO citizens. NATO will defend you, NATO is on the ground, NATO is ready," alliance secretary-general Jens Stoltenberg said.

The actions came at a defense ministers' meeting that was overshadowed by growing concerns over Russia's recent military actions in Syria.

The new measures agreed upon include finalized plans, including command and control arrangements, for a NATO Response Force of up to 40,000, twice the current size, and the creation of new NATO headquarters offices in Hungary and Slovakia, Stoltenberg announced at a news conference.

"We see an escalation of Russian military activity in Syria," Stoltenberg said. "And the ministers agreed that Russia's military escalation in Syria raises serious concerns."

On Wednesday, Russian warships fired cruise missiles in the first combined air-and-ground assault with Syrian government troops since Moscow began its military campaign in the Middle Eastern country last week. Over the weekend, Turkey, a NATO member, reported back-to-back violations of its airspace by Russian warplanes.

Stoltenberg, NATO's top civilian official, called Russia's actions and unwavering support for beleaguered Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad "not helpful."

In remarks to reporters earlier, Stoltenberg said the alliance was ready to send help to Turkey if required. "NATO is able and ready to defend all allies, including Turkey, against any threat," he said.

He said NATO had already increased "our capacity, our ability, our preparedness to deploy forces, including to the south, including in Turkey, if needed." Pressed later at the news conference about what NATO intended to do to assist Turkey, which shares a border with Syria, Stoltenberg indicated that the mere existence of the beefed-up response force, as well as a newly created and highly nimble brigade-sized unit able to deploy within 48 hours, may suffice.

"We don't have to deploy the NATO Response Force or the spearhead force to deliver deterrence," Stoltenberg said. "The important thing is that any adversary of NATO will know that we are able to deploy." —AP



GEVGELIJA: Macedonian police officers control a crowd of migrants and refugees as they prepare to enter a camp after crossing the Greek border into Macedonia near Gevgelija yesterday. Macedonia is a key transit country in the Balkans migration route into the EU, with thousands of asylum seekers and migrants - many of them from Syria, Afghanistan, Iraq and Somalia - entering the country every day. —AFP

EU GOVTS AGREE TO GET TOUGH ON DEPORTATIONS

LUXEMBOURG: European Union governments agreed yesterday to step up deportations of illegal immigrants and discussed creating a border guard force among measures to cope with a surge in refugees from Syria's civil war. "Increased return rates should act as a deterrent to irregular migration," interior ministers concluded at a meeting in Luxembourg that included approving "detention" for those who may abscond before expulsion.

They also plan to exert more "leverage" on African and other poor states, including

via aid budgets, to make them accept the return of citizens refused entry to Europe.

In the evening, they will be joined by EU foreign ministers and delegations from Balkan states, Turkey, Jordan and Lebanon for talks on stemming migrant flows that have plunged the bloc into crisis, dividing members over how to secure the EU external borders and how to share responsibility for housing refugees. "Returns are always tough," German Interior Minister Thomas de Maiziere said on arrival. "But ... we can only offer space and support to

refugees in need of protection if those who don't need protection don't come or are quickly returned."

In recent years, fewer than 40 percent of people whose asylum claims are rejected have actually then left the EU.

Also being discussed are closer cooperation on external frontiers, especially in the Mediterranean, from where hundreds of thousands have made their way north, prompting some countries to suspend passport-free travel inside Europe's Schengen area.— Reuters

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CASTINE: Maine Maritime Academy students bow their heads during a vigil of hope for the missing crew members of the US container ship *El Faro*. — AP

SEARCH FOR ANSWERS BEGINS FOR SUNKEN US CARGO SHIP

JACKSONVILLE: On board the 790-foot *El Faro* when it set out on its doomed voyage into the path of Hurricane Joaquin were five Polish workers whose job was to prepare the engine room for a retrofitting.

Could that work have caused the loss of power that led to the US container ship's sinking? The vessel's owners say they don't believe so, but the question - along with the captain's decision to plot a course near the storm - will almost certainly be part of an investigation launched Tuesday by the National Transportation Safety Board into the disaster near the Bahamas that may have claimed 33 lives. "We don't have all the answers, I'm sorry for that. I wish we did," Anthony Chiarello, president and CEO of ship owner Tote Inc., told reporters. "But we will find out what happened." The 41-year-old *El Faro* was scheduled to be retired from Caribbean duty and retrofitted in the coming months for service between the West Coast and Alaska, said Phil Greene, another Tote executive.

The *El Faro* and its equally aged sister vessel were being replaced on the Jacksonville-to-Puerto Rico run by two brand-new ships capable of carrying much more cargo and emitting less pollution. When the *El Faro* left Jacksonville on Sept 29, the five Polish workers came along with 28 US crew members to do some preparatory work in the engine room, according to Greene. He gave no details on the nature of their work.

But "I don't believe based on the work they were doing that they would have had anything to do with what affected the propulsion," said Greene, a retired Navy admiral. The NTSB dispatched a team from Washington to investigate. "It's just a tragic, tragic situation," NTSB vice chairman Bella Dinh-Zarr said.

The *El Faro* had no history of engine failure, Greene said, and the company said the vessel was modernized in 1992 and 2006. Company records show it underwent its last annual Coast Guard inspection in March. The American Bureau of Shipping, a nonprofit organization that sets safety and other standards for ships, did full hull and machinery inspections in February with no red flags, the company said.

F John Nicoll, a retired captain who spent years piloting the run to Puerto Rico, said he doubts the age of the *El Faro* was a factor, noting that there are many older ships plying US waters without incident. He predicted the NTSB will look into whether company pressure to deliver the cargo on time despite the menacing weather played a role in the tragedy - something Tote executives have denied.

"Time and money are an important thing" in the shipping industry, Nicoll said. He said there should be emails and other messages between the captain and the company to help answer the question.

Sea and air

The Coast Guard, meanwhile, continued searching by sea and air for any sign of survivors. The ship is believed to have gone down in 15,000 feet of water after reporting its last known position Thursday. One unidentified body has been found. Tote executives said the captain, Michael Davidson, planned a heading that would have enabled the *El Faro* to bypass Joaquin if the ship hadn't lost power. That left it vulnerable to the storm's 140 mph winds and battering waves of more than 50 feet. They said Davidson was in regular communication before the storm with the company, which can override a captain's decisions. Davidson attended the Maine Maritime Academy and has a home in Windham, Maine. "He was a very squared-away sailor, very meticulous with details, very prudent, which is important when you're working on the water. He took his job seriously," said Nick Mavadones, a friend since childhood and general manager of Casco Bay Lines, where he and Davidson worked together.

Still, seafarers who have long experience in the Caribbean say its weather can be treacherous. "It can go from calm, in a matter of five or six hours, to hell," said Angel Ortiz, who retired as a merchant mariner after 39 years. Anderson reported from Miami. Associated Press video journalist Tony Winton in Jacksonville and AP writer Connie Cass in Washington contributed to this story. — AP

CLINTON SUBJECT TO HACKERS FROM CHINA, KOREA, GERMANY

ATTEMPTS APPARENTLY BLOCKED BY 'THREAT MONITORING'

WASHINGTON: Hillary Rodham Clinton's private email server, which stored some 55,000 pages of emails from her time as secretary of state, was the subject of attempted cyberattacks originating in China, South Korea and Germany after she left office in early 2013, according to a congressional document obtained by The Associated Press.

While the attempts were apparently blocked by a "threat monitoring" product that Clinton's employees connected to her network in October 2013, there was a period of more than three months from June to October 2013 when that protection had not been installed, according to a letter from Sen Ron Johnson, R-Wis., chairman of the Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee. That means her server was possibly vulnerable to cyberattacks during that time.

Johnson's letter to Victor Nappé, CEO of SECNAP, the company that provided the threat monitoring product, seeks a host of documents relating to the company's work on Clinton's server and the nature of the cyber intrusions detected. Johnson's committee is investigating Clinton's email arrangement.

Clinton has not said what, if any, firewall or threat protection was used on her email server before June 2013, including the time she was secretary of state from 2009 to 2013 and the server was kept in her home in the New York City suburbs.

A February 2014 email from SECNAP reported that malicious software based in China "was found running an attack against" Clinton's server. In total, Senate investigators have found records describing three such attempts linked to China, one based in Germany and one originating in South Korea. The attacks occurred in 2013 and 2014. The letter describes four attacks, but investigators have since found records about a fifth attempt, said officials who were not authorized to discuss the matter publicly.

Espionage threats

It was not immediately clear whether the attempted intrusions into Clinton's server were serious espionage threats or the sort of nuisance attacks that hit computer servers the world over. But the new revelations underscore the extent to which any private email server is a target, raising further questions about Clinton's decision to undertake sensitive government business over private email stored on a homemade system.

Any hackers who got access to her server in 2013 or 2014 could have stolen a trove of sensitive email traffic involving the foreign relations of the United States. Thousands of Clinton emails made public under the Freedom of Information Act have been heavily redacted for national security and other reasons. Clinton "essentially circumvented millions of dollars' worth of cybersecurity investment that the federal government puts within the State Department," said Justin Harvey, chief security officer of Fidelis Cybersecurity.

"She wouldn't have had the infrastructure to detect or respond to cyber attacks from a nation-state," he said. "Those attacks are incredibly sophisticated, and very hard to detect and contain. And if you have a private server, it's very likely that you would be compromised."

A spokesman for the Clinton campaign did not answer detailed questions from The Associated Press about the cyber intrusions. Instead, spokesman Brian Fallon attacked Johnson by linking him to the House Benghazi committee inquiry, which the campaign dismissed in a recent media ad as politically motivated.

'Sham of an investigation'

"Ron Johnson is ripping a page from the House Benghazi Committee's playbook and

Johnson's letter says, Platte River hired SECNAP Network Security Corp. to use a product called CloudJacket SMB, which is designed to block network access by "even the most determined hackers," according to company literature. But the product was not up and running until October, according to Johnson's letter, raising questions about how vulnerable Clinton's server was during the interim.

SECNAP is not a well-known computer security provider. The company's website and promotional literature describe CloudJacket



IOWA: Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Rodham Clinton speaks Wednesday, Oct 7, 2015, during a campaign stop at the Westfair Amphitheater. — AP

mounting his own, taxpayer-funded sham of an investigation with the sole purpose of attacking Hillary Clinton politically," campaign spokesman Fallon said by email. "The Justice Department is already conducting a review concerning the security of her server equipment, and Ron Johnson has no business interfering with it for his own partisan ends." The FBI is investigating whether national security was compromised by Clinton's email arrangement.

In June 2013, after Clinton had left office, the server was moved from her Chappaqua, New York, home to a data center in northern New Jersey, where it was maintained by a Denver technology company, Platte River Networks, records show. In June 2013,

as a monitoring system designed to counter unauthorized intrusions and monitor threats around the clock. Corporate documents show SECNAP has been in existence since at least 2002, selling computer spam filter and firewall products. A SECNAP representative declined to comment, citing company policy.

The AP reported last month that Russia-linked hackers sent Clinton emails in 2011 - when she was still secretary of state - loaded with malware that could have exposed her computer if she opened the attachments. It is not known if she did. The attacks Johnson mentions in his letter are different, according to government officials familiar with them. They were probing Clinton's server directly, not through email. — AP

MURDOCH SORRY FOR 'BLACK PRESIDENT'

NEW YORK: The founder of the global News Corp. media empire, Rupert Murdoch, issued an apology yesterday after he faced social media backlash following his suggestion that President Barack Obama isn't a "real black President."

Murdoch was praising Republican presidential candidate Ben Carson and his wife on Twitter on Wednesday when he wrote: "Ben and Candy Carson terrific. What about a real black President who can properly address

the racial divide?" He also recommended a New York magazine article asking whether Obama has done enough for the African-American community.

Murdoch, who founded Fox News Channel, apologized Thursday and tweeted that he "personally find(s) both men charming." The 84-year-old Murdoch has praised Carson on Twitter before, calling him "irreproachable on background, achievements, character, vision." — AP

KASHMIR REBELS KILL ANTI-TERROR OFFICER

SRINAGAR: Militants have killed one of Indian Kashmir's most senior police officers, credited with hundreds of successful anti-insurgency operations in the restive region, police said yesterday. Gunmen opened fire on sub-inspector Mohammad Altaf during a covert operation against a top rebel in Kashmir's northern Bandipore area on Wednesday and he later died in hospital, officers said.

Altaf was attempting to find a top commander from the Lashkar-e-Taiba

group, who carries a bounty of two million Indian rupees (\$31,000), when the shooting occurred, according to a police officer. Altaf, a decorated officer with 15 years of service, was known for using communications surveillance to track militants operating in the region.

K Rajendra Kumar, the director general of Kashmir's police, described Altaf's death as an "irreparable loss". "Today we lost one of our most outstanding officers in counter-insurgency... My salute to the

martyr," he said in a statement. Another top police officer paid tribute to his comrade, describing him as "the best among us, a hero". "He single-handedly finished off the top leadership of the Hizbul Mujahideen during a decade of meticulous work," the officer told AFP on condition of anonymity.

Hizbul Mujahideen is the largest of several rebel groups that have been battling hundreds of thousands of Indian forces deployed in the region for

decades, fighting for the territory to be given independence or made part of Pakistan. The fighting has left tens of thousands dead, mostly civilians. Altaf and his team were attacked in their car by suspected rebels, who approached in a vehicle behind them and opened fire, the officer said. Kashmir has been divided between India and Pakistan since the end of British colonial rule in 1947 but both claim the territory in its entirety. — AFP



KABUL: General Director of Doctors Without Borders, or Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), Christopher Stokes (right) and Country Representative for MSF in Afghanistan Guilhem Molinie speak during a press conference at the MSF office. — AFP

AFTER OBAMA APOLOGY, MEDICAL CHARITY PRESSES PROBE REQUEST

IMPORTANT FOR NGOS WORKING IN CONFLICT ZONES

KABUL: A day after President Barack Obama apologized for a tragic US airstrike that killed at least 22 people at a hospital run by Doctors Without Borders in northern Afghanistan, the medical charity said yesterday it is continuing to press its demand for an independent investigation of the incident.

The Oct 3 airstrike took place as Afghan forces were fighting to retake the strategic northern city of Kunduz, which was overrun and briefly held last week by the Taliban. The insurgents, who have been massing around the city for months, launched a multi-pronged attack that took authorities by surprise. Obama on Wednesday apologized to the organization and said the US would examine military procedures to look for better ways to prevent such incidents. But scarce details on the erroneous strike have only fueled growing condemnation by MSF, as the charity is known under its French acronym, and other aid groups. Along with a dozen hospital staffers, 10 patients were also killed. The airstrike will likely complicate delicate US efforts in Afghanistan.

Speaking to reporters yesterday in Kabul, MSF's general director, Christopher Stokes, reiterated the group's demand for the probe, saying it would be important and a precedent for non-government organizations working in

conflict zones worldwide. Stokes said MSF wanted the International Humanitarian Fact-Finding Commission "to get the facts of what happened, the truth."

Protecting noncombatants

The IHFFC is based in the Swiss capital, Bern. It is made up of diplomats, legal experts, doctors and some former military officials from nine European countries, including Britain and Russia. Created after the Gulf War in 1991, the commission has never deployed a fact-finding mission. MSF, a Nobel Peace Prize-winning organization that provides medical aid in conflict zones, is awaiting responses to letters it sent Tuesday to 76 countries that signed Article 90 of the additional protocol to the Geneva Conventions, seeking to mobilize the 15-member commission. The Conventions lay out rules on conduct in armed conflict, mostly on protecting noncombatants.

For the commission to be mobilized, a single country would have to call for the fact-finding mission, and the US and Afghanistan - which are not signatories - must also give their consent. MSF says it has had no response yet from any country. "It would show a distinct lack of courage if none of the 76 signatories come forward," Stokes said.

The MSF hospital in Kunduz is no longer operational, which has put severe burden on the city, MSF and Afghan officials have said. Of the 105 patients who were in the hospital at the time of the bombing, nine have yet to be accounted for; and of a total of 461 staff, 24 are still missing, said Guilhem Molinie, MSF's representative in Afghanistan.

The organization expects there are still 24 bodies in the debris of the building that was bombed, he added. Three children who were among the 10 patients who perished were members of the same family, admitted the night before the bombing after their car came under fire, Molinie said. Government forces continued to battle yesterday to clear insurgents from Kunduz areas. Humanitarian supplies were still not reaching the city in adequate quantities, according to Sayed Sarwar Hussaini, a provincial police spokesman. Police were helping with some food distribution, he added.

Some roads into Kunduz have reopened but the Taliban have been hijacking trucks delivering food and medicines, said civil society activist Zabihullah Majidi. He said medicines purchased with money raised by civil society groups have been destroyed by Taliban on the road from Balkh province, while 150 cartons had made it through. — AP

LAWMAKER ATTACKED AS BEEF ROW GROWS

SRINAGAR: Lawmakers from Prime Minister Narendra Modi's party tried to assault an opposition member in a state parliament yesterday over eating beef, as debate rages in India over intolerance of religious minorities. Television footage showed several Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) legislators, who consider cows sacred, pushing and shoving Abdul Rashid, a Muslim, in the Jammu and Kashmir state assembly for holding a provocative "beef party".

"No amount of condemnation can be enough for what happened today," opposition leader Omar Abdullah told reporters outside the assembly in the northern region's main city of Srinagar. "Trying to beat up a member, this is the first time I have ever seen something like this in any house," Abdullah, whose party walked out of the chamber over the attack. "Do I assault everyone who eats pork or alcohol?" Rashid served beef kebabs at the "party" this week in protest against a ban on killing and eating cows in India's only Muslim-majority state. The issue ignited in the region after a top court last month ordered the long-standing but little enforced prohibition be strictly implemented.

The attack comes as a wider debate rages in Hindu-majority India over hardliners' intolerance of Muslims and other religious minorities, many of whom eat beef as a source of protein. Late last month, a mob beat a Muslim man to death in Uttar Pradesh state over rumors that he had eaten beef. The man was dragged from his home and attacked while his 22-year-old son was also severely injured. Modi, a staunch Hindu nationalist, is under growing pressure to condemn that attack and defuse the growing row, amid accusations that his silence so far is only emboldening hardliners, including those from his own party. Modi's government wants a nationwide ban on the slaughter of cows, which is prohibited in only some states.

India is the world's biggest exporter of buffalo meat, an industry mainly run by Muslims. President Pranab Mukherjee on Wednesday called for officially secular India's tradition of tolerance to be upheld, in what was seen as an attempt to calm raging anger over the issue. Rashid told AFP that about 10 to 14 BJP members "just pounced on me as soon as I entered the house", saying he had feared for his life. Footage showed legislators rounding on Rashid, trying to hit him as others held them back. — AFP



SRINAGAR: Engineer Rashid Ahmed, a Jammu and Kashmir state lawmaker, shouts as he protests inside the state legislature house. — AP

CABINET MINISTER SEEKS TO CURTAIL POPULATION CRISIS

TOKYO: A new Japanese cabinet minister tasked with finding ways to boost the birthrate and keep a shrinking population from falling below 100 million said yesterday he hoped to win over more Japanese to his view that childrearing is rewarding.

Solutions to Japan's population slide have eluded policy makers for decades. Forecasts based on current trends expect the population to fall below 100 million in 2048, and to about 87 million by 2060, when 40 percent of people will be 65 or older. Katsunobu Kato was promoted to a new

post in a cabinet reshuffle this week as Prime Minister Shinzo Abe moved to showcase his newly-minted slogan, "Society in Which All 100 Million People Can Be Active."

The slogan is meant to reflect a commitment to spreading the benefits of economic growth to everyone. Kato, a father of four, gave few clues to how he planned to achieve his ambitious goals, however. "My personal feeling is that raising children can surely be hard," Kato, 59, told reporters, when asked about his experience as a parent. "But it also gives you happiness that

outweighs the difficulties. I would like to tackle my job so that everyone can share such a feeling."

Abe is drawing a demographic red line to halt the slide in Japan's population at 100 million people by 2060, or a fifth below the current figure. The prime minister is also aiming for a 20 percent expansion in Japan's economy to 600 trillion yen (\$5 trillion), more support for childrearing and social security reform. Japan's fertility rate of 1.42 is below the figure of 2.1 needed for a stable population without immigration. Abe has

for now ruled out opening the door wider to foreigners.

Abe has instructed Kato to take the lead in drafting a first round of policy steps by the end of the year. "Although various measures are already in progress, we need to discuss what's missing and what steps we need take to achieve the goals," Kato said. Kato's plethora of ministerial titles give him responsibility for tackling gender equality, boosting women's empowerment, and building national resilience, among others. — Reuters

ARREST, ADS SPOTLIGHT PAK ARMY DETENTIONS

KARACHI: Paramilitary troops in Pakistan's biggest city arrested a prominent politician on Thursday, fuelling jitters about a showdown between the powerful Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) party and the military-run Rangers. Months of action by the paramilitary force against the party that runs Karachi has raised fears of bloodshed in the city of 20 million people. The campaign has also sparked a row between the police and the military over civilian detentions. The MQM, which has controlled the southern city for decades, said Rangers arrested a senior party member at his house in an early morning raid. He is the fourth member of the party's steering committee to be detained. "The MQM is being pushed up against the wall," said party spokesman Farooq Sattar.

Political parties and activists have accused Rangers of abducting and killing party members and residents during a crackdown on crime. The Rangers deny the accusations and say they are acting to preserve law and order. Their campaign has led to a row between the police and the Rangers in a country where rivalry often simmers between the powerful military and the police, invariably mirroring friction between the military and civilian governments. On Tuesday, Karachi police placed newspaper advertisements asking for information about missing people they said were detained by "unknown Rangers". "If anyone has information about the whereabouts of this person, please inform the police station," the advertisements read. "The identity of whoever provides information will be kept confidential."

'Based on lies'

The Rangers denounced the advertisements as "absolutely based on lies" and aimed at degrading their "superb performance" in the eyes of the public. "Its purpose is to undermine the Karachi operation," the Rangers said in a statement. Police said they placed the advertisements in response to the order of a court looking into cases of missing people. Most Pakistani politicians are wary of the military, which has ruled the nuclear-armed nation of 190 million people for about half its history.

Many worry that the military is expanding its powers in Karachi by weakening political parties, just as, they say, it is doing on a national level, though less forcefully. The MQM, which controls Karachi, says Rangers have extra-judicially executed more than 50 of its members. The Rangers deny the accusations. — Reuters

PHILIPPINE POLICE KILLS IN BUS HOSTAGE DRAMA

MANILA: Philippine police shot and killed a man who took a fellow bus passenger hostage in central Manila yesterday, authorities said. Police closed down a normally clogged avenue and surrounded the bus where the unidentified assailant held up a fellow passenger with a knife. "The hostage was able to escape and that was when the police shot and wounded him (the assailant). No other people in the bus were hurt," Manila police spokeswoman Chief Inspector Kim Gonzales told AFP. "He has already passed away. We don't know who he is or why he did it." Local press reports said the bus passengers fled when the driver stopped the vehicle after noticing the incident.

"We congratulate our policemen for doing a good job," Manila city mayor Joseph Estrada told reporters. "There were no negotiations," he added. "They deceived the hostage-taker and waited for an opportunity to get at him." In 2010 a hostage crisis also ended in gunfire at a park just one kilometer away from yesterday's incident, after a disgraced ex-Manila police officer held a bus with Hong Kong tourists on board hostage after being fired. Day-long negotiations to release those trapped on the bus failed and, with the drama being broadcast live around the world, security forces bungled a rescue attempt. They shot the hijacker dead but eight of the Hong Kong tourists died and seven others were injured, triggering a diplomatic firestorm that took nearly four years to resolve. — AFP



MANDALAY: Lu Maw displays a sign that stands for "National Security Agency" and a picture of Myanmar's opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi with US President Barack Obama during an evening show of the Mustache Brothers. — AP

JESTERS ARRESTED FOR JOKES GET SERIOUS FOR ELECTIONS

THE ONE SUBJECT THEY REFUSE TO POKE FUN

MANDALAY: During Myanmar's darkest days of dictatorship, the Mustache Brothers' brazen, sarcastic stabs at military leaders won them nationwide notoriety, and fans. While the feisty comedic duo continues to draw large crowds under the nominally civilian government, there is one subject they refuse to poke fun at: Upcoming general elections. After all, they say, the country's future is at stake, and it's time to get serious. As the sun sets on the city of Mandalay, a crowd forms and the two men start stressing the importance of voting for the National League for Democracy. The opposition party's popularity is tied closely to its leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, who spent 15 years under house arrest when the junta ruled as she called for respect for human rights, the rule of law and national reconciliation.

"Our people have suffered from bad politics since 1962," said the extravagantly mustachioed Lu Maw. "There's been so much damage in the past. That's why it is so important for all of us." "Everybody wants real change," the 65-year-old added, "so it is so important the NLD wins." Myanmar started transitioning from a half-century of brutal military rule to democracy five years ago. But it's been a

bumpy road. Early reforms implemented by nominally civilian leaders - including the release of junta-era political prisoners and the freeing up of the media - have stalled or started backsliding.

Pulling the strings

Many believe the country's old military rulers are still pulling the strings, and that they will continue to do so even if the NLD wins the majority of seats in Parliament - as most experts predict. When Myanmar goes to polls on Nov. 8, the Mustache Brothers want people to be out there, exercising their newfound rights to vote. If they do?

"Oh, the NLD will win by a landslide!" says clean-shaven Lu Zaw, 63. "I would say the NLD will win the coming election for sure, as long as it is free and fair." The Mustache Brothers - they are actually cousins - perform regularly at their house-turned-theater in Mandalay and, these days, on the streets campaigning. As evening falls, the pair are in full swing. One yells out, "Please don't steal anything. The government does not like competition." The other parades around with a sign that says "Competition." Though now fixtures on the

tourist trail, many years ago they were the jesters who were too edgy for the generals. That story goes back to 1996. Irked by one particular show the junta arrested two of the then-three-man team. They served five years in prison with hard labor.

One of those who was jailed has since died. Today the surviving Mustache Brothers still make fun of the current leaders. But the ordeal left its mark. With the prospect of real political change approaching there are some things too serious to joke about. "I have no plan to tell jokes about the election because I don't want to cause a disturbance," says Lu Maw, who avoided prison because he didn't perform on the fateful night. "This is a very important time for us and I'm taking it very seriously. I don't want to detract from the election's meaning by my jokes." The Mustache Brothers have a special relationship with Suu Kyi.

The infamous performance that sent them to prison took place at her home in Yangon, at an Independence Day celebration. She's never forgotten what happened, and they are devoted to her. "Vote for the NLD!" the men chant as the audience breaks out into a dance. "They are the guiding star of the people!" — AP

NORTH KOREA GEARS UP FOR ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

MARKING 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF NATION'S RULING PARTY

PYONGYANG: With the international media, foreign guests and ethnic Koreans from around the region descending on their capital, North Koreans are being mobilized en masse to put the finishing touches on one of the few things their country wants the whole world to see - a lavish celebration and military parade to mark the 70th anniversary of the nation's ruling party.

Masses of Pyongyang residents, many carrying bouquets of pink or red plastic flowers, gathered in public squares across the city Thursday to practice their roles in the grand show to be held on Saturday for the anniversary of the 1945 founding of the Workers' Party of Korea. The city has also undergone an extensive face-lift, with soldier-builders working around the clock to build high-rise apartments, pave roads and even put in bicycle lanes.

The spectacle promises to be the most elaborate since leader Kim Jong Un assumed power after the death of his father, Kim Jong Il, in late 2011. Though officials have not publicly announced the schedule for Saturday's events, the day is expected to kick off with a major military parade and mass rally on Kim Il Sung Square in the morning and climax with another mass gathering for a torchlight parade and concert to be held on a special stage set up on the nearby Taedong River, which runs through the capital.

It's not known if Kim himself will speak publicly at any of the day's events, though he did give reporters a surprise, close-up photo opportunity two years ago when the country held a similarly elaborate celebration for the 60th anniversary of the armistice that ended the 1950-53 Korean War.

Know your role

To make sure everyone taking part in the spectacle knows their part, students, work units and other groups have filled public plazas for weeks to hone their marching, flag-waving and slogan-shouting skills. On Thursday, crowds of students waving red flags and women in brightly colored traditional clothing could be seen in the area around the square. North Korean flags lined the streets.

Open source satellite imagery suggests military units are practicing on a mock-up of the square at an airstrip farther away from prying eyes. "We are very proud of the 70th anniversary of the foundation of our party, it's an honor for us, and with this anniversary we will demonstrate our invincible single-hearted unity," said Chang Yong Ho, a student who will be taking part.

North Korea's leadership often uses anniversaries to rally the nation behind the military or the party, while at the same time reinforcing the primacy of the leader himself. The particularly strong emphasis on making the party foundation anniversary this year a lavish fete is also seen by some foreign analysts as a sign that Kim Jong Un is trying to build up the party's standing relative to the military.

Though both institutions are strong, the power balance among various government organs in North Korea is a delicate one and maintaining that balance is a key to keeping Kim's leadership solid and unchallenged. Giving some credence to that argument, North Korean officials have recently stressed the role of the party in improving the standard of living for the people and a rocket launch that some foreign analysts expected to happen before the anniversary now appears to be unlikely.

"Our party sees the steady improvement of the people's standard of living as its main concern above everything else," professor Kim Chang Gyong, of the North Korean Association of Social Scientists, said in an interview with an Associated Press Television News crew. "Our party is now concentrating on building an economically powerful socialist state." — AP



PYONGYANG: Pedestrians make their way along a street yesterday.— AFP

THAI TOURIST ISLANDS HIT BY HAZE FROM INDONESIA FIRES

BANGKOK: Popular Thai holiday islands were engulfed with haze from Indonesian forest fires yesterday, forcing several planes packed with beach-bound tourists to turn back, further stoking regional tensions. The travel disruptions came as Indonesia finally agreed to accept international help to douse the massive fires that have been started deliberately to clear agricultural land.

Five flights bound for the resort islands of Phuket and Samui turned back to Bangkok yesterday morning due to poor visibility, according to the Aeronautical Radio of Thailand, which controls air traffic across the country. A further two airlines flying to Phuket from Singapore were forced to circle the airport for up to an hour before landing, it said, as haze blocked out the sun to the disappointment of visitors.

"It is the worst haze (on the island) in many years," Trakul Thotham, director of the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation on Phuket, told AFP, but said it was "getting better" yesterday. Of the seven affected southern Thai provinces Phuket has been worst-hit with unhealthy levels of particulates in the air, according to the department.

Some Thais wore protective masks to combat the pollution, Wipa Emem, a reservation clerk at the Holiday Inn Resort on the island told AFP, but tourists were mostly "still on the beach". After weeks of insisting it could tackle the crisis alone, Indonesia yesterday said it was in talks with countries about assistance including Singapore, Russia, Malaysia, Australia and China.

"Hopefully, we can speed up our efforts," President Joko Widodo told reporters before flying to Jambi, one of the worst-affected provinces on smog-belching western Sumatra island. But his jet was unable to land at the local airport due to the haze, presidential spokesman Ari Dwiipayana told AFP, forced to divert to another airport on Sumatra.

'Not a handout'

For weeks, fires illegally started to clear land

for plantations on Sumatra and the Indonesian part of Borneo have shrouded Singapore and Malaysia in acrid smog, worsening air quality, closing schools and forcing the cancellation of outdoor events. The blazes are an annual occurrence during the dry season, but scientists have warned this year's are on track to be the worst ever due to an El Nino weather system that has created tinder-dry conditions in Indonesia.

Jakarta has deployed about 25,000 personnel and aircraft, but the fire-fighters have seemed overwhelmed by the extent of the blazes. Tensions have been rising between Indonesia and its neighbors as the haze spreads, with Singapore's biggest supermarket chain Wednesday withdrawing paper products made by an Indonesia-owned company, Asia Pulp & Paper.

Some of the group's suppliers in Indonesia

have been accused over the haze. "This remains a challenge for us so we feel it is important to cooperate with countries with resources to assist us," foreign ministry spokesman Arrmanatha Nasir told reporters in Jakarta. He insisted it was "not a handout" as Indonesia would pay for the services with some countries as it particularly sought bigger planes for water-bombing.

The nation's disaster agency said one large Russian plane should be arriving soon to help with fire-fighting. Singapore has offered aircraft to artificially induce rain and conduct water-bombing, as well as personnel to help fight the blazes. The city-state has been especially infuriated by the failure to tackle the fires and Indonesian officials making light of the crisis. Yesterday there was some respite from the haze for Singaporeans and Malaysians with air quality recording moderate levels.—AFP

CHINA UNEASY OVER ALLEGED US PLAN FOR ISLAND CLAIM

BEIJING: Beijing expressed "serious concern" yesterday about a reported US plan to challenge China's South China Sea territorial claims by sailing a Navy ship near one of its newly built artificial islands. The US newspaper Navy Times reported on Wednesday that the Navy may soon receive approval for the mission to sail inside the 12-nautical mile (21-kilometer) territorial limit surrounding one of the man-made structures.

That would drive home Washington's stance that the artificial islands do not constitute sovereign territory and build a legal case under international law for the US position, the newspaper said. Five other governments also claim the region in part or in total. The US doesn't take a formal position on sovereignty but insists on freedom of navigation in the vital sea lanes and airspace

above. Asked about the report at a daily briefing, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said China has long made clear its position on the South China Sea, which Beijing claims virtually in its entirety, along with its islands, reefs and atolls. "I have not noticed the latest report you have mentioned. However, having heard what you said, we express serious concern about it," Hua said. China and the US have discussed the issue on numerous occasions, including during President Xi Jinping's state visit to Washington last month, Hua said. "We hope the US can look upon the current situation of the South China Sea from an objective and fair perspective and play a constructive role together with China in keeping the peace and stability in the South China Sea," Hua said.—AP

Friday Times

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Lifestyle

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2015



Craig says he'd rather kill himself than do another James Bond movie

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A model presents a creation for Allude during the 2016 Spring/Summer ready-to-wear collection fashion show in Paris. — AFP

Beyonce, Pharrell sue over T-shirts with image



Leading musicians including Beyonce, Jay Z and Kanye West have filed a lawsuit in US federal court against a French apparel brand, accusing it of using their images without authorization. Other plaintiffs in the collective lawsuit against Eleven Paris include "Happy" creator Pharrell Williams and R&B singer Rihanna. The lawsuit, filed on Tuesday in New York, seeks an injunction and compensation for past sales of the items including shirts, caps, backpacks and cellphone cases. Among the products named in the suit are T-shirts that feature the hooded faces of Beyonce and Williams and one of Rihanna with her index finger held up like a mustache.

The lawsuit said it was especially egregious that the items remained for sale at the Eleven Paris boutique in New York's Soho district and that two new T-shirts just went on the market, which say "Kanye is my homie" and "Pharrell is my brotha." "Even after receiving warnings from plaintiffs ... defendants continue to sell unauthorized products and to trade upon the goodwill associated with plaintiffs, all for defendants' profit," the lawsuit said. Eleven Paris is also accused of using lyrics without authorization

and choosing names for products that are nearly identical to those of the artists, such as "Cayonce."

The lawsuit said that Eleven Paris "purposefully use(s) marks that are confusingly similar to plaintiffs' respective trademarks." Eleven Paris says its apparel is sold in more than 800 stores in 25 countries, although the vast majority are in France. "Negotiations have been underway with these individuals for nearly a year and continue," the company said in a statement in Paris. "Eleven Paris is determined to find a fair and balanced agreement with them and their legal representatives," it said.

The use of celebrities' images falls into complicated legal terrain with individual US states-but not the US federal government-recognizing a "right to publicity" that allows a person to determine how he or she can be used for commercial purposes. The lawsuit by the musicians makes the case that Eleven Paris infringed on their trademarks. — AFP

Janet Jackson, Chicago, The Cars nominated for rock hall

Janet Jackson, Steve Miller, Chicago and The Cars are among the first-time nominees being considered for induction next year in the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. Cheap Trick, Los Lobos, Chaka Khan and James Brown's famed backup band The J.B.'s also are new to the ballot. Eight of the 15 potential honorees are first-timers, although none are in their first year of eligibility. More than 800 artists and members of the music industry vote on the inductees, who will be announced in December. Fans can also vote on the rock hall's website toward a "fan's ballot" that will also be counted. Artists back on the ballot for another try are Chic, Deep Purple, N.W.A., Nine Inch Nails, the Smiths, the Spinners and Yes. Janet - Miss Jackson if you're nasty - would uphold a family tradition. The Jackson 5 were inducted in 1997 and her late brother Michael joined as a solo artist in 2001. The singer of "If," "All For You" and "That's the Way Love Goes" just released "Unbreakable," her first new disc since 2008.

The California-based Miller, with hits like "Fly Like an Eagle" and "Jet Airliner" to his name, was a stalwart of 1970s radio along with the jazzy soft rock of Chicago, known for "Colour My World" and "If You Leave Me Now." The Cars' brittle New Wave pop of "My Best Friend's Girl" helped define the turn into the 1980s. Los Lobos' "How Will the Wolf Survive" and "Kiko" albums were critical favorites and the band has endured as a top live act. The stuttering recitation of Chaka Khan's name was a signature of her 1984 hit "I Feel For You." The J.B.'s well-disciplined tightness and supreme funk made them among the most sampled artists in music. Midwestern favorites Cheap Trick's Beatles-at-top-volume sound became a hit after they traveled to Japan and made a live album before an enthusiastic audience.

Artists are eligible for the hall 25 years after their first music is released. Acts nominated in their first year of eligibility, like Green Day last year, usually are slam dunks for inclusion but no one fits that bill this year. Of the returning nominees, Los Angeles rappers N.W.A. received a major publicity boost through the move "Straight Outta



Compton." This is the fourth year in a row they've been nominated. The nomination process hasn't resulted in "Good Times" for Chic. This marks their 10th time as a nominee; no other artist has been nominated so many times without induction. The Cleveland-based Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum generally inducts five performers a year, along with separately considered inductees in categories like non-performers or early influences. The induction ceremony will be in New York in April, at a venue and date to be announced later, and HBO will televise it at a later date. — AP

Corgan picks vintage photos over Twitter

Smashing Pumpkins frontman Billy Corgan has never had a shortage of interests and, in his latest move, has left Twitter to focus on a blog called "People and Their Cars." The alternative rock icon, once an avid social media user, wrote in a final tweet Tuesday: "After mulling this for awhile, I'm deleting this account. "So many thanks to those that have followed. Find me at PeopleAndTheirCars.com." The free site, despite its name, is not only for motor enthusiasts but focuses more generally on old photographs selected by Corgan.

On Facebook, where he maintains an account, Corgan described People and Their Cars as a collection of "vintage photos and ephemera." One recent picture showed an older couple standing next to decades-old parked cars with a caption, "Wanna Go for a Ride?" The caption reflects a line from "Zero," a song on the Smashing Pumpkins' influential 1995 album "Mellon Collie and Infinite Sadness." Corgan, who now signs off as William Patrick Corgan, led the Smashing Pumpkins to be one of the most influential bands in the alternative rock era of the 1990s with blaring guitar that gave way to quiet introspection.

He has since pursued a sprawling number of intellectual pursuits. Earlier this year, Corgan signed on to write storylines for a professional wrestling program, saying he believed the staged sport had the power to push boundaries on cultural issues. Last year, Corgan put on an eight-hour electronic performance at his Chicago-area teahouse based on "Siddhartha," Hermann Hesse's 1922 novel about the historical Buddha. — AFP



US musician Billy Corgan of the band Smashing Pumpkins as he performs on the Other Stage on the fifth day of the Glastonbury Festival of Contemporary Performing Arts near Glastonbury, southwest England. — AFP



Craig says he'd rather kill himself than do another James Bond movie

There's been endless headlines speculating about who could play the next James Bond, and now the current famous superspy has stepped forward with his thoughts on the role. In an interview with TimeOut, Daniel Craig spoke candidly about the role and its future. "Look, I don't care—. Good luck to them," Craig said when asked if he cared who played Bond next. "All I care about is that if I stop doing these things we've left it in a good place and people pick it up and make it better."

Right now, the blue-eyed Bond, who appears next in "Spectre," can't fathom doing another 007 film. "Now? I'd rather break this glass and slash my wrists," Craig said. "No, not at the moment. Not at all. That's fine. I'm over it at the moment. We're done. All I want to do is move on." Craig went on to say that if he were to decide to go ahead with another Bond movie that "it would only be for the money." Whenever he does choose to hang up the Aston Martin keys, Craig did say that he would have one bit of advice for his successor. "Don't be s—," Craig said. "You've got to step up. People do not make movies like this anymore. This is really rare now. So don't be s—." — Reuters



Tourists stand in front of the Spanish Steps closed to the public for restoration yesterday in Rome. — AFP

Rome's Spanish Steps closed for Bulgari-funded makeover

Rome's famous Spanish Steps closed to the public Wednesday for a restoration project funded by luxury jeweler Bulgari that is expected to last several months. Bulgari, bought in 2011 by French luxury giant LVMH, is putting 1.5 million euros (\$1.7 million) into the refurbishment. The 18th-century Baroque-style stairway, which has 144 steps, was last restored 20 years ago. The work, which will be carried out by local restorer Il Cenacolo, is expected to be finished by spring 2016, at which point the steps will be "restored to the whole world in all their beauty and splendor," Rome mayor Ignazio Marino said.

The steps will be closed to pedestrians until December 7 — the start of a special Jubilee year expected to draw millions of Catholic pilgrims to Rome—after which a side ramp will be opened to allow access to tourists. "Rome has always been the number one source of inspiration for Bulgari so it is right to give back to Rome what Rome has given Bulgari," the jeweler's CEO Jean-

Christophe Babin said as work began. The work includes re-leveling the steps to repair natural wear and maintenance of the rain-water drainage system, as well as restoring the original lamps which illuminate the steps by night.

The Spanish Steps, which links Bernini's "boat" fountain with the Trinita dei Monti church at the top, were made famous in the United States by the 1953 film Roman Holiday, starring Audrey Hepburn and Gregory Peck. Bulgari pledged the money last year in response to a government plea for help in financing Italy's heritage monuments. The private sector is already helping restore other UNESCO monuments: in Rome, luxury shoemaker Tod's is financing works at the Colosseum, while high-end fashion house Fendi is refurbishing the Trevi Fountain. — AFP

Kanye says straight designers face discrimination

Rapper Kanye West, whose growing presence in the fashion world has drawn a mixed reaction, says he faces discrimination for being straight. West last month suddenly announced a show of his military-inspired Yeezy line during New York Fashion Week, angering some more established designers. "I felt that I got discriminated against in fashion also for not being gay, whereas in music you definitely get discriminated against if you are gay," West, who manages to stay persistently in the spotlight, told the fashion website Showstudio.com.

West stressed his support for LGBT rights. His wife, reality television star Kim Kardashian, is the stepdaughter of Caitlyn Jenner, who has brought widespread awareness to transgender issues by transitioning to be a woman. West, who is African American, said he initially feared about "black radio hosts possibly making jokes about it, because the black culture generally is so homophobic." "I just feel so proud to be in a family that has so many people breaking ground for the generations to come," he said in the interview recorded Tuesday.

West, whose stated ambitions include a run for president, again likened himself to Michelangelo and denounced critics who see him simply as a celebrity. Unlike rappers who flaunt their wealth, West said he was out to prove himself as a "creative genius" who can succeed if he has the right resources. "All of my aspirations are things that currently only 60-year-old white people do, so I have to redefine and let people know exactly who I am," he said. "When people try to take the piss out of me for clothing or this or that, they never think... that I never had the opportunity to be properly educated." — AFP



Kanye West



File photo shows rapper Eminem as he celebrates after receiving the award for the Best Rap Album during the Grammy Awards Show in Los Angeles. — AFP

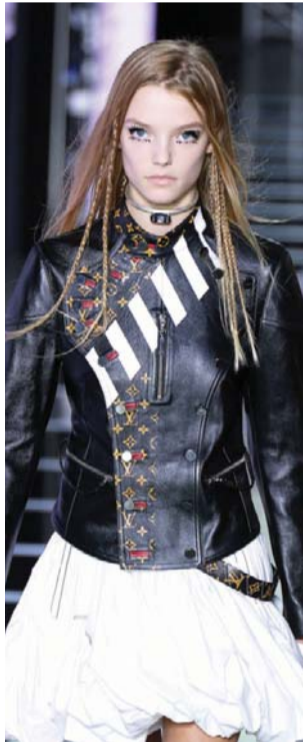
Eminem to headline Latin American Lollapalooza fests

Rap superstar Eminem will headline three Latin American editions of the Lollapalooza festival in 2016 after spending a year away from the stage. The top-selling rapper of all time will headline Lollapalooza on March 12-13 in Sao Paulo, March 18-19 in Buenos Aires and March 19-20 in Santiago, Chile. Announcing lineups on Tuesday, Lollapalooza said that the three Latin American festivals would also feature the English alternative rock acts Florence & the Machine and Mumford & Sons, California rap veteran Snoop Dogg, rising US blues rockers Alabama Shakes and Jack U, the duo of US DJs Skrillex and Diplo.

Eminem has not played live since November 2014 when the 42-year-old Detroit-bred rapper starred in a free show in Washington for veterans. His projects this year have included the soundtrack to the boxing drama "Southpaw" and a collaboration with his mentor Dr Dre on what the elder rapper has described as his final album. Lollapalooza began in 1991 as a traveling US festival under the lead of Jane's Addiction, part

of a boom in non-mainstream music with the end of the 1980s.

Lollapalooza was reborn as an annual summer festival in Chicago in 2005 and has since focused on expansion overseas, with a first European edition taking place last month in Berlin. Next year will also see the first Lollapalooza in Bogota, but it will take place in October with a different lineup than the three more established Latin American editions. With their early dates in the year, the three Southern Hemisphere festivals could offer a preview of which artists will play major summer festivals in North America, Europe and Japan. Other artists playing the Argentina, Brazil and Chile festivals include the Australian psychedelic rockers Tame Impala, South African arthouse rappers Die Antwoord and the latest project of Noel Gallagher of Oasis fame. — AFP



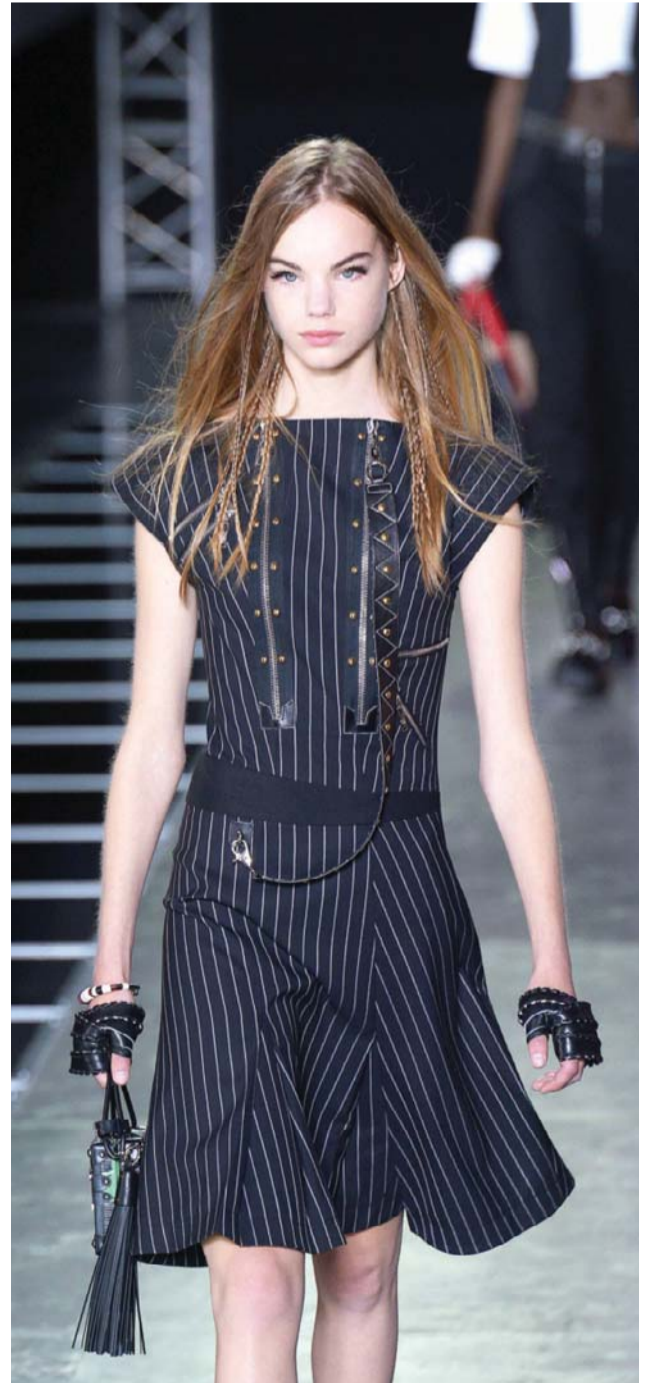
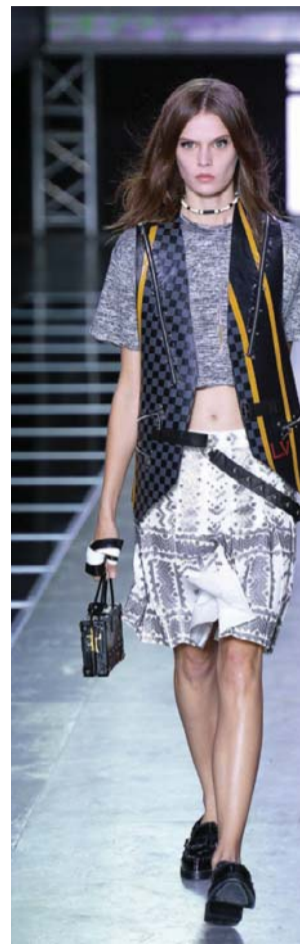
LOUIS VUITTON GOES 'MAD MAX' CHIC ON PARIS CATWALK

If Mad Max's female companions ever go shopping in their dystopian desert future-world, Louis Vuitton just might have an outfit to suit. The French fashion label on Wednesday unveiled a Spring/Summer collection at the Paris shows worthy of Road Warrior groupies: half bionic warrior, half punk ballerina. The clothes boasted embroidery and protection, leather and zips, and bands that wrapped around knuckles and palms in a way reminiscent of boxers' hand wraps. Vuitton vixens, as it were.

Designer Nicolas Ghesquiere emphasised the sci-fi accent to his show, held at the space-age Louis Vuitton Foundation art gallery in Paris. The first model to beam down looked as if she was ripped from a Japanese manga, with hair and jacket dyed a matching pink. The following legion of anarchic amazons boasted garments that were alternately diaphanous, or

bristling with back-off touches like metal or kick-ass boots. Some models' ears were silvered over, lending them a Terminator air. Long eyelashes hardened gazes into laser-like optics.

The overall effect threw an androgynous cast over the collection, underlined by men's vests and multi-colored trousers and shorts, and zips brazenly on display. French movie legend Catherine Deneuve, sat in the front row, hailed the work by Ghesquiere. "He is always looking at material and shape, he is so futurist and incredibly talented at it," she told AFP. "There are some superb items: I love the frothy dresses and also the embroidered skirts, all of which move." — AFP



Models present creations for Louis Vuitton during the 2016 Spring/Summer ready-to-wear collection fashion show in Paris. — AFP



Ditch the dairy to make the most flavorful, creamy soup

By Sara Moulton

This time of year, with the weather getting colder, I love to serve soup for supper. It's an easy sell at my house, where The Husband is a soupaholic. But with a soup this good, I firmly believe you can sell anyone on it. The trick is to amp up the flavor, vary the texture, and make it substantial.

Here I started by roasting - not boiling - the cauliflower. Roasting eliminates excess water, brings the natural sugars to the fore, and concentrates the flavors (adding some nuttiness in the process). Next, I make sure not to obscure the cauliflower's flavor with too many other ingredients. Yes, there is onion and garlic, but they play only supporting roles. Likewise, the stock, diluted with water, is designed not to overwhelm. The greens - because they're not pureed,

and not added until the very end - pack a satisfying little punch of their own without compromising the cauliflower taste.

The right tool for pureeing a soup is a blender. Neither a food processor nor an immersion blender will make it quite as smooth. Just take care not to pack the blender with too much hot soup at a time. At the end of the recipe, to provide some crunchy contrast to the creamy base, I added roasted cauliflower florets. Finally, there are those garlicky cheese rye toasts - Yum! - which contribute yet more crunch as well as big flavor, whether you tear them up and toss the pieces into the soup or happily munch them on the side. The finished product is a tasty, hearty, healthy and affordable soup for supper. And if you use vegetable broth, it's vegetarian, too. Either way, it's fully capable of standing on its own, or with just a small salad.

ROASTED CAULIFLOWER AND GREENS SOUP WITH CHEESY RYE TOASTS

Ingredients

Start to finish: 1 hour (35 minutes active)

Servings: 4

1 head cauliflower (about 2 1/2 pounds)

3 tablespoons plus 2 teaspoons extra-virgin olive oil, divided

Salt

1 cup sliced yellow onion

2 teaspoons minced garlic

1 medium Yukon Gold potato (about 3 to 4 ounces), thinly sliced

3 cups low-sodium chicken or vegetable broth

2 cups water

5 ounces baby greens (such as kale, spinach, arugula, mustard or a mix)

1 tablespoon lemon juice

Ground black pepper

4 slices rye bread

1 ounce grated Parmesan cheese

Heat the oven to 450 F.

Preparation

Cut off and discard the tough bottom of the cauliflower stem. Separate 3 cups of small cauliflower florets (each about 1/2 inch in diameter) and set aside. Cut the rest of the cauliflower into 1-inch pieces, then mound them on a rimmed baking sheet. Drizzle with 1 tablespoon of the olive oil and sprinkle with about 1/2 teaspoon of salt. Toss well to coat, then spread in an even layer. Roast on the oven's middle shelf, stirring once or twice, until it is golden brown at the edges, 20 to 25 minutes.

In a large saucepan over medium, heat 1 tablespoon of the remaining oil. Add the onion and cook, stirring occasionally, until softened, about 5 minutes. Add the garlic and cook, stirring, for 1 minute. Add the potato, the roasted cauliflower, the broth and water. Simmer the mixture until the potato is tender, about 15 minutes. While the soup is simmering, on the rimmed sheet pan, toss the reserved florets with 2 teaspoons of oil and about 1/4 teaspoon of salt. Roast until they are golden brown and tender, about 20 minutes.



Transfer the hot soup in small batches to a blender and blend until smooth. Return the soup to the saucepan, stir in the greens and simmer until they are wilted and tender, about 5 minutes. Add the roasted florets and cook for 1 minute. Add the lemon juice, then season with salt and pepper. Adjust the consistency, as desired, with an additional splash or two of water.

Brush the rye bread with the remaining tablespoon of oil and toast on the oven's middle shelf until golden, about 5 minutes. Sprinkle the cheese evenly over the toasts and return to the oven and bake for another 2 minutes. Ladle the soup into serving bowls and serve each portion with a toast.



A SIMPLE CUBAN MARINADE CAN ADD BIG PUNCH TO EASY OVEN FRIES

Most of the foods we eat - even among those of us for whom eating is a career - pass our lips and leave not even a fleeting memory. Most foods. But then there are those that linger not just on our tongues, but in our minds. Perhaps by association of a time or place or person, or simply by the power of their own deliciousness. Somehow these foods take on another life for us.

And there is mojo sauce. The first time I tasted it was during Hurricane Katrina, which had forced an extended stay in Key West. We ate dinner at a dive where the meal itself was forgettable. But plopped onto the table was a basket of fried plantain chips and a bowl of mojo sauce for dipping. It was orange and slightly chunky and flecked with green.

Cuban mojo generally consists of minced garlic, onion and parsley that are mixed with sour orange juice, lime juice, olive oil and a hit of cumin. Traditionally, it is used to marinate pork or for dipping chips, such as plantains. I wrote down the list of ingredients, but never made it. Until now. I found the card on which I'd scribbled the recipe and remembered that flavor. While plantain chips don't necessarily excite me, this sauce did. So I decided to recreate it, but this time pair it with something big and bold - roasted potato wedges dusted with paprika. It's a perfect combination.

MOJO SAUCE WITH PAPRIKA POTATOES

Ingredients

Start to finish: 45 minutes
 Servings: 8
 6 medium russet potatoes
 Extra-virgin olive oil
 Salt
 2 teaspoons smoked paprika
 Ground black pepper
 1/2 cup sour orange juice
 1/4 cup lime juice
 2 tablespoons lemon juice
 1/2 small yellow onion, coarsely chopped
 1/4 cup loosely packed fresh parsley
 2 cloves garlic
 1 teaspoon sugar
 1/2 teaspoon ground cumin

Preparation

Heat the oven to 400 F. Line a baking sheet with foil. Cut each potato in half lengthwise, then cut each half lengthwise into about 5 wedges. Mound the wedges on the prepared baking sheet, then drizzle with 1 to 2 tablespoons of oil. Toss to coat evenly. In a small bowl, mix together about 2 teaspoons salt, the paprika and 1 teaspoon of pepper. Sprinkle this evenly over the potato wedges, toss to coat evenly, then spread the potatoes in a single layer on the baking sheet. Bake the potato wedges for 40 minutes, turning the wedges halfway through.

Meanwhile, prepare the mojo sauce. In a blender, combine 1/2 cup of olive oil, sour orange juice, lime juice, lemon juice, onion, parsley, garlic, sugar and cumin. Pulse on and off for 30 seconds to 1 minute, or until the onion and parsley are very finely chopped, but not pureed. Taste, then season with salt and pepper, pulsing again to mix. Serve the potato wedges with the mojo sauce on the side. — AP

The defining films of **Michael Fassbender**



From critically acclaimed indie flicks to Oscar-nominated dramas and superhero blockbusters, Michael Fassbender has been on a roll lately - and given that we're entering a cinematic season in which he's starring in not one but two awards contenders, it seems safe to predict he's really only just hitting his stride. Fassbender returns to theaters this weekend in *Steve Jobs*, so we're taking the opportunity to look back at his filmography and pay tribute to some of the movies that best exemplify his talents.



Hunger (2009)

Fassbender and writer-director Steve McQueen make great films together, but they aren't necessarily fun, and their first collaboration, the hard-hitting historical drama *Hunger*, is a perfect example. To dramatize the last months of Bobby Sands, a soldier in the Provisional Irish Republican Army who led a hunger strike while imprisoned in Northern Ireland in the early '80s, Fassbender dropped an alarming amount of weight by subjecting himself to a 600-calorie-a-day diet - yet still managed to bring an incredible amount of energy to bear on a performance that earned him a British Independent Film Award for Best Actor. Although *Hunger* wasn't Fassbender's first film, it was the first to really demonstrate what he could do if given the chance, and after the closing credits rolled, plenty of casting directors were willing to do just that.

Inglorious Basterds (2009)

American filmgoers received their first real exposure to Fassbender in Quentin Tarantino's *Inglourious Basterds*, a gleefully violent and profane World War II revenge fantasy in which a squadron of Jewish-American soldiers (led by Brad Pitt, natch) plow through Nazis behind enemy lines while plotting the fiery assassination of Adolf Hitler. Appearing as Lieutenant Archie Hicox, a British film critic with a background in German cinema, Fassbender is the focus of a brief but memorable sequence in which the Basterds meet up at a tavern and draw an inordinate - and eventually rather explosive - amount of suspicion from the Gestapo. While he certainly isn't the star of the show, Fassbender's *Inglourious* turn offered proof that he didn't need a ton of screentime, or shocking weight loss, to exert a commanding presence.



X-Men First Class/ Days of Future Past (2011/2014)

After the sour taste left by 2006's *X-Men: The Last Stand* and 2009's standalone *Wolverine* movie, many filmgoers were rightfully cynical about Fox's decision to reboot the franchise with 2011's *X-Men: First Class*, an origin story that sent filmgoers back in time to the superpowered team's early '60s beginnings. But whatever the original *X-Men* trilogy's problems might have been, casting was rarely one of them, and with *First Class*, director Matthew Vaughn found himself wielding an impressive collection of top-shelf talent that included Fassbender as Erik "Magneto" Lehnsherr and James McAvoy as his lifelong frenemy, Charles "Professor X" Xavier. Following the warm critical and commercial reception afforded *First Class*, the team stepped up its game with 2014's *X-Men: Days of Future Past*, which managed to take an impossibly convoluted time-travel story and use it as an effective means of bringing back original cast members while definitively rebooting the canon established with *The Last Stand* and still offering the new trilogy's stars plenty of time to shine.



Shame (2011)

He received plenty of prurient interest for his full frontal nudity in the film, but it was Fassbender's nakedly emotional performance in *Shame* that truly mattered - and landed the movie on a stack of critics' year-end Top 10 lists while earning him another British Independent Film Award. While definitely not a movie for everyone, *Shame* was 100 percent for Fassbender; in fact, director/co-writer Steve McQueen considered no one else for the

part of the protagonist, the emotionally twisted sex addict Brandon Sullivan, after working with Fassbender on *Shame*. Paired with Carey Mulligan in a decidedly dark drama about secrets, lies and addiction with overtones of implied incest, Fassbender let it all hang out in more ways than one, and was rewarded with some of the best reviews of his career

Slow West (2015)



He's made indie favorites, superhero blockbusters, award-winning prestige pictures - and with 2015's *Slow West*, Michael Fassbender even got to make a well-reviewed Western. Starring alongside Kodi Smit-McPhee as a mysterious bounty hunter who aids a young man (for a price) on his quest across the 19th-century American frontier, Fassbender got to saddle

up as the strong, silent type while sharing screen time with a talented posse of supporting actors that included future *Star Wars* spinoff headliner Ben Mendelsohn - all in service of a strong script and confidently mounted picture from debuting writer-director John Maclean. — (www.rottentomatoes.com)

Jane Eyre (2011)

In between blockbusting with *X-Men: First Class* and reaping critical acclaim for *Shame*, Fassbender also visited cineplexes in 2011 as Edward Rochester in Cary Fukunaga's critically acclaimed adaptation of the Charlotte Brontë classic *Jane Eyre*. A perennial filmmaker favorite dating back to the silent era, *Eyre* wasn't exactly

crying out for another trip to the big screen, but Fukunaga's version managed to set itself apart with loads of dark, artfully composed atmosphere that emphasized the darker elements of the story and draped a layer of gloom over a story often treated as a gauzy period romance.



12 Years A Slave (2013)

Fassbender reunited with his *Hunger* and *Shame* director Steve McQueen for 2013's *12 Years a Slave*, a harrowing adaptation of memoirs written by former slave Solomon Northup (Chiwetel Ejiofor). Playing Edwin Epps, the brutal and none-too-bright master of the plantation where Northup ends up, Fassbender could easily have slipped into horrific caricature, but he

instead strove to locate the humanity buried beneath Epps' depraved actions; in the process, he helped elevate one of the year's most important films into even more of a gripping, well-rounded drama than it otherwise might have been - and earned himself a Best Supporting Actor Oscar nomination along the way.



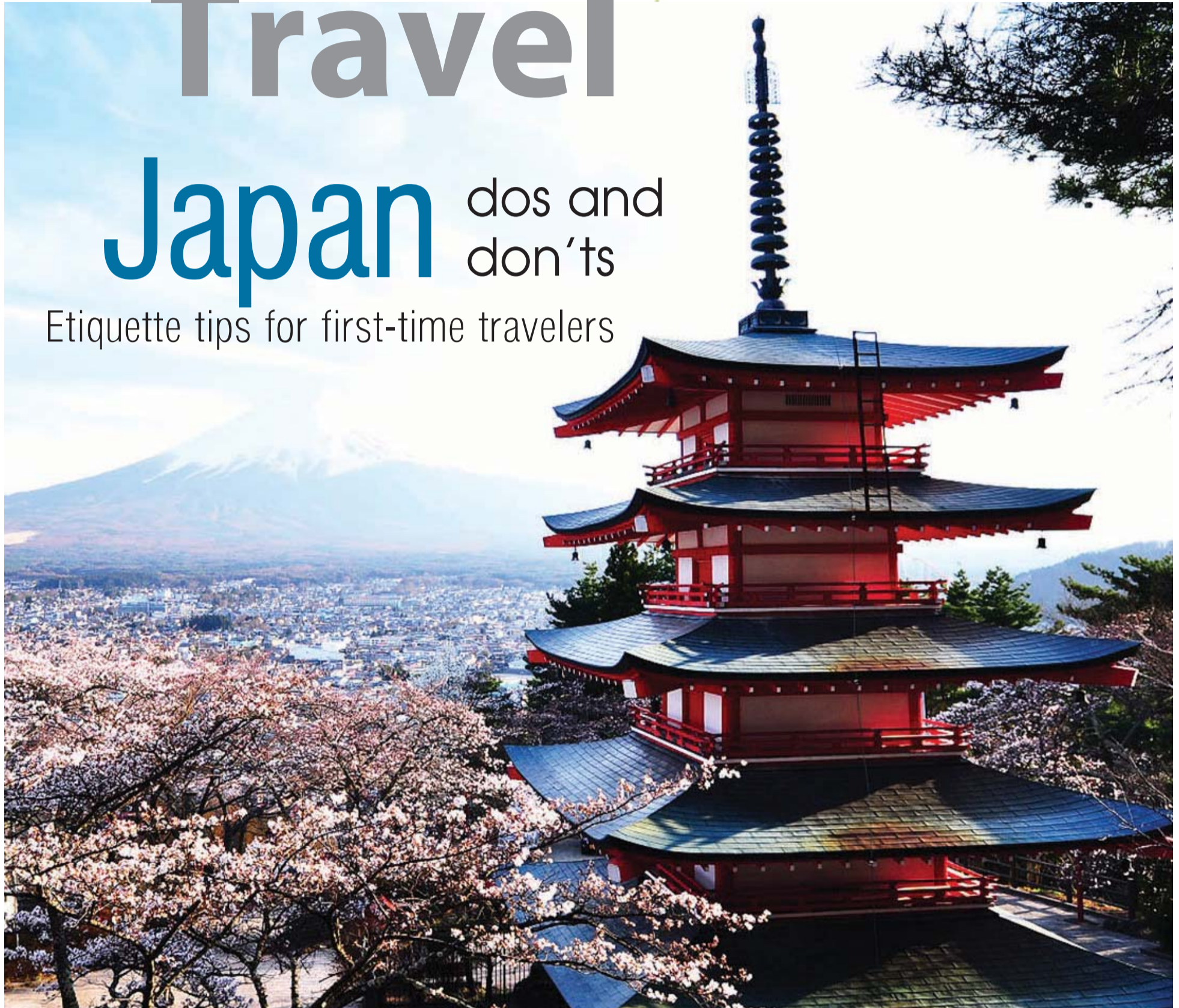


Friday Times

Travel

Japan dos and don'ts

Etiquette tips for first-time travelers



Japan is warm and welcoming to travelers, but its unique culture can be as inscrutable as it is intriguing for the first-time visitor. To help create a faux-pas-free journey, arm yourself with a few of these handy etiquette tips before your trip: from when to bow and take your shoes off, to when it's OK to be a noisy eater and what not to do with your chopsticks.



Meeting and greeting

Bowing Bow politely when you meet someone, thank them, or say goodbye. The depth, duration and number of bows is something non-Japanese aren't expected to understand and visitors are unlikely to offend if they don't do this perfectly. If a Japanese person bows to you, an incline of the head in return will usually suffice. Japanese do sometimes also shake hands, but it's best to wait for the opposite party to offer their hand before thrusting yours forth.

Gifts Returning from a trip, the change of seasons, and moving into a new home are among the many reasons gifts might be exchanged in Japan. For visitors, it's a great idea to bring small gifts from your home country, especially if you'll be staying with locals, or in case you need to say 'thank you' to someone during your trip. The simple gesture of sharing something from your home will be greatly appreciated - think souvenir key rings, chocolate bars, and other treats only available in your country. Avoid expensive or flamboyant offerings.

Two hands good The exchanging of business or name cards is still an important part of more formal introductions in Japan. You should use two hands when giving and receiving cards. This also goes for giving and receiving gifts.



Footwear rules

Shoes off If a building has a sunken-foyer entrance (called a genkan), and there are rows or shelves of footwear by the door, it's a clear sign you're expected to remove your shoes. You'll always have to remove footwear when entering a private home, traditional accommodation (minshuku or ryokan), and temple halls. Some restaurants with tatami (woven straw matting) areas will also require visitors to take off their shoes, as will some hostels and historic sites. Wherever you're required to remove footwear, this is non-negotiable. (If you're uncomfortable with the current state of your socks, consider getting yourself a new supply before your trip.)

Slippers off When you take off your shoes, you'll usually be given the option of a pair of slippers for walking around inside. These are fine on wooden and other flooring, but you should never wear slippers in a tatami room: remove them before stepping on tatami and place them at the room entrance.



Visiting temples and shrines

ETIQUETTE There are many, many Buddhist temples (o-tera) and Shinto shrines (jinja) across Japan and most are open and welcoming to visitors, whether or not you're a believer. But these are still religious sites: speak quietly in the main halls, don't poke around cordoned-off areas, and avoid dressing as though you're out for a day at the beach.

SHRINE RITUALS There will be a water source in front of any shrine. Before entering the shrine, use the ladles provided to pour water over your hands to rinse them, and pour water into your hand to use to rinse your mouth (spit out on the ground, not back into the water source).

Public behavior

QUIET, PLEASE It's considered rude to speak on your mobile phone while on trains and buses, and announcements encourage travelers to switch phones to silent mode. People also tend not to speak loudly when travelling on public transport, so as not to disturb fellow passengers.

QUEUING At busy times when waiting to board a train, Japanese form an orderly queue. Train station platforms will have markings showing where the carriage doors will pull up, and may have lines drawn on the platform to guide the direction of the queues.

SNIFFLES It's considered uncouth to blow your nose in public. You may also see people

walking around wearing surgical-style masks - some choose to use these when they have cold or flu to help prevent passing on their ailment to others.

Language matters

DON'T ASSUME It's not uncommon to meet Japanese who are keen to practice their English skills, but English is not as widely understood as some visitors expect and many people will be uncomfortable or too shy to use it. It's best not to approach people with

the assumption they will be able to speak it.

TURNING JAPANESE A few basic words and phrases in Japanese will go a long way, and locals will be disproportionately impressed by even your most tortured attempt at speaking their language. Su-mi-ma-sen ('excuse me', which can also be used for 'sorry'), a-ri-ga-t? ('thank you'), ei-go ga ha-na-se-mas ka ('do you speak English?'), and wa-ka-ri-ma-sen ('I don't understand') are all very handy for starters.

—(www.lonelyplanet.com)



BBC lifestyle

- 00:15 Michela's Classic Italian
- 00:45 Bargain Hunt
- 01:30 Masterchef: The Professionals
- 02:25 The Roux Legacy
- 03:00 Come Dine With Me
- 03:25 Homes Under The Hammer
- 04:20 Beat My Build
- 05:05 The Roux Legacy
- 05:40 Come Dine With Me
- 06:05 Masterchef: The Professionals
- 07:00 Masterchef: The Professionals
- 07:50 Come Dine With Me
- 08:15 Building Dream Homes
- 08:45 Building Dream Homes
- 09:15 Michela's Classic Italian
- 09:40 Bargain Hunt
- 10:25 The Roux Legacy
- 11:00 Homes Under The Hammer
- 11:50 Beat My Build
- 12:40 Fantasy Homes By The Sea
- 13:25 Building Dream Homes
- 13:55 Building Dream Homes
- 14:25 Michela's Classic Italian
- 14:50 Bargain Hunt
- 15:35 The Roux Legacy
- 16:10 Homes Under The Hammer
- 17:00 Beat My Build
- 17:50 Come Dine With Me
- 18:15 Building Dream Homes
- 18:45 Building Dream Homes
- 19:15 Rachel Khoo's Kitchen Notebook: Cosmo Cook
- 19:40 Bargain Hunt
- 20:25 Masterchef: The Professionals
- 21:20 The Roux Legacy
- 21:55 Come Dine With Me
- 22:20 Homes Under The Hammer
- 23:10 Building Dream Homes
- 23:40 Building Dream Homes

- 18:00 E! News
- 19:00 Hollywood Cycle
- 20:00 WAGs
- 21:00 Fashion Bloggers
- 22:00 E! News
- 23:00 Dash Dolls



- 00:10 The Chase
- 01:05 May The Best House Win
- 02:00 Emmerdale
- 02:25 Eggheads
- 02:55 Coronation Street
- 03:25 Lewis
- 04:20 Tricked
- 05:15 Murdoch Mysteries
- 06:10 Who's Doing The Dishes?
- 07:05 Coronation Street
- 07:30 Lewis
- 08:25 Tricked
- 09:20 Who's Doing The Dishes?
- 10:15 I'm A Celebrity Get Me Out Of Here
- 11:35 May The Best House Win
- 12:30 Murdoch Mysteries
- 13:25 Emmerdale
- 13:50 Eggheads
- 14:20 Coronation Street
- 14:45 The Chase
- 15:35 Who's Doing The Dishes?
- 16:30 Doc Martin
- 17:25 Keep It In The Family
- 18:20 Murdoch Mysteries
- 19:10 Coronation Street
- 19:35 Who's Doing The Dishes?
- 20:30 Doc Martin
- 21:25 Keep It In The Family
- 22:20 I'm A Celebrity Get Me Out Of Here
- 23:40 Eggheads

- 11:10 Paranatural
- 12:05 Hard Time
- 13:00 Perilous Journeys
- 14:00 World's Most Extreme
- 15:00 Locked Up Abroad
- 16:00 The Happenings
- 17:00 Paranatural
- 18:00 Taboo USA
- 19:00 Locked Up Abroad
- 20:00 The Happenings
- 20:50 Paranatural
- 21:40 Taboo USA
- 22:30 Locked Up Abroad
- 23:20 Hard Time



- 00:30 About A Boy
- 01:00 The Nightly Show With Larry Wilmore
- 01:30 Veep
- 02:00 Brickleberry
- 02:30 Family Guy
- 03:30 Cristela
- 04:00 Mulaney
- 04:30 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
- 05:30 Fresh Off The Boat
- 06:00 Men At Work
- 06:30 Til Death
- 07:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
- 08:00 Mulaney
- 08:30 Fresh Off The Boat
- 10:30 Til Death
- 11:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
- 12:00 Men At Work
- 12:30 Mulaney
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- 14:00 Cristela
- 15:30 About A Boy
- 16:00 The Nightly Show With Larry Wilmore
- 16:30 Men At Work
- 17:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
- 18:00 Baby Daddy
- 18:30 Cristela
- 19:00 Melissa & Joey
- 19:30 Melissa & Joey
- 20:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
- 21:00 About A Boy
- 21:30 The Nightly Show With Larry Wilmore
- 22:00 You're The Worst
- 22:30 You're The Worst
- 23:00 Family Guy
- 23:30 Late Night With Seth Meyers



- 00:00 Tyrant
- 01:00 Blindspot
- 02:00 Empire
- 03:00 Mistresses
- 04:00 Covert Affairs
- 05:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
- 06:00 Red Band Society
- 07:00 Glee
- 08:00 Chicago Fire
- 09:00 Covert Affairs
- 10:00 Red Band Society
- 11:00 Glee
- 12:00 Emmerdale
- 13:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
- 14:00 Chicago Fire
- 15:00 Red Band Society
- 16:00 Emmerdale
- 17:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
- 18:00 Chicago Fire
- 20:00 Blindspot
- 21:00 Grey's Anatomy
- 22:00 Survivor: Second Chance
- 23:00 Devious Maids



- 00:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
- 01:00 Good Morning America
- 03:00 Bates Motel
- 04:00 Grimm
- 05:00 Good Morning America
- 07:00 Emmerdale
- 08:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
- 09:00 Suits
- 10:00 Emmerdale
- 11:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
- 12:00 Parenthood
- 13:00 Supernatural
- 14:00 Live Good Morning America
- 16:00 Suits
- 17:00 Parenthood
- 18:00 Supernatural
- 19:00 Suits
- 20:00 Parenthood
- 21:00 Supernatural
- 22:00 Salem
- 23:00 Grimm



- 00:00 Enemies Closer
- 02:00 April Rain
- 04:00 Left Behind
- 06:00 Closed Circuit
- 08:00 The Last Castle
- 10:15 Left Behind
- 12:15 Man Of Tai Chi
- 14:15 Closed Circuit

- 16:00 The Day The Earth Stood Still
- 18:00 Rush Hour
- 20:00 The Legend Of Hercules
- 22:00 Aeon Flux



- 00:00 April Rain-18
- 02:00 Left Behind-PG15
- 04:00 Closed Circuit-PG15
- 06:00 The Last Castle-PG15
- 08:15 Left Behind-PG15
- 10:15 Man Of Tai Chi-PG15
- 12:15 Closed Circuit-PG15
- 14:00 The Day The Earth Stood Still
- 16:00 Rush Hour-PG15
- 18:00 The Legend Of Hercules-PG15
- 20:00 Aeon Flux-PG15
- 22:00 Max Payne-PG15



- 00:00 The First Time
- 02:00 Planes, Trains And Automobiles
- 04:00 Life With Mikey
- 06:00 The Last Shot
- 08:00 The Naked Gun: From The Files Of Police Squad
- 10:00 Life With Mikey
- 12:00 Planes, Trains And Automobiles
- 14:00 Liar, Liar
- 16:00 The Naked Gun: From The Files Of Police Squad
- 18:00 Zoolander
- 20:00 Life Of Crime
- 22:00 The Hot Chick



- 01:00 Blancanieves-PG15
- 03:00 Blood-PG15
- 05:00 The Last Days On Mars-PG15
- 07:00 The Truth About Emanuel-
- 09:00 A Promise-PG15
- 11:00 Blancanieves-PG15
- 13:00 Seven Days In Utopia-PG15
- 15:00 Knockout-PG15
- 17:00 A Promise-PG15
- 19:00 Begin Again-PG15
- 21:00 Not Fade Away-PG15
- 23:00 The Devil's Violinist-18



- 01:15 Great Expectations
- 03:30 Eternal Sunshine Of The

- Spotless Mind
- 05:30 The Boxer
- 07:30 Serial (Bad) Weddings
- 09:30 Grand Piano
- 11:00 The Boxer
- 13:00 Nebraska
- 15:00 Mr. Pip
- 17:00 Grand Piano
- 19:00 Disconnect
- 21:00 Waitress
- 23:00 The Wolf Of Wall Street



- 01:00 The Purge: Anarchy-PG15
- 03:00 Maleficent-PG
- 05:00 The Gabby Douglas Story-PG
- 07:00 The Lego Movie-PG
- 09:00 Million Dollar Arm-PG15
- 11:00 Captain America: The Winter Soldier-PG15
- 13:15 Dinosaur Island-PG
- 15:00 Hours-PG15
- 16:45 Million Dollar Arm-PG15
- 19:00 If I Stay-PG15
- 21:00 Step Up All In-PG15
- 23:00 22 Jump Street-PG15



- 01:00 Daddy I'm A Zombie
- 02:45 The Olsen Gang In Deep Trouble
- 04:30 Goat Story 2
- 06:00 Worms
- 08:00 Jelly T
- 10:00 Blue Elephant 2
- 11:30 Moomins And The Comet Chase
- 13:00 The Olsen Gang In Deep Trouble
- 14:30 Hiroku: Defenders Of Gaia
- 16:00 Jungle Shuffle
- 18:00 Blue Elephant 2
- 20:00 Kikoriki: Team Invincible
- 22:00 Hiroku: Defenders Of Gaia
- 23:30 Jungle Shuffle



- 00:00 The Pact-PG15
- 02:00 Quartet-PG15
- 04:00 Heaven's Door-PG
- 06:00 The Good Witch's Wedding-PG15
- 08:00 Last Passenger-PG15
- 10:00 Fatal Instinct-PG15
- 12:00 Alexander And The Terrible... Very Bad Day-PG
- 14:00 Grace Unplugged-PG
- 16:00 Last Passenger-PG15
- 18:00 Lucy-PG15
- 20:00 Baggage Claim-PG15
- 22:00 12 Years A Slave-18



- 01:30 Struck By Lightning
- 03:00 Thorne: Sleepyhead
- 05:15 Six Days, Seven Nights
- 07:00 Face Off
- 09:30 The American
- 11:15 Thorne: Sleepyhead
- 13:30 Meet Bill
- 15:00 Struck By Lightning
- 16:30 Meskada
- 18:00 Valkyrie
- 20:00 The Help
- 22:30 Spy Kids 4



- 00:00 Grey's Anatomy
- 01:00 MasterChef Australia
- 02:00 The Listener
- 03:00 The Listener
- 04:00 Castle
- 05:00 Happy Endings
- 05:30 Happy Endings
- 06:00 The Simpsons
- 06:30 The Simpsons
- 07:00 Lost
- 08:00 Grey's Anatomy
- 09:00 MasterChef Australia
- 10:00 The Listener
- 11:00 The Listener
- 12:00 Castle



- 00:20 Fast N' Loud
- 01:10 Built To Survive
- 02:00 Fast N' Loud: Demolition Theater
- 02:50 Saint Hoods
- 03:40 Container Wars
- 04:05 Highway To Sell
- 05:00 How It's Made: Dream Cars
- 05:30 How Do They Do It?
- 06:00 Troy
- 06:50 Dynamo: Magician Impossible
- 07:40 Chaos Caught On Camera
- 08:05 Chaos Caught On Camera
- 08:30 Head Games
- 09:20 Marooned With Ed Stafford
- 10:10 Kings Of The Wild
- 11:00 Built To Survive
- 11:50 Fast N' Loud: Demolition Theater
- 12:40 Car Chasers
- 13:30 Fast N' Loud
- 14:20 Patrick Dempsey: Racing Le Mans
- 15:10 Incredible Engineering Blunders: Fixed
- 20:10 Idris Elba: No Limits
- 21:00 Fast N' Loud
- 21:50 Patrick Dempsey: Racing Le Mans
- 22:40 Street Outlaws
- 23:30 Chris Ryan's Elite Police



- 00:00 WAGs
- 00:55 The Grace Helbig Show
- 01:25 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 02:20 E! News
- 03:15 Giuliana & Bill
- 04:10 E! News
- 05:05 THS
- 06:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 06:55 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 07:50 Style Star
- 08:20 E! News
- 09:15 Giuliana & Bill
- 10:15 Giuliana & Bill
- 11:10 The Grace Helbig Show
- 11:35 The Grace Helbig Show
- 12:05 E! News
- 13:05 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills
- 14:05 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 15:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 16:00 Stewarts And Hamiltons
- 17:00 Stewarts And Hamiltons



THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL ON OSN MOVIES ACTION HD

- 13:00 Happy Endings
- 13:30 Happy Endings
- 14:00 The Simpsons
- 14:30 The Simpsons
- 15:00 Lost
- 16:00 MasterChef - The Professionals
- 17:00 Cougar Town
- 17:30 Scrubs
- 18:00 Low Winter Sun
- 19:00 Lone Star Legend
- 19:30 Lone Star Legend
- 20:00 72 Hours
- 21:00 Cougar Town
- 21:30 Scrubs
- 22:00 MasterChef Australia
- 23:00 MasterChef Australia



- 00:00 Alaska Off-Road Warriors
- 01:00 Ice Road Truckers
- 02:00 Counting Cars
- 02:30 Counting Cars
- 03:00 WWI: The First Modern War
- 04:00 Ultimate Wheels
- 05:00 American Pickers
- 06:00 Ax Men
- 07:00 Big Rig Bounty Hunters
- 07:30 Big Rig Bounty Hunters
- 08:00 Alone
- 09:00 Barry'd Treasure
- 09:30 Barry'd Treasure
- 10:00 American Restoration
- 10:30 American Restoration
- 11:00 Counting Cars
- 11:30 Counting Cars
- 12:00 American Pickers
- 13:00 Storage Wars
- 13:30 Storage Wars
- 14:00 Pawn Stars
- 14:30 Pawn Stars
- 15:00 Shipping Wars
- 15:30 Shipping Wars
- 16:00 Ice Road Truckers
- 17:00 Counting Cars
- 17:30 Counting Cars
- 18:00 American Pickers
- 19:00 Storage Wars
- 19:30 Storage Wars
- 20:00 Search For The Lost Giants
- 21:00 Pawn Stars
- 21:30 Pawn Stars
- 22:00 Duck Dynasty
- 22:30 Duck Dynasty
- 23:00 Storage Wars Texas
- 23:30 Pawn Stars



- 04:15 Troll
- 05:40 Innocent
- 07:10 Hoosiers
- 09:05 Dust Factory
- 10:45 Everybody's Fine
- 12:25 Number One
- 14:10 Pieces Of Dreams
- 15:50 Earthbound
- 17:25 One More Kiss
- 19:05 Everybody's Fine
- 20:45 Big Screen
- 21:00 Doubt
- 22:45 Capote
- 00:40 Parked
- 02:15 Witchboard



- 03:25 Gator Boys
- 04:15 Lion Man: One World African
- Safari
- 04:38 Lion Man: One World African
- Safari
- 05:02 Treehouse Masters
- 05:49 Predator's Playground
- 06:36 Call Of The Wildman
- 07:00 Call Of The Wildman
- 07:25 Dogs 101
- 08:15 Lion Man: One World African
- Safari
- 08:40 Lion Man: One World African
- Safari
- 09:10 Treehouse Masters
- 10:05 Tanked
- 11:00 Dogs 101
- 11:55 Bondi Vet
- 12:50 Hunt For Hogzilla
- 13:45 Lion Man: One World African
- Safari
- 14:10 Lion Man: One World African
- Safari
- 14:40 Treehouse Masters



THE LEGEND OF HERCULES ON OSN MOVIES ACTION HD

- 15:35 Tanked
- 16:30 Predator's Playground
- 17:25 Zombie Sharks
- 18:20 Lion Man: One World African
- Safari
- 18:45 Lion Man: One World African
- Safari
- 19:15 Treehouse Masters
- 20:10 Tanked
- 21:05 Queens Of The Savannah
- 22:00 River Monsters (Best Of Series 1-5)
- 22:55 Gator Boys
- 23:50 Lion Man: One World African
- Safari
- 00:15 Lion Man: One World African
- Safari
- 00:45 Call Of The Wildman
- 01:10 Call Of The Wildman
- 01:40 River Monsters (Best Of Series 1-5)
- 02:35 Tanked

- Gumball
- 06:25 New Uncle Grandpa
- 06:37 Uncle Grandpa
- 06:50 Adventure Time
- 07:35 New Clarence
- 07:46 Clarence
- 08:00 Teen Titans Go!
- 08:20 Ninjago: Masters Of Spinjitzu
- 08:45 Ben 10
- 09:30 Regular Show
- 09:41 Regular Show
- 09:55 Dreamworks Dragons: Defenders Of Berk
- 10:20 Total Drama World Tour
- 10:40 Total Drama: Pahkitew Island
- 11:05 Johnny Test
- 11:50 Steven Universe
- 12:15 Uncle Grandpa
- 12:40 Regular Show
- 13:25 Adventure Time
- 14:10 The Amazing World Of Gumball
- 15:00 Ben 10: Omniverse
- 15:45 Ninjago: Masters Of Spinjitzu
- 16:10 Matt Hatter New
- 16:30 Teen Titans Go!
- 17:20 New Clarence
- 17:31 Clarence
- 17:40 The Amazing World Of Gumball
- 18:30 Adventure Time
- 19:15 New Uncle Grandpa
- 19:27 Uncle Grandpa
- 19:40 Steven Universe
- 20:00 Regular Show
- 20:50 Ben 10: Omniverse
- 21:40 Adventure Time
- 22:25 Johnny Test
- 23:10 Regular Show
- 23:55 Total Drama: Revenge Of The Island
- 00:40 Grojband
- 01:25 Transformers: Robots In Disguise
- 01:50 Regular Show
- 02:35 Johnny Test



- 03:00 Evil, I
- 03:25 Evil, I
- 03:45 Who On Earth...
- 04:10 Who On Earth...
- 04:30 The Haunted
- 05:20 Forensic Detectives
- 06:10 True Crime With Aphrodite
- Jones
- 07:00 Nightmare Next Door
- 07:50 On The Case With Paula Zahn
- 08:40 Fatal Encounters
- 09:30 Murder Shift
- 10:20 Forensic Detectives
- 11:10 True Crime With Aphrodite
- Jones
- 12:00 The Will
- 12:50 I Almost Got Away With It
- 13:40 California Investigator
- 14:05 Dr G: Medical Examiner
- 14:55 Fatal Encounters
- 15:45 On The Case With Paula Zahn
- 16:35 Murder Shift
- 17:25 I Almost Got Away With It
- 18:15 Forensic Detectives

- 19:05 True Crime With Aphrodite
- Jones
- 19:55 California Investigator
- 20:20 The Will
- 21:10 Who On Earth...
- 21:35 Who On Earth...
- 07:46 Clarence
- 22:00 Deadly Women
- 22:50 Blood Relatives
- 23:40 Who On Earth...
- 00:05 Who On Earth...
- 00:30 The Haunted
- 01:20 Ghost Lab
- 02:10 Deadly Women



- 03:10 Henry Hugglemonster
- 03:20 Calimero
- 03:35 Zou
- 03:45 Loopdidoo
- 04:00 Art Attack
- 04:25 Henry Hugglemonster
- 04:35 Calimero
- 04:50 Zou
- 05:00 Loopdidoo
- 05:15 Art Attack
- 05:35 Henry Hugglemonster
- 05:50 Calimero
- 06:00 Zou
- 06:20 Loopdidoo
- 06:35 Art Attack
- 07:00 Calimero
- 07:10 Zou
- 07:25 Limon And Oli
- 07:35 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 07:50 Sofia The First
- 08:20 Doc McStuffins
- 08:45 Loopdidoo
- 09:00 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
- 09:30 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
- 10:00 Sofia The First
- 10:30 Doc McStuffins
- 10:55 Miles From Tomorrow
- 11:25 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 11:55 Loopdidoo
- 12:10 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
- 12:35 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
- 13:00 Sofia The First
- 13:30 Henry Hugglemonster
- 14:00 Doc McStuffins
- 14:30 Zou
- 14:45 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
- 15:15 Sofia The First
- 15:45 Doc McStuffins
- 16:10 Aladdin
- 16:40 Adventures Of The Gummi Bears
- 17:10 Chip n Dale Rescue Rangers
- 17:40 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 17:55 Cars Toons
- 18:00 Miles From Tomorrow
- 18:30 Sofia The First
- 18:55 Doc McStuffins
- 19:15 Jake And The Neverland Pirates
- 19:45 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
- 20:05 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
- 20:35 Sofia The First
- 21:00 Aladdin
- 21:30 Adventures Of The Gummi Bears
- 22:00 Chip n Dale Rescue Rangers
- 22:30 Lilo & Stitch
- 23:00 Nina Needs To Go
- 23:05 Henry Hugglemonster
- 23:20 Calimero
- 23:35 Zou
- 23:50 Loopdidoo
- 00:05 Art Attack
- 00:30 Henry Hugglemonster
- 00:45 Calimero
- 01:00 Zou
- 01:15 Loopdidoo



- 03:06 How It's Made
- 03:29 Space Voyages
- 04:16 Race To Escape
- 05:03 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
- 05:50 How Do They Do It?
- 06:13 How Do They Do It?
- 06:37 How It's Made
- 07:00 How It's Made
- 07:23 Mythbusters
- 08:08 Bang Goes The Theory
- 08:31 Bang Goes The Theory
- 08:53 Da Vinci's Machines
- 09:38 Food Factory
- 10:00 Food Factory
- 10:23 Mind Control Freaks
- 10:45 Mind Control Freaks
- 11:08 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
- 11:53 Space Voyages
- 12:38 Bang Goes The Theory
- 13:01 Bang Goes The Theory
- 13:23 Da Vinci's Machines
- 14:10 How It's Made
- 14:34 How It's Made
- 14:57 Mind Control Freaks
- 15:19 Mind Control Freaks
- 15:44 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
- 16:31 Bang Goes The Theory
- 16:54 Bang Goes The Theory
- 17:18 How Do They Do It?
- 17:41 How Do They Do It?
- 18:05 Mythbusters
- 18:50 Deadly Dilemmas
- 19:15 Deadly Dilemmas
- 19:40 Food Factory
- 20:02 Food Factory
- 20:25 How It's Made
- 20:50 How It's Made
- 21:15 How Do They Do It?
- 21:37 How Do They Do It?
- 22:00 Deadly Dilemmas
- 22:22 Deadly Dilemmas
- 22:45 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
- 23:35 Space Pioneer
- 00:20 Mythbusters
- 01:08 Deadly Dilemmas
- 01:31 Deadly Dilemmas
- 01:55 Food Factory
- 02:18 Food Factory
- 02:42 How It's Made



- 06:00 The 7D
- 06:10 Booster
- 06:35 Phineas And Ferb
- 07:00 Penn Zero: Part Time Hero
- 07:25 Supa Strikas
- 07:50 Supa Strikas
- 08:15 Mighty Med
- 08:40 Lab Rats
- 09:10 Star vs The Forces Of Evil
- 09:35 Kirby Buckets
- 10:00 Supa Strikas
- 10:30 Supa Strikas
- 10:55 Phineas And Ferb
- 11:45 Supa Strikas
- 12:10 Supa Strikas
- 12:40 Under Wraps
- 13:30 Kickin' It
- 13:55 Kickin' It
- 14:25 Lab Rats
- 14:50 Lab Rats
- 15:15 Rocket Monkeys
- 15:40 Booster
- 16:10 Star vs The Forces Of Evil
- 16:35 Penn Zero: Part Time Hero
- 17:00 Mighty Med
- 17:25 Supa Strikas
- 17:55 Kickin' It
- 18:20 Lab Rats
- 18:45 Kirby Buckets
- 19:10 Phineas And Ferb
- 19:40 Mighty Med
- 20:05 Super Matrak
- 20:30 Supa Strikas
- 20:55 Lab Rats
- 21:25 Kirby Buckets
- 21:50 Kickin' It
- 22:15 Mighty Med



- 03:05 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
- 03:30 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
- 03:55 Chefs Run Wild
- 04:20 Bondi Rescue Outback Adventure
- 05:10 Charlie Luxton's Homes By The Sea
- 06:00 World's Best Chefs
- 06:25 Food School
- 06:50 Valentine Warner's Wild Table
- 07:15 Valentine Warner's Wild Table
- 07:40 Dog Whisperer
- 08:30 Tripping Out
- 08:55 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
- 09:20 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
- 09:45 Chefs Run Wild
- 10:10 Bondi Rescue Outback Adventure
- 11:00 Charlie Luxton's Homes By The Sea
- 11:50 World's Best Chefs
- 12:15 Food School
- 12:40 Rustic Adventure Argentina
- 13:05 Rustic Adventure Argentina
- 13:35 Dog Whisperer
- 14:30 Tripping Out
- 14:55 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
- 15:25 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
- 15:50 Get Stuffed
- 16:20 Cradle Of Mandopop
- 17:15 Charlie Luxton's Homes By The Sea
- 18:10 World's Best Chefs
- 18:35 Food School
- 19:05 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
- 19:30 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
- 20:00 Get Stuffed
- 20:25 Cradle Of Mandopop
- 21:15 Charlie Luxton's Homes By The Sea
- 22:05 World's Best Chefs
- 22:30 Food School
- 22:55 Rustic Adventure Argentina
- 23:20 Rustic Adventure Argentina
- 23:45 Dog Whisperer
- 00:35 Tripping Out
- 01:00 American Food Battle
- 01:25 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces
- 02:15 The Wine Quest: Spain
- 02:40 Great Escapes



- 03:20 Grojband
- 04:05 Total Drama: Pahkitew Island
- 04:50 Teen Titans Go!
- 05:10 Grojband
- 06:00 The Amazing World Of



Aries (March 21-April 19)

You believe you know exactly what you want in the love department today, but your desires are not as clear as you think. You tend to idealize your attractions now, which can be a lot of fun as long as you don't try to connect them directly to reality. In fact, too many concrete expectations hinder your current journey. However, going with the flow may reward you with a lovely experience that has long-lasting consequences. Follow your heart and see who you encounter along the way.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

You may misinterpret an emotional situation today, especially if you aren't paying rapt attention to every word. The dynamics of a relationship are shifting and you're not sure if you know the entire truth when it comes to someone else's feelings. Whether or not your concerns are warranted, you can gain some comfort by asking questions to find out what others expect from you. However, there's no need to panic, even if you're treading on shaky ground. Just roll with the confusion until the path straightens out and you can determine your new direction.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Although you might think you expressed your needs well enough for people to understand, they still don't have a clue as to what you want. Your words are easily misconstrued today because you don't believe it's necessary to explain the obvious. However, you can be much more convincing now if you unfold your story gradually in bite-sized pieces that others can handle. Honesty is the best policy for everyone involved; playing guessing games isn't fun when your heart is on the line.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Your schedule can suddenly fall apart today if you don't allow enough time for everything that needs to be accomplished. You may not be as prepared as you prefer now because people aren't sharing their expectations with you. Instead of muddling your way through the uncertainty now, ask pointed questions to find out what others want. Your friends and associates might surprise you with their pragmatic answers, saving your day if you're willing to take their advice. Listen more than you speak for the best results.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

Your dreams seem so amazingly real now that you could be living in a bubble of fantasies without even knowing it. Facts are shaded by your thoughts and feelings today, and it's tricky to separate objective perceptions from subjective opinions. The truth is that the potential for creating more meaning in your life grows stronger when your intuitive visions are integrated into your reality. Your imagination, intelligence and heart each play an integral part in illuminating your star.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Normally, you're way ahead of the curve when it comes to managing the details of complex projects and keeping everything in order. Although sweet Venus and the responsive Moon shift into your rational sign today, you may be wiser to save the critical analysis and hard work for another day. Relax for a change; give yourself permission to space out, instead of trying to limit your thoughts strictly to the mundane world. Your imagination is your greatest asset now; don't be afraid to use it.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

You grow more introspective today as the Moon, along with your key planet Venus, takes up residence in your 12th House of Privacy. If you find yourself in the middle of a crowded room, you can still withdraw into your imagination while appearing as socially astute as ever. Thankfully, you don't need to isolate yourself in order to do your inner work. Your natural ability to offset one reality with another empowers you to pursue contemplation while still playing a vital role in the community.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

You have a specific plan in mind that you want to share with your friends now, but your work might not give you the personal freedom you need to do what you want. Obviously, you aren't one to run out on your responsibilities, yet you can rearrange your schedule to your advantage today without negatively impacting anyone else. Following through on your word is crucial to maintaining your reputation, but so is pursuing your dreams.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Conditions on the home front can temporarily derail your ambitions, but they aren't your biggest problem now. Nothing is as it appears to be, and it's challenging to gauge the relative importance of a particular thought. Taking a simple idea and turning it into an overly complicated strategy won't make it any more effective. Let "less is more" be your mantra to keep you on the straight and narrow path. Misunderstandings that come to light in the next few days will make you glad that you strive for simplicity today.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

You may grow frustrated if you can't subdue your desires now, especially if they distract you from previous commitments. There are days when you industrious Goats can magically build the very same roads you travel on. However, today's energy is meant for exploring territories that are off the beaten track. Paradoxically, it might be prudent to meander around, knowing that you'll be back on the highway and heading toward your destination again before you know it. As Tolkien reminds us, "Not all those who wander are lost."



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

Your logic seems sound enough to guide your way, but you might not be projecting a ton of confidence today. People can see your kinder and gentler side as your hidden emotions slip out through the cracks in the walls of your defenses. Instead of fighting your softness, consciously let those you trust inside your otherwise impenetrable shell. Sometimes it's necessary to be the strong and silent type; however, it's more important now just to be real.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Falling in love with a fleeting vision, a spiritual calling or a beautiful person is all too easy today. Unfortunately, it's nearly impossible to tell the difference between fact and fiction when it comes to your affections. Don't try to figure out what's happening now; just enjoy the experience for what it's worth. Untangle the threads in the tapestry of life on another day when things make more sense. The truth is reality and fantasy can blend into a magical moment that breaks open your heart if you're willing to believe in the impossible.

COUNTRY CODES

Afghanistan	0093	Lithuania	00370
Albania	00355	Luxembourg	00352
Algeria	00213	Macau	00853
Andorra	00376	Macedonia	00389
Angola	00244	Madagascar	00261
Anguilla	001264	Majorca	0034
Antiga	001268	Malawi	00265
Argentina	0054	Malaysia	0060
Armenia	00374	Maldives	00960
Australia	0061	Mali	00223
Austria	0043	Malta	00356
Bahamas	001242	Marshall Islands	00692
Bahrain	00973	Martinique	00596
Bangladesh	00880	Mauritania	00222
Barbados	001246	Mauritius	00230
Belarus	00375	Mayotte	00269
Belgium	0032	Mexico	0052
Belize	00501	Micronesia	00691
Benin	00229	Moldova	00373
Bermuda	001441	Monaco	00377
Bhutan	00975	Mongolia	00976
Bolivia	00591	Montserrat	001664
Bosnia	00387	Morocco	00212
Botswana	00267	Mozambique	00258
Brazil	0055	Myanmar (Burma)	0095
Brunei	00673	Namibia	00264
Bulgaria	00359	Nepal	00977
Burkina	00226	Netherlands	0031
Burundi	00257	Netherlands Antilles	00599
Cambodia	00855	New Caledonia	00687
Cameroon	00237	New Zealand	0064
Canada	001	Nicaragua	00505
Cape Verde	00238	Niger	00227
Cayman Islands	001345	Nigeria	00234
Central African	00236	Niue	00683
Chad	00235	Norfolk Island	00672
Chile	0056	N. Ireland (UK)	0044
China	0086	North Korea	00850
Colombia	0057	Norway	0047
Comoros	00269	Oman	00968
Congo	00242	Pakistan	0092
Cook Islands	00682	Palau	00680
Costa Rica	00506	Panama	00507
Croatia	00385	Papua New Guinea	00675
Cuba	0053	Paraguay	00595
Cyprus	00357	Peru	0051
Cyprus (Northern)	0090392	Philippines	0063
Czech Republic	00420	Poland	0048
Denmark	0045	Portugal	00351
Diego Garcia	00246	Puerto Rico	001787
Djibouti	00253	Qatar	00974
Dominica	001767	Romania	0040
Dominican Republic	001809	Russian Federation	007
Ecuador	00593	Rwanda	00250
Egypt	0020	Saint Helena	00290
El Salvador	00503	Saint Kitts	001869
England (UK)	0044	Saint Lucia	001758
Equatorial Guinea	00240	Saint Pierre	00508
Eritrea	00291	Saint Vincent	001784
Estonia	00372	Samoa US	00684
Ethiopia	00251	Samoa West	00685
Falkland Islands	00500	San Marino	00378
Faroe Islands	00298	Sao Tome	00239
Fiji	00679	Saudi Arabia	00966
Finland	00358	Scotland (UK)	0044
France	0033	Senegal	00221
French Guiana	00594	Seychelles	00284
French Polynesia	00689	Sierra Leone	00232
Gabon	00241	Singapore	0065
Gambia	00220	Slovakia	00421
Georgia	00995	Slovenia	00386
Germany	0049	Solomon Islands	00677
Ghana	00233	Somalia	00252
Gibraltar	00350	South Africa	0027
Greece	0030	South Korea	0082
Greenland	00299	Spain	0034
Grenada	001473	Sri Lanka	0094
Guadeloupe	00590	Sudan	00249
Guam	001671	Suriname	00597
Guatemala	00502	Swaziland	00268
Guinea	00224	Sweden	0046
Guyana	00592	Switzerland	0041
Haiti	00509	Syria	00963
Holland (Netherlands)	0031	Serbia	00381
Honduras	00504	Taiwan	00886
Hong Kong	00852	Tanzania	00255
Hungary	0036	Thailand	0066
Ibiza (Spain)	0034	Toga	00228
Iceland	00354	Tonga	00676
India	0091	Tokelau	00690
Indian Ocean	00873	Trinidad	001868
Indonesia	0062	Tunisia	00216
Iran	0098	Turkey	0090
Iraq	00964	Tuvalu	00688
Ireland	00353	Uganda	00256
Italy	0039	Ukraine	00380
Ivory Coast	00225	United Arab Emirates	00976
Jamaica	001876	United Kingdom	0044
Japan	0081	Uruguay	00598
Jordan	00962	USA	001
Kazakhstan	007	Uzbekistan	00998
Kenya	00254	Vanuatu	00678
Kiribati	00686	Venezuela	00582
Kuwait	00965	Vietnam	0084
Kyrgyzstan	00996	Virgin Islands UK	001284
Laos	00856	Virgin Islands US	001340
Latvia	00371	Wales (UK)	0044
Lebanon	00961	Yemen	00967
Liberia	00231	Yugoslavia	00381
Libya	00218	Zambia	00260
		Zimbabwe	00263



GREAT BARRIER REEF, AUSTRALIA: This undated file photo released by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority on April 23, 2009 shows a bleached section of Australia's Great Barrier Reef.—AFP

SCIENTISTS WARN EL NINO CORAL DAMAGE COULD BE WORST EVER

SYDNEY: Scientists yesterday warned the world faced mass global coral bleaching next year driven by the warming effects of the El Nino weather phenomenon, and it could be the worst on record. A study by the University of Queensland and the US National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration said it would be only the third recorded global bleaching event in history, with areas such as Australia's Great Barrier Reef set to be hard hit. "If conditions continue to

worsen, the Great Barrier Reef is set to suffer from widespread coral bleaching and subsequent mortality, the most common effect of rising sea temperatures," said the university's Global Change Institute director Ove Hoegh-Guldberg.

"In the first major global event in 1998, more than half the Great Barrier Reef experienced bleaching with about five to 10 percent of the corals dying. "Thankfully the Great Barrier Reef was spared during this second global event

(in 2010) due to storm activity which alleviated the heat stress. The reef may not be so lucky in 2016." Bleaching is a phenomenon that turns corals white or fades their colors, an event that threatens a valuable source of biodiversity, tourism and fishing. It occurs when reef symbiosis—the mutually beneficial relationship between two organisms that inhabit corals—is disrupted by a surge in ocean warming, although there can also be other causes.—AFP

HEART ATTACK TEST CAN REDUCE HOSPITAL ADMISSION

PARIS: A simple blood test can reduce unnecessary hospital admissions by pinpointing people seeking medical help for chest pain caused by something other than a heart attack, a study said yesterday. Researchers said they had identified the optimal level of a protein called troponin in the blood below which a heart attack can be all but ruled out as the cause of chest pain. In a trial of about 6,300 people who went to the emergency room with chest pain at four hospitals in Scotland and the United States, the test correctly identified about two-thirds of those who were not having a heart attack—all had a troponin level under five nanogrammes (billionths of a gram) per decilitre (a tenth of a litre).

This meant everyone under this threshold could probably have been sent home instead of being admitted to hospital, the research team wrote in *The Lancet* medical journal. "Implementation of this approach would reduce avoidable hospital admission and have major benefits for both patients and health-care providers," the researchers wrote. But they underlined the approach should not be applied without consulting a patient's medical history and profile. Chest pain is one of the most common causes of hospitalization worldwide, with international guidelines recommending that people who complain of chest pain be admitted for extensive testing. The vast majority do not have a heart attack.

"Until now there were no quick ways to rule out heart attack within the emergency department," lead author Anoop Shah from the University of Edinburgh said in a statement. In a comment also carried by *The Lancet*, experts Louise Cullen and William Parsonage from the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital in Australia, and Martin Than from Christchurch Hospital in New Zealand, urged further study before a troponin benchmark is determined for early discharge of people with chest pain.—AFP

CLINIC
PAGE



Kuwait Times
THE LEADING INDEPENDENT DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF

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Consultant Pediatrician استشاري أطفال
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KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (08/10/2015 TO 14/10/2015)

SHARQIA-1		PAN	10:00 PM	AHWAK	4:00 PM	HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA2	2:15 PM
THE WALK	12:45 PM	PAN	12:30 AM	AHWAK	6:30 PM	HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA2	4:15 PM
24 HOURS	3:15 PM			AHWAK	9:00 PM	THE MARTIAN	6:15 PM
AHWAK	5:30 PM	FANAR-5		AHWAK	11:30 PM	THE MARTIAN	9:15 PM
24 HOURS	8:00 PM	BLACK MASS 11:30 AM				THE MARTIAN	12:15 AM
AHWAK	10:15 PM	BLACK MASS	1:45 PM	AVENUES-7			
24 HOURS	12:45 AM	BLACK MASS	4:15 PM	THE NUTCRACKER SWEET	11:45 AM	AL-KOUT.3	
		NO FRI		BLACK MASS	1:45 PM	PAN	12:15 PM
SHARQIA-2		RUDHRAMADEVI	3:45 PM	THE NUTCRACKER SWEET	4:15 PM	AHWAK	2:45 PM
PAN	12:15 PM	THE WALK	6:45 PM	BLACK MASS	6:15 PM	AHWAK	5:15 PM
PAN	2:45 PM	RUDHRAMADEVI	6:45 PM	ETIQUETTE FOR MISTRESSES	8:45 PM	AHWAK	7:45 PM
HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA23	5:15 PM	RUDHRAMADEVI	9:45 PM	THU+FRI+SAT		AHWAK	10:15 PM
AHWAK	7:15 PM	RUDHRAMADEVI	10:00 PM	BLACK MASS	8:45 PM	AHWAK	12:45 AM
PAN	9:45 PM	THE WALK 9:45 PM		NO THU+FRI+SAT			
PAN	12:15 AM	BLACK MASS	1:00 AM	BLACK MASS	11:15 PM	AL-KOUT.4	
		BLACK MASS	12:45 AM			24 HOURS	12:15 PM
SHARQIA-3				AVENUES-8		THE WALK	2:30 PM
THE MARTIAN	12:45 PM	MARINA-1		SINGH IS BLIING	12:30 PM	24 HOURS	5:00 PM
THE MARTIAN	3:45 PM	THE MARTIAN	12:30 PM	SINGH IS BLIING	3:30 PM	THE WALK	7:15 PM
RUDHRAMADEVI	3:45 PM	24 HOURS	1:30 PM	SINGH IS BLIING	6:30 PM	24 HOURS	9:45 PM
THE MARTIAN	6:45 PM	BLOWTORCH	3:30 PM		9:30 PM	24 HOURS	12:05 AM
RUDHRAMADEVI	6:45 PM	24 HOURS	5:15 PM	JAZBAA	12:30 PM		
JAZBAA	6:45 PM	THE MARTIAN	7:30 PM	JAZBAA	3:30 PM	BAIRAQ-1	
RUDHRAMADEVI	10:00 PM	24 HOURS	10:30 PM	JAZBAA	6:30 PM	AHWAK	12:15 PM
BLACK MASS	1:00 AM	24 HOURS	12:45 AM	JAZBAA	9:30 PM	HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA2	2:45 PM
BLACK MASS	10:00 PM			THE MARTIAN	12:30 AM	HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA2	4:45 PM
THE MARTIAN	12:30 AM	MARINA-2				AHWAK	6:45 PM
		HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA2	11:30 AM	AVENUES-9		AHWAK	9:15 PM
MUHALAB-1		THE MARTIAN	1:30 PM	THE MARTIAN	1:00 PM	AHWAK	11:45 PM
AHWAK	11:45 AM	THE MARTIAN	4:15 PM	THE MARTIAN	4:00 PM		
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AHWAK	4:30 PM	AHWAK	9:45 PM	THE MARTIAN	7:00 PM	PAN	12:45 PM
24 HOURS	7:15 PM	THE MARTIAN	12:15 AM	RUDHRAMADEVI	7:00 PM	24 HOURS	1:30 PM
AHWAK	9:30 PM			RUDHRAMADEVI	10:00 PM	PAN	3:30 PM
THE WALK	12:05 AM	MARINA-3		THE MARTIAN	10:00 PM	24 HOURS	6:00 PM
		PAN	12:30 PM	AHWAK	1:00 AM	PAN	8:00 PM
MUHALAB-2		PAN	3:00 PM			24 HOURS	10:30 PM
24 HOURS	11:45 AM	HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA2	5:30 PM	AVENUES-10		PAN	12:45 AM
HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA2	2:00 PM	PAN	7:45 PM	24 HOURS	11:45 AM		
THE MARTIAN	4:00 PM	THE WALK	10:15 PM	24 HOURS	2:00 PM	BAIRAQ-3	
RUDHRAMADEVI	4:00 PM	PAN	12:45 AM	24 HOURS	4:15 PM	THE MARTIAN	1:00 PM
JAZBAA	4:00 PM			24 HOURS	6:30 PM	THE WALK	1:30 PM
THE MARTIAN	7:00 PM	AVENUES-1		24 HOURS	8:45 PM	THE WALK	4:00 PM
RUDHRAMADEVI	7:00 PM	THE WALK	11:45 AM	24 HOURS	11:00 PM	THE MARTIAN	6:30 PM
RUDHRAMADEVI	10:00 PM	THE WALK	2:30 PM	24 HOURS	1:15 AM	JAZBAA	6:30 PM
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		THE WALK	11:15 PM	PAN	3:00 PM		
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THE MARTIAN	4:30 PM	HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA2	6:15 PM			PAN	11:00 PM
PAN	7:30 PM	HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA2	8:15 PM	360°-1			
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FANAR-1				THE MARTIAN	9:15 PM	PAN	8:00 PM
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THE WALK	5:00 PM	THE MARTIAN	2:00 PM	360°-2		AJIAL.1	
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24 HOURS	9:45 PM	THE MARTIAN	8:00 PM	THE WALK	1:30 PM	NO FRI+SAT+MON	
24 HOURS	12:05 AM	THE MARTIAN	11:00 PM	THE WALK	4:15 PM	RUDHRAMADEVI	3:30 PM
				THE WALK	7:00 PM	PAN	6:30 PM
FANAR-2		AVENUES-4		THE WALK	9:45 PM	RUDHRAMADEVI	6:30 PM
AHWAK	11:30 AM	THE MARTIAN	12:15 PM	THE WALK	12:30 AM	RUDHRAMADEVI	9:30 PM
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AHWAK	4:00 PM	AHWAK	3:15 PM	360°-3		AJIAL.2	
AHWAK	6:30 PM	THE MARTIAN	6:15 PM	HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA2	1:15 PM	SINGH IS BLIING -Hindi	3:45 PM
AHWAK	9:00 PM	JAZBAA	6:15 PM	HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA2	3:15 PM	SINGH IS BLIING -Hindi	6:45 PM
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THE MARTIAN	12:15 PM			AHWAK	11:45 PM	JAZBAA	6:45 PM
THE MARTIAN	3:15 PM	AVENUES-5				JAZBAA	9:45 PM
ETIQUETTE FOR MISTRESSES	6:45 PM	PAN	11:30 AM	AL-KOUT.1			
JAZBAA	6:15 PM	PAN	2:00 PM	PAN	11:45 AM	AJIAL.3	
SINGH IS BLIING	9:15 PM	PAN	4:30 PM	PAN	2:15 PM	JAMNA PYARI	4:15 PM
JAZBAA	9:15 PM	HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA2	4:30 PM	PAN	4:45 PM	JAMNA PYARI	6:45 PM
THE MARTIAN	12:15 AM	AHWAK	7:00 PM	PAN	7:30 PM	JAMNA PYARI	9:30 PM
		AHWAK	9:30 PM	BLACK MASS	10:00 PM		
FANAR-4		PAN	12:05 AM	PAN	12:30 AM	AJIAL.4	
PAN	11:30 AM	AVENUES-6		PAN		SINGH IS BLIING	4:00 PM
PAN	2:00 PM	HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA2	11:30 AM	AL-KOUT.2		RUDHRAMADEVI	4:00 PM
PAN	4:30 PM	AHWAK	1:30 PM	THE MARTIAN	11:30 AM	SINGH IS BLIING	7:00 PM
THE MARTIAN	7:00 PM					RUDHRAMADEVI	7:00 PM

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2015



Deutsche Bank warns of pain ahead amid losses

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MIDEAST COUNTRIES CALL FOR IMF HELP ON REFUGEE CRISIS

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ISSY-LES-MOULINEAUX: (L-R) French Minister of Economy, Industry and Digital Affairs Emmanuel Macron, Director of Cisco France Robert Vassoyan, and Executive Chairman and Former Chief Executive Officer of Cisco John Chambers attend a videoconference with the United States during a visit of the Paris Innovation Research Lab yesterday in Issy-les-Moulineaux. — AFP

GERMAN EXPORTS, IMPORTS PLUNGE

ECB ECONOMIST SAYS 'SEEPING PESSIMISM' ABOUT GROWTH

BERLIN: German exports plunged in August by their largest amount since the height of the global financial crisis and leading institutes cut 2015 growth forecasts in the latest sign that an emerging market slowdown is hurting Europe's largest economy.

The institutes stuck to their forecast for 1.8 percent growth next year, however, saying private consumption, boosted by low unemployment, strong wage gains and a positive impact from refugees, would offset the weaker export momentum.

A stream of negative headlines, from weak industrial orders and output data to Volkswagen's emissions scandal and Deutsche Bank warning of a 6 billion euro pre-tax loss in the third quarter have raised the risks of disappointing Q3 growth.

"Given the recent spate of poor August data, the latest trade numbers are not such a big surprise and remain consistent with our view that Germany is facing significant headwinds from weakening global demand," said Philippe Gudin of Barclays.

"Risks are clearly tilted to the downside." Seasonally-adjusted exports dived 5.2 percent to 97.7 billion euros month-on-month, the steepest drop since January 2009, data from the Federal Statistics Office showed. Imports tumbled by 3.1 per-

cent to 78.2 billion euros, the biggest one-month decline since November 2012. Germany's trade surplus narrowed to 19.6 billion euros.

Economists polled by Reuters had been expecting much smaller declines in exports and imports of 1.2 percent apiece and a trade surplus of 22.5 billion euros. Although the weak trade numbers were partly due to an unusually large number of holidays falling in August, waning demand from abroad, particularly China and other emerging markets, is beginning to leave its mark.

"Weakness in China, Brazil, Russia and other markets is having an impact," said Holger Sandte, chief European economist at Nordea. The German economy has posted four straight quarters of growth since a mild contraction in the second quarter of 2014, expanding by 0.4 percent in April-June. Germany's leading economic institutes said they also see third quarter growth of 0.4 percent but cut their growth forecast for the year as whole to 1.8 percent from 2.1 percent, citing weakness in China and other emerging markets. The International Monetary Fund cut its global growth forecast for the second time this year on Tuesday, also citing the slowdown in China, the world's second biggest economy, as a factor.

CAR IMPACT

A fall in Chinese demand would hit Germany's auto industry especially hard as it sells more than 10 percent of its exports there, said the institutes. "This is important as this key sector is already subject to great risk due to the scandal about the manipulation of emissions tests," their report said.

The diesel emissions scandal engulfing Germany's biggest carmaker Volkswagen has raised wider fears that the country's biggest export industry, which accounts for roughly one in five jobs.

ECB warning

European Central Bank policymakers were warned in September of risks to the euro-zone economy from a slowdown in emerging markets led by China, seen until recently as the world's main economic engine. The concerns were expressed at the ECB's Sept. 2-3 policy meeting, minutes of which were published yesterday, days after the International Monetary Fund cut its global growth forecasts, pointing partly to China.

ECB chief economist Peter Praet told the meeting in Frankfurt that "challenges facing emerging

market economies were clouding the global outlook and were unlikely to recede quickly," the minutes said. "Although it was still premature to conclude whether these developments could have a lasting impact on euro area output and ... inflation, downside risks had intensified."

That may indicate that the ECB will not rush into further money-printing stimulus.

The auto sector made up 17.9 percent of Germany's 1.1 trillion euros (\$1.25 trillion) in exported goods last year, according to Deutsche Bank, and has enjoyed above-average export growth since.

The head of the DIW institute said given VW's size, the scandal would reverberate in the wider economy and risked tainting the 'Made in Germany' label. "The numbers are simply gigantic, so that problems in that field have consequences," said the DIW's Ferdinand Fichtner.

"I feel comfortable calling it a certain negative risk to exports, though I can't say to what degree." But the institutes highlighted the potential upside of the record influx of refugees to Germany. They expect 900,000 refugees in Germany this year and 600,000 next. — Agencies

News

In brief

US dollar steady vis-a-vis Kuwaiti dinar

KUWAIT: The US dollar stabilized vis-a-vis the Kuwaiti dinar yesterday trading at KD 0.302, a different story with the euro which down up to KD 0.339 as compared to Wednesday's rates, according to the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK). The sterling pound went up to KD 0.462 but the Swiss franc was down to KD 0.310, as well as the Japanese yen, at KD 0.002.

OPEC oil price up to \$48.24 pb

VIENNA: The OPEC daily basket price went up Wednesday \$2.16 and stood at \$48.24 per barrel (pb) compared with \$46.08 pb the previous day, the cartel said here yesterday. The monthly average rate of the basket hit USD 44.83 pb in September and \$45.46 pb in August, while the yearly average amounted to \$86.29 pb, it added. The new OPEC Reference Basket of Crudes (ORB) is made up of the following: Saharan Blend (Algeria), Girassol (Angola), Oriente (Ecuador), Iran Heavy (Islamic Republic of Iran), Basra Light (Iraq), Kuwait Export (Kuwait), Es Sider (Libya), Bonny Light (Nigeria), Qatar Marine (Qatar), Arab Light (Saudi Arabia), Murban (UAE) and Meruy (Venezuela). During their annual meeting here in June, the OPEC oil ministers agreed to maintain their output ceiling of 30 million barrels per day. The OPEC expects high demand for oil and high supply on the part of non-OPEC member states in the second half of 2015.

Abu Dhabi's IPIC to make interest payments on \$3.5bn

DUBAI: Abu Dhabi's International Petroleum Investment Co (IPIC) said yesterday it would make interest payments due in October and November on two bonds worth \$1.75 billion each belonging to units of Malaysia's state fund 1MDB. IPIC also said that 1MDB and Malaysia's finance ministry had promised to indemnify both it and its majority-owned unit Aabar Investments for any non-performance relating to a binding agreement signed in June, without elaborating. Under that June deal, Abu Dhabi state-owned fund IPIC said it would provide a raft of support including assuming debt belonging to 1MDB and giving around \$1 billion in cash to help the Malaysian fund settle other debts. The interest payments which IPIC said yesterday it would be paying are on bonds belonging to 1MDB Energy Limited And 1MDB Energy (Langat) Limited.

Egyptian pound steady at dollar sale

CAIRO: Egypt's central bank kept the pound steady at a dollar sale yesterday, as it sold \$37.8 million at a cut-off price of 7.7301 pounds per US currency. Traders said the pound was weaker on the parallel market. The official cut-off price was unchanged from yesterday's dollar sale, but two traders said the dollar was changing hands at 8.15/17 to the dollar in the parallel market, weaker than Sunday's rate of 8.05. Egypt has sought to tame a once-thriving currency black market by imposing a cap on dollar-denominated bank deposits among other measures. In January the central bank allowed banks to exchange currency at up to 0.10 pound above or below the official rate, with currency exchange bureaux allowed to trade at 0.15 pound above or below the official rate.

Orascom Telecom, Act Financial seek to buy Beltone Financial

CAIRO: Orascom Telecom Media and Technology and investment bank Act Financial are seeking to acquire 100 percent of Egypt-based financial services company Beltone Financial, Orascom Telecom said in a statement yesterday. The value of the transaction is estimated at 650 million Egyptian pounds (\$83 million), with Orascom Telecom's share put at 87 percent and Act Financial's at 13 percent, the statement said. Orascom is looking to broaden its focus from solely telecom and technology to the financial services sector, the energy sector and the transport and logistics sector. Shares in Beltone Financial were up roughly 20 percent and Orascom Telecom was up 10 percent as of 0850 GMT. Orascom and Act Financial have two weeks to submit an official offer and due diligence will begin this Sunday, Beltone Financial said in a statement. The transaction is expected to be completed during the fourth quarter of 2015, Orascom Telecom said.—Reuters

MIDEAST COUNTRIES CALL FOR IMF HELP ON REFUGEE CRISIS

LIMA: Middle Eastern countries urged the International Monetary Fund yesterday to help them deal with the massive influx of refugees from conflicts in Syria and beyond, including with low-interest loans. "A number of our countries are facing heightened demands on domestic resources from the influx of refugees and internally displaced populations," said a statement from a dozen countries in the region at the IMF's annual meeting in Lima, Peru.

"We call on the Fund to provide financing to the affected countries on concessional terms to mitigate these costs and to encourage more timely and

adequate support from the international community."

The comments came in a prepared statement to be delivered today by the United Arab Emirates' representative at the IMF meeting on behalf of Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, the Maldives, Oman, Qatar, Syria and Yemen. Although much recent attention has focused on Europe's struggles to deal with the influx of uprooted Syrians, the war-torn country's neighbors have taken in the bulk of the more than four million people who have fled in the past four years, straining their capacity to cope with the new arrivals.

Many Middle Eastern countries are also struggling to deal with internally displaced people uprooted by conflict, including Iraq, Yemen and Libya. The statement calls for "greater flexibility" in loan conditions and for IMF program reviews to take into account the strains that conflicts have placed on countries in the region. IMF chief economist Maurice Obstfeld said Tuesday the Fund recognized the "immense" pressure on Middle Eastern countries, which he said the IMF was trying to alleviate by easing up on their fiscal targets. Several countries in the region received IMF loan assistance in the wake of the Arab Spring uprisings.—AFP

USD TO DROP FURTHER AS PROFIT RAISE POSTPONES

KUWAIT: The rate of the US dollar is expected to drop against the main currencies in time of weakening expectations on the raise of profit rates in the US before the end of 2015, according to a financial analyst. The US dollar is facing challenges including selling pressure in accordance with reports on weak job markets indicating that the US economy is suffering a slow growth rate, ThinkForex company member analyst Mohammad Al-Ansari told Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) yesterday.

The slow growth rate led investors to believe that the US Federal Reserve would not raise the profits rate until early 2016, said the analyst.

Meanwhile, he noted that the recent statistics in the US showed that the commercial deficit increased by \$48.33 billion last August, compared to \$41.81 billion in July. Experts were expecting a deficit of \$ 47.40 for August, he added.

In the same context, the Reserve Bank of Australia has kept the profit rate unchanged at 2.00 percent said Al-Ansari. Recent statistics on Australian commercial deficit showed that it had



reached \$3.095 billion in July, compared to \$2.550 in August, he said.

Al-Ansari noted that the recent US reports were very negative and resembles the weakness in international economy and the effects of the rise in the dollar on the US exports. As for the exchange rate of the US dollar against other main currencies, it dropped against the Japanese yen by 0.10 percent reaching \$120.33, while also dropping

against the euro by 0.53 percent reaching \$1.1247. Moreover, the US dollar dropped against the sterling by 0.40 percent reaching \$1.52, while also dropping against the Swiss franc by 0.51 percent reaching \$ 0.97. The Australian dollar, meanwhile, rose against the US dollar by 0.33 reaching AUD 0.71 and the New Zealand dollar rose against the US dollar by 0.08 percent reaching NZD 0.64.—KUNA



KABUL: Afghan laborers work at a brick factory on the outskirts of Kabul yesterday.—AFP

MALAYSIA PROSECUTOR CLEARS 1MDB OFFICIALS IN BANK SCAM

KUALA LUMPUR: The Malaysian attorney general's office said yesterday it had reviewed the report of a central bank investigation into troubled state fund 1MDB and decided that fund officials had not committed any offence. The statement comes in response to rare intervention in public affairs by Malaysia's royal rulers who called for a quick and transparent investigation into 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB), adding pressure on the scandal-hit government of Prime Minister Najib Razak.

1MDB, whose advisory board is chaired by Najib, has amassed debt of more than \$11 billion and is at the centre of a political storm

after allegations of graft. In July, media reported that investigators looking into 1MDB had identified a payment of nearly \$700 million into a bank account under Najib's name. Reuters has not independently verified the report.

Najib has denied taking any money for personal gain and the government has said the deposit was a private donation. The state prosecutor, in a statement responding to this week's royal call for a quick and clear inquiry, said investigations into 1MDB "were never at any time halted or hindered".

A central bank investigation into the fund was completed and a report on it was hand-

ed to the attorney general, the Attorney General's Chambers said in the statement. After a review, it was decided that no offence had been committed by the 1MDB officials, it said. "No further action would be taken in the matter," it said. The decision had been communicated to the central bank in September and a central bank request for a further review of the decision had been rejected as no new evidence was provided.

In the weeks that followed the July media report on the payment, the government replaced the attorney general, who had led the investigation into the fund, and a parliamentary committee inquiry stalled.

Investigations into the fund by various organizations have dragged on with no conclusion in sight. The sultans of nine states said on Tuesday the government's failure to provide convincing answers on 1MDB may have resulted in a "crisis of confidence".

In a separate statement yesterday, Deputy Prime Minister Ahmad Zahid Hamidi said the government had taken proactive steps to resolve the issues the rulers brought up. "The legal system in the constitution is clear and if any party is found responsible, legal action will be taken," he said, adding that the probe into 1MDB would be done in a fair and open manner. — Reuters

EQUITY RALLY STALLS AS GERMAN DATA CASTS CLOUD OVER GROWTH

LONDON: Global stocks held just off three-week highs yesterday after unexpectedly weak trade and machinery orders data from Germany and Japan hinted that recovery momentum is stalling in more of the world's biggest economies.

An oil price bounce, a weaker dollar and Chinese equity gains provided some support, but with the US Federal Reserve due to release minutes of its last meeting and worries over Germany, investors were wary of extending world shares' six-day rally.

Stock futures indicated a weaker opening on Wall Street, falling around 0.4 percent. "Risk-on week continues, but it's not a one-way street," Societe Generale analysts told clients. While some beaten-down assets in emerging markets and commodities could keep rallying, "the weakness in the global economy and deleveraging process in emerging markets will continue to weigh on risky markets," they added.

MSCI's all-country equity index was flat after rebounding 7 percent since last Friday when weak US jobs data pushed back expectations for the first Fed rate rise in almost a decade into next year.

Doubts about developed world growth reared their head again after Japan's machinery orders fell in August by 5.7 percent, bucking expectations of a rise and undermining hopes of an inflation pick-up.

The data took Japanese stocks around 1 percent lower while the yen was dampened by expectations the Bank of Japan might have to print yet more money. In Europe's growth engine, Germany, exports plunged 5.2 percent in August for their biggest monthly decline since the height of the global financial crisis.

A warning by Deutsche Bank of a record pre-tax profit in the third quarter pushed its shares 2.5 percent lower at one point and the German share index, already battered by the Volkswagen emissions scandal, opened half a percent lower before recovering.

The pan-European FTSEurofirst 300 index also wobbled then clawed back from initial 0.4 percent falls. John Plassard, senior equity sales trader at Mirabaud Securities, said of Deutsche Bank's warning: "We could see more and more big writedowns hit a sector which thought it was starting to come to terms with the big restructurings in the wake of the 2008 crisis."

Emerging assets retreated, with MSCI's equity index down 0.6 percent and most currencies easing against the dollar. Chinese shares, reopening after a week's holiday, were the exception with 3 percent gains, playing catch-up with the recent global rally.

On Wall Street too, futures for the S&P 500, Nasdaq and Dow indexes pointed to losses.

WEAKNESS

All the data chimes with warnings from international organizations such as the IMF that have pointed to stalling recovery momentum in Germany, Britain and United States along with recession in big emerging markets Russia and Brazil.

Investors will have an opportunity to gauge the thinking of the US central bank when the minutes of the Fed's September meeting, at which it opted not to hike rates, are released later in the day.

Fading chances of a near-term lift-off by the Fed and expectations of a rate hike only in 2016 have taken a toll on the dollar, which fell against the euro and a broad basket of currencies.

The greenback dipped 0.2 percent against the yen, while the euro rose 0.5 percent and the Australian and Canadian dollars firmed with the turn in Fed expectations supporting commodity prices. — Reuters



KATHMANDU: Motorists line up outside a gas station as fuel rations are implemented, in Kathmandu yesterday. Nepal issued a notice calling for suppliers to fly in fuel and ease a nationwide shortage due to a border blockade by protesters, angry over a new constitution. — AFP

OIL-STARVED NEPAL LOOKS FOR SUPPLIERS TO BRING FUEL BY AIR

INDIAN TRUCKERS REFUSE TO CROSS BORDER FEARING BACKLASH

KATHMANDU, Nepal: Struggling with a fuel shortage after Indian shipments stopped, Nepal is asking suppliers to bring gasoline and kerosene by airplane before the Himalayan country begins celebrating its biggest festival of the year. And for the first time, it is looking to import fuel from China.

The state-run Nepal Oil Corp said yesterday it also needs aviation fuel and diesel, after supplies were cut off two weeks ago. Since then, the country has had to halt all fuel sales for private vehicles, and was rationing what was left among hospitals, government offices and police.

India, which supplies all of Nepal's fuel, has said there is no official blockade, but that its truck drivers are simply reluctant to cross the border to make deliveries because of ongoing protests by an ethnic group against the country's newly adopted constitution.

Some schools have closed because there is no gasoline for the school buses. Meanwhile, the halt in truck shipments has hurt Nepal's stocks of medicine and food.

Amid the chaos, Nepal is now looking at the possibility of Chinese fuel imports for the

first time, according to Nepal Oil Corp spokesman Deepak Baral, though for now it would need shipments by air after roads linking the two countries across the Himalayas were badly damaged in April by a set of devastating earthquakes. Nepal, nestled between India and China, has long been a focus for competition between the two Asian giants vying for influence in the tiny nation that shares cultural and religious ties with mostly Hindu India but has become annoyed with what it sees as New Delhi meddling in its domestic affairs. Both India and China sent their largest-ever foreign aid missions to Nepal after the earthquakes.

With Nepal poised to celebrate the Hindu festival of Dasain next week, Nepal Oil Corp decided to ask suppliers to submit proposals by Sunday for flying in shipments through the international airport in the capital, Kathmandu, said.

The request was open to all international suppliers, indicating Nepal's readiness to move away from its exclusive agreement with the Indian Oil Corp.

During the two-week Dasain festival, cele-

brating the Hindu goddess Durga's defeat of an evil demon, Nepal's Hindus and Buddhists alike typically travel to their home villages and visit relatives while businesses and schools closed. They also sacrifice buffalos, chickens and goats, but the fuel shortage has prevented trucks from bringing sacrificial animals to temples from the countryside.

State carrier Nepal Airlines said yesterday it would send two jets to the east Indian city of Kolkata to fill up on fuel before returning to Nepal, according to airline official Ram Hari.

Only a few tankers carrying gasoline and diesel have crossed into Nepal over the past two weeks, as the ethnic Madhesi group has staged almost daily protests near the main border points between the countries. The Madhesis, who have close relations with India, are demanding that Nepal's new constitution be amended and its newly formed state borders be redrawn. They want their state to be larger and to be given more autonomy. Ongoing talks between the group and the government have made little progress so far. — AP

UK THINK TANK SEES MORE POVERTY, COUNTERING CAMERON'S MESSAGE

LONDON: Up to 200,000 households with people in work in Britain will be pushed into poverty by the government's latest welfare reforms, according to a report published a day after Prime Minister David Cameron promised an "all-out assault on poverty".

The Resolution Foundation, a think tank focusing on wages, said on Thursday an increase in the minimum wage would not offset the losses for many households caused by cuts to tax credits, which top up the earnings of the lowest paid, and other welfare supports.

The think tank specializes in issues affecting low-earning households, and its research work was cited by finance minister George

Osborne when he announced the new minimum wage in July.

The Resolution Foundation said the number of working households in poverty—those who receive less than 60 percent of median household income—will rise by 100,000 next year as a result of the changes announced in July. A further 100,000 working households could fall below the poverty line by 2020 after a second phase of cuts, pushing the total number of poor households to around 2 million, it said.

A spokesman for Britain's finance ministry said the changes announced in July were fair and necessary and would only take spending

on tax credits back to 2008 levels. "The best route out of poverty is work, not benefits," he said.

Yesterday's report will be uncomfortable reading for Osborne, the front-runner to take over from Cameron, who has said he will stand down before the next election in 2020. Boris Johnson, London's mayor and another potential successor to Cameron, used a high-profile speech at the Conservative Party's annual conference this week to urge the government to protect the most vulnerable, lowest-paid workers.

In his speech to the conference on Wednesday, Cameron said the introduction in

April of the higher minimum wage was a "giant leap forward" in the push to help more people get out of poverty by working rather than relying on welfare. But David Finch, senior economic analyst at the Resolution Foundation, said the government would make it harder for families to earn their way out of poverty by weakening work incentives in the benefits system.

An analyst at the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development told Reuters on Wednesday that austerity programs imposed in a number of countries since 2010 had exacerbated inequality and could harm long-term growth. — Reuters

BOE FREEZES INTEREST RATE

LONDON: The Bank of England said yesterday it voted to keep its main interest rate at 0.5 percent against a backdrop of zero inflation in Britain. The central bank's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) maintained its key interest rate at the record-low it has been for 6.5 years, according to minutes of its latest monthly meeting, which was held on Tuesday.

The BoE also left unchanged the level of cash stimulus pumping around the British economy at £375 billion (\$575 billion, 509 billion euros). Policymakers "voted by a majority of 8-1 to maintain bank rate at 0.5 percent", the Bank of England said in the minutes.

The nine-member MPC was meanwhile unanimous in its decision to keep the stimulus, known as quantitative easing, at the same level. "Twelve-month CPI inflation was zero in August, well below the (Bank's) two percent target rate," the minutes noted. In a busy day for major central banks, both the US Federal Reserve and the European Central Bank are to release minutes from their last monetary policy meetings. While both the Fed and BoE are still on course to raise interest rates amid expectations of higher inflation in the United States and Britain, a slowdown in China has put pressure on central bankers to delay any hikes to borrowing costs until 2016 at the earliest. The BoE on Thursday noted that a slowdown across emerging economies, including China, risked intensifying. It also said that euro-zone growth, Britain's main trading partner, remained "relatively resilient". The minutes added: "As always, the Committee will continue to monitor international developments, as well as evidence concerning the resilience of the domestic economy, to assess the outlook for inflation and activity in the United Kingdom, and set monetary policy... in the light of all of those factors." Vicky Redwood, chief UK economist at research group Capital Economics, noted that "the MPC's decision to leave interest rates on hold again would have been an easy one given the recent softening in both domestic and global economic news". —AFP

OIL SPILLS INTO NORTH SEA AT STATFJORD FIELD: STATOIL

OSLO: Oil spilled into the North Sea during the loading of a tanker at Norway's Statfjord field yesterday, operator Statoil said.

The leak occurred at 0630 GMT during the loading of oil to a tanker from the Statfjord A platform via a loading buoy, Statoil said. Production at the platform was proceeding as normal, but loading of tankers has been suspended and it is unclear when it will resume, it added.

"We are currently focusing on determining the cause of the leak and how much oil leaked," a spokesman told Reuters. "The leak has been located ... We have closed the oil that is going to this buoy and are now currently checking if there is any oil left in the hose or in the pipes."

The Norwegian oil safety regulator was unable to provide further details. The Statfjord A platform can store up to 1.3 million barrels of oil.

Statfjord is one of Norway's oldest producing fields in the North Sea. It produced 24,300 barrels per day in July, the latest available data from the Norwegian Petroleum Directorate showed. Statoil's partners at the field are ExxonMobil and Centrica. —Reuters



FRANKFURT: Shareholders of German bank Deutsche Bank during the company's annual shareholder meeting in Frankfurt am Main, western Germany. Deutsche Bank warned that it would post a net loss of 6.2 billion euros (\$7.0 billion) in the third quarter and that dividends for the year may be scrapped. —AFP

DEUTSCHE BANK WARNS OF PAIN AHEAD AMID LOSSES

BANK BRACES EMPLOYEES FOR BONUS CUTS

BERLIN: Germany's biggest lender Deutsche Bank braced its employees for bonus cuts after it announced its biggest quarterly loss in about a decade and warned that even dividends could be scrapped. The troubled bank has been undergoing a massive shake-up after its co-chief executives Anshu Jain and Juergen Fitschen resigned in June over a tangle of scandals and missed profit targets. The investment and retail bank is mired in around 6,000 different litigation cases and was fined in May a record \$2.5 billion for its involvement in rigging interest rates. In a letter announcing the huge third quarter loss to employees, new co-chief executive John Cryan said the profit warning would "have to be factored in some way into our upcoming decisions on variable compensation for the year". "While compensation considerations are not based on this year's financial results alone, our shareholders will rightly expect employees to share something of the burden," he wrote.

Cryan added that the bank planned

to give details of a restructuring plan at the end of October. The group has warned that it would have to slash or even eliminate dividends for the year as it said losses for the third quarter would pile up to 6.2 billion euros. If the group does end up dropping dividends for the year, it would be an unprecedented move given that the bank continued paying out dividends even at the height of the 2008-2009 financial crisis.

Litigation costs

Deutsche Bank said its third quarters earnings had been hit partly because it was setting aside another 1.2 billion euros to meet litigation costs. The bank is being investigated by Swiss authorities for suspected price fixing on the precious metals market.

In another thorny case, its Moscow branch is being probed by US authorities on suspicion of possible involvement in money-laundering. Bloomberg reported the case involved some \$6 billion in transactions over four years.

Besides litigation costs, the bank said its earnings for the three months ending September is expected to take a hit over write-downs totalling 5.8 billion euros due to tougher regulations on capital requirements. Its planned disposal of subsidiary Postbank, which is to be floated on the stock market, also contributed to the significant charge.

The bank further booked a write-down of 600 million euros in the value of its almost 20 percent stake in Hua Xia Bank. In what appeared to be a confirmation of reports that it was intending to dispose of the stake in the China-based bank, Deutsche Bank said there had been a "change of the intent of the holding" and that it "no longer considers this stake to be strategic".

Investors however shrugged off the bad news, with shares in the bank rising 2.24 percent to 13.48 euros yesterday.

Deutsche Bank, which employs more than 98,000 people, is due to publish its third quarter results on October 29. —AFP

SAMSUNG'S LEES TOP ASIA'S RICHEST FAMILIES LIST

SINGAPORE: South Korea's Lee family, which controls the formidable Samsung conglomerate, topped an inaugural list of Asia's 50 richest families published yesterday by Forbes Asia magazine.

The family had a net worth of \$26.6 billion as of late September, with second- and third-generation members now running more than 50 businesses, the magazine said.

The Samsung empire, founded in 1938 by wealthy landowner's son Lee Byung-Chull, has diversified interests ranging from mobile phones to construction and shipbuilding. Forbes Asia said Samsung, the biggest of the "chaebol" or family-run conglomerates dominating South Korea's economy, accounted for 22 per cent of the country's

gross domestic product in 2014.

"Nearly half of the richest families in Asia are of Chinese descent, yet none of the inaugural 50 is based in the mainland, where conglomerates are young, run by the first generation," it said in a report.

The second richest is the Hong Kong Chinese family, also sur-named Lee, which controls Henderson Development and boasts a fortune of \$24.1 billion.

The third richest are the Ambanis of India's Reliance Group with a combined net worth of \$21.5 billion, followed by Thailand's Charoan Pokphand family with \$19.9 billion, generated from the agriculture-based Charoen Pokphand group. Rounding out the top five is the Kwok family, which controls

Hong Kong's Sun Hung Kai property empire, with a combined net worth of \$19.5 billion.

Only families with business involvement extending to at least three generations were included in the survey, the magazine said. The family of Hong Kong tycoon Li Kashing, who has a current net worth of \$25 billion based on a Forbes global list, was excluded because he has no grandchildren who have taken serious roles in the family business, it said.

The estimates of family fortunes were based on stock prices and exchange rates at the close of markets on September 25. The top 10 richest families in Asia on the Forbes Asia list with their main businesses:

- 1) Lee from South Korea (Samsung): \$26.6 billion
- 2) Lee from Hong Kong (Henderson): \$24.1 billion
- 3) Ambani from India (Reliance): \$21.5 billion
- 4) Charoanant from Thailand (Charoen Pokphand): \$19.9 billion
- 5) Kwok from Hong Kong (Sun Hung Kai): \$19.5 billion
- 6) Kwek/Quek from Singapore, Malaysia (Hong Leong): \$18.9 billion
- 7) Premji from India (Wipro): \$17 billion
- 8) Tsai from Taiwan (Cathay Financial): \$15.1 billion
- 9) Hinduja from India, Britain (Hinduja Group): \$15 billion
- 10) Mistry from India (Shapoorji Pallonji Group): \$14.9 billion. —AFP



Lee Byung-Chull

DROP IN APPLICATIONS FOR US JOBLESS BENEFITS LAST WEEK

WASHINGTON: Fewer Americans sought unemployment benefits last week, as employers hold onto workers despite a recent slowdown in hiring because of global pressures weighing on the US economy.

The Labor Department said Thursday that weekly applications for jobless aid fell 13,000 to a seasonally adjusted 263,000. The four-week average, a less volatile figure, has fallen 8.2 percent over the past year to 267,500. Applications are a proxy for layoffs. Recent lows had pointed to greater confidence among employers. The drop in weekly applications has reduced the total number of people receiving benefits. There are 2.2 million Americans collecting jobless aid, close to the lowest total since November 2000.

"While last week's employment report showed a notable slowdown in payrolls (through September), the jobless claims data continue to send an upbeat signal regarding conditions in the labor market," said Daniel Silver, an economist at JPMorgan Chase.

Yet the recent decline in hiring points to increased caution. Growth has slowed in China and stalled in Europe. Emerging economies such as Brazil and Turkey are also struggling, hurting the appetite for oil and US exports. The global setbacks hit job gains in September. Employers added just 142,000. Monthly job growth averaged a mediocre 167,000 in the July September quarter, down from 231,000 in the April-June period, the government said last week. Jobless claims averaging less than 300,000 a week have traditionally corresponded with net monthly job gains of roughly 200,000. — AP

AUTO WORKERS AVERT STRIKE, ACCEPT FIAT CHRYSLER DEAL

UAW-FIAT DEAL A TEMPLATE FOR FUTURE AUTO SECTOR TALKS

DETROIT: Negotiators for the United Auto Workers said early yesterday that they agreed to a new contract with the Fiat Chrysler US auto company, thus averting a possible strike.

A previous tentative four-year deal was rejected on October 1 by 65 percent of the 40,000 employees that the union represents at the Fiat Chrysler Automobiles' US unit.

Details of the new deal—which needs to be ratified by local union leaders, and then the workers—have not been made public. These labor negotiations are followed closely because any UAW-Fiat Chrysler deal will serve as a template in upcoming talks between the union and General Motors and Ford, the other top US automakers.

"After a lengthy bargaining process, your UAW FCA National Bargaining Committee has secured significant gains in a proposed Tentative Agreement" with Fiat Chrysler, the UAW said on its Facebook site late Wednesday (around 0430 GMT Thursday).

UAW negotiators had set a midnight Wednesday deadline to reach an agree-

ment. The union had threatened to strike if there was no deal. The negotiators "unanimously voted to send the proposed Tentative Agreement to local union leaders who make up the union's UAW National Chrysler Council," the union's statement read.

The Council will meet in Detroit at 11 am Friday (1500 GMT) "to discuss and vote on the agreement." If they approve the contract then it will be submitted to a full membership vote.

Skeptical first reactions

Initial reaction on the UAW's Facebook page was mostly skeptical. "Odds are whatever they offered tonight still isn't enough," wrote one commentator. "Just another last minute effort to prevent a work stoppage." Another skeptic wrote: "If the bargaining committee was able to obtain 'significant gains' this time around, the question is: why didn't they get them with the first tentative agreement? It makes the committee look like they settled for whatever the company offered. It reflects poorly on the committee in any case."

"I smell same deal ... reworded," wrote a third skeptic. "They don't want a strike. That's all there is to it." Some people praised the union negotiators, chastised the skeptics for jumping to conclusions before reading the deal, and hoped for the best.

Fiat Chrysler's previous offer was rejected because workers wanted a large portion of the workforce hired over the past four years to be included in the higher paying "first tier" of wages that workers hired before 2007 earn. Roughly 43 percent of the workforce now collects second-tier wages, and critics said that should be reduced to 25 percent under a contract provision negotiated in 2011.

The second-tier workers were hired during the 2008-2009 recession, when FCA's predecessor, the Chrysler Group, went bankrupt and required a federal bailout to stay in business. FCA was launched in 2014 after Italian automaker Fiat bought the third-largest US automaker. The UAW has traditionally negotiated similar contracts with all three automakers to prevent their employers from suffering competitive disadvantages. — AFP

CAMBODIA UPS MINIMUM WAGE FOR TEXTILES

PHNOM PENH: Cambodia agreed yesterday to raise the monthly minimum wage for its crucial textiles sector to \$140 from next year, short of demands by trade unions long at odds with the government over pay. The decision was made in a vote by representatives of the government, factories and unions, with the majority supporting an increase to \$135 a month from \$128. The government then raised that to \$140.

Pay for the 600,000 people who work in mostly Asian-owned factories, churning out clothes and shoes for the likes of Gap, Nike, Adidas, H&M and Inditex has been a thorny issue in impoverished Cambodia. The \$5 billion sector is Cambodia's most important but strikes in recent years have worried brands enticed by lower costs than powerhouse China. Major unions had been seeking a minimum wage of \$160 a month,

having scaled down an initial demand from \$177, and threatened strikes. It was unclear if they would follow through.

"This figure is reasonable and acceptable. Even it's not acceptable to all, we have no choice," Labour Minister Ith Sam Heng told reporters.

He said Prime Minister Hun Sen took the decision himself to raise the agreed wage by a further \$5. Textiles growth has been one of Hun Sen's top achievements, but his government has clashed repeatedly with unions and its violent crackdown on strikes has seen union support shift towards his political opponents.

Ath Thon, president of the 78,000-strong Coalition of Cambodian Apparel Workers' Democratic Union, chided factories and some unions for siding with the government. "We will have meetings with our colleagues about what to do next," he

said. "We didn't succeed in votes because most people have political leanings toward the government and companies."

The government has a tricky balancing act to keep Cambodia competitive, and stable. Though its wages are low, it faces strong competition from neighboring Vietnam, which last year shipped \$31 billion in garments and shoes for the same brands that use Cambodian factories.

Vietnam's textiles exports to the United States, Cambodia's biggest market, will be tariff-free once a Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) agreed on Monday comes into effect.

"If the industry starts to suffer, then I think a huge part of the responsibility has to be borne by the unions themselves," said Ken Loo, Secretary General of the Garment Manufacturers Association in Cambodia. "From past experience, buyers won't accept (higher) prices." —Reuters



PHNOM PENH: Cambodian garment workers walk in front of their factories in Phnom Penh yesterday. Cambodia yesterday said it will raise the minimum monthly wage for garment workers to \$140, an increase of nearly 10 percent, which fell short of union demands in an industry beset by strikes and protests. — AFP

DJOKOVIC ENDS CHINESE HOPES IN LESS THAN AN HOUR

BEIJING: Novak Djokovic emphatically ended home hopes at the China Open yesterday as he beat Zhang Ze to reach the quarter-finals with his 26th straight win at the tournament. The world number one, unbeaten in five appearances in Beijing, had no room for sentiment for Beijing fans as he won 6-2, 6-1 in just 55 minutes on a bright, chilly day. Wildcard Zhang, China's number one but ranked 219th in the world, could not contend with the power and precision of Djokovic's ground strokes as he was broken immediately and soon yielded the first set.

The result was never in doubt and Djokovic converted his first match point with a dismissive backhand volley as Zhang struggled at the back of the court. With 26 wins and no defeats, Djokovic joins Jimmy Connors in second place on the list of unbeaten starts to a tournament, behind only Rafael Nadal's 31 at the French Open. But the day's most historic achievement came from Ivo Karlovic, who broke Goran Ivanisevic's record for career aces as he went down to Uruguay's Pablo Cuevas. The 6ft 11ins (2.11m) Karlovic hammered 26 aces in his 7-6 (7/5), 7-6 (9/7) defeat, reaching a career total of 10,247 and surpassing compatriot Ivanisevic's 10,237 along the way.

The record was consolation for Karlovic after his loss to 37th-ranked Cuevas, who is enjoying a dream run in Beijing after he beat world number five Tomas Berdych in the first round. The thunderous serve of Karlovic, 36, also yielded 45 aces in this year's quarter-final victory over Berdych in Halle—the most recorded in a three-set match. In the women's draw, last month's US Open finalists both suffered upsets with New York winner Flavia Pennetta, who will retire at the end of the season, going out 3-6, 6-4, 6-3 to Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova. Pennetta's defeat came after fellow Italian Roberta Vinci was beaten 6-1, 3-6, 6-2 by Bethanie Mattek-Sands, in yet another surprise at the unpredictable Beijing tournament.—AFP



BEIJING: Novak Djokovic of Serbia hits a return against Zhang Ze of China during their men's singles second round match at the China Open tennis tournament in Beijing yesterday. — AFP

SPECTRE OF CILIC LOOMS FOR NISHIKORI IN TOKYO

TOKYO: Marin Cilic produced a masterclass yesterday as he overpowered American Steve Johnson 6-3, 6-3 to set up a Japan Open quarter-final against defending champion Kei Nishikori. Meanwhile, tennis bad boy Nick Kyrgios brutalised Spain's Roberto Bautista Agut, the muscular Australian taking less than an hour to complete a 6-4, 6-2 second-round victory in Tokyo with some equally strong-arm tactics.

Sixth seed Cilic beat the Japanese superstar in last year's US Open final and the Croatian—who also reached the semi-finals in New York last month—showed enough against Johnson to suggest Nishikori will face a severe test today. Johnson had no answer to the power and guile of the street-wise Cilic, who clinched the first set with a cleverly disguised chip-and-charge that forced his tormented opponent into a panicked forehand he got horribly wrong.

An exquisite lob earned Cilic a break at the start of the second and such was Johnson's frustration he slammed a ball out of the waterside arena to pick up a code violation. His mood darkened as Cilic caught fire, ending with a flurry of passings shots, capped by a thunderous forehand on match point to wrap up victory in just 73 minutes. "It will be very special to play Kei in Tokyo for the first time," said Cilic, who is chasing a first title of the year and the 14th of his career. "We played a close match in Washington earlier this year and Kei won that one, so I'm looking forward to tomorrow. I just hope I can play as well as I did today."

'Problem child?'

Kyrgios has been introduced by the local Japanese cable broadcaster showing the Japan Open this week as: "Genius? Or problem child?" But despite the controversy that follows the temperamental Aussie around the men's ATP Tour, he behaved impeccably against Bautista Agut, the highlight a between-the-legs half volley to secure a break at the start of the second set. Kyrgios, fined recently for a sexual insult aimed at Stan Wawrinka's girlfriend during a match against the Swiss, closed out the match with a pummeling serve down the middle after just 56 minutes on court. "I don't want to get too far ahead of myself," said the Australian when asked about the possibility of capturing his first title. "Obviously you've got guys like Stan and Kei who have been in grand slam finals and can play unbelievable tennis."

"I feel like I'm one of the underdogs," added Kyrgios, who faces Frenchman Benoit Paire - 6-3, 2-6, 7-5 conqueror of Cyprus's Marcos Baghdatis-in the quarters. "But I definitely feel like I'm maturing. Whatever happens, happens." Top seed Wawrinka is not scheduled to face Kyrgios until the final in Tokyo in what would make for a spicy encounter. He and Nishikori both had the day off after booking their places in the quarter-finals on Wednesday. Wawrinka, the French Open champion, will play American Austin Krajicek in the last eight after he beat Portugal's Joao Sousa (POR) 2-6, 6-4, 6-3.—AFP

AMERICANS JUMP OUT TO LEAD IN PRESIDENTS CUP

INCHEON: Maybe one fewer match really did help the International team in this Presidents Cup. Otherwise, the deficit might have been even worse. The Americans put red on the board yesterday, and it stayed there all day at the Jack Nicklaus Golf Club Korea in an opening session they dominated to build a 4-1 lead. In the only match that reached the 18th hole, Phil Mickelson hammered his best drive of the day that set up Zach Johnson to hit a 7-iron into the par-5 18th hole in what turned out to be a 2-up victory over Jason Day and Steven Bowditch.

It was the fifth straight time the Americans have won the opening session, and it was their largest margin since a four-point lead after the first round in 2007. "It's tough when you go out there and you see the first three or four holes, all the red and we're done in matches," International captain Nick Price said. "You just try and do your best, that's all. That's all I'm doing now is I'm talking to my team and I'm saying to the guys, 'Don't get down. It's early days.' I'm certainly not despondent about the whole thing. We're not in the situation we'd like to be after the first round, but there's an awful lot of golf to play."

The Americans are going for their sixth straight victory, and after one day, there was a familiar feel to the event. The International team demanded a reduction in the number of matches, and in a compromise, the Presidents Cup now has 30 matches instead of 34. That's one fewer match for each session, and after watching the Americans pour in 22 birdies, it was hard not to imagine the lead being even larger with an extra match. Louis Oosthuizen and Branden Grace of South Africa provided the lone point for the International team with a 3-and-2 win over Matt Kuchar and Patrick Reed. It was the first win for Grace, who went 0-4 two years ago at Muirfield Village in Ohio.

"I know we're behind," Grace said. "But one point is better than none." So dominant were the Americans that they had a lead after the second hole of every match, and they only trailed in the one match they didn't win. Rickie Fowler and Jimmy Walker, who halved all three of their team matches at the Ryder Cup last year, delivered the first point with the shortest match of the day, 5 and 4, over Anirban Lahiri of India and Thongchai Jaidee of Thailand. Jordan Spieth, the No 1 player in the world, and Dustin Johnson proved as formidable as advertised in a 4-and-3 win over New Zealand's Danny Lee and Australia's Marc Leishman.—AP

INGLOURIOUS BASTAREAUD BATTLES HIS DEMONS

LONDON: If Mathieu Bastareaud lifts the World Cup trophy on October 31 it will complete one of the most extraordinary tales of redemption and courage in sport. The barrel-chested French centre is the man Sunday's opponents Ireland fear most. But six years ago Bastareaud feared himself when a terrible sequence of events led him to try to take his own life. Bastareaud was 20 and France's future great star. But he ended a night out on the town in Wellington, New Zealand, looking like he had gone 12 rounds with Mike Tyson.

He claimed he had been set upon by four or five men while returning to the team hotel. But the story quickly unravelled and he admitted he had been drunk and fallen over a table in his room. France's Prime Minister Francois Fillon had to apologize to his New Zealand counterpart over the made-up story, citing the "unacceptable behavior" of a French player. Bastareaud-whose father left when he was three and who suffered from bulimia throughout his adolescence-laid bare in his recent autobiography, "Haute Tete" (Head High), the dilemma he faced on his first foreign tour.

"What was I to do? I should have owned up: 'I was drunk.' 'But I was not proud of my conduct and I was afraid I would be punished. 'I am cowardly. So instead of telling the truth and placing my confidence in the coaching staff (Marc Lievreumont was the coach at the time), I invented an elaborate lie which had serious consequences.'" Bastareaud was sent back to France and the media would not let the story drop. His story had added spice as he is a cousin of France international footballer William Gallas. His devoted mother Dania bore the brunt of one intrusion that had echoes of journalists shadowing Princess Diana before her death in 1997.

"It was 10 in the evening exactly," she told Le Monde in September. "I remember well, I was with Lenny (Bastareaud's half-brother), and I told him to go to bed, then someone rings the doorbell. I jumped out of my skin: who could ring at this hour? 'Who? A journalist prepared to do anything to obtain a reaction. 'On the radio this journalist subsequently gave my name, my address, he even said I lived in the basement,'" added Dania, who works in a post office. Shortly after, Bastareaud went to dramatic lengths, having read a host of damning comments about himself on Facebook, just days before he was due to leave on holiday.

Person at risk

"I made my way to the kitchen. I pulled out a large knife and I slit my wrists," he related in his book. "I fell to the floor and passed out. 'My mates who were in the living room understood immediately what had happened. 'They saw the knife, the blood, and me stretched out on the floor.

"They immediately called the emergency services." One friend Soule Diarra, a bank worker, told Le Monde he felt guilty for not noticing how far into hell his friend had descended. "In our group, we didn't tend to show our emotions. We were not vigilant enough, I think we too share a sense of responsibility." Bastareaud-who was treated in a psychiatric ward but subsequently took to drinking heavily-said he was not certain whether it was a cry for help. "I don't know if I really wanted to die. 'At the very least I wanted to make myself suffer. Suffer so I could punish myself. 'When you hear throughout the day that you are worthless, that you do not deserve to be there. 'I smiled outwardly but when I went home I was all alone."

Bastareaud briefly regained his place in the French team under coach Marc Lievreumont, but failed to make the 2011 World Cup squad. He only returned to the Test arena in 2013, but has as a player found unparalleled success at Toulon-three European Cups and a French title-since he joined in 2011. However, his fragility remains as he showed in December last year when he broke down in tears following a 30-6 thrashing by Stade Francais. He has since been taking advice from boxer and sports psychologist Faisal Arrami. "It is not his emotions he has to control, it is the reverse," Arrami told Le Monde.— AFP



BUCKINGHAMSHIRE: France's centre Mathieu Bastareaud (center) falls during a Pool D match of the 2015 Rugby World Cup between France and Canada at Stadium MK in Milton Keynes, north of London.—AFP

CHEIKA EXPECTING PAINFUL AND NERVE-WRACKING CLASH

LONDON: Wales will be no World Cup rollovers tomorrow and will take the game down to the wire, according to Australia coach Michael Cheika. Cheika is concerned enough about beating the Welsh to top spot in Pool A that having lost suspended flanker Michael Hooper, he gave fullback Israel Folau extra time to prove his fitness—delaying announcing his team till after training yesterday.

Cheika also wanted to sort out his bench as with the Welsh coming on strong in the latter quarter of their epic 28-25 win over hosts England a fortnight ago he

wants players who will be effective impact players. The Australians have beaten Wales in their last 10 meetings—Cheika's one win over them saw the Wallabies edge it 33-28 last November—but many have been close affairs. "I wanted to wait to name the team until after training as the bench will be very important to have strong finishers as Wales will play it down to the wire," said Cheika. "They showed this spirit when they played England, never let go and it paid off."

Scrum-half Will Genia concurred saying that top teams could pull something out

of the hat in the latter part of a game even when they looked to be out of contention. "Plenty can happen," said the 27-year-old Papua New Guinea-born halfback. "England had that late surge. If you give good quality sides like Wales a sniff they will take their chances." Cheika, who has turned the Wallabies round in under a year since replacing Ewen McKenzie, said he didn't believe they had built up momentum because of their sparkling 33-13 thrashing of England which saw the hosts consigned to the ignominy of being the first to fail to make the knockout stages. "We supposedly had momentum after we beat New Zealand in Sydney as well (in the Rugby Championship earlier this year)," said the 48-year-old coach.

"And then they put their boot to our backside. And that can happen if you are not on every day. We have to learn from those times." Cheika, the only coach to have won both the northern hemisphere and southern hemisphere continental club championships with Leinster and the Waraths respectively, said his ambition was not to win the game so as to avoid playing fellow two-time champions South Africa in the last eight. "I want just to try to win every game," said Cheika. "No team ever won the World Cup losing a game. We have to keep getting better in tournament play because other teams are improving.

"By winning this game, then you win the group. I don't subscribe to the theory that if you win your group, you are going to get an easier run. That is disrespecting the opposition and that is not what we are about."—AFP



LONDON: Australia's head coach Michael Cheika (left) supervises a training session at Dulwich College, London yesterday.— AP

PACQUIAO EYES FINAL FIGHT, TARGETING MAYWEATHER

DOHA: Filipino boxing legend Manny Pacquiao is in negotiations with Floyd Mayweather and Amir Khan to take him on in what would probably be the final fight of his illustrious career, he said yesterday. Speaking in Doha, where he is visiting the AIBA World Boxing Championships, Pacquiao said a final decision on who his last opponent will be, would be taken by "November or December".

The 36-year-old is on the verge of quitting boxing for politics and is likely to run for a seat in the Philippines' senate next May. He also told AFP he would like to be the country's president if it is "God's will". Pacquiao confirmed he is in negotiations with Mayweather and Khan but said he had no preference about who his opponent will be. "I will fight anybody, anywhere," he said. "I am going to fight probably before the election. "The election is coming next year, May, and before that I will probably have one fight."

He added: "We are going to finalize by November or December." he fight would take place in March or early April next year, he said. Pacquiao also told Qatari broadcaster Al Jazeera that any fight could take place in the Gulf. The Filipino is in Qatar at the invitation of AIBA's president, Ching-Kuo Wu, a personal friend. He arrived yesterday and is expected to leave today morning. Pacquiao, who lost to Mayweather in his last fight, said he was free from a shoulder injury and ready to fight. Earlier yesterday, Taz Khan, the uncle and manager of British boxer Amir Khan said talks had begun with the Filipino's management team, but "at the moment that's all there is".

Amir Khan was keen for the fight to happen, said Taz. "He's always up for any fight if it's on the table, he'll take it." The British boxer is expected to visit the championships at the weekend. Pacquiao also confirmed his political ambitions. Despite some criticism from inside the Philippines about his political record so far - he was elected to the country's House of Representatives in 2010 — the boxer, an eight-division world champion, said he was aiming for the top office. Asked if he wanted to be president, he replied: "Of course, why not? If that's my destiny, if that's God's plan. Before I started boxing I never thought I could conquer seven, eight weight divisions, who knows?" The AIBA World Championships continue until October 15.—AFP

MOTORCYCLING TITLE RACE '100 PERCENT OPEN': ROSSI

MOTEGI: Valentino Rossi said yesterday he expects a "difficult" Japanese Grand Prix this weekend with rain forecast and Yamaha teammate Jorge Lorenzo closing in on his championship lead. The Italian, who has a slender 14-point advantage over Lorenzo, admitted the season was reaching its critical point with four races remaining. "This championship is very tough," said Rossi, seven times world champion in motorcycling's top division, chasing a first title since 2009. "It is still 100 percent open."

Lorenzo is full of confidence after his stunning victory in Aragon two weeks ago. The Spaniard has a history of outperforming his rivals at Japan's Twin Ring Motegi circuit, where he won in 2014, 2013 and 2009 and finished second in 2012 and 2011. Lorenzo sustained a left-arm injury during a recent practice session and arrived in Japan with his arm in sling but denied it would be a factor. "Today, I feel very good," he said. "Tomorrow, I will feel better." However, even the slightest injuries are likely to affect a rider's performances on the challenging Motegi track, known for its stop-and-go layout with hard acceleration and braking points.

The addition of rain showers would likely infuse an extra layer of complexity into the race. "This track I think is most demanding for braking," Rossi said. "But it also has some good corners. The grip is very good." Reigning world champion Marc Marquez on Honda trails the Yamaha duo a distant third after suffering a string of crashes and injuries, including a broken bone in his left hand that forced him to undergo surgery last week. Although his hopes of successfully defending the championship are fast evaporating, Marquez pledged to finish the season on a positive note. "Now we need to manage well and try to finish the last four races... and try to finish the season in a good way," he said.—AFP



QATAR SUPPORTING WOMAN IN MOTOR SPORT: AL ATTIYAH

KUWAIT: FIA Vice President, FIM deputy president QMMF president have invited all concerned international motorsport stakeholders to support the woman and focus on the creative aspects in order to sustain the volume of achievements instead of the administrative works only. Qatar (QMMF) is doing serious technical and administrative preparations to host the training seminar for women in rally motor sport, where 18 participating women are entitled to get this driving and co-driving training.

Al Attiyah stated that: "We (QMMF) have the pleasure that Qatar will be the solid base that supports and sustains the participation of the woman in motorsport for the first time, I personally believe in the woman abilities and skills

to make the creativity in all fields whenever they have been granted the chance to do so. The creativity only needs support - this support is given as per the rules and regulations set out by FIA & FIM, today we find the woman side by side with the man in all different fields of life, the history shows that woman was and still a pioneer in many fields of life aspects."

"Once more, I exploit this chance to confirm that QMMF doors are open for any female talents and creativities interested in motorsports" Al Attiyah stated. On the other side, I recommend all motorsport clubs and federations to take serious steps in order to promote these concepts for more expansion, as all clubs and federations have to adopt

larger roles in supporting the social, cultural, volunteer and environmental works. Before conclusion, I would like to thank Michele Mouton- President - Women Motor Sport Commission - FIA, for her praised efforts, this lady can be proudly called the successful woman, as she is considered the pioneer and the main supporter for the woman in motor sport, she always seeks the promotion of the woman role in this field. It's worth saying that FIA has chosen 18 women (driver & co-driver) from 85 candidates for this course (scheduled: the beginning of November 2015) the training course will be hosted by Qatar (QMMF) for 5 days. MENA has got its participation share portion throughout Yasmien Magdy - Jordan & Yara Shalabi —Egypt.

ROSBERG REMAINS DEFIANT IN TITLE BID

SOCHI: Nico Rosberg is heading into this weekend's Russian Grand Prix determined to keep alive his bid for the drivers' world title by beating defending two-time champion and Mercedes team-mate Lewis Hamilton on a track that may throw up tyre problems for most teams. The 30-year-old German, who is 48 points adrift of the Briton after winning three races, to Hamilton's eight, this season said he feels he has enough positive feelings to draw on to justify his optimism as he prepares for a keenly-anticipated contest. "Once I got back from Japan, I was able to focus on the positive elements from my weekend in Suzuka," Rosberg explained.

"Pole position, the on-track pass on [Valtteri] Bottas and then having the speed to undercut [Sebastian] Vettel's Ferrari at the second pit-stop..." "I'm not backing down in my fight for the championship and gaining those positions back fair and square showed that. We have five races to go and, although the championship gap to Lewis is quite big, in my mind it's definitely not over yet. "The way the whole team has performed this year - from the factories to the garage - has been just incredible and I have the car I need to get back to the top step."

Rosberg's bright approach may need to be considered carefully against the possibility, as expressed by Mercedes executive director Paddy Lowe, that unexpected behavior by the team's tyres could cause problems in Sunday's second race on the hybrid semi-street circuit built in the Olympic Park created for the 2014 Winter Games. "This was a tricky weekend last sea-

son, with a new circuit to learn and fresh tarmac which produced slightly unusual behavior from the tyres," said Lowe.

"This year we have moved one step softer on the compounds to bring the soft and supersoft into play - perhaps influenced by Nico running almost the entire race last year on a single set of tyres. "One year on, the track surface will have weathered differently, so we must ensure we have all eventualities covered..." "Lowe and the Mercedes team bounced back to form at the Japanese Grand Prix after a curiously off-target performance in Singapore where Ferrari, and four-time champion German Sebastian

Vettel, capitalized on their difficulties.

Vettel secured his third win of his maiden season with Ferrari and now has 218 points, only 11 fewer than Rosberg on 229, while Hamilton leads the way with 277. And Ferrari's resurgence could make them a threat again in Russia as they bid to ensure they retain second in the constructors' championship behind Mercedes, but ahead of Williams. The pace of Ferrari and Williams has left Red Bull struggling in fourth ahead of Force India as Formula One endures a torrid period of insecurity amid rumours and speculation about its rocky future ahead and many teams struggling to survive.—AFP



Mercedes driver Nico Rosberg of Germany

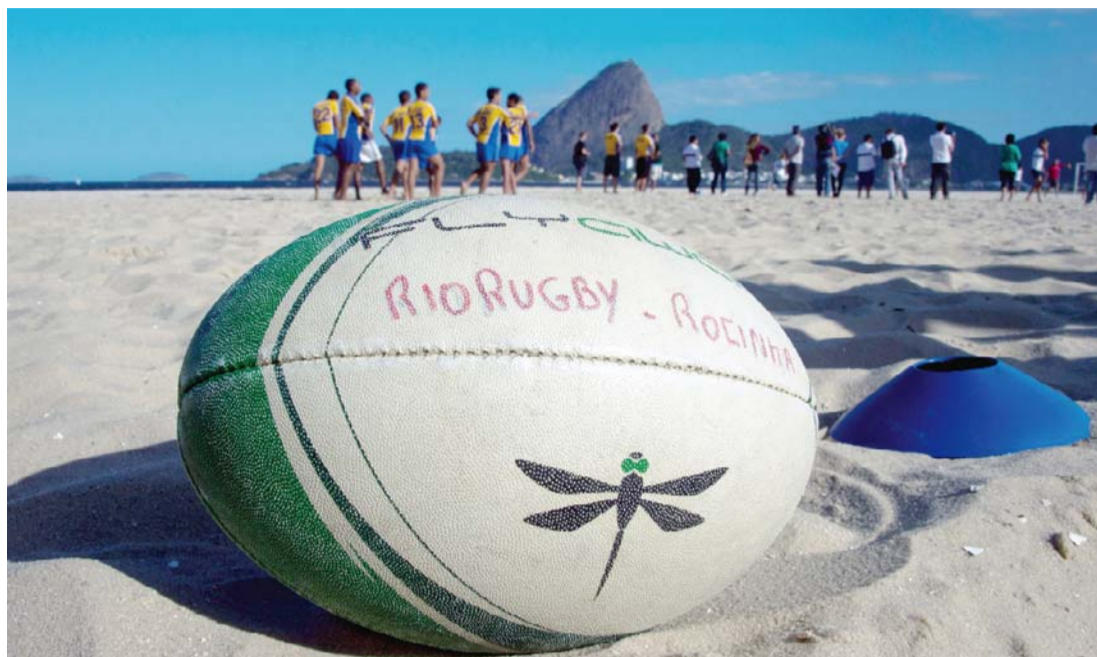
FOR BRAZILIAN FOOTBALL FANS, LIFE IS NO BEACH

RIO DE JANEIRO: The Brazilians' dribbling is mesmerizing, the passing laser-like, and the final shot on goal ruthless. Pity then these players aren't the 11 of the national team but a bunch of kids on Rio's Copacabana beach. As the Brazilian "selecao" headed yesterday into its first 2018 World Cup qualifier, football lovers gathering on the beach each evening could not be more downcast. The team that collapsed 7-1 to Germany at its own tournament last year, then hit a new low crashing out against lowly Paraguay in the Copa America, has all but lost the aura that once made Brazil synonymous with footballing genius. Coach Dunga's squad-missing Barcelona superstar Neymar may yet overcome Chile and Venezuela. But citing everything from corruption to changes in playing styles, Brazilians say the future of football in a country that won a record five World Cups is bleak. "A lot fewer people dream of becoming footballers now," said Eduardo Oliveira, himself once an aspiring player, as he kicked a ball about with his sons, aged six and four, near the Atlantic waves crashing on Copacabana. "That's connected to everything that's happening—to the disillusionment," he said.

Dazzling skill

The gentle sweep of Rio's most iconic beach is a showcase for footballing skills that seem to be in Brazil's DNA and which for years were at the core of what they call the "jogo bonito," or beautiful game. On weekends and every workday as the sun sets behind jungle-covered mountains, players of all ages race around the sand, demonstrating impressive levels of control over the ball. At one school-age session on the beach this week, the ball remained nearly constantly in play within the small boundaries as boys and girls completed short pass after short pass or dribbled, never resorting to the classic unskilled playground hack up the pitch.

Organized adult leagues on Sundays feature fiercely fought, full games, while even friends casually messing about on the firm sand at low tide often display dazzling footwork. "Playing with both feet is what we teach. The physical side is not what we focus on," said Felipe Soares,



RIO DE JANEIRO: A rugby ball is seen during a match between residents of the Rocinha favela and former England Sevens' rugbier, Ollie Phillips, at Flamengo beach in an initiative supported by the Rio 2016 Organizing Committee's Education Department in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. — AFP

27, who works with Centro Esportivo de Praia Geracao, a government-backed program for teaching poor children beach football. "What matters is the moving and the playing—the essence of Brazilian football."

Crippling corruption

A walk along Copacabana makes the decline of the national team in a country of 204 million and brimming with talent seem baffling. But fans say the main problem is not on the pitch. Most at fault is the corruption riddling management of the sport, just as it has poisoned politics and business in Latin America's biggest country. Oliveira,

defender who got as far as a trial at Rio club Botafogo, says corruption in the governing Brazilian Football Confederation (CBF), is the main culprit. "We have great talent in Brazil, but sadly there is so much corruption," Oliveira, 31, said. "We have great players, but because of the corruption, people's careers get decided on personalities and personal interests, just like everything here." Another factor, fans say, is a general shift toward greater physicality and away from the skills that still remain the focus in Brazil. "Football has evolved a lot and the physical side has become much more important, and that has hurt us," Soares said. — AFP

NIGERIA'S KEEPER ENYEAMA QUILTS INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL

ABUJA: Nigeria's most capped international Vincent Enyeama has quit international football after a meeting with top officials of the Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) in Belgium yesterday. Enyeama's decision did not come as a surprise after a major falling out with Super Eagles coach Sunday Oliseh on Tuesday night following the

announcement of CSKA Moscow forward Ahmed Musa as the country's new captain. Earlier yesterday the 33-year-old Lille goalkeeper, who has been Nigeria skipper since Joseph Yobo quit international football last year, vowed "not to walk out on Nigeria".

But later yesterday, Enyeama

announced via Instagram he has quit the country's team. "I have fought a good fight for more than 13 years. I have finished my course, I have kept the faith and sang the anthem with passion," he wrote. "Henceforth, there is laid for me a crown which only God can reward me for my 13 years of national service. "God bless NIGERIA. From HENCEFORTH, I am no more the captain of the NIGERIAN senior football team, I am no more the goalie of the team, I am out of the team. "I am no more available for international duties.

"I want to say thank you to every Nigerian fan and supporter worldwide. It's being the most trying period of my life but I know that Nigerians are there for me and God is with me. God bless NIGERIA." In June against Chad, Enyeama won a record-breaking 101 caps to beat a century of appearances compiled by Joseph Yobo last year. Incidentally, it was from this AFCON qualifier in Kaduna that would lead to his retirement from international football. Enyeama had expressed fears over the safety of Kaduna city to stage this match at a time the activities of the Islamist Boko Haram sect was becoming a lot more daring and deadly in the northern part of the country where Kaduna is situated and which has also been hit by the militants. — AFP

BLUES WILL GET OUT OF RUT, MOURINHO TELLS CAPELLO

MILAN: Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho has hit back at criticism leveled by Fabio Capello and said he is determined to lift the Blues out of the rut that has seen them slump to the lower reaches of the Premier League. Chelsea are currently two places above the relegation zone after losing four and winning only two of their first eight league games. Their worst start to a season in 37 years has prompted criticism of Mourinho's methods, with Capello notably claiming the Portuguese coach "burns out his players" after two seasons.

Mourinho, speaking to La Gazzetta dello Sport yesterday, admitted he "can't hide the reality" of Chelsea's dire straits but took exception to Capello's assessment of his leadership methods. "I read what Capello said," Mourinho told the Italian sports daily yesterday. "I think a coach with his kind of past should be talking about football and not commenting on the work of colleagues." Capello, who was sacked by the Russian football federation in the summer after a string of disappointing results, claimed Mourinho was guilty of the same pattern of behavior at Chelsea as he was while in charge at Real Madrid.

"Mourinho burns out his players after a year and a half, at most two years," Capello told Gazzetta recently. "I had

already heard it when he was in Madrid and now we have confirmation in London." Mourinho added: "I could have commented on his (Capello) job as coach for England or the Russian one, and I never did, because I prefer to respect the negative moments of my colleagues. "I like hearing about Fabio Capello in the many beautiful moments of his career, which has been full of extraordinary success."

Embattled Mourinho said he could not explain Chelsea's recent run of poor results, but, having earned the recent backing of club bosses, said he was determined to stop the rot. Asked what had led to Chelsea's recent dip in form, he told the sports daily: "I don't know, the results with Chelsea are negative at the moment. I can't hide the reality. And I struggle to find an explanation. "But I assure you: we're working harder than we've ever worked before and we'll get out of this. And we're not giving up on the Champions League either." Mourinho added that club owner Roman Abramovich's backing in Chelsea's current time of crisis has been crucial. "That makes me proud. It demonstrates the faith of Abramovich for a coach who has won three Premier League titles with this club. I want to thank him." — AFP

WCUP DEBUTANTS S SUDAN DRAW 1-1 WITH MAURITANIA

JOHANNESBURG: World Cup debutants South Sudan drew 1-1 at home to Mauritania yesterday in the first leg of an African qualifier that took 19 hours to complete. Torrential rain forced play to be suspended Wednesday in Juba with the score 1-1 after 10 minutes, and the match was later abandoned for the day. Play resumed at 1100 local time yesterday and the remaining 80 minutes did not produce any more goals, leaving Mauritania favorites to progress after the October 13 second leg.

In a dramatic start to the first round tie, Boubacar Bagili scored for Mauritania after three minutes under leaden skies and Dominic Abui Pretino equalized two minutes later. South Sudan debuted in the World Cup a month after their first success since the team was formed three years ago—a 1-0 home victory over Equatorial Guinea in an Africa Cup of Nations qualifier. That result raised South Sudanese hopes that they could defeat Mauritania, who are 55 places higher in the world rankings and beat South Africa in the Cup of Nations during September. Football is seen as a unifying factor in an East African country plagued by political power struggles since achieving independence from Sudan four years ago. A peace deal was signed last month, ending a conflict that split into civil war two years ago in the oil-rich state. — AFP

RANGERS RUIN CHICAGO'S STANLEY CUP PARTY

CHICAGO: Oscar Lindberg, Kevin Klein and Derek Stepan scored in the first period, and the New York Rangers ruined Chicago's Stanley Cup party with a 3-2 victory over the Blackhawks on Wednesday on the first night of the NHL season. JT Miller had two assists and Henrik Lundqvist made 32 saves for New York. Cheered on by a sellout crowd of 22,104, with many dressed in their usual red jerseys, the Blackhawks raised the banner for the franchise's sixth NHL title during a colorful pregame ceremony.

Fluorescent balls bounced around the seats and LED wristbands for the fans provided a synchronized lightshow during player introductions and highlight presentations. All-Star winger Patrick Kane, the subject of a sexual assault investigation in western New York, heard loud cheers when he skated onto the ice for the Cup celebration. Kane hasn't been charged. Artemi Panarin scored in his first NHL game for Chicago, which is trying to become the first team to successfully defend the title since Detroit in 1997-98. Teuvo Teravainen also scored, and Corey Crawford made 24 saves.

CANADIENS 3, MAPLE LEAFS 1

Carey Price made 36 saves and Montreal beat Toronto, spoiling Mike Babcock's coaching debut with the Maple Leafs. Canadiens captain Max Pacioretty scored on Montreal's first shot against Jonathan Bernier a few minutes in for the first goal of the NHL season. Alex Galchenyuk broke a tie midway through the third period, and Pacioretty added an empty-netter. James van Riemsdyk had a power-play goal for Toronto early in the second period. Babcock made the first coach's challenge in NHL history and was successful in overturning a goal. He challenged Jeff Petry's apparent goal in the second period, arguing that Tomas Plekanec interfered with Bernier.

SHARKS 5, KINGS 1

Captain Joe Pavelski had a goal and two assists, and Joonas Donskoi scored in his NHL debut for San Jose. Joe Thornton and Brent Burns had a goal and an assist apiece, and Tomas Hertl also scored as the Sharks thoroughly dominated their California rivals in Coach Peter DeBoer's successful debut. Pavelski was outstanding in his first game since being named the permanent captain of the Sharks, who won a season opener at Staples Center for the second straight year. Martin Jones made 19 saves in his own debut for the Sharks against his former team, stopping everything after the



CALGARY: Alex Burrows #14 of the Vancouver Canucks crashes the net of Karri Ramo #31 of the Calgary Flames in the NHL season opener at Scotiabank Saddledome on October 7, 2015 in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. — AFP

Kings' first shot. Nick Shore scored 1:49 into the first period.

CANUCKS 5, FLAMES 1

Daniel Sedin had a goal and two assists to lead Vancouver. Jannik Hansen, Brandon Sutter, Alex Burrows and Henrik Sedin also scored for the Canucks in a rematch of last April's Western

Conference quarterfinals. The Flames won that series in six games to advance to the second round, where they lost in five to Anaheim. Vancouver defenseman Ben Hutton recorded his first point in his NHL debut with an assist on Hansen's goal. Canucks goalie Ryan Miller made 29 saves. Jiri Hudler scored for Calgary and Karri Ramo finished with 39 saves. — AP

ENGLAND OPPORTUNITIES KNOCK FOR ALLI, WALCOTT

LONDON: Tottenham Hotspur teenager Dele Alli is one of several players hoping to make an impression when England begin their preparations for next year's European Championships against Estonia yesterday. England secured their place at Euro 2016 by beating Switzerland 2-0 last month, when Wayne Rooney became his country's all-time leading scorer, and they will be looking to record a ninth win in nine Group E games in the encounter at Wembley. With nothing riding on the game, manager Roy Hodgson may use it to test Arsenal forward Theo Walcott in a central role and could also give 19-year-old central midfielder Alli a first taste of senior international football.

"He's really pushed on," said goalkeeper Joe Hart of Alli, who signed for Spurs from Milton Keynes Dons for an initial fee of £5 million (\$7.6 million, 6.8 million euros) in February and has made four Premier League starts to date this season, scoring once. "He had a good season last season and Tottenham look like they've given him confidence by putting him in their very good side. "It's good to get him in and he's going to be in and around the England squad for a very long time." Rooney scored a late free-kick to give England a 1-0 win when the teams last met a year ago in Tallinn; a game overshadowed by the fall-out from Hodgson's claim that Raheem Sterling had told him he was too tired to play.

Sterling, who is in the squad to face Estonia, revisited the incident in a recent interview with The Guardian in which the Manchester City forward denied saying that he had not wanted to

play. Rooney is a major doubt for Friday's game after sitting out two training sessions with an ankle injury sustained during Manchester United's 3-0 defeat at Arsenal last weekend. But he is due to attend the match even if unfit in order to receive a commemorative golden boot from Bobby Charlton, whose record of 49 goals he surpassed with a penalty against Switzerland.

'There's an opportunity'

Charlton, emblem of England's 1966 World Cup-winning team, will present Rooney with the memento before kick-off, while a giant flag bearing a picture of the England captain will be passed around by supporters. Liverpool striker Danny Ings—who, like Alli, is uncapped—is nursing an ankle injury of his own, but Hodgson also has Harry Kane, Jamie Vardy and Walcott at his disposal. Walcott has impressed in a central striking role in recent weeks and Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger described his display against United as one of the best the 26-year-old has produced during his nine years at the club.

With club-mate Danny Welbeck injured and Liverpool's Daniel Sturridge easing his way back to full fitness following a long lay-off with a hip problem, Walcott is eager to seize a chance to prove himself as a potential long-term partner for Rooney. "Playing there (up front) for England, that's what I want to do," he told a press conference on Wednesday. "You want to represent your country and I know everyone would like to see me up front, but whether it's on the left or right... There's an opportunity there, definitely." — AFP

UNCONVINCING SPAIN EYE QUALIFICATION FOR EUROS

MADRID: Defending champions Spain can seal their place at next year's European Championships in France when they host minnows Luxembourg in Logrono today. However, Vicente del Bosque's men are under pressure to produce plenty of goals as well as the three points after an unconvincing campaign that has failed to dispel the doubts that his golden generation may be past its prime.

Del Bosque has been fiercely loyal to players who were a part of Spain's historic three consecutive major tournament wins between 2008 and 2012 with the country's first World Cup sandwiched between back-to-back European Championships. Yet, even the former Real Madrid boss was fiercely critical of his side's sluggish display in a 1-0 win over Macedonia last month that took them to the verge of automatic qualification.

Spain have won seven of their eight matches to lead Group C, but have managed just five goals in their last four qualifiers. "We have the responsibility to play two games, the first to ensure that we qualify and if we win the second it would be a complete week," Del Bosque told Spanish radio station Cadena SER. In the quest for goals La Roja should be boosted by the return of on-form Juventus striker Alvaro Morata in place of the suspended Diego Costa. However, despite Chelsea's poor start to the season, Costa's club team-mate Cesc Fabregas is set to keep his place in the side.

Should Fabregas feature both against Luxembourg and away to Ukraine on Monday he will become just the 10th Spanish player to reach 100 international caps, eight of which were part of the World Cup winning squad in 2010. "It would give me great satisfaction to reach that figure," he told Radio Marca. "To play 100 games in the 10 years since I made my debut is a lot. It says a lot about my contribution and the coaches that have had faith in me." Yet, Fabregas rejected that the number of centuries in the squad is a sign that more fresh blood is needed to take Spain back to the heights of recent years.

"Now we have a different team because some important players have gone, but the youngsters and those of us still here provide an important base for the team to build on. "It would be good if we can continue to be successful and in France win a third consecutive Euros." Del Bosque will be forced into naming a patched up starting line-up as two of the 100-cap brigade, Sergio Ramos and Andres Iniesta, are missing through injury. Captain Iker Casillas is expected to keep his place in goal despite David de Gea's fine form since returning to action with Manchester United. And Gerard Pique will marshal the defence despite being booed by some of the Spain support in recent matches at home for mocking Real Madrid during Barcelona's treble-winning celebrations at the end of last season. —AFP

FIFA SUSPENDS BLATTER, PLATINI

WORLD SOCCER ROCKED BY SUSPENSION; HAYATOU TAKES CHARGE

ZURICH: World soccer chief Sepp Blatter and European boss Michel Platini were suspended yesterday, engulfed by a deepening corruption scandal as their sport faces criminal investigations in Switzerland and the United States. Blatter, the Swiss who has been president of world governing body FIFA since 1998, was already due to stand down after an election to replace him in February. Platini, head of European body UEFA, was a frontrunner to replace him. His shrinking election hopes now depend on whether he can overturn the 90-day ban imposed by FIFA's Ethics Committee.

Despite their denials of wrongdoing, both men have gradually been submerged by the scandal that has rocked the world's most popular sport, beginning with dawn raids and a series of arrests at a Swiss luxury hotel in May. "During this time, the above individuals are banned from all football activities on a national and international level," the ethics committee said. FIFA said in a statement: "Joseph S. Blatter, for the duration of the 90-day ban, is not allowed to represent FIFA in any capacity, act on the organization's behalf, or communicate to media or other stakeholders as a FIFA representative."

It said his acting replacement was Issa Hayatou of Cameroon, the head of the Confederation of African Football (CAF) and FIFA's most senior vice president. In 2011, Hayatou, 69, was reprimanded by the International Olympics Committee's ethics commission after he confirmed to them that he was paid by FIFA's former marketing agency International Sport and Leisure in 1995. The IOC said such an action constituted a conflict of interest. Hayatou denied any personal gain or wrongdoing.

In a statement yesterday, the Cameroonian said he would not be a candidate for FIFA president in February and had taken the role on "only on an interim basis". The soccer federation of Germany, winner of last year's World Cup, urged

Blatter to resign and called for an emergency meeting of FIFA's executive committee. "The future can only be constructed without the current president, without Sepp Blatter," German soccer chief Wolfgang Niersbach said. "That would be a sign of a new start and would be a mark for everyone that cleanliness was returning to football."

Jordanian rival

If Platini is not able to overturn his ban and join the election race, it would leave Prince Ali Bin Al Hussein of Jordan as the clear favorite, unless other candidates now emerge to take advantage of the Frenchman's troubles. South African Tokyo Sexwale, who was imprisoned with Nelson Mandela during the apartheid era and later became a politician and businessman, has said he is considering running. Last week two sources told Reuters that Bahraini Sheikh Salman Bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa, president of the Asian Football Confederation, would consider standing if Platini was ruled out.

The president of the International Olympic Committee, Thomas Bach, said FIFA should consider an external candidate to succeed Blatter. "They must do two things immediately: they must accelerate and deepen the reform process in order to comply with accountability, transparency and all the principles of good governance," he said in his strongest statement yet on the crisis. "They should also be open for a credible external presidential candidate of high integrity, to accomplish the necessary reforms and bring back stability and credibility to FIFA," he added.

In further disciplinary moves, FIFA also handed out a 90-day suspension to Secretary General Jerome Valcke, who had already been sent on leave after being accused of being part of a scheme to sell 2014 World Cup tickets at a marked-up price. He denies any wrongdoing. South Korea's former FIFA Vice-President Chung Mong-joon was banned

from the game for six years, a decision which will almost certainly end his already slim electoral hopes. Swiss and US authorities are both investigating corruption in world soccer, in long-running probes that have so far led to the indictment of 14 soccer officials and sports marketing executives. Among other things, they are examining the awarding of the 2018 and 2022 World Cups to Russia and Qatar respectively. All those banned yesterday can turn to FIFA's Appeals Committee to try to overturn the bans, but would remain suspended throughout any appeals process.

Blatter 'disappointed'

Blatter's lawyers said he was disappointed he had been suspended without having the chance to be heard. They added he was looking forward to presenting evidence that would prove he did not engage in any misconduct. Platini, a former France midfielder star, said he submitted his nomination papers for the election to succeed Blatter before he was suspended. Shortly before his ban was announced, he indicated he intended to fight against the ruling. "I will stop at nothing to ensure that the truth is known," Platini said in a statement. "Nobody should be in any doubt as to my determination to achieve that objective."

"In the meantime, a dispassionate, independent and impartial judicial body needs to shine a light on the events that led the FIFA Ethics Committee to open these investigatory proceedings," added the Frenchman. A spokesman for Platini was unable to comment on whether he intended to appeal. The statement from the Ethics Committee did not give out details of any offence committed by Blatter and Platini. While it is not allowed to discuss any probes, the investigation is almost certainly looking into a 2 million Swiss francs (\$2.06 million) payment from FIFA to Platini in 2011, nine years after he completed a spell working for Blatter as an adviser. — Reuters



A combination made yesterday shows four pictures showing (left to right, from upper row) FIFA president Sepp Blatter, UEFA leader Michel Platini, South Korean FIFA Honorary Vice President Chung Mong-Joon and FIFA secretary general Jerome Valcke. FIFA's ethics watchdog yesterday suspended world body president Sepp Blatter and UEFA leader Michel Platini for 90 days after they were named in a Swiss corruption case. The independent ethics committee also banned South Korean tycoon, Chung Mong-Joon, like Platini a candidate for the FIFA presidency for six years. FIFA secretary general Jerome Valcke, already ordered to leave by FIFA over a separate ticketing scandal, was suspended for 90 days. — AFP

KUWAIT THREATENED WITH FIFA BAN

KUWAIT: Kuwait has been threatened with a ban by FIFA because of government interference in the running of the local football association. World governing body FIFA has given the Kuwait Football Association until next week to avoid the implementation of a new set of sports laws that FIFA believes threaten the autonomy of the KFA when they are due to come into force on Oct 27. At FIFA's executive committee meeting on September 25, the body decided to "contact the Kuwait Football Association about the new sport law and warn about a suspension if nothing is done by 15 October 2015 to avoid the implementation of the new law due to come into force on 27 October 2015." "We can confirm that in accordance with the decision of the Executive Committee a letter was sent to the Kuwait FA," a FIFA spokesperson said.

The world governing body has traditionally taken a dim view of government interference and banned Kuwait's fellow Asian Football Confederation members Indonesia for the offence in May which ruled them out of the ongoing World Cup qualifying campaign. Kuwait has twice previously been banned for government interference by FIFA in 2007 and 2008 and a third ban could have significant ramifications for the February elections to decide upon a new leader at the Switzerland-based body. — Reuters

JORDAN BEAT ASIAN CHAMPIONS AUSTRALIA SOUTH KOREA CAP A MISERABLE WEEK FOR KUWAIT

SINGAPORE: Jordan stunned Asian champions Australia 2-0 yesterday to throw open their World Cup qualifying group after handing the Socceroos their first loss of the campaign. Ange Postecoglou's side were the big casualties on another tricky night of qualifying for Asia's elite, with Iran producing a scratchy display before salvaging a 1-1 draw against Oman in Group D, while South Korea only edged Kuwait 1-0 away in Group G.

Four-times Asian champions Japan also encountered some problems against Syria before a second half flurry handed them a 3-0 win in Muscat, while Iraq snatched a 1-1 draw in Vietnam after a 97th-minute penalty by Younis Mahmoud. There was no hero for the Socceroos in Amman, however, as a thumping penalty by Hasan Abdel Fattah at the start of the second half and a late second from Hamza Al Dardour sent Jordan top of Group B with 10 points from four games. Australia have nine points.

"Once they got a goal up, the game

became a little chaotic and we couldn't get into any flow," Postecoglou told Fox Sports. "We had a couple of chances but overall we lost control of the game. "We had to roll our sleeves up and get a result, and we didn't tonight which is disappointing." Only the group winners in the five team pools are guaranteed a spot in the next round of Asian qualifying for Russia 2018 and Australia, winners of their first three matches, now have little room for error. Iran, who played at last year's World Cup in Brazil, also looked in a sticky situation in Group D after Saad Al Mukhaini put Oman ahead following some poor defending from Ehsan Hajisafi.

The Iranians, though, improved after the break and Hajisafi atoned for his earlier error by firing in a cross from the left which Seyed Jalal Hosseini turned in from close range in the 70th minute. The two sides are level at the top of the pool on eight points from four games, with Guam, who were not play-

ing yesterday, a further point back in third. Japan leapfrogged Syria and went top of Group E after Keisuke Honda's 55th-minute penalty was followed by a close-range effort from Shinji Okazaki, while substitute Takashi Usami added a third in the dying minutes.

"We weren't that good in the first half but made adjustments at the break and improved in the second period," Japan boss Vahid Halihodzic was quoted as saying by Kyodo News. "All credit to the players. It was a beautiful win and a collective effort." South Korea capped a miserable week for Kuwait, threatened with a FIFA ban for government interference, by grabbing a 1-0 win thanks to Koo Ja-cheol's 12th-minute header to move three points clear of the hosts in the pool. Former New Zealand boss Rickie Herbert enjoyed a first competitive win as Maldives boss, a 4-3 victory in Bhutan where the hosts fought back from 4-0 down and threatened a draw with three goals in the last five minutes. — Reuters

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2015

Friday Times

Sports

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KUWAIT: Kuwaiti player Fahad Awadh (right) attempts a tackle on South Korean player Nam Tae-hee (left) during the AFC qualifying football match for the 2018 FIFA World Cup between Kuwait and South Korea yesterday at the Kuwait Sports Club Stadium in Kuwait City. South Korea beat Kuwait 1-0. —Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat



South Korea worsen Kuwait's misery