



Tunisian
democracy
group wins
Peace Prize



Violent
Muslims told
to leave
Australia



Blatter fights
ban amid
FIFA
turmoil



150 Fils

WAVE OF STABBINGS SHAKE ISRAEL AND THE WEST BANK

REVENGE ATTACK INJURES TWO PALESTINIANS, TWO ARAB ISRAELIS



Min 26°

Max 38°



WEST BANK: Israeli settler boys throw stones during clashes with Palestinians after a stabbing attack outside the Jewish settlement of Kiryat Arba in the West Bank yesterday. — AP

JERUSALEM: A fresh wave of stabbings shook Israel and the West Bank yesterday, including a suspected revenge attack by a Jewish suspect that wounded two Palestinians and two Arab Israelis. Attacks also continued against Israelis and Jews, with a Palestinian stabbing a policeman near a West Bank settlement before being shot dead by the victim, who was lightly wounded. A Jewish 16-year-old was lightly wounded in a new stabbing in Jerusalem by an 18-year-old Palestinian suspect, who was arrested. In the assault by a Jew, the assailant aged about 20 was arrested and told police he carried out the attack in the southern Israeli city of Dimona because "all Arabs are terrorists".

The victims suffered light to moderate wounds. It marked the first such attack against Palestinians after at least 11 stabbings that have targeted Israelis or Jews since Saturday, killing two of them. Later, a woman was shot after a stabbing attempt in northern Israel. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu quickly condemned the stabbings by the Jewish suspect, a sign of concerns it could trigger further violence. Palestinians have also rioted in annexed east Jerusalem and the West Bank in recent days, with the unrest raising fears of a wider uprising or even a third intifada.

Hundreds of right-wing Jewish protesters marched in Jerusalem on Thursday night, including some chanting "Death to Arabs" and "No Arabs, No Attacks." Arab Israelis are the descendants of Palestinians who remained after the creation of the state of Israel in 1948 and hold Israeli citizenship. Tens of thousands of Palestinians also work in Israel, particularly in construction. Friday's stabbing came as Israeli security forces sought to prevent the further spread of Palestinian unrest, with Netanyahu on Thursday night saying the country faced a mostly unorganized "wave of terror".

"These actions are mostly not organized, but they are all the result of wild and untruthful incitement from Hamas, from the Palestinian Authority, from several neighboring counties and, no less, from the Islamic Movement in Israel," he said. Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas has spoken out against violence and in favor of "peaceful, popular resistance," but many youths are frustrated with his leadership as well as Israel's government.

Old City tensions

Jerusalem's Old City was the site of tensions on Friday as Muslims filed toward the sensitive Al-Aqsa mosque compound for the main weekly prayers. Scuffles broke out as a group of about 50 Jews wearing skullcaps or draped in the Israeli flag walked through the mainly Muslim eastern portion of the Old City toward the Western Wall.

Jews shouted "long live the Israeli people" and some of the women made obscene gestures at Muslims, who responded with shouts of "Allahu Akbar". Clashes between Israeli police and Palestinian youths have repeatedly erupted at the Al-Aqsa compound in recent weeks, and police were prohibiting men under 45 from entering the site yesterday. Such measures are often put into effect when tensions flare. The compound is the third-holiest site in Islam and the most sacred to Jews, who refer to it as the Temple Mount. It is located in east Jerusalem, occupied by Israel in 1967 and later annexed in a move never recognized by the international community.

Stabbing attacks targeting Jews began on Saturday in the Old City, when two Israelis were killed there, prompting a security crackdown. Security measures were further tightened Thursday, with six metal detectors set up in the Old City and police stationed on rooftops. The Jerusalem mayor went as far as to encourage residents who own guns to carry them around with them, even carrying one himself earlier this week while visiting a Palestinian area of the city where clashes have erupted. — AFP

MAID'S HAND CHOPPED OFF IN SAUDI INDIA FUMES, DEPLORES BRUTAL ATTACK

NEW DELHI: India said yesterday it had lodged a protest with authorities in Riyadh after a maid from Tamil Nadu allegedly had her hand chopped off by her Saudi employer for complaining about her work conditions. India's foreign minister deplored a "brutal" attack on 55-year-old Kasthuri Munirathinam, who is being treated at a hospital in Riyadh, and which comes weeks after a Saudi diplomat based in New Delhi was accused of rape. "Chopping of (the) hand of (an) Indian lady—we are very much disturbed over the brutal manner in which (this) Indian lady has been treated in Saudi Arabia," Sushma Swaraj said on Twitter. "This is unacceptable. We have taken this up with Saudi authorities," Swaraj added.

A spokesman for the foreign ministry confirmed that Indian diplomats in Riyadh had lodged a formal complaint at the Saudi foreign ministry. Munirathinam, who comes from a village in the southern state of Tamil

Nadu, had suffered a catalogue of abuse since taking up a post as a domestic worker in Saudi Arabia three months ago, according to her family. "Her right hand was chopped off by her employer when she tried to escape the daily harassment, torture and abysmal work conditions," her sister S Vijayakumari told AFP by phone from Tamil Nadu's capital Chennai.

Vijayakumari said that her sister had gone to Saudi Arabia to help pay off her family's debts and she had been promised a monthly salary of around 180 dollars. "But she was not paid, she was barely given enough to eat and not even allowed to speak to her family ... Now she only wants to come home," Vijayakumari said. The family says that problems started for Munirathinam—who was one of five domestic workers in the same household—after she complained to the local authorities about her situation. Footage of Munirathinam lying in her Saudi hospital bed was broadcast by

several Indian media outlets. Foreign ministry spokesman Vikas Swarup confirmed to AFP that Munirathinam was still recuperating in the Riyadh hospital but said that efforts were being made to bring her home.

"We are in touch with the woman, hospital and the local police authorities. She will get all possible legal and other help from the embassy," Swarup said. Hundreds of thousands of Indian migrants work in households in Saudi Arabia and other Gulf countries but complaints about their treatment by their employers often make headlines back home. A video showing a male Indian worker being beaten by his Saudi employer went viral in September, sparking a widespread backlash on social media. There was also widespread anger last month when the first secretary at the Saudi embassy left India under diplomatic immunity after being accused of holding captive and raping two Nepalese maids in his home. — AFP



Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC)

OIL, GAS SUMMIT TO TACKLE CHALLENGES IN OIL INDUSTRY

KUWAIT: Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) stressed the importance of upcoming Kuwait oil and Gas Conference due to kick off tomorrow, amid global geopolitical, financial, and environment changes that directly affect markets. The conference will also highlight in its opening session the importance of opening new horizons and new marketing techniques. Participating in it will be a number of OPEC and local and global oil CEOs, KPC Board Member and Director of Information Technology and Public Relations Ali Ahmad Al-Obaid said in a statement.

The statement noted that global oil companies are keen to engage in this conference, stressing the key role played by Kuwait in global oil markets. The conference, which will cover vital issues on oil and gas sectors next Sunday October 11-14, will be under the auspices of His highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

More than 30 countries and representatives from governments and international organizations will be participating in Kuwait oil and Gas Conference, Kuwait Foreign Petroleum Exploration Company's (KUFPEC) Vice President for Operations Hosnia Hashim said. In a statement, Hashim said the conference, which will cover vital issues on oil and gas sectors and will be under the auspices of His highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

KP Europort refinery

Meanwhile, Kuwait Petroleum International (KPI) and Gunvor Group announced that they have reached the final stage of negotiations on the sale of the KP Europort refinery in Rotterdam, The Netherlands. In a statement to KUNA, KPI said that the deal is still subject to regulatory approval and an employee consultation process, noting that the sale will allow the refinery to continue in accordance with Gunvor's integration and optimization strategies. The sale would be a result of an intense and careful search for a suitable buyer by KPI, after a reevaluation of its strategy for the KP Europort refinery, the statement added.

Among the most important criteria were continuing with the refinery operations and finding a financially solid, experienced, reliable buyer, it made clear. Gunvor is one of the world's leading independent commodities trading companies. It has a proven track record of successfully taking over and operating refineries. It wholly owns two refineries; one in Antwerp, Belgium; and another in Ingolstadt, Germany, both acquired in 2012. The intended purchase of the KP Europort refinery would enhance Gunvor's existing refining operations, while also complementing its global trading activities. — Agencies



KUWAIT: Photo shows a man jogging in the early morning. Morning moderate weather is encouraging for walking. Morning is best time to enhance health of human body in general and lungs in particular - KUNA

News

in brief

GCC COMMERCE DELEGATION EYES INVESTMENTS IN BOSNIA

SARAJEVO: A delegation from the GCC trade and industry chamber visited yesterday the World Trade Center and Islamic International Bank in Bosnia to examine investment opportunities in various fields in the country. A statement from the Bosnian Islamic International Bank said 15 members representing GCC trade chambers started their visit, with aim of exploring investment prospects in the country. The delegation will be briefed on various areas and cities with potentials for launching investment projects.

Kuwait offers psychological health at primary care level

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. Among the many topics of discussion the committee delved into was the level of health services provided to the public in the countries of the Eastern Mediterranean region, said the minister. There was emphasis on the topics of psychological health, medical teaching, preventing chronic diseases, fighting Malaria and Polio, among other ones, said the minister.

Kuwaiti, Estonian lawmakers discuss boosting bilateral ties

BERLIN: The Kuwaiti lawmakers met yesterday with Speaker of Estonian Parliament Eiki Nestor in Tallinn, capital of Estonia, and discussed means of boosting parliamentary ties between the two sides. In a statement to KUNA, MP Saud Al-Heraiji, head of Kuwait's parliamentary delegation, said that the two sides dealt with issues of mutual interest as well as regional and international issues, stressing the importance of boosting security and peace in the Middle East region and the whole world. During the meeting, they also underlined the need to solve all disputes politically, he said, noting the Kuwaiti MPs discussed with lawmakers of Estonia's foreign relations committee ways of promoting cooperation between the two countries at the international scenes. Al-Heraiji handed Nestor an official invitation from Speaker of National Assembly Marzouq Al-Ghanim to visit Kuwait.

Defense Minister lauds Kuwait victory in Seoul

KUWAIT: Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah praised Kuwait's military team player Sergeant Ali Fahad Al-Mershad winning bronze medal in Taekwondo, below 54kg, in the 6th CISM Military World Games, currently held in Seoul, South Korea. Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah commended the efforts exerted by the Kuwaiti team, as well as the team's preparations prior to the Games, organized by the CISM (International Military Sports Council), Moral Guidance and Public Relations Department of the Kuwaiti Army said in a press statement. His Highness the Amir and Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah strive to support and encourage the military institution in the country in various aspects and activities, he affirmed.

Kuwait to host regional Gulf meeting on Green Schools

KUWAIT: Kuwait will host on October 18-19 a regional Gulf meeting on the initiative to set up Green Schools, said director of the Kuwait National Commission for UNESCO Dr Ahmad Al-Enizi on Thursday. He said in a statement to KUNA that the meeting will focus on the premise that Green schools prepare students to become leaders and citizens who understand how the natural world works, see the patterns that connect human activity to nature, and have the knowledge, values, and skills to act effectively on that understanding. He added that Green schools contribute to making communities more sustainable, explore solutions to environmental problems, and serve as models of responsible action.

KUWAITI DUPED

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Residency Affairs detectives arrested an Asian who duped a citizen - and made him believe that he works in an office of domestic help agency. He suspected signed contracts and then disappears after receiving some money.

Drug suspects nabbed

Police arrested a man and a woman for having - and using drugs. A patrol team roaming around Regee area stopped a motorist for traffic violations. The officers noticed an envelope with white stuff and suspected it of containing illicit drugs. Also, Ahmadi patrol officers have arrested a wanted Kuwaiti linked to drugs cases. Police found 38 illicit tablets with him. He was sent to drugs Control General Department. Meanwhile, three persons in possession of liquor were arrested yesterday. The suspects (Indians and a Korean) had a total of 45 bottles in their possession.

Campaign launched

'We Want It To Reach Every Home' campaign was launched on Thursday morning in the presence of KFSD Director General Lt General Yousuf Al-Ansari and Deputy Director General for Fighting Sector Brig Mohammad Al-Mahmeed at 360 mall.

Vehicle collision

A two vehicle collision in Kaifan area. The driver came out of the vehicle unscathed. Shuhada fire center men secured the place of accident.



Crime

Report

Egyptian offered KD 1000 bribe

KUWAIT: Iqama Affairs detectives arrested an Egyptian who offered KD 1000 to a police captain to release his brother. The captain pretended that he accepted the offer and told his superiors about it. Residency (Iqama) detectives waited for the Egyptian to pay the bribe inside the department - then the arrest was made as the money was being paid. The entire incident was recorded on videotape. The suspect was detained at the department's cell and he is awaiting legal action. An Egyptian accused a citizen of beating and threatening him. He gave the license plates number of the suspect's vehicle. The victim told Nugra police that he does not know the citizen and the beating was over a dispute.

Missing daughter

A citizen has reported the case of his missing daughter who escaped from home around 3:00 am. The citizen said his 22-year-old daughter left home and her phone was not reachable. Ahmadi detectives are working on the case.

Egyptian falls to death

An Egyptian fell to his death from a building under construction in Sharq area. His body was recovered and sent to the coroner.

Stolen ATM

A thief stole the purse of a citizen from in Salwa and then withdrew KD 350 from her account - using her ATM card. Hawally detectives are looking for the culprit, as they are reviewing pictures taken by security cameras. In another development, a citizen has filed a case against two persons whom he accused of insulting him over the internet. The citizen told Sabah Al-Salem police that two persons, he does not know insulted him. Electronic crimes detectives are working on the case.— Agencies

SPE KUWAIT OIL & GAS SHOW, CONFERENCE SET FOR SUCCESS

KUWAIT: Following the huge success of the first edition in 2013, the Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE) Kuwait Oil & Gas Show and Conference is returning to Kuwait from 11-14 October 2015. The event will be held at the Kuwait International Fair in Mishref under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, the Prime Minister of Kuwait. Set to be the largest gathering of the oil and gas industry ever seen in Kuwait, KOGS 2015 incorporates a multidisciplinary conference program organized by the SPE and a world-class international exhibition of oil and gas hardware and services organized by All world Exhibitions' member Arabian Exhibition Management. The event is expected to attract over 3,500 regional and international attendees.

His Excellency Dr Ali Saleh Al Omair, Minister of Oil and Minister of State for the National Assembly, commented: "I am pleased to announce the Kuwait Ministry of Oil's support for the second edition of the SPE Kuwait Oil & Gas Show and Conference. The stature of this major international oil and gas exhibition and conference befits Kuwait's international standing as one of the world's leading oil producing nations, and mirrors the great strides we have made both upstream, downstream, and in our overseas activities".

The KOGS 2015 conference takes place under the theme 'Future Hydrocarbon Resources; Innovations, Technology and Opportunities' and focuses on key areas of interest for those working in the upstream and downstream sectors in the region, including reservoir management, production operations, sus-

tainable development, drilling and completion technologies, innovation, refining and the petrochemical industries.

The conference opens in a special ceremony tomorrow at the Hilton Kuwait Resort. The session will begin with welcome addresses from His Highness Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al Sabah, Kuwait's Prime Minister; His Excellency Dr Saleh Al-Omair, Kuwait's Minister of Oil and Minister of State for the National Assembly; Nizar Al-Adsani, Chief Executive Officer, Kuwait Petroleum Corporation; Hosnia Hashim, Vice President Operations, KUFPEC and Janeen Judah, 2017 SPE President.

Keynote speeches on this year's conference theme will follow, delivered by His Excellency Abdalla Salem El-Badri, Secretary General, OPEC; Mohammad Al-Mutairi, Chief Executive Officer, Kuwait National Petroleum Company; Bob Dudley, Chief Executive Officer, BP and Samir Brikho, Chief Executive, Amec Foster Wheeler. More than 180 technical and poster presentations designed to share the knowledge and experience of managing, operating and supplying companies will follow over the subsequent 3 days of the conference at Kuwait International Fair, delivered by over 260 expert speakers from more than 60 companies across 27 countries.

The packed agenda at KOGS 2015 also includes 4 industry panel sessions and 5 special sessions led by chief executive officers, managers and presidents of national and international oil companies and the service industry. Discussion topics include industry strategies in the face of unstable oil prices, the role of gas in the region, innovation, overcoming scarcity of resources, refining industry drivers, women's networking, local content

and the role of the banking sectors. Three SPE training courses and two field trips for delegates will also take place in conjunction with KOGS 2015, in addition to a two-day program of events aimed at the next generation of oil and gas professionals which will offer high school students and teachers the opportunity to engage and gain valuable career advice.

More than 200 companies from 24 countries will be in attendance at the parallel exhibition which takes place from 12- 14 October 2015. The 14,000 sqm global showcase features key stakeholders, major players, suppliers and service providers and serves all areas of the oil and gas industry. Principal exhibitors include ADNOC, BAPCO, Kuwait Petroleum Corporation, Saudi Aramco and EQUATE. Complementing these regional giants is a host of international powerhouses including Amec Foster Wheeler, Baker Hughes, GE Oil & Gas, Halliburton, ONGC, Schlumberger, Shell, Total and Weatherford amongst others who will be exhibiting alongside independent specialist suppliers and distributors from Kuwait and across the globe.

The exhibition also features large national groups from France, Egypt and Malaysia. Nizar M Al-Adsani, Deputy Chairman, Chief Executive Officer of Kuwait Petroleum Corporation said, "As we continue to expand in all areas of our industry, KOGS 2015 assembles a welcome level of expertise and serves as a timely arena for meaningful discourse and engagement. I am confident that the exchange of knowledge, technology and business prospects at this event will be of great benefit to all participants, whilst contributing to the advancement of our industry".

US' UNIVERSITY FAIR

KUWAIT: The US Educational Group (USEG) will host American colleges and universities at an education fair on October 13th, 2015 (6:00 pm) at the Marina Hotel in Salmiya. US Ambassador Douglas A Silliman will open the fair. Education USA advisers and Embassy consular officials will be present at the fair to address students questions about education in the United States. Representatives from USEG will provide information about admission standards, financial aid opportunities, summer programs, and student life at different US universities.

The US universities that will be presented at the event are: Arizona State University, Bowling Green State University, DePaul University, Depauw University, George Mason University, Gonzaga University, Hofstra University, Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis, Kent State University, Marquette University, Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, McNeese State University, North Carolina State University, Ohio University, Old Dominion University, Pace University, Pepperdine University, Portland State University, Syracuse University, Thunderbird School of Global Management, University at Buffalo-State University of New York, University of Illinois-Chicago, University of Northern Iowa, University of Portland, University of Toledo, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech), West Virginia University, Western Kentucky University, Purdue University, Roger Williams University, Shoreline community College, St Ambrose University, and Stony Brook University-State University of New York.

VIVA ANNOUNCES EIGHTH & NINTH DAILY DRAW'S WINNERS OF PREPAID CAMPAIGN

KUWAIT: VIVA, Kuwait's fastest-growing and most developed telecom operator, announced the eighth and ninth lucky winners of its weekly draws campaign that gives prepaid customers a chance to win \$1,500 daily cash prize for every 1 KD they spend on recharge, as well as \$ 5,000 monthly. The campaign that started on 28 July 2015 will be valid for six consecutive months. VIVA's prepaid daily draws is taking place once a week with seven winners, one winner for every day of the week to get the \$1,500 cash prize. The winners for the eighth week are: Arun Kumar Shahi, Khalifah Dhahi Farraj, Mohammed Akram, Hadrat Lima Nori, Babuji Sutugola Ram, Mohamed Askar Thach, Sher Ali.

Both new and existing prepaid customers are eligible to enter daily and monthly draws throughout the promotion period, upon recharging their lines with KD 1 credit. Lucky winners of the daily draws will get \$1,500 cash prize while winners of the monthly draws will get \$ 5,000 cash prize. Moreover, the winners for the ninth week are: Baheejah Hind Mohammad Soudi, Abrhatstyon Tesfay, Srinifas Malipodi, Raznatsw, Hari Poli Reddy, Mohammad Safi Alalam Ayoub Ali, Fadhel Saud Fadhel Alajmi.

VIVA reiterates its commitment to providing unique promotions designed to create an exceptional customer experience and reward its prepaid customers for their continued trust in VIVA. VIVA will continue to seek new and innovative ways to facilitate the lives of its customers and share with them the latest in communication technology. To find out more about VIVA's new prepaid packages, or any of its other competitive promotions, products and packages, visit one of the 69 VIVA branches, or the VIVA website at www.viva.com.kw, or call VIVA's 24 hour call center on 102.



KRCS INAUGURATES PLAYGROUND FOR SYRIAN REFUGEES IN LEBANON

BEIRUT: The Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) has opened a playground for Syrian children refugees in Katermaya village in Chouf District in Lebanon. After the inauguration ceremony, head of RCS delegation to Lebanon Musaed Al-Enzi said that the project is part of the support provided for refugees to alleviate their suffering as Syria has been engulfed in civil wars since 2011. He revealed that KRCS intends to open two similar playgrounds in Beqaa area in eastern Lebanon and in Wadi Khaled in northern the country.

About 700 food quotas and cleaning materials were also distributed to refugees in

Katermaya and Sidon in southern Lebanon, he said, noting roughly 15,000 quotas will be distributed to refugees in several areas across the country. Al-Enzi stressed the continuation of providing humanitarian aid for Syrian people in the neighboring countries. Meanwhile, a number of refugees expressed their gratitude to the State of Kuwait, His Highness the Amir and the Kuwaiti people for supporting them, saying Kuwait has been helping people across the globe. Kuwait is one of the biggest donor countries in helping the Syrian refugees. It has hosted there donor conferences in a bid to alleviate their suffering. —KUNA





KUWAIT: The National Guard joined Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC) and the Civil Defence in controlling the gas leaks in one of the units in Ahmadi refinery. Following up Tuesday night's gas leak at Ahmadi refinery, officials from EPA and KNPC met to discuss the procedures followed when the leak happened. Both sides hailed the efforts exerted to prevent any damage. EPA also stressed that a wide scale investigation was in progress to determine the leak's causes and report on the measures taken to control it. Speaking to reporters, EPA Chairman and General Manager Sheikh Abdullah Ahmad Al-Humoud Al-Sabah said that the meeting discussed how the incident was dealt with.

KUWAIT URGES INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO BACK UNRWA

KUWAIT 'KEEN ON PROTECTING' PEOPLE FROM TORTURE

NEW YORK: Kuwait has urged the international community to assume the responsibility of supporting efforts by the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). In remarks at a meeting for the UN General Assembly committee for announcing donations to the agency, Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN Abdulaziz Al-Jarallah also appreciated the briefing offered by the UNRWA Deputy Commissioner-General on the agency's conditions.

Al-Jarallah expressed concern over the UNRWA's finances, which hinder the agency's efforts to carry on with its educational, social and relief services to the Palestinian refugees, both in the occupied territories and in hosting countries. Kuwait has always been keen on backing UNRWA and has offered more than \$163 million, both voluntary contributions to the

agency's budget, as well as responding to urgent appeals, the latest of which was \$15 million to help 500,000 Palestinian students, he said.

The country has allocated \$45 million for the Palestinian refugees in Syria, during three annual conferences on the humanitarian situation in the war-plagued country, he added. In 2009, Kuwait offered Palestinian refugees in Gaza \$34 million, after Israel destroyed 36 UNRWA schools in the Strip. In addition, Kuwait presented \$200 million to the international efforts for reconstruction in Gaza, during a Cairo conference held in October 2014, Al-Jarallah said. In the meantime, Al-Jarallah reaffirmed the Palestinian right of return, in line with item 11 of the General Assembly Resolution 194. He also urged the international community to pressure Israel to comply with all resolutions of the international legitimacy.

Combating torture

Kuwait is keen on cooperating with the international community on efforts to combat torture, said Kuwaiti permanent envoy to the UN headquarters in Geneva Ambassador Jamal Al-Ghunaim here Thursday. On the sideline of his participation in the 15th meeting for member states of the United Nations Convention against Torture, Al-Ghunaim said that Kuwait's policies regarding efforts against torture was in line with international laws and norms. Kuwait is keen on fulfilling its obligation against the spread of torture and inhumane acts, said the Kuwaiti diplomat, affirming that this attitude stemmed from his country's utmost support for human rights. The UN Convention against Torture was adopted by the UNGA on December 10, 1984. — Agencies

SAUDI HAJ DISASTER 'DEADLIEST'

DUBAI: The crush and stampede last month outside of Saudi Arabia's holy city of Makkah killed at least 1,453 people during the haj, a new tally showed yesterday to make it the deadliest event to ever strike the annual pilgrimage. The Associated Press count is 684 higher than Saudi Arabia's official tally of 769 killed and 934 injured in the Sept 24 disaster in Mina. Saudi officials, who could not be immediately reached for comment yesterday, previously have said their tally remains accurate, though an investigation into the causes of the tragedy is ongoing.

Authorities have not updated their casualty toll since Sept 26, two days after the disaster. The previous deadliest-ever incident happened in 1990, when a stampede killed 1,426 people. The AP figure comes from statements and officials' comments from 19 of the over 180 countries that sent citizens to the five-day annual pilgrimage. Authorities have said the Sept 24 crush and stampede occurred when two waves of pilgrims converged on a narrow road, causing hundreds of people to suffocate or be trampled to death.

Iran says it had 465 pilgrims killed, while Egypt lost 148 and Indonesia 120. Others include India with 101, Nigeria with 99, Pakistan with 93, Mali with 70, Bangladesh with 63, Senegal with 54, Benin with 51, Cameroon with 42, Ethiopia with 31, Sudan with 30, Morocco with 27, Algeria with 25, Ghana with 12, Chad with 11, Kenya with eight and Turkey with three. Hundreds remain missing, according to these countries.

Shiite power Iran, Sunni Saudi Arabia's Mideast rival, has blamed the disaster on the kingdom's "mismanagement" and accused Riyadh of a cover-up, saying the real death toll exceeds 4,700, without providing evidence to support the claim. Iran has called for an independent body to take over planning and administering the five-day haj pilgrimage, required of all able Muslims once in their lifetimes. But the ruling Al Saud family likely would never give up its role in administering the holy sites, which along with Saudi Arabia's oil wealth gives it major influence in the Muslim world. King Salman himself is known as the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques. — AP

KUWAITI SEEKS COSTA RICA SUPPORT TO GET NON-PERMANENT UNSC SEAT

KUWAIT: A Kuwaiti Parliamentary friendship group sought Costa Rica's President Luis Guillermo Solís' support to help Kuwait obtain a non-permanent seat at the UN Security Council for the year 2017/2018. Head of Kuwaiti-Costa Rican Friendship group PM Dr Yousef Al-Zalzal made this remark in a press statement yesterday. During the meeting Al-Zalzal relayed the greetings of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanim to the Costa Rican President.

The Kuwaiti delegation urged the Costa Rican President to swiftly implement two agreements that were signed two years ago on foreign investments and dual taxation, as Kuwait has been waiting for the Costa Rican approval. Al-Zalzal said that the meeting also tackled various topics on oil investment, oil ports, and infrastructure, education, and health projects in Costa Rica, in addition, to holding investment conferences in Kuwait to encourage investment in Costa Rica. The Kuwaiti Friendship group also met with Costa Rican Parliament Speaker Rafael Ortiz where they discussed means of cooperation in all parliamentary fields. The Kuwaiti parliament delegation arrived on Costa Rica on October 3 in an official visit to discuss means of cooperation at all levels between the two countries. —KUNA



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International

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First asylum seekers leave under EU relocation plan

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Expats tense after foreigners gunned down in Bangladesh

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GOP in turmoil after speaker race withdrawal

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TUNIS: A photo taken on September 21, 2013 shows Tunisian mediators (Left to Right) the President of the Tunisian employers union (UTICA), Wided Bouchamaoui, Secretary General of the Tunisian General Labour Union (UGTT) Houcine Abbassi (left), President of the Tunisian Human Rights League (LTDH), Abdessattar ben Moussa and the president of the National Bar Association, Mohamed Fadhel Mahmoud at a press conference. — AFP

TUNISIAN DEMOCRACY ACTIVISTS WIN PEACE PRIZE 'AN INSPIRATION TO TURBULENT MIDDLE EAST'

OSLO: Tunisian civil society groups won the Nobel Peace Prize yesterday for helping to save the only democracy that emerged from the Arab Spring, offering the country symbolic support after it was shaken by a wave of jihadist attacks. The Nobel panel said the award to the National Dialogue Quartet was intended as an "encouragement to the Tunisian people" and as an inspiration for others, particularly in the turbulent Middle East.

The award drew praise from around the world as a "beacon of hope" for the region, while one winner said it was a tribute to the "martyrs" who died in the struggle to move the North African country from dictatorship to democracy. The committee hailed the quartet's "decisive contribution to the building of a pluralistic democracy in Tunisia in the wake of the Jasmine Revolution of 2011," chairwoman Kaci Kullmann Five said.

"The Norwegian Nobel Committee hopes that this year's prize will contribute towards safeguarding democracy in Tunisia and be an inspiration to all those who seek to promote peace and democracy in the Middle East, North Africa and the rest of the world," the panel said. The prize was awarded nearly five years after a desperate Tunisian street vendor set himself on

fire, touching off a wave of unrest which left more than 300 people dead and eventually toppled president Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, inspiring uprisings across the region.

Formed in 2013 when the process of democratization was in danger of collapsing because of widespread social unrest, the quartet established an alternative, peaceful political process as Tunisia was on the brink of civil war, the committee said. It is made up of the Tunisian General Labor Union (UGTT), the Tunisian Confederation of Industry, Trade and Handicrafts (UTICA), the Tunisian Human Rights League and the Tunisian Order of Lawyers.

'Tribute to the martyrs'

The honor took observers by surprise as the Tunisians had not been mentioned in the weeks of frenzied speculation in the run-up to the announcement. The powerful labor union described it as a "tribute to martyrs of a democratic Tunisia." "This effort by our youth has allowed the country to turn the page on dictatorship," said UGTT chief Houcine Abbassi.

Trade confederation UTICA said they had succeeded where others had failed. "We are here to give hope to young people in Tunisia

that if we believe in our country, we can succeed," its head Wided Bouchamaoui said. On the streets of Tunis, people welcomed the Nobel as a boost for democracy. "It's an encouragement for the parties in opposition and those in power so they can believe in democracy and not just grab power," Tunis resident Shukri ben Nasif told AFP.

President Beji Caid Essebsi said the award recognizes Tunisia's "path of consensus", adding: "Tunisia has no other solution than dialogue despite ideological disagreements." However, democracy remains fragile in Tunisia, which has been rocked by bloody attacks by Islamic State jihadists this year and some high-profile political killings and is still grappling with corruption. EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini said the award showed the Middle East and North Africa "the way out of the crises in the region: national unity and democracy".

France's President Francois Hollande said it "rewards the success of the democratic transition in Tunisia, while British Prime Minister David Cameron said it made Tunisia a "beacon of hope" for the region. "The prize is a tribute and a call to support all civil society forces engaged in the fight for democracy, pluralism

and rule of law," added UNESCO chief Irina Bokova.

Democracy, but fragile

"The Quartet exercised its role as a mediator and driving force to advance peaceful democratic development in Tunisia with great moral authority," the Nobel panel said. "More than anything, the prize is intended as an encouragement to the Tunisian people," it said, expressing hope it would set an example for other countries in the region. Since the Tunisia uprising, the Arab world has been rocked by massive upheaval that has toppled leaders in Egypt, Libya and Yemen and plunged Syria into a brutal civil war. Tunisia was able to adopt a constitution in January 2014 and held its first democratic elections at the end of last year.

But attacks claimed by Islamic State militants killed 22 people, mostly tourists, at a Tunis museum in March, and another 38 foreigners in a beach resort in June. It is the second time a Nobel peace honour has been bestowed in connection with the Arab Spring after Tawakkol Karman, an activist fighting Yemen's regime, shared the 2011 prize with two Liberians, one of them the president, over their struggle for women's rights. — AFP

UN DEMANDING PROBE OF WEDDING BOMBING

UNITED NATIONS: The top United Nations aid official called for a swift investigation Thursday of a suspected Saudi-led air strike that killed dozens of people at a wedding in Yemen. Stephen O'Brien, the UN under-secretary-general for humanitarian affairs, said he was "deeply disturbed" by the news that civilians had been killed in Wednesday evening's bombing.

"I call for a swift, transparent and impartial investigation into this incident," O'Brien said in a statement. "Real accountability for parties to conflict,

whether they are states or non-state groups, is urgently needed, to ensure that the commitment under international law to protect civilians is meaningful," he added.

O'Brien quoted Yemen's ministry of public health as saying that at least 47 people were killed and 35 were injured, among them many women and children, in the strike. Medical sources confirmed at least 28 deaths to AFP. The raid hit a house where dozens of people were celebrating in the town of Sanban in Dhamar province, 60 miles

(100 kilometers) south of the capital Sanaa, residents said. It was the second alleged air strike by the Saudi-led coalition on a Yemeni wedding party in just over a week.

But the coalition, under mounting criticism over the civilian death toll of its bombing campaign against Iran-backed Shiite rebels, denied any involvement in the latest attack. O'Brien noted that 4,500 civilians have been killed or injured since the Saudi-led coalition began air strikes against rebels in Yemen in March.

"That is more than in any country or crisis in the world during the same period," he noted. The strongly-worded statement underscored that the sides have a responsibility under international law to avoid damage to homes and other civilian structures. "With modern weapons technology, there is little excuse for error," he added. A Western-backed resolution calling for a UN investigation into rights abuses committed during the conflict in Yemen was withdrawn last week at the UN rights council due to protests from Saudi Arabia. — AFP



SKHIRAT: United Nations envoy for Libya, Bernardino Leon (center), holds a press conference, announcing Libya has agreed to form a new national government. — AFP

LIBYA RIVALS URGED TO SIGN LONG-AWAITED PEACE DEAL HOPING TO INSTALL NATIONAL UNITY GOVERNMENT

TRIPOLI: World leaders urged Libya's warring parties yesterday to sign a proposed peace deal installing a national unity government, after a cool response from some lawmakers in the country's rival parliaments. Libya has had two administrations since August last year when a militia alliance that includes Islamists overran the capital, forcing the internationally recognized government to take refuge in the east.

The country descended into chaos after the fall of Moamer Kadhafi in 2011, with the two sides vying for power as well as several groups battling for control of its vast resource wealth. The new government proposed by UN envoy Bernardino Leon would be headed by Fayez El-Sarraj, a deputy in the Tripoli parliament, and include three deputy prime ministers, one each from the west, east and south of the country.

A graduate in business management, Sarraj has been involved in dialogue that tried to bring together the various actors of Libyan society to end the crisis. "After a year of work in this process, after working with more than 150 Libyan personalities from all the regions... finally the moment has come in which we can pro-

pose a national unity government," Leon told a news conference in Morocco.

'Genuine opportunity'

UN chief Ban Ki-moon welcomed the news, and appealed to warring factions to sign the accord. He urged Libya's leaders "not to squander this opportunity to put the country back on the path to building a state that reflects the spirit and ambitions of the 2011 revolution. "Now is the time for the parties to the political dialogue to endorse this proposal and sign the agreement without delay."

British Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond said the proposal "represents a genuine opportunity for the parties to resolve the political and security situation in Libya". European Council President Donald Tusk also urged to the rival camps to accept it. "I strongly encourage all the parties not to waste that opportunity. Libya has too few opportunities for lasting peace," Tusk said during a visit to Bulgaria. Previous deals to ensure a ceasefire and restore stability to the strife-torn country have fallen apart, and officials from both sides expressed skepticism after the announcement.

Turn Libya into 'joke'

Abdulsalam Bilashahir, of the Tripoli-based General National Congress, told the BBC: "We are not a part of this (proposed) government. It means nothing to us and we were not consulted." Ibrahim Alzaghari, from the internationally recognized House of Representatives based in Tobruk, was also quoted as saying: "This proposed government will lead to the division of Libya and will turn it into a joke. Mr Leon's choice was unwise."

But Leon said the new government list could be agreed by all sides. "Too many Libyans have lost their lives, too many children have been suffering, too many mothers have been suffering... around 2.4 million Libyans are in a situation of humanitarian need," he said. "I would like to ask all these Libyans to think of an opportunity for their country," said Leon. "This was not an easy task. We have been listening to many people, inside and outside the dialogue. And we believe that this list can work. "It is a quite reasonably good list of names, politicians, personalities that will do their best, I'm sure, to take their country out of this crisis," he said. — AFP

PENTAGON GIVES UP ON NEW REBEL FORCE

LONDON: The US is abandoning its goal of training a new force of moderate Syrian rebels and will focus on equipping and supporting established rebel groups already fighting against the Islamic State group inside Syria, officials said yesterday. The change, which has not yet been officially announced, reflects the failure of the current approach, which has produced only a handful of combat-ready moderate rebels and drawn widespread criticism in Congress.

Officials briefed on the new approach said it would focus heavily on equipping and enabling established Kurdish and Arab rebel groups rather than recruiting and vetting a new cadre of moderate rebels, training them at camps in Turkey and Jordan and re-inserting them into Syria. The \$500 million Congress provided last year for the program will be used more for equipping select rebel groups inside Syria, with limited training activity. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to discuss the change publicly.

Under the new approach, the US would provide communications gear, for example, to enable established rebel groups to coordinate US airstrikes in support of their ground operation, the officials said. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because details of the shift in approach had not yet been announced.

Embarrassing setbacks

The original program was beset with a series of embarrassing setbacks. The first group of trainees largely disbanded soon after they were sent into combat; some were captured or killed, while others fled. A second class yielded only a small number of new fighters, drawing criticism from US lawmakers who condemned the program as a joke and a failure. A Syrian rebel commander leading the trainees last week handed over a half-dozen vehicles to extremist militants.

US officials have said the new effort would focus more on embedding recruits with established Kurdish and Arab units, rather than sending them directly into front-line combat. "The work we've done with the Kurds in northern Syria is an example of an effective approach," US Defense Secretary Ash Carter told a news conference in London without providing any details of the new program. "That's exactly the kind of example that we would like to pursue with other groups in other parts of Syria going forward."

He called it a "more strategic approach" than what the U.S. has been doing from the beginning. "We have been looking for now several weeks at ways to improve that program," Carter said. "I wasn't satisfied with the early efforts in that regard." Instead of fighting IS in small units, the US-trained rebels would be attached to larger existing Kurdish and Arab forces. They would be equipped with US communications gear and trained to provide intelligence and to designate Islamic State targets for airstrikes in coordination with US troops outside of Syria, the officials said.

The top US commander in the Middle East, Gen Lloyd Austin, acknowledged that the program got off "to a slow start" and he told Congress that he looking at options that would best employ the moderate forces. Officials have also said the new plan also scales back the number of rebels the US expects to train from the initial 5,400 per year to a much smaller total. It also would streamline the vetting process designed to weed out terrorist infiltrators. — AP

PKK LEADER READY FOR NEW TURKEY CEASEFIRE

QANDIL: The Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) is ready for a new ceasefire with the Turkish authorities despite almost three months of deadly violence, one of its leaders told AFP in an interview at its stronghold in northern Iraq. The PKK, which since 1984 has waged an armed struggle for autonomy and greater rights for Kurds in Turkey, declared a ceasefire in March 2013. But it ripped up the truce in July this year, accusing the Turkish authorities of collaborating with Islamic State (IS) jihadists in Syria, allegations Ankara vehemently denies.

The Turkish authorities say over 140 members of the security forces have been killed in PKK attacks since and have hit back with a relentless bombing campaign against the group. "We are ourselves ready for a ceasefire from right now," Cemil Bayik told AFP in an interview in the group's stronghold of the Qandil Mountains of northern Iraq. But Bayik—who along with Murat Karayilan is considered the PKK's top commander on the ground in the absence of its jailed chief Abdullah Ocalan—warned of a drastic PKK response if Turkey continued its military campaign.

"If the Turkish government continues with its logic of war, whether we want it or not, other cemeteries will fill up and the conflict will extend to all of Turkey, Syria and the Middle East," Bayik added. Dressed in the grey battle fatigues favored by Kurdish militants and with a picture of Ocalan pinned into his lapel, Bayik accused President Recep Tayyip Erdogan of being to blame for the violence.

"We don't want war. We have tried to go down the political and democratic path to move the dialogue forwards," said Bayik. "But Erdogan held up the process," Bayik complained. "He made us believe that there was a dialogue. But his aim was to delay it as he never believed in it." Bayik, 64, said he still had hope of a peaceful solution, saying time had shown that violence was no way out. "If it was possible to solve this problem through war, then it would have been solved long ago," he said.

'Self defense'

The upsurge in violence has raised fears of whether there can ever be a final peace deal to end Turkey's conflict with the PKK, which has claimed 40,000 lives. But Bayik denied that the PKK was to blame for the flare-up, saying it was only acting in "legitimate self defense".

"All the guerilla movement is doing is to protect itself, it has still not entered into a war," he said. "What we see are young people stepping into the fray to protect themselves and the people and democracy." The Turkish authorities, by contrast, accuse the PKK of being bloodthirsty "terrorists" who have killed scores of young police and soldiers simply because they are in uniform.

Official Turkish media say some 1,740 PKK members have been killed in the military's air strikes in southeast Turkey and northern Iraq. But Bayik rubbished the suggestion that the death toll was anything on this scale. "It's just lies. As of now, we have lost 70 martyrs."

Meanwhile, he said that the Kurdish movement had been boosted by its involvement in the fight against Islamic State (IS) jihadists in northern Syria, a campaign backed by Europe and the United States. But the rebels in northern Iraq still live undercover, suspecting Turkish drones are watching them from the sky and awaiting the next air raid. These remote mountains represent their base, with portraits of Ocalan everywhere and Kalashnikov-touting fighters checking traffic at the entry to every village. The PKK's resumption of its campaign of violence also came at a critical political moment in Turkey. The ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) of Erdogan lost its overall majority in June 7 elections largely due to the success of pro-Kurdish forces.

After it failed to form a coalition, Turkey is now facing snap polls on November 1. Bayik accused Erdogan of reigniting the conflict with the PKK in revenge for the loss of the AKP's majority in the elections. But he suggested that the PKK could be ready to declare a ceasefire ahead of the elections with the aim of helping the pro-Kurdish Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) again score a strong result. — AFP



ISTANBUL: Selahattin Demirtas, leader of pro-Kurdish Peoples' Democracy Party (HDP), greets the crowd during an election campaign meeting. — AFP



MOREK: In this photo taken on Wednesday, Oct 7, 2015, Syrian army howitzers fire near the village. — AP

IS AT OUTSKIRTS OF ALEPPO DESPITE RUSSIA AIR STRIKES 'WARPLANES HIT 60 TERRORIST TARGETS'

BEIRUT: Islamic State group fighters advanced yesterday to the outskirts of Syria's second city Aleppo, despite 10 days of Russian air strikes that Moscow says are aimed at routing the jihadists. Moscow announced yesterday that its raids had killed several hundred IS fighters and hit more than 60 "terrorist targets" in Syria over the past 24 hours.

Deputy head of the Russian General Staff Lieutenant Igor Makushev told reporters that "Su-34M and SU-24SM warplanes hit 60 terrorist targets". He said Russia had bombed a command post in IS stronghold Raqa, killing two senior field commanders and some 200 fighters, according to intercepted radio communications. Strikes on Aleppo killed "some 100 militants", and other raids struck command posts and training camps in Latakia, Hama and Idlib.

Western governments say the vast majority of Russian strikes have targeted rebel groups other than IS in an attempt to defend President Bashar Al-Assad's rule. And despite the Russian raids, IS militants have reached their closest position yet to Aleppo in northern Syria, a monitoring group reported. "Dozens of combatants were killed on both sides" as IS drove out rebels from nearby localities as well as a military base, said Rami Abdel Rahman of the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

The jihadists are now just over 10 kilometers from the northern edges of Aleppo city and three kilometers from pro-regime forces positioned at the Sheikh Najjar industrial zone. "IS has never been so close to the city of Aleppo, and this is its biggest advance towards" the country's pre-war commercial capital, Abdel Rahman said.

Iranian general killed

Control of Aleppo is divided between rebel groups in the east and government forces, bolstered by pro-regime militias, in the west. IS has not had a presence in the city, but the jihadist group yesterday boasted it had "reached the gates of Aleppo".

"IS announced several times that it would launch an offensive on Aleppo without doing it. They were waiting for the right moment and took advance of Russian strikes on other rebels to advance," said jihadism analyst Romain Cailliet. Thomas Pierret, an expert on Islam in Syria, said the US-led coalition bombing IS in Syria was "not very active" in Aleppo, and that Russia's strikes there had hit mostly rebels, allowing IS to push forward.

Iran's Revolutionary Guards announced one of its senior commanders was killed by IS in the Aleppo area on Thursday, without giving the exact circumstances. A Guards statement said General Hossein Hamedani had played an "important role... reinforcing the front of Islamic resistance against the terrorists" but was killed "during an advisory mission".

The Observatory said Hamedani was the highest-ranking Iranian casualty of the Syrian conflict. It said he was killed near Kweyris, a military airport in Aleppo province under siege by IS. Shiite-dominated Iran is a staunch ally of Assad, sending Guards forces and military advisers to aid him against Sunni rebels seeking his overthrow. Lebanese Shiite group Hezbollah has done much of the fighting to prop up Assad's army, though the commander of the Revolutionary Guards foreign wing, Qassem Soleimani, is said

to be heavily involved in strategic planning.

Moscow denies missile crash

French Defence Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian said yesterday that "80 to 90 percent" of Russian strikes in Syria were aimed at propping up Assad. He was speaking after French warplanes carried out new strikes overnight on IS targets in Syria, where Paris launched its first raids on September 27.

According to the Observatory, 16 IS jihadists including three child soldiers were killed in the raids which hit "a training camp" on the southern edges of Raqa city. The Russian air war has provided cover for Assad's ground troops, who have lost swathes of the country to jihadists and rebel groups since 2011.

The campaign has been critical for the regime's fight in Sahl Al-Ghab, a strategic plain in Hama province bordering both the regime's coastal bastion of Latakia and the rebel stronghold of Idlib province. Syria's army announced a "vast offensive" on Thursday, advancing near Sahl Al-Ghab from both the Hama and Latakia fronts with Russian air support. Moscow denied a US claim that four Syria-bound Russian cruise missiles fired from the Caspian Sea had crashed in Iran on Wednesday.

"Any professional knows that during these operations we always fix the target before and after impact. All our cruise missiles hit their target," spokesman General Igor Konashenkov said. Iran declined to confirm the claim by a US official, who did not provide details about where the missiles might have come down or if they caused any damage. — AFP

BOKO HARAM VICTIMS LEARN TO SMILE AGAIN

ASSAGA: In a shed at the heart of the Assaga refugee camp in southeast Niger, around 50 children sing and dance, masking the deep emotional trauma inflicted on them by Boko Haram. Nearby, little girls who fled the brutal Islamists in neighboring Nigeria huddle around jigsaw puzzles, while barefoot young boys in ragged clothes or shirtless play football and table tennis.

The camp has no school, but staff from UN agencies and specialized charities do their best to help the youngsters, who make up the majority of the around 6,000 refugees here who were routed from their villages by Boko Haram. Special help is being provided by psychologists to 1,011 of the children, seen as among the most vulnerable victims of the violence, to adapt to a new life, often in the wake of terrible events. "Many children were witnesses or the direct victims of atrocities by Boko Haram," says Adama Cossimbo, head of the psychological help centre financed by the

Italian non-governmental organization COOPI. "Boko Haram forced some children to watch their mothers or sisters being raped," a UN relief worker says. "Others saw their father or their brother having his throat slit." The trauma was so severe for some that when they first arrived in Assaga, they would not eat or speak, he adds.

'On the right path'

According to COOPI, many of the children show signs of mental illness. "We're developing games and activities to strengthen their resilience after the trauma they've endured," says Cossimbo, who works with a psychologist and teachers. Along with sports and games, relief workers give puzzles and memory quizzes to the children cared for at the centre. Two months on, Cossimbo is optimistic. "They sing and seem to be their old cheerful selves... We're on the right path towards their 'reconstruction'," he claims with pride. Nine-year-old Ali lost part of his family in a Boko

Haram raid and has said nothing for days on end, but he manages to whisper: "I escaped from Boko Haram and I feel good here."

For Ali's father, wealthy bell pepper grower Elhadj Gremah, forced exile is sheer "humiliation".

"In the village, my children had all they needed to eat. Here they don't go to school and they sometimes sleep on empty stomachs," he complains. At Assaga, huts supported with tree branches compete with standard-issue tents provided by the United Nations. First created by UN staff three months ago, the camp looks like a shantytown.

'Severe security crisis'

The UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) estimates that some 1.4 million children have fled Islamist attacks in Nigeria and neighboring Niger, Cameroon and Chad in the past five months. These regional nations have joined

forces against Boko Haram as the Islamists have launched bloody cross-border raids. "The flow of refugees and the lack of resources seriously compromise our ability to provide vital aid on the ground," the UN agency recently reported.

During a visit to the Diffa zone in mid-September, Toby Lanzer, the UN regional humanitarian coordinator for the Sahel, remarked on the "very severe security crisis" at Assaga. "The situation here is atrocious," he added. "People are traumatized." Diffa has for three years been confronted with food shortages because of successive periods of drought and floods. The arrival of about 150,000 refugees since 2013 has worsened the situation for local poor people. "We have to act right now to save lives," insists Rotimy Djossaya, the local chief of the American NGO CARE. The authorities warn that Niger, a deeply poor country, could face another food crisis in 2016 because of a poor harvest. —AFP

HUNGARY WARNS ABOUT MIGRATION'S SECURITY

BALATONFURED: Solidarity with refugees escaping war must not overshadow concerns about human trafficking and the threat from extremists, Hungary's president said yesterday. While "the humanitarian aspects are very important, especially with the coming winter ... we would be making a big political mistake if we neglect the criminal and national security aspects of this migration wave," Janos Ader said.

Ader spoke in the resort town of Balatonfured during a meeting of the so-called Visegrad Group, which also includes Poland, the Czech Republic and Slovakia. The president of Croatia also attended. Polish President Andrzej Duda emphasized that the European Union's plan to distribute 120,000 refugees on a per-country quota was "not an effective solution" to the migrant crisis, even though Poland voted in favor of the EU scheme.

Duda said the large number of migrants reaching Croatia, Hungary, Italy or Greece was "a problem of the whole European Union and that is how this issue should be approached." Although the other Visegrad countries have agreed to send police and soldiers to help patrol Hungary's border with Croatia - an unusual action that would see troops from EU countries at the border of a fellow EU member - Croatian President Kolinda Grabar-Kitarovic avoided expressing an opinion.

The foreign troops will help Hungary patrol a fence protected with razor wire it is building on the border with Croatia to control the flow of migrants. A similar fence completed Sept 15 on the border with Serbia has forced thousands of migrants every day to detour through Croatia to reach Hungary, from where they travel on to Germany and other richer EU destinations. While the fence on the Croatian border is practically finished, too, Hungary said it would not clamp down until consultations with Germany and Austria, among others. —AP



ROME: Eritrean refugees wave as they board an Italian Financial police aircraft which will take them to Sweden, at Rome's Ciampino airport. —AP

FIRST ASYLUM SEEKERS LEAVE UNDER EU RELOCATION PLAN

SCHEME TO EASE BURDEN OF MIGRANT CRISIS

ROME: A small group of Eritreans left Italy for Sweden yesterday, the first contingent of asylum seekers to be relocated under a much-contested European Union scheme to ease the burden of the migration crisis on frontline countries. Grinning shyly before the media, 19 young Eritreans-five women and 14 men-waved and blew kisses as they boarded a small propeller plane at Rome's Ciampino airport after hugging members of the Red Cross and UN Refugee agency goodbye.

"Today is an important day for the European Union, it is a day of victory... for those who believe in Europe, for those who believed in saving human lives," Italian Interior Minister Angelino Alfano told journalists after the departure. "It is a defeat for those who claim it is better for the Mediterranean to become a lake of death... and believe that scaring the European people is the way forward," he added.

The scheme follows months of tensions over the more than 600,000 people who have flooded into Europe this year. EU migration commissioner Dimitris Avramopoulos and Luxembourg minister Jean Asselborn, whose country holds the EU presidency, were in Rome to launch the relocation of 160,000 refugees from Italy and Greece to other member states in the 28-nation bloc over the next two years.

Baby drowns off Greece

The plan, which hopes to help ease the bloc's worst migration crisis since World War II, was only given the green light after Brussels flatly overruled stiff opposition from Eastern European nations. "This is a tangible example of what we can do when we work together. We are nations of immigrants and we've made an important step forwards," Avramopoulos said, adding that it showed "Italy is not alone."

Alfano said Italy was ready to relocate 100 more asylum seekers who would go to Germany and the Netherlands, and the UNHCR said further relocations would take place from Italy at the beginning of next week. "This is a significant day, a positive and important one," the UN refugee agency's southern Europe spokeswoman, Carlotta Sami, told AFP. "But we know more must be done. There is a great need for measures to be put in place to allow (asylum seekers) to arrive in Europe safely," she said, referring to perilous boat crossings in the Mediterranean which have cost over 3,000 people their lives this year alone as many flee wars and persecution.

A baby thought to be about a year old was the latest victim, drowning off the Greek island of Lesbos during the night when a dinghy carrying about 55 Syrians from Turkey began sinking in the dark, Greece's ministry of shipping said yesterday. —AFP

NEPAL PARLIAMENT TO ELECT NEW PM

KATHMANDU: Nepal yesterday announced plans to elect a new prime minister this weekend, three weeks after the country adopted a new constitution that triggered deadly protests and a border blockade. Incumbent prime minister Sushil Koirala had pledged to step down after the constitution-Nepal's first to be drawn up by elected representatives-was adopted on September 20.

He announced on October 2 he would ask the president to begin the process of forming a new government. After parties failed to agree on a consensus candidate for

prime minister, President Ram Baran Yadav asked parliament to vote, speaker Subash Chandra Nembang told lawmakers. "I have fixed the election for the post of the prime minister... on Sunday at 11 in the morning," Nembang said.

Parties have a day to register their nominations. If none of the candidates is able to secure a simple majority, the speaker will set a date for re-elections to be held. The constitution marks the final stage in a peace process that began when Maoist rebels laid down their arms in

2006 after a decade-long insurgency. The charter was meant to end years of inequality and cement peace but bitter disputes over its provisions have sparked violent protests and a blockade of a key trade route by demonstrators that has forced nationwide fuel rationing. More than 40 people have been killed in clashes between police and protesters representing ethnic minorities who say a new federal structure laid out in the constitution will leave them under-represented in the national parliament. — AFP



MUMBAI: Motorcyclists drive past the Shanmukhananda auditorium where Pakistani singer Ghulam Ali concert was supposed to be held. — AP

HARDLINERS BLOCK SINGER'S CONCERT

NEW DELHI: A local Hindu nationalist party has protested the presence of a Pakistani singer and forced organizers to cancel his concert in Mumbai, India's entertainment capital. Akshay Bardapurkar, a Shiv Sena leader, said inviting Pakistani singer Ghulam Ali to perform was an insult to all Indians as he belongs to a country which is firing bullets and killing Indian soldiers on their border.

Ali was to perform in Mumbai yesterday, but the organizers canceled the show as Shiv Sena has a history of disrupting concerts by Pakistani artists. India and Pakistan have recently accused each other of unprovoked firing along their disputed border in Kashmir, killing some soldiers and civilians on both sides.

Ali said he was disappointed by the organizers' decision, but promised to perform in New Delhi in December at the invitation of Arvind Kejriwal, the Indian capital's top elected leader. "The atmosphere is not conducive for me to perform. ... I am not angry, I am hurt," Ali told reporters on Thursday. However, he has been invited by the top elected officials in two Indian states to hold concerts in West Bengal and New Delhi.

Arvind Kejriwal, the top elected official in New Delhi, tweeted yesterday: "I am a big fan of yours. Thanks for agreeing to do a program in Delhi in December." Mumbai is the capital of western Maharashtra state, which is ruled by the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party in coalition with Shiv Sena. The concert was canceled despite assurances by the state's top elected official, Devendra Fadnavis, that Ali was welcome to perform in Mumbai and that his government would give him "full protection."

Pakistan High Commissioner to India Abdul Basit said he regretted the decision. "Our position is very clear, we encourage people-to-people contacts, we encourage our artists to visit both sides and perform," he said. — AP

EXPATS TENSED AFTER FOREIGNERS GUNNED DOWN IN BANGLADESH ARE ISLAMIC RADICALS GETTING A FOOTHOLD?

DHAKA: The cafes and restaurants are empty. The chatter of guests in hotel lobbies has gone quiet. The high-walled embassy compounds are even more closely guarded. The recent killings of two foreigners in Bangladesh - an Italian and a Japanese - has spooked tourists and expatriates in the impoverished South Asian nation, raising alarms about whether Islamic radicals are gaining a foothold and whether foreigners are safe in the moderate, secular nation.

The Islamic State claimed responsibility for both killings, but the Bangladeshi government denied the extremist Sunni militant group was involved. Instead, it accused the opposition of supporting a conspiracy to destabilize the country of 160 million - a charge the opposition denies. Any lost confidence in security could damage the country's economy, which relies heavily on foreign aid and investment. Already, hotels and shops catering to the foreign community said they were seeing losses.

"The killings are affecting our business. We had to cancel some bookings," said one five-star hotel manager in Dhaka, asking that neither she nor the hotel be identified for fear of hurting business further. Another hotel manager, also refusing to be identified, said they had increased security staffing and video surveillance. "If there is any suspicion," he said, "our people in plainclothes are working around the hotel."

Stunned many

Last week's near-identical attacks on Italian Cesare Tavella and Japan's Kunio Hoshi - both were gunned down in daylight by motorcycle-riding youths - stunned many in Bangladesh for targeting two foreigners who had been living in Bangladesh for agricultural projects meant to help the poor. Tavella was shot in the diplomatic quarter of Dhaka, while Hoshi was attacked five days later in a village 300 kilometers to the north.

Most of the 224,000 foreigners living in Bangladesh work for embassies, aid groups or one of the many international clothing retailers that are part of the \$25 billion garment industry, a pillar of the economy. Several countries, including the US, Netherlands and Spain, have asked their embassy staff to stay away from crowded places and travel in covered vehicles. Twelve foreigners approached for comment this week declined to speak with The Associated Press for fear of drawing attention to themselves.

Bangladeshi business consultant Shoaib Aziz said his Japanese wife was "upset and not feeling comfortable" about returning home from Japan, while many of his clients including Japanese businesses "are delaying their planned tour of Bangladesh. They have factories here, but are waiting and rescheduling." Medical equipment importer Nur Ahmed, who frequently visits foreign clubs including the US Embassy's American Club, said they were emptying early as foreigners were heading home before dark.

The government insists they have the situation under control, and has sent officials to reassure diplomats and pledged increased security. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has built her reputation on promises of cracking down on radicals, banning six hardline militant groups while police arrested dozens suspected of members in recent years. While the government of the country is secular and traditionally moderate, the emergence of Islamist political groups has created a clear divide between moderates and radicals and contributed to political instability.

'Fight the emergence'

US Ambassador Marcia Bernicat said this week that embassy staff felt safer after the government's reassurances, while praising Hasina's "zero tolerance" against terrorism and saying "we have everything we need to fight the emergence of ISIL in Bangladesh," using another acronym referring to the Islamic State.

Bangladesh has been struggling with a rising tide of radical Islam. At least four secular bloggers and online activists have been hacked to death with meat cleavers this year in attacks claimed by groups linked with the banned group Ansarullah Bangla Team. This week, a Christian pastor survived a knife attack by youths allegedly aligned with Islamic militants.

Bangladesh's economy cannot afford a reputation as a hotbed of Islamic extremism. Its economy depends on a \$25 billion garment industry that supplies international clothing brands. With little infrastructure and fewer resources, it has struggled to attract foreign investment in other sectors. The killings of foreigners "can only make matters worse, since image also plays an important role in the case of economic decisions," Fahmida Khatun, research director of the Dhaka-based think tank Center for Policy Dialogue, wrote in an opinion piece published Monday in the country's Daily Star newspaper.

Over the last year, Hasina has signed a slew of investment deals to set up special economic zones with countries including Japan, China and India, promising they would bring billions of dollars in foreign investment and drive further growth for the country's economy. "This is alarming. Such killings will create panic among foreigners," said SR Masum, a political science student at Dhaka University. "People want to know what is going on. We are not at ease." — AP



DHAKA: In this Oct 6, 2015 photo, a foreigner, second from right, walks on a street. — AP

PHILIPPINES IN TALKS TO RECEIVE REFUGEES

SYDNEY: Australia is in talks to send refugees who try to reach its shores illegally to the Philippines, the immigration minister said yesterday. Australia already has a multi-million dollar deal to resettle refugees from an Australia-run detention camp on the Pacific nation of Nauru to Cambodia. But so far, only four refugees have taken up the offer of cash, free health insurance and accommodation to move from Nauru to the Cambodian capital of Phnom Penh. That has prompted critics to dub the deal an expensive flop and sent the government looking for another solution.

Australia refuses to accept any refugees who attempt to reach its shores by boat. It pays Nauru and Papua New Guinea, which has a detention center on Manus Island, to hold them instead. Yesterday, Immigration Minister Peter Dutton confirmed that the government has been in talks with several countries, including the Philippines, about possibly resettling its refugees in those nations. "We have been very open to discussions for a long period of time

with those partners because we have been very clear about the fact that people on Nauru and people on Manus who have sought to come to our country illegally by boat won't be settling in Australia," Dutton told reporters in Canberra, the nation's capital. "We have a bilateral arrangement with Cambodia. If we can strike other arrangements with other countries, we will do that."

The Cambodia deal has been widely condemned by human rights groups, who say the southeast Asian nation is hardly an ideal home for refugees given its long history of poverty, corruption and human rights abuses. The potential for a deal with the Philippines prompted similar concerns. Dutton was asked what guarantees of safety Australia could give refugees who resettle in a nation that is grappling with violent kidnappings and terrorism.

Voluntary basis

"We can provide the same guarantees that we can to Australians that travel to the Philippines each year, the

expats that live in the Philippines and across Southeast Asia or other parts of the world," Dutton replied, adding that refugees would be resettled there only on a voluntary basis. Dutton declined to release further details, including a timeframe for the deal or how many refugees could be resettled. In Manila, Department of Foreign Affairs spokesman Charles Jose said without elaborating yesterday that Australia's proposal was "under consultation," adding that Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario and his Australian counterpart, Julie Bishop, discussed the matter among other things on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York. Ian Rintoul, Sydney-based director of the Australian advocacy group Refugee Action Coalition, said the potential deal demonstrates how desperate the government has become to find an alternative to its Cambodia program. He doubts many refugees would be eager to relocate to the Philippines. "The issues that are very real in Cambodia are just as real in the Philippines," Rintoul said. —AP



SYDNEY: Anti-Muslim protesters hold up placards and shout slogans outside the Parramatta Mosque. — AFP

AUSTRALIAN MULLAH TELLS VIOLENT MUSLIMS TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY

'WE DO NOT NEED SCUMBAGS IN THE COMMUNITY'

SYDNEY: The leader of the Sydney mosque attended by a 15-year-old who killed a police worker has called for an end to violent extremism, saying yesterday that Muslims who reject Australian values should leave the country.

Radicalised Farhad Jabar, who shot dead the 58-year-old last week while reportedly shouting religious slogans before dying in a gunbattle with police, was a regular at the mosque in the western multi-cultural Parramatta district. Mosque chairman Neil El-Kadomi explained to reporters what he had told the faithful at morning prayers and ahead of a planned evening protest by right-wingers to close the building down.

"I said you waited long time to come to this country. You should not abuse the privilege you are Australian, which is very important.

"Get out. We do not need scumbags in the community. "We reject terrorism." Kadomi said Muslim youth needed education, adding that Jabar was too young "to know what he was doing."

CCTV footage from Parramatta mosque reportedly shows Jabar meeting several men there on the day of the killing, although police have not confirmed this. Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull also advised people to leave if Australian values were "unpalatable". "It is not compulsory to live in Australia," he told a press conference urging Australians not to go down the path of violent extremism. "If you find Australian values, you know, unpalatable, then there's a big wide world out there and people have got freedom of movement."

'Call out hatred'

Turnbull, who met earlier in the day with figures from the

Muslim community, asked his countrymen to "call out hatred" saying "violent extremism is a challenge to the most fundamental Australian values". "The success of our society is founded on mutual respect and we have to recognize that people who preach hatred, preach extremism, are undermining the success of this extraordinary country," he said.

Yesterday also saw the Grand Mufti of Australia, Ibrahim Abu Mohamed, and other community and religious leaders address the media amid rising community tensions. Mohamed said violent religious extremism was a rare but serious issue threatening the whole community. "Sadly, a very, very small number of Australians of Muslim faith have chosen this path," he said.

Police issued a warning ahead of the planned Parramatta protest called by a far-right group. "Police want to remind any member of the public against engaging in reprisal actions or inciting violence against any community group or individuals," a statement said. Canberra is concerned at the prospect of lone-wolf attacks by individuals inspired by groups such as Islamic State, and has cracked down on Australians attempting to travel to conflict zones including Syria and Iraq.

The authorities lifted their terror threat alert to high a year ago, introduced new national security laws and have conducted several counter-terrorism raids. In September 2014, Melbourne police shot dead a "known terror suspect" who stabbed two officers and in December, Iranian-born self-styled cleric Man Haron Monis and two hostages were killed following a 17-hour siege at a Sydney cafe. — AFP

HK UNIVERSITY PROTESTS FOR ACADEMIC FREEDOM

HONG KONG: More than a thousand students, alumni and teachers joined a protest at Hong Kong University yesterday evening as anger mounts over political interference in the city's education system. Protests have gathered pace since the appointment of a liberal law scholar to a senior administrative post at HKU was rejected last week. The university's council, which has a number of members seen as pro-Beijing, voted against Johannes Chan becoming pro-vice chancellor.

Some members of the council, HKU's top decision-making body, are appointed by the city's unpopular leader Leung Chun-ying. Chan was a close colleague of pro-democracy leader Benny Tai, also an academic at HKU. Tai helped orchestrate last year's mass pro-democracy protests which brought parts of the semi-autonomous Chinese city to a standstill.

Protesters yesterday were dressed in black and gathered around a stage set up outside the university library. Some were wearing t-shirts with the Martin Luther King quote: "Nothing in the world is more dangerous than sincere ignorance and conscientious stupidity." "We should ask whether the government is trying so hard to destroy Hong Kong's tertiary education that it doesn't care about the consequences," education lawmaker Ip Kin-yuen told reporters. "It's a threat to Hong Kong as a whole."

Wednesday saw 2,000 students, professors and alumni gather at the HKU campus for a silent march. On Thursday, academic staff from across the city's universities and higher education institutions launched a new group—the Scholars' Alliance for Academic Freedom (SAAF). They said it would "pay close attention" to academic freedoms in Hong Kong and examine any violations.

"Academic freedom can only exist through perpetual awareness, insistence and collective work," it said in a statement. "We are aware of the storm and the darkness that awaits us; we have no choice but to face it head on and walk against the wind." Anger was stoked further yesterday after reports in local media that Leung had met with HKU vice-chancellor Peter Mathieson in August and September, ahead of the decisive council meeting.

Once a British colony, Hong Kong was handed back to China in 1997 under a deal which guaranteed the retention of its civil liberties and capitalist lifestyle for 50 years. But teachers report increasing self-censorship over political issues for fear of losing jobs. In 2012, tens of thousands marched against "national education", a government proposal to introduce Beijing-centric patriotic teaching into schools. The plan was dropped.

GOP IN TURMOIL AFTER SPEAKER RACE WITHDRAWAL

MCCARTHY'S ASTONISHINGLY DECIDES TO ABANDON CAMPAIGN

WASHINGTON: Jolted by political lightning for the second time in two weeks, House Republicans are staring at turmoil and uncertainty after Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy's astonishing decision to abandon his campaign to become the chamber's next speaker. GOP lawmakers, who lately have acted more like feuding relatives than a unified party, were meeting soon to discuss their next move. On Thursday, Republicans munching barbecue at a closed-door meeting where they seemed ready to coronate McCarthy as their candidate for speaker were aghast when the Californian rose and told them he wouldn't seek the job.

Facing opposition from a band of hard-right conservatives, some McCarthy supporters said he concluded he would have fallen short of the 218 votes needed when the full House formally elects the speaker. Others said he could have won but GOP lawmakers backing him would have infuriated conservative constituents back home, jeopardizing their own careers.

"It was only going to get worse," McCarthy said in an interview published Thursday night by The Wall Street Journal. He added, "This was for the good of the team." McCarthy's announcement leaves the race to succeed the departing Speaker John Boehner wide open. The Ohio Republican delivered his own shocker on Sept. 25 when he said he would retire from Congress Oct. 30. "Two people now have taken themselves out of the running," said Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, R-Fla. "And I hope we will have candidate who can lift up our party."

Nearing rivals

Boehner said he would remain in his job until a new speaker was installed, an ironic consequence considering conservatives' desire to shove him out the door. That election was set for Oct. 29, but its date is now uncertain. Attempting to calm the waters, 19 Republicans including sev-



WASHINGTON: House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy of California leaves a news conference on Capitol Hill after dropping out of the race to replace House Speaker John Boehner. — AP

eral committee chairs wrote GOP lawmakers that they shouldn't pick a speaker until agreeing on "a shared set of goals and governing vision that benefits the nation and our constituents."

McCarthy had two rivals for the post, Reps Jason Chaffetz, R-Utah, and Daniel Webster, R-Fla. Although neither had broad backing among the House's 247 Republicans. Several other potential candidates surfaced. Chief among them was Rep Paul Ryan, R-Wis, the GOP's 2012 vice presidential pick. Boehner and McCarthy were pressing him to seek the job.

At midday, Ryan, who chairs the House Ways and Means Committee, said he was uninterested in the top post. With pressure mounting, he later declined to flatly rule out a run. "I think our con-

ference will come together and unify. We'll find a way to do it," he told reporters. And on Friday, Rep. Darrell Issa said in a nationally broadcast interview, "I think that I can be potentially a candidate." Appearing on MSNBC's "Morning Joe" program, Issa said the Freedom Caucus is being unfairly accused of being willing to shut down the government if its members don't get their way on conservative causes such as stripping Planned Parenthood of its federal funding.

"They've been denied by the K St, if you will, influence," said Issa of the House conservatives, referring to capital city neighborhood where many lobbyists are based. The tumult was escalating as the GOP-run Congress hurtled toward showdowns with President Barack Obama over

spending and borrowing. If not resolved, those face-offs could result in a partial government shutdown or an unprecedented federal default.

Veto priorities

Boehner and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky, believe either scenario would severely wound GOP prospects in next year's presidential and congressional elections. Some conservatives seem eager to use the confrontations to dare Obama to veto GOP priorities like cutting government spending and halting federal payments to Planned Parenthood.

After McCarthy revealed his decision to his colleagues - lawmakers said he did so standing beside his wife, Judy - the five-term lawmaker told reporters, "If we are going to be strong, we've got to be 100 percent united." McCarthy had been strongly opposed by a band of 30 to 40 conservatives called the House Freedom Caucus. They consider him too close to Boehner, whose leadership team had punished some conservatives by removing them from committees.

Underscoring the distrust buffeting the GOP, conservative Rep. Thomas Massie, R-Ky., said he believed the leaders postponed the speaker vote because McCarthy couldn't win. "The question in my mind is, are these free and fair elections?" Massie said. "If they don't have the votes next time, will they postpone it again?"

Other Republicans fired back. Moderate Rep. Charlie Dent, R-Pa., a McCarthy supporter, said he'd predicted that Republicans who forced Boehner's departure "will try to frag the next guy. That's what we just saw happen." Spotlighting the turbulence, Rep. Reid Ribble, R-Wis., became the second lawmaker in a month to leave the Freedom Caucus. A McCarthy supporter, he said he has "a clear idea of the qualities a leader will need" to unite Republicans. Rep. Tom McClintock, R-Calif., quit in September, complaining that the caucus' tactics were hurting the GOP. — AP

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TRUMP SAYS BOWE BERGDAHL SHOULD HAVE BEEN EXECUTED

LAS VEGAS: Republican presidential front-runner Donald Trump said Thursday that Army Sgt Bowe Bergdahl should have been executed for leaving his post in Afghanistan. "We're tired of Sgt Bergdahl, who's a traitor, a no-good traitor, who should have been executed," Trump said to cheers at a rowdy rally inside a packed Las Vegas theater at the casino-hotel Treasure Island.

"Thirty years ago," Trump added, "he would have been shot." It was practically an aside in a litany of complaints at the end of a more than hour-long, free-wheeling speech that included a large dose of media-bashing and a claim that he was behind Rep Kevin McCarthy's decision to drop out of the race

for House speaker. Bergdahl was charged in March with desertion and misbehavior before the enemy. The Army conducted a hearing on his case earlier this month. His attorney, Eugene Fidell, said in a statement that Trump "has become a broken record on this subject." "If he took the time to study what actually emerged at the preliminary hearing he would be singing a different tune," Fidell said.

Trump has, in the past, pantomimed a firing squad, Fidell said. Bergdahl has been accused of leaving his post in southeastern Afghanistan in June 2009. He was held prisoner by the Taliban for five years, then exchanged for five Taliban commanders

being held by the US. Trump has long railed against the deal.

The speech was punctuated by shouts of support from the crowd that filled about 1,620 seats in the Las Vegas Strip casino theater normally reserved for acrobatic Cirque du Soleil productions. At one point, in a moment that appeared to be impromptu, Trump brought a supporter in the audience to the stage who declared she is Hispanic and voting for Trump. Myriam Witcher, 35, of Las Vegas, waved an issue of People magazine with Trump and his family on the cover, asking Trump to sign it.

Afterward, the Colombian immigrant, who noted she came to the United States

legally, called Trump her "No 1 person in the United States." His speech spanned a spider-web of topics that included his disdain for media coverage, many of his fellow Republican presidential candidates and current political leadership as well as Thursday's news that McCarthy had dropped out of a race for House speaker. "You know, Kevin McCarthy is out. You know that, right?" he asked the crowd. "And they're giving me a lot of credit for that because I said you really need somebody very, very tough and very smart. ... We need smart, we need tough, we need the whole package." Trump didn't identify who had given him credit for McCarthy dropping out. — AP



OREGON: Gary Shamblin of Winston prepares to leave a parking lot in his 1934 International truck displaying a sign he made reflecting his views on President Barack Obama's planned visit to the area. — AP

OBAMA FOCUS ON CONDOLENCES, NOT GUN LAWS, IN OREGON VISIT

MUTING MESSAGE ON STEMMING VIOLENCE

WASHINGTON: President Barack Obama is bringing words of comfort and sympathy to grieving families of victims of the shooting rampage at an Oregon university, muting his message about the need for new laws to stem gun violence as he visits an area where firearms are popular.

Obama will talk with family members at the start of a four-day West Coast trip. Eight community college students and a teacher in the town of Roseburg were killed before the gunman fatally shot himself in front of his victims after he was wounded by police. Staunchly conservative Douglas County is bristling with gun owners who use their firearms for hunting, target shooting and self-protection. A commonly held opinion in the area is that the solution to mass killings is more people carrying guns, not fewer.

"The fact that the college didn't permit guards to carry guns, there was no one there to stop this man," said Craig Schlesinger, pastor at the Garden Valley Church. Referring to potential protesters,

White House spokesman Josh Earnest said: "Those individuals have nothing to fear. The fact is the president has made clear that the goal of his visit is to spend time with the families of those who are so deeply affected by this terrible tragedy."

Poignant moments

In the wake of the shooting, a visibly angry Obama said that thoughts and prayers are no longer enough and that changes to the nation's gun laws are needed. Some of the most poignant moments of Obama's presidency have occurred in his role as consoler-in-chief. In Charleston, South Carolina, he led the grieving in singing "Amazing Grace" after gunman killed nine black churchgoers. He read the first names of the 20 elementary school students killed in Newtown, Connecticut, and asked how the nation can honestly say it's doing enough to keep its children safe from harm.

This time, the White House says, the meeting is private. Obama was already

scheduled to go to the West Coast trip when the shooting occurred, and the White House adjusted his schedule to include Roseburg. The shooting has sparked new talk about gun violence, though history suggests that prospects for enacting legislation are highly unlikely. Republican lawmakers are talking about the need to take up legislation designed to improve mental health care. Democrats are pitching the formation of a special committee to investigate gun violence, similar to what the Republican-led House established to investigate the 2012 attacks in Benghazi, Libya, that killed four Americans.

"No proposal is going to stop every shooting, but we can come up with solutions that stop some tragedies," said Democratic Rep. Mike Thompson of California, the leader of the proposal for a special committee. Earnest has cited requiring background checks for all firearms purchases at gun shows "as the kind of obvious thing that we believe that Congress should do." — AP

TRAIN ATTACK HERO STABBED IN BRAWL

LOS ANGELES: One of three Americans who helped thwart a terror attack on a Paris-bound train was stabbed in his home state of California—apparently after coming to a woman's rescue, authorities said Thursday.

Airman Spencer Stone, 23, was stabbed in Sacramento after he got into a fight with a group of men as he was leaving a bar with friends, Ken Bernard, the city's deputy chief of police, told reporters. He said police received a call at 12:46 am from a passerby who witnessed the incident. Bernard said officers who arrived at the scene found Stone with multiple stab wounds to his upper torso.

He was rushed to a nearby hospital where he was listed in serious condition after undergoing two hours of surgery. "He is currently being treated for what appears to be non-life threatening but very significant injuries," Bernard said, adding that two male Asian suspects were being sought in connection with the attack. A source close to the investigation told AFP that Stone was apparently trying to defend a woman being harassed by a group of men outside the bar when an argument escalated and he got stabbed. It was unclear if the woman was with Stone.

"A woman was being harassed and he got involved," said the source, who spoke on condition of anonymity. The source said several of those in Stone's group—three women and another man—were drunk but it was unclear if Stone himself was inebriated. Video footage of the incident caught by a nearby surveillance camera and released by US media shows Stone fighting off a group of men who scatter when what appears to be a police car arrives at the scene. A red stain can be seen spreading on Stone's white shirt. Another surveillance video released by police shows the two alleged suspects involved in the altercation running and getting into a car that quickly drives off.

Heroes parade

Bernard said the assault was in no way related to a terrorist act or to the train attack that Stone and two of his friends helped foil while vacationing in France. Just weeks ago, the town of Sacramento staged a "Heroes Parade" in honor of the trio. Stone suffered deep slash wounds as he helped to overpower a heavily-armed gunman, 25-year-old Moroccan Ayoub El Khazzani, on August 21. Armed with a pistol, an assault rifle and 270 rounds of ammunition, Khazzani is accused of seeking to massacre passengers on the Amsterdam-Paris train. Stone was awarded the Legion of Honor, France's highest decoration, along with Army National Guard Specialist Alek Skarlatos and Anthony Sadler, a civilian.

The trio was also invited to the White House by President Barack Obama and Stone received a Purple Heart and an Airman's Medal from the Pentagon. Stone had only just returned to work at Travis Air Force Base near Sacramento. Skarlatos also had a near miss last week. The 22-year-old had been due to attend the college in Oregon where a gunman went on a rampage, killing nine people. The only reason he was not at Umpqua Community College in Roseburg, he says, was the attention he has been getting since the train attack. Instead, he was in Los Angeles rehearsing for this season's "Dancing With the Stars," in which he has been invited to compete, when he heard of the shooting and rushed back to Roseburg where he is assigned to an infantry unit. "If I didn't get called for 'Dancing' I would have been on campus," Skarlatos said. "I mean, it's just absolutely insane to be in a situation like this, especially in my town, Roseburg." Skarlatos issued a message of support on Thursday, tweeting: "Everybody send prayers out to the Stone family today." — AFP

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LIMA: International Monetary Fund (IMF) Managing Director Christine Lagarde (center) laughs while attending a forum at the annual meetings of the World Bank Group and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), with Governor of the Bank of England, Mark Carney (right) and Brazil's Minister of Finance, Joaquim Levy, in Lima on Thursday. — AP

CHINA MUST SHOW 'WILL' TO REFORM: US

GROWTH, CLIMATE IN FOCUS AS WORLD ECONOMIC LEADERS MEET

LIMA: China needs to show the world it is going to follow through on reforming its economy to a more market and consumption-based model, US Treasury Secretary Jack Lew said.

"China has undertaken a reform program... that would address many of the important challenges that China is facing. The question now is, do they have the will to stick with that and to demonstrate through their action that they're sticking with that," Lew told journalists on the sidelines of the IMF and World Bank meetings in Lima, Peru. The world's second-largest economy has begun transitioning from an export-based economic model toward a lower-growth, more consumption-driven model.

China has also announced reforms in how it manages the yuan, allowing its currency to float more freely after years of US criticisms that it is artificially undervalued to dope exports. Lew also welcomed a new plan due to be adopted at the Lima meeting that aims to crack down on multinational corporations'

use of tax havens to avoid paying taxes in the countries where they actually do business.

"We can't get into a beggar-thy-neighbor kind of economic policy making," he said. He also urged his own country to avoid jeopardizing its budding economic recovery with gridlock in Congress, which must raise the US borrowing limit again by November 5 or risk a credit default.

Congress, which is controlled by President Barack Obama's Republican opponents, must also craft a budget agreement before December 11 or face a government shutdown.

"We have stable growth right now and we'd certainly love stronger growth... but the question is will we muster the political will to avoid self-inflicting wounds that come from political stalemates," Lew said.

China slowdown hits recovery

Coming up with new cash is tricky with the world economy set to register its weakest growth this year since the global recession of

2009, according to a new IMF forecast. The slowdown in China, which is on track for its lowest growth in 25 years next year, is having an impact worldwide.

After decades of break-neck expansion, the world's second-largest economy is losing its voracious appetite for fuel, metals and other commodities, sending prices slumping and hurting the fellow emerging markets that export them. The pain is particularly acute in Latin America, which had not hosted the IMF annual meeting since the 1967 edition in Rio de Janeiro.

Kicking off the meetings, IMF chief Christine Lagarde sought to turn a page on the Fund's thorny relations with the region, where it has faced accusations of demanding budget-tightening from governments at the expense of programs for the poor.

"We're partners, we're not the drastic, horrible prescribers," she said. But international charity Oxfam criticized her for not speaking out on inequality in the world's most unequal region, calling it "a missed opportu-

nity." Lagarde insisted the world economy was in recovery, despite its recent turbulence. But she warned that current growth was "just not enough to respond to the demand of 200 million unemployed" worldwide.

On the climate funding issue, Lagarde called for countries to impose taxes on carbon emissions to both slow climate change and help fund the fight against it.

Tapping new climate funding will also be on the agenda as finance ministers from the leading industrialized and emerging economies gather for a G20 meeting.

Twenty of the countries most vulnerable to climate change held the inaugural meeting of the "V20," a counterpoint to the G20 that will exert pressure for more climate financing and manage the funds.

"Climate change is not only an environmental issue, it is a fundamental economic issue and needs financial solutions," said UN climate chief Christiana Figueres at the group's launch. — AFP

STANCHART CEO PLANS TO CUT ABOUT 1,000 TOP STAFF

SINGAPORE/LONDON: Standard Chartered's new Chief Executive Bill Winters plans to cut up to a quarter of the bank's most senior staff to reduce costs, according to a memo sent to staff, which is likely to see about 1,000 top jobs go. Winters said he planned to reduce the number of staff who are graded in bands 1-4 by a quarter, according to an internal memo seen by Reuters. Those bands cover bankers at director level and higher, and include about 4,000 staff.

"Our situation requires decisive and immediate action. Each member of the management team has a mission to drive through improvements in our returns and part of this will be further streamlining of our organisation, eliminating management layers and duplication of roles," Winters told staff.

Winters, a former JP Morgan invest-

ment bank boss who took over in June, said the bank would also make disposals and cut clients as part of his strategic review. Disposals would be in areas where the bank was "not differentiated" or an activity or location "was not critical to a core strength."

Standard Chartered shares were up 3.6 percent at 775.6 pence by 1030 GMT, the top performing European bank stock. Standard Chartered has had a troubled three years, hurt by weakness in many of its key emerging markets, rising losses from bad loans in India, China and on commodities, as well as fines from US regulators and strained relations with shareholders. Its shares have fallen 43 percent since the start of 2014.

"We lost some discipline during that time, leading to our recent problems with loan impairments and relatively high

expenses," Winters said in the memo. He is expected to outline his plans to investors and staff in November or December. "We have a clear sense of our direction of travel and the key areas of focus - superior execution, targeted investments, divestment where we are not advantaged and innovation in our product and process design," he said in the memo.

The bank would tighten its belt through targeted reductions and not across-the-board cuts, he said. Winters halved Standard Chartered's dividend in August and said the bank would raise capital from investors if needed. It said at that time it had cut 4,000 staff since the start of the year, to about 88,000. Winters said his plans were not all about cuts, however, and he had identified areas for investment. He said to make room for

investment the bank would cut the number of its clients. "We will focus on those clients who value our capabilities and compensate us accordingly. For others, we will be there when they need us but will withdraw resources in the meantime."

Standard Chartered has also been fined more than \$1 billion for breaching US sanctions, including with Iran, and authorities there are still investigating some issues. Winters said the bank was making progress in improving its processes and systems, its behaviors and remedying past issues, and told staff any violations would not be tolerated. A spokesman for Standard Chartered said a note sent to staff by Winters this week said kick-starting performance was a priority. It said the bank had indicated in July there could be personnel changes to come. — Reuters

OIL EXTENDS GAINS, SHRUGS OFF GOLDMAN WARNING

BRENT SET FOR BIGGEST WEEKLY RISE SINCE 2009

LONDON: Oil extended gains yesterday and was set for its biggest weekly rise in over six years after US Federal Reserve minutes suggested it was in no hurry to raise interest rates and an influential forecaster predicted a price rally. Brent crude, the global benchmark, was up 75 cents at \$53.80 a barrel at 1211 GMT, 1.3 percent above the previous close and on track to rise 12 percent this week alone. US crude was up \$1, or 2 percent, at \$50.43 a barrel, the highest level in more than two months.

The US central bank's meeting minutes showed more policymakers than expected agreed to keep the first interest rate hike in a decade on hold. The news also supported equity markets yesterday, with top European stocks climbing to a one-month high.

Forecaster PIRA Energy Group issued a bullish oil price prediction on Thursday, saying oil would hit \$70 a barrel by the end of next year and trade at \$75 in 2017.

"The Fed minutes and the PIRA price forecast are driving prices today," said Tamas Varga, oil analyst at London brokerage PVM Oil Associates.

"The rally may sustain for the short term but it should run out of steam sometime next week because we are in a generally oversupplied market." Investors were awaiting indications on US production with the weekly Baker Hughes rig count expected later yesterday.

In the Middle East, tensions rose in the Syrian conflict after an Iranian Revolutionary Guards general was killed near Aleppo, where he was advising the Syrian army.

ANZ lifted its 2016 forecast for WTI crude by an average of 10 percent, saying it saw a quicker run-down in US crude stocks as a valid reason for the upgrade. It raised its WTI forecast for the third quarter of 2016, for example, to \$47 a barrel from \$41.

Analysts at Swiss-based consultancy Petromatrix were more cautious on further gains on the commodity. "Crude can try to stabilize around the \$50-per-barrel WTI front anchor but to gain another \$10 it will need some support from products and that is not currently the case," they said.

On Brent, Energy Aspects is forecasting prices to average \$68 in 2016 and \$98 in 2017,

analyst Richard Mallinson told the Platts Asian Crude Oil Summit in Singapore yesterday.

After the July nuclear agreement, Iran will ramp up exports much slower than expected by the market, Mallinson said. If sanctions are eased, Iran will be able to increase crude exports by 250,000 to 400,000 barrels a day by around mid-2016. After that, significant extra volumes will only come in 2017 or 2018, Mallinson said.

Timespreads for West Texas Intermediate (WTI) and Brent futures have strengthened significantly over the last month as fears about another big build up in crude oil stocks eased.

The discount for WTI delivered in November 2015 rather than May 2016 has shrunk from \$3.33 per barrel to \$2.75 since Sept. 14. Between June and August, spot prices and timespreads for both major crude benchmarks tumbled as traders worried about another big build in stockpiles after the end of

the US driving season. Spot prices and time-spreads have been strengthening for the two benchmarks over the last month. Sentiment in the market has become markedly less bearish over the last four weeks as the narrative has shifted from bulging stockpiles to the strength of fuel demand and prospective declines in US shale production.

Researchers at Goldman Sachs, one of the most influential banks in the oil market, have questioned whether the rise in spot prices is justified by fundamentals. "We do not believe that data releases over the past week suggest a change in oil fundamentals," they wrote in a note circulated on Thursday ("Oil rally to fade given still weak fundamentals", Oct 8).

The market remains oversupplied, according to Goldman, and a continued low price of \$40-45 for WTI is required to curb US production in 2016 and bring supply back into line with demand. — Reuters



TOKYO: A businessman walks past a share prices board illustrating various world stock markets in Tokyo yesterday. Tokyo stocks ended up 1.64 percent yesterday, picking up a strong lead from Wall Street after minutes from the Federal Reserve's latest policy meeting suggested it could keep interest rates at record lows into 2016. — AFP

GOLD RISES TO THREE-WEEK HIGH ON DOVISH FED MINUTES

LONDON: Gold rose to a three-week high yesterday after minutes from the Federal Reserve's last policy meeting showed the US central bank was in no hurry to raise interest rates.

Spot gold was up 1.4 percent at \$1,154 an ounce by 1130 GMT, after touching a three-week peak of \$1,157.10 earlier in the session. Prices were supported by Fed minutes released on Thursday, suggesting the central bank was deeply cautious about tightening monetary policy even before last week's soft jobs data showed a sharp slowdown in US hiring. "We still see fairly strong demand," said Hamza Khan, head of commodities strategy at ING Bank. "The stage on the fundamental side is set for higher prices and the longer the Fed holds off on a rate hike, the stronger the picture is for gold."

Khan added the metal could rally as high as \$1,200 in the next week, hitting levels last seen in late June. But the market remained somewhat cautious yesterday, taking note that the minutes also revealed most Fed policymakers thought the central bank's first rate increase in nearly a decade should still come in 2015.

Gold has come under pressure from expectations that the Fed will raise interest rates this year, potentially lifting the opportunity cost of holding non-yielding bullion. But weak US economic data and worries about the global economy have prompted many to push back expectations, which has helped gold gain about 3.5 percent so far this month. A possible delay in a rate increase has also weighed on the dollar, which has been supportive for the gold market by making the metal cheaper for holders of other currencies.

Yesterday's rally helped gold recover some of the losses from the previous session, when it closed 0.6 percent down despite a softer dollar. The metal is on course to gain 1.4 percent for the week. — Reuters

MALAYSIAN CB URGED CRIMINAL PROSECUTION OF 1MDB

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia's central bank said yesterday it had urged the country's attorney general to begin criminal prosecution of troubled fund 1MDB after completing its investigation, piling more pressure on Prime Minister Najib Razak who chairs the fund's advisory board.

At the centre of a political crisis over its debt of nearly 42 billion ringgit (\$11.5 billion) and alleged financial graft, 1MDB is the subject of several probes by different authorities, including Malaysia's central bank. The central bank's statement comes just one day after the attorney general said it had seen a report of the central bank's investigation and concluded that 1MDB officials had not committed any offence. The attorney general, appointed by the prime minister in late July, also said it had rejected a central bank request for a review of the decision.

In its statement, the central bank also said 1MDB had secured permits for investment abroad based on inaccurate or incomplete disclosure of information, thus breaching domestic regulations. The central bank added it revoked three permits granted to 1MDB for investments abroad totalling \$1.83 billion and ordered the state fund to repatriate the funds to Malaysia. 1MDB did not immediately respond to a request for comment. The attorney general's office declined to comment. In July, the Wall Street Journal 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. — Reuters

VIETNAM TO KEEP COAL, OIL EXPORT TAXES UNDER TPP STATE FIRMS IN 'NATIONAL SECURITY' AREAS EXEMPT

HANOI: Vietnam will exempt some state firms from a Pacific trade pact agreed this week and has negotiated to keep export taxes on its crude oil and coal to support an overstretched state budget, its chief negotiator said yesterday. The communist nation is seen as one of the biggest winners from the Trans-Pacific Partnership, with a surge of investment expected into its \$186-billion economy, especially in low-cost manufacturing. Vietnam has kept secret until now the details of what it negotiated.

In areas touching national security, Vietnam can exclude unspecified state-owned enterprises (SOEs) from the TPP, and does not have to reveal those sectors, said Tran Quoc Khanh, vice minister of industry and trade. Export taxes on coal, crude and some ores would stay, and other countries had negotiated similar exemptions, Khanh said. Vietnam earned \$7.2 billion from exports of crude oil, and \$554.5 million from coal last year. "The impact on the state

budget will be minimal," Khanh told a news conference. He said certain materials of specialist nature, or in short supply, would be permitted from outside the TPP area while still qualifying for "yarn forward" rules of origin on garments, one of Vietnam's top sectors.

Vietnam's textiles and footwear would gain strongly from the TPP, after exports of \$31 billion last year for brands such as Nike, Adidas, H&M, Gap, Zara, Armani and Lacoste.

The country makes a tenth of the world's shoes and is the United States' second-largest source of footwear after China.

Vietnam anticipates record foreign investment this year, the majority in manufacturing, as firms capitalize on its cheap labor and the prospect of the TPP slashing tariffs in a region covering 40 percent of global GDP. Although Vietnam's TPP gains would outweigh losses, experts say requirements for independent labor unions and fair



BERLIN: The organization Food Watch demonstrates with a replica of the Reichstag and with a figure depicting German Chancellor Angela Merkel against the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership, TTIP, in front of the Reichstag building in Berlin yesterday. —AP

competition and transparency with state firms have been concerns. Khanh said Vietnam had got some latitude. It would follow International Labor Organization princi-

ples on unions "on the basis of respecting its political institutions", he said, and would use its right to have carve-outs for state firms in areas of national security. — Reuters

TOP PRODUCER GLENCORE CUTS ZINC OUTPUT BY A THIRD

GENEVA: Mining and commodities giant Glencore, burdened by debt and a commodity price crash, announced yesterday it was slashing its worldwide output of zinc by a third.

"The main reason for the reduction is to preserve the value of Glencore's reserves in the ground at a time of low zinc and lead prices, which do not correctly value the scarce nature of our resources," the miner said in a statement. Glencore, which claims to be one of the world's largest miners and producers of zinc, said it was slashing zinc production by 500,000 tons across its operations in Australia, South America and Kazakhstan. The company said its operations at Lady Loretta in Australia and Iscaycruz in Peru would be suspended and operations at George Fisher and McArthur River in Australia and various mine operations in Kazakhstan would reduce production levels. "These changes, which represent around one-third of Glencore's annual zinc production, will reduce fourth quarter 2015 mine production by approximately 100,000 tons of contained zinc metal," Glencore said.

The Swiss-based company, which employs around 181,000 people worldwide, acknowledged that "these changes, although temporary, will unfortunately affect employees at our operations."

More than 1,500 jobs

A company spokesman told AFP that around "1,540 people will unfortunately lose their jobs." "This decision has not been taken lightly," the company said. It said in coming days it would "engage with all employees" and provide support for those affected by the changes.

Zinc has a number of industrial applications, including as an anti-corrosive coating for iron and steel, a component for batteries and making metal alloys, and as a white pigment in paint. Around 13.5 million tons of zinc is produced worldwide each year, according to the latest data from 2013 from the International Lead and Zinc Study Group. Glencore meanwhile insisted the decision would "ensure that our zinc operations are sustainable well into the future, providing jobs in the communities where we operate and returns to shareholders." "Glencore remains positive about the medium and long term outlook for zinc, lead and silver prices," it said.

Following the news, Glencore saw its share price surge 6.38 percent to 128.35 pence in early trading, making it the top gainer on London's FTSE 100 index. The company's share price has meanwhile plummeted 60 percent since the beginning of the year, and has already faced wild fluctuation in recent weeks amid investor fears that sinking commodity prices would affect its ability to meet outstanding debt obligations. Most resources-linked firms have taken a hit in recent months as the price of copper, aluminium, iron ore and oil have tumbled as growth in China's economy, the world's second largest, slows. Zinc prices, which had fallen by nearly 30 percent since May, shot up 8 percent after Glencore's announcement. Glencore has been particularly badly hit because of its huge \$30-billion debt load, even after the firm this month raised \$2.5 billion via a share issue as part of a vast plan to rejig its finances. — AFP

SAUDI ADVISOR SAYS OIL MARKET NEEDS A LEADER

LACK OF AN ANCHOR CAUSES SHARP SWINGS IN CRUDE PRICES

KUWAIT: The lack of a clear leader or "anchor" in the global oil market is fueling uncertainty and leading to sharp swings in crude prices, but this uncertainty is unlikely to continue for long, a senior Saudi oil adviser said.

The comments by Ibrahim Al-Muhanna suggest that Saudi Arabia and the rest of OPEC understand that they are unable to manage the oil market alone for the time being, and would like to see some kind of collective mechanism to reduce the current instability in the market.

"In the current circumstances, the international oil market could continue in an unstable situation, where there is a lot of uncertainty with the lack of a market anchor," Muhanna, an adviser to the Saudi oil minister, told a closed-door energy event in

Kuwait on Wednesday. His comments were released publicly yesterday.

"In the end, this means the inability of investors to find a suitable price in the market currently and in future," he said in the speech. "This is an unnatural situation and it is difficult to see it continuing."

Top oil exporter and OPEC heavyweight Saudi Arabia was the driving force behind OPEC's landmark decision, at its meeting in November 2014, not to cut oil output to support prices, and instead seek to defend market share.

The decision, which is a shift from OPEC's traditional role of reducing production to prop up prices, has along with a supply glut helped trigger a sharp drop in crude prices in the last year.

The message from Riyadh has been clear:

the kingdom is no longer willing to shoulder the burden of reducing production alone and if others want better prices, they should take on their share of output cuts. Gulf oil sources see no sign of Saudi Arabia wavering in its long-term strategy, particularly when other OPEC members such as Iraq are raising production and Iran is gearing up to boost exports by next year. Non-OPEC producers including Russia have refused to cooperate with OPEC in cutting output. Muhanna referred in his speech to the need for greater international cooperation to reduce speculation and support a healthy oil market, which "should not only be limited to OPEC and other producing countries but also include the other main energy consumers," he said.

Muhanna did not describe in detail how such a structure would work or say how likely it was to be established.

He gave examples of organizations such as the International Energy Agency and the International Energy Forum as attempts to bring more transparency to the oil market but said more needs to be done. Muhanna said global demand for oil was expected to rise by at least 1 million barrels per day every year, driven mainly by economic growth in Asia, Africa and Latin America, and the world's oil consumption would reach about 105 million bpd by 2025.

He also said the current persistent oil supply glut and instability of prices "is a temporary situation that will not last for long". A US Energy Information Administration report on Tuesday predicted global oil demand for 2016 would rise by the fastest rate in six years, suggesting the crude surplus that has pushed prices down about 50 percent since June last year is easing faster than expected.

OPEC's Secretary-General Abdullah Al-Badri said on Tuesday that the oil exporter group should work together with producers outside OPEC to tackle the oil surplus in the global market. — Reuters



HONG KONG: A man walks near a dollar sign outside a money exchange shop in Hong Kong on Thursday. China's foreign exchange reserves shrank again last month in a sign the country's central bank continues to support the currency's exchange rate after a surprise devaluation. — AP

SABMILLER MEETS WITH INVESTORS AMID TAKEOVER BID

LONDON: SABMiller met with investors yesterday to underscore its strength as an independent company, as the world's second-biggest brewer seeks to head off a takeover by larger rival Anheuser-Busch InBev. SABMiller said the meetings focused on the company's accelerating growth and a stepped up cost-cutting program that will target \$1.05 billion of savings by March 2020, more than double the previous goal of \$500 million by 2018.

"We are continuing to remove duplication across markets, bringing specialist

expertise in areas like procurement under one roof, and standardizing common processes," CEO Alan Clark said in a statement. "It results in our markets being freed up to concentrate on what they do best - growing revenue with local consumers and customers."

The announcement comes two days after SABMiller rejected a 68 billion pound (\$104 billion) takeover bid from AB InBev, the Belgium-based company that makes Budweiser. The offer of 42.15 pounds a share is 11 percent more than AB InBev's initial proposal and 28 percent

higher than SABMiller's stock price before the bid was announced Sept. 16.

AB InBev is trying to create what it calls "the first truly global beer company" by combining its business, which is focused on the Americas and Western Europe, with SABMiller's brands in Africa and Eastern Europe. The deal would create a company with 31 percent of the global beer market.

Tensions surrounding the proposal have risen in recent days, with SABMiller Chairman Jan du Plessis saying that AB InBev was "very substantially undervalu-

ing" his company. In response, AB InBev CEO Carlos Brito accused SABMiller's board of refusing "to meaningfully engage with us." On Thursday, he appealed directly to SABMiller shareholders, asking them to "voice their views" and not "let this opportunity slip away." Altria Group, SABMiller's largest shareholder, said Thursday that it supports AB InBev's offer and believes the merger "would create significant value." Altria, whose companies include cigarette-maker Phillip Morris USA, owns 27 percent of SABMiller. — AP

CHINA'S MOM-AND-POP INVESTORS IT'S NOT ALL ABOUT THE MONEY

SHANGHAI: Some are in it purely for the money. Others just want a few extra yuan to buy a meal. And then there are also those who trade for fun or to spend time among friends. Millions of mom-and-pop investors - from pensioners, to security guards, to students - dominate China's stock markets, conducting about 80 percent of all transactions. But this year they have experienced one of the most tumultuous periods in the country's financial history.

China's stock markets first soared - more than doubling in the six months to May - only to crash. Since June, prices have fallen about 40 percent on concerns that growth in the world's second-biggest economy is slowing down faster than previously thought.

"Trading stocks is my biggest hobby," says 90-year-old Wang Cunchun, who only started to invest in equities after he retired from a stationary store in Shanghai.

He joins other retirees in one of the many brokerage houses dotted around China

where people gather not just to trade stocks but to enjoy the company of fellow investors and, on hot days, take advantage of the air conditioning. "There are many old neighbors coming to the brokerage house," he said. "I don't know how to use computers so my neighbors actually help me sell and buy."

Trading stocks is also a hobby for 16-year-old high school student Qian Yujie. But in contrast to Wang, he places his orders from a desktop computer at his home in Shanghai.

He began trading at the age of 13 when his father gave him 2,000 yuan (\$320) to learn about stock investing. He fits trading into his schedule when he has a day off school.

"I like maths and want to study finance in college and I think it's very helpful for job hunting," Qian said. While some retail investors say they want to make their fortune on China's stock markets, electrician Gao Haibao, 55, has a more modest approach by aiming to make about 10 yuan everyday, or \$1.50. "I make money to buy a meal every-

day," he says. "I'm happy with it. I'm making money."

And Du Mingpeng, 50, a security guard at a jewellery store, hopes to profit from his investments to give money to his son who is getting married. Many of the retail investors use an informal network to help decide which stocks to buy and sell. At the weekends in Shanghai, hundreds gather at what is locally known as the "street stock salon" near the city's landmark People's Square to exchange tips and information and listen to long-term investors talk about their experiences. Wu Lin'an sells his analysis of the stock market at the "street stock salon" and believes the ruling Communist Party, headed by President Xi Jinping, will save the stock market and make people rich.

"Chairman Mao led us through liberation," he said, referring to the founding of modern China. "Deng Xiaoping led us to the road of happiness, Xi Jinping led us to the road of enjoyment." — Reuters



COLOMBO: A Sri Lankan fisherman carries his catch to be sold in Colombo yesterday. — AFP

QNB, GARANTI, CHINESE GROUP INTERESTED IN FINANSBANK STAKE

ISTANBUL: Qatar National Bank, Turkey's Garanti Bank and Fibabanka are interested in an anticipated sale by National Bank of Greece of a stake in its Turkish unit Finansbank, sources close to the matter told Reuters. One source said an unnamed Chinese group was also interested in the stake sale in Finansbank, which is virtually 100 percent owned by NBG. Under a restructuring plan approved by European regulators, NBG committed to selling 40 percent of its Finansbank stake but postponed the plans earlier this year on valuation concerns.

NBG, Greece's biggest lender, declined last week to comment on a report that it had received a bid from QNB valuing Finansbank at about 3 billion euros (\$3.4 billion). "In total four groups have made bids. NBG wants to have concrete bids when the stress test results come in," another source said. "It is likely that QNB will be at the forefront in this sale." The sources said Goldman Sachs and Morgan Stanley were advising on the sale. Another source said that the data room process was about to begin. Finansbank told Reuters it had nothing to add to a statement which it made to the Istanbul stock exchange last week, when it said alternatives were being considered to cover NBG's potential capital shortfall and that a final decision had not been taken.

A QNB spokesman was not available to comment when Reuters called the bank's Doha office yesterday. QNB said in July it was interested in entering the Turkish market given the right opportunity, but that it was not in any specific discussions. Garanti Bank and Fibabanka declined to comment. NBG has not abandoned a plan to eventually hold a public offering and reduce its Finansbank stake, continuing to work towards a share sale. The European Central Bank's banking supervision arm is due to conduct a comprehensive assessment of all four main Greek banks this month to assess their recapitalization needs after the imposition of capital controls in late June to halt massive deposit flight. — Reuters



LIMA: China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi (left) shakes hands with Turkish Deputy Prime Minister Cevdet Yilmaz, during a family-photo shoot on Thursday of the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors reunited for the World Bank Group and International Monetary Fund (IMF) Annual Meetings held in Lima, Peru from October 5 to 11. — AFP

FRENCH LABOR TENSIONS EASE AS GARBAGE COLLECTOR STRIKE ENDS

PARIS: Air France is resuming negotiations with pilots' unions over hotly contested job cuts, and Paris garbage collectors have ended a smelly strike, in promising developments after a week of high labor tensions. Frustration over spending reductions erupted into violence earlier this week as union activists ripped clothes off Air France executives. Economy Minister Emmanuel Macron called the activists "stupid" and isolated individuals.

The leading pilots' union, SNPL, said talks were resuming yesterday with management about a sweeping cost-cutting plan that involves 2,900 job losses at France's money-losing flagship airline. Unions have resisted job cuts and calls to work longer hours for the same pay. Air France would not comment. The government, which owns 17 percent of Air France, backs the restructuring plan and was embarrassed by the images of shirtless Air France executives circulating on social media and front pages.

Politicians left and right condemned the violence, and unions joined in. Economy minister Macron told CNN that the incident "is not about France. It's about stupid people, and they will be condemned for that." Macron is trying to loosen France's famously stringent labor protections, hoping that will encourage companies to hire and reduce 10 percent unemployment. His moves have angered unions and fellow members of the Socialist government. In a separate labor dispute that left Paris streets crowded with overflowing trash cans, city officials and waste workers' unions reached an agreement Thursday night, ending a four-day strike. City hall said it agreed to raise pay for certain workers and consider expanding promotion opportunities. — AP

MAURITIUS MINISTER EXPECTS 11% RISE IN VISITORS IN 2015

PORT LOUIS: The Indian Ocean island of Mauritius expects to attract 11 percent more tourists in 2015 than last year and aims for steady growth in future of 6 percent a year, the tourism minister said.

Charles Gaïtan Xavier-Luc Duval, who is also deputy prime minister, told Reuters that a major focus was boosting numbers in the island's winter season, running from June to September, by drawing more visitors from India, China, Africa and Russia. But he said Mauritius wanted an "orderly" increase in tourist numbers that did not compromise quality of service. "We are not going to be slaves to quantity," he said in an interview. "Mauritius has over the past developed a very high quality of tourism. It is going to remain high quality tourism."

His government, which came to power at the end of 2014, has imposed a two-year ban on building new hotels until December 2016 to avoid driving prices lower and to allow the existing hotel network, which has 11,000 rooms, to renovate and invest. "We thought that in the past there was too much hotel construction," he said. Mauritius, which boasts luxury resorts, palm-fringed beaches and a population speaking French and English, saw visitor numbers slide during the global financial crisis, which particularly hit its key markets, such as France.

But it has increasingly turned to Asia to broaden the appeal of an industry that accounts for 7 percent of gross domestic product and to ensure a more steady flow of arrivals. — Reuters



LIMA: Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors from the G20 pose for a group picture with International Monetary Fund (IMF) Managing Director Christine Lagarde (second right front row) and World Bank President Jim Yong Kim (first right front row) in Lima, Peru on Thursday. — AP

FED OFFICIAL STILL LOOKING AT A RATE HIKE THIS MONTH CRUCIAL MEETING SLATED FOR OCT 27

NEW YORK: A voting member of the Federal Reserve's policy committee said yesterday that he believes the economy is on a satisfactory track and that an increase in interest rates is likely to be appropriate in either October or December.

Dennis Lockhart, president of the Fed's Atlanta regional bank, said the economic data has been giving off mixed signals and there is more ambiguity in the data than there was a few weeks ago. Lockhart said he will be watching consumer activity closely before he makes his decision on whether to raise rates at one of the Fed's two final meetings of 2015.

"I continue to feel that cumulative progress is consistent with liftoff relatively soon," Lockhart said his remarks to the annual meeting of the Society of American Business Editors and Writers.

The Fed has kept its key interest rate at a record low near zero since December 2008. Lockhart's views on the timing for a rate hike

have been closely followed because he is one of five regional bank presidents with a vote this year on the Federal Open Market Committee, the panel of Fed bank presidents and Washington board members that meets eight times a year to set interest rate policy for the central bank.

The next meeting of the committee will be Oct. 27-28 and the final meeting of the year will occur on Dec. 15-16. Many private economists believe that a weak jobs report for September released last week makes an October move unlikely, but many are still forecasting a rate hike in December.

When the Fed starts raising rates, something it has not done in nine years, it will mean higher rates for consumer and business borrowers. But central bank officials, including Fed Chair Janet Yellen, have stressed that the rate hikes are likely to be very gradual, meaning rates will remain near historic lows for some time.

Many had expected the first rate hike to

occur in September, but minutes of that meeting released Thursday revealed concern among Fed officials about a significant slowdown in China, which roiled markets in August. The thought was that China's problems could have a more severe impact on the US economy than they had forecast. The Fed voted 9-1 at that meeting to keep rates unchanged. Lockhart said that trying to interpret the recent twists and turns in the economy has been like riding a roller-coaster.

"The ambiguity of the moment reinforces the need to closely watch the vital signs of the economy over the coming weeks to determine if the outlook has changed," Lockhart said. Before the December meeting the Fed will have data on the October and November employment numbers, inflation data for September and October and the first two estimates for overall economic growth in the third quarter, Lockhart said. Data on consumer spending, he said, will be the most important. — AP

EU TO LAUNCH TRADE TALKS WITH TUNISIA



PARIS: French Economy minister Emmanuel Macron speaks as he opens the first Congress des avocats (lawyers congress), organized by the Conseil National des Barreaux yesterday in Paris. — AFP

BRUSSELS: EU Trade Commissioner Cecilia Malmstroem heads to Tunisia on Tuesday to begin talks towards a free trade deal with Europe, part of the bloc's wider effort to support the crisis-hit nation.

On her trip Malmstroem will meet three of the four civil society groups that won the Nobel Peace Prize, her office said yesterday. "This is an important signal at this time for Tunisia: We are at your side to encourage the economic and political reforms you have taken on in these sensitive times," Malmstroem, a former Swedish minister, said. "We are your friends, your allies," she said, and despite recent jihadist attacks that killed dozens of Europeans, the European Union would "not turn its back" on Tunisia. The 28-nation EU is Tunisia's biggest trading partner, while the small north African country is 34th on the list

for Europe. Last year, total trade amounted to about 20 billion euros (\$22 billion). The production of olive oil is Tunisia's main export, a sector that generates about one million jobs in the country. Malmstroem said the deal would weigh in Tunisia's favour and take care to protect sensitive sectors.

"It's a first step," she said, without adding any details on how long the talks would last. Since Tunisia's Jasmine Revolution in 2011 triggered the Arab Spring, the EU has stepped up support to the North African nation, giving aid and political backing and initiating trade talks.

The EU's top officials visited Tunis earlier this year to back the fight against a growing Islamist militant threat after a deadly attack on a museum in the capital and the killing of nearly 40 tourists at a beach resort. — AFP



Flydubai holds a press conference in Novosibirsk



FLYDUBAI EXPANDS ITS NETWORK IN RUSSIA

AIRLINE ADDS NIZHNY NOVGOROD AND NOVOSIBIRSK TO ITS NETWORK

KUWAIT: flydubai yesterday inaugurated flights to two new destinations in Russia, Nizhny Novgorod and Novosibirsk, making it the first Dubai-based airline to serve these cities. Offering one of the most comprehensive networks from the UAE the carrier now operates to 10 destinations in Russia.

The flights from Dubai to Novosibirsk commenced on 04 October with three flights a week and flights to Nizhny Novgorod began on 07 October with two flights a week.

flydubai marked its first entry to the Russian market in 2010 with the launch of flights to Samara and Yekaterinburg. Five years on, the carrier continues to grow its network in the market opening up previously underserved destinations that had no or few direct links to the UAE.

Commenting on the inaugurals, Ghaith Al-Ghaith, Chief Executive Officer of flydubai, said: "Since the start of our flights to Russia five years ago, we have seen strong demand for affordable, reliable and direct services to Dubai. We are committed to growing our network in the market and the new flights to Nizhny Novgorod and Novosibirsk will provide passengers from the UAE and Russia with an accessible means to explore both countries."

The inaugural flight to Novosibirsk landed on 07 October at Tolmachevo International Airport. On board the aircraft were Jeyhun Efendi, Senior Vice President Commercial (UAE, EU, ME, CIS) for flydubai, and key representatives from the UAE and Indian media and members of the UAE business community. The delegation was welcomed by Sergey Titov, Minister of Transport of the Novosibirsk region. During the trip, the UAE delegation

will hold a series of meetings in Novosibirsk with their Russian counterparts to discuss business and trade opportunities between Novosibirsk and Dubai.

Jeyhun Efendi said: "flydubai is committed to creating free flows of trade and tourism between Dubai and the destinations it operates to. We are pleased to introduce flydubai's Business Class service and Cargo operations to our newest destinations in Russia and to provide passengers with more options to explore not only Dubai but further afield

across our network to Africa, the Middle East and Subcontinent."

flydubai's extensive network in Russia includes Kazan, Krasnodar, MineralnyeVody, Moscow, Rostov-on-Don, Samara, Ufa and Yekaterinburg providing the large Russian expatriate community in Dubai and the UAE with the option to visit family and friends more often for less. The direct flights also made it easier for businesses to explore opportunities across Russia which were not very accessible before due to the availability

of direct flights. flydubai has announced 18 new destinations since the start of 2015 creating a network of more than 95 destinations in 45 countries. It operates a fleet of 50 new Next-Generation Boeing 737-800 aircraft with an average age of 3.1 years and has more than 100 new aircraft on order. The carrier's interline agreements allow passengers to benefit from Dubai's efficient aviation hub providing opportunity for onward travel to more than 250 destinations around the world.



Water cannon salute in Novosibirsk to greet flydubai flight.

REAL ESTATE SALES IN KUWAIT UP TO KD 217M IN SEPT

KUWAIT: Real estate sales in Kuwait hit KD 217 million (\$718.5 million) in September, up by 5.8 percent on a monthly basis but down 26 percent on a yearly basis, according to a recent report. The transaction volume index fell by 22 percent to 335 in September compared to 430 transactions in August, showed the report released by the Kuwait International Bank (KIB).

The transaction value index rose by 35.8 percent to KD 647,000 per deal on a monthly basis and 32 percent on an annual basis, buoyed by the rise in average deals in both residential and commercial sectors, it added. The residential sector slightly hiked in the sales index by roughly 3.2 percent in September, which remained around 45 percent below the levels in September 2014, according to the

report. The investment sector dropped by around 21 percent to KD 67.5 million, but it was still about 68 percent below the levels in September 2014 as a result of a sharp dip in the index of implemented transactions in the sector and 40 percent on both monthly and annual bases alike, the report indicated.

On mixed price levels compared to August, the average price in the resi-

dential sector went up by roughly 8 percent per square meter, buoyed by rises in Ahmadi and Farwaniya governorates, against a fall in residential price levels in the capital, it added.

Generally speaking, the real estate market involving all its diverse sectors is fluctuating at different levels on a monthly basis in anticipation of looming global or local changes, the report noted. — KUNA

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Weekender

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A picture shows a night view of Beirut's Surssock Museum in the Lebanese capital. Closed for eight years for major renovation work, the impressive mansion-turned-museum opened to the public from yesterday, free of charge, with exhibits honoring the history of art in Beirut. — AFP

Baby-wearing revival gets
a fitness twist in Hong Kong

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Steve Jobs plays dual role of hero, villain in the movies

Apple co-founder Steve Jobs became renowned for conjuring a "reality distortion field" that made people believe whatever he wanted. If he were still around, it's easy to imagine that Jobs would be summoning all his powers of persuasion to protect a legacy that's getting muddied with each cinematic take on his fascinating life. "Steve Jobs," which opened Friday, is the latest movie to examine a charismatic visionary who mesmerized the masses with his trendsetting gadgets while alienating his subordinates and friends with an almost-inhumane cruel streak.

It's the second movie about a Silicon Valley icon written by Aaron Sorkin, who won an Academy Award in 2011 for "The Social Network," a dramatization of the friends and enemies that Mark Zuckerberg made while building Facebook into an Internet power. Zuckerberg, now 31, ridiculed that movie as mostly fiction and publicly lamented, "I just wished that nobody made a movie of me while I was still alive." Jobs' supporters probably won't be happy with Sorkin's posthumous interpretation of Jobs either, even though previously released movies have drawn similar portraits depicting him as an acid dropping hippie turned megalomaniacal genius who berated and betrayed people. Here's a look at how the latest biopic compares with some of its predecessors:



In this image released by Universal Pictures, Michael Fassbender stars as Steve Jobs in a scene from the film, "Steve Jobs."

'Steve Jobs' (2015)

This is the most provocative and best acted of the bunch, spearheaded by Michael Fassbender, who stars as Jobs. The story unfolds in a much different format, but the overriding message is the same: Jobs was a tortured soul who tortured those around him while striving to design machines that were made better than he was. The film, based loosely on a best-selling book by Jobs' hand-picked biographer Walter Isaacson, unfolds in three acts that take place before three presentations orchestrated by Jobs: the 1984 debut of the Macintosh computer; a 1988 showcase for the NeXT computer; and the 1998 unveiling of the iMac.

None of the pre-event scenes or dialogue actually occurred, but the drama is designed to capture the relentless drive and haunting demons that made Jobs who he was. Director Danny Boyle describes the movie as a "heightened version of real life" while Sorkin calls it a "painting and not a photograph." The story is told through Jobs' interactions with six central figures in his life: his former marketing chief, Joanna Hoffman; his former girlfriend Chrisann Brennan; Apple co-founder and friend Steve Wozniak; former Apple engineer Andy Hertzfeld; former Apple CEO John Sculley; and Lisa, the daughter that Jobs refused to acknowledge for many years. Wozniak (played by Seth Rogen) delivers two of the film's pivotal lines when he tells Jobs, "Your products are better than you

are," and "You can be decent and gifted at the same time."

'Jobs' (2013)

Ashton Kutcher didn't get an Oscar nomination for his interpretation of Jobs like some critics are already predicting Fassbender will get, but give Kutcher credit for nailing a lot of the real man's mannerisms, including the loping way he walked. The movie picks up on Jobs' life as a bare-foot, shaggy dropout at Reed College in Oregon and follows the path that led to him teaming up with Wozniak to start Apple in 1976, recruiting Sculley to become CEO, leaving Apple in a power struggle, and returning to engineer the greatest comeback story in corporate history.

Along the way, the movie features scenes showing Jobs ripping off Wozniak on a job for video-game maker Atari; denying stock to early Apple employees who were once his friends; and berating Apple workers. Shortly before Sculley ousts Jobs from Apple, a tearful Wozniak (played by Josh Gad) wonders what happened to the friend he knew when they were making illegal boxes to make free long distance phone calls. "You are the beginning and end of your own world," Wozniak tells Jobs.

This movie ends on an upbeat note, with Kutcher, as Jobs, narrating "Here's To the Crazy Ones," a famous TV commercial that ran as part of Apple's "Think Different" campaign. (Although Jobs did record a version of this bit, Apple wound up airing a version narrated by actor Richard Dreyfuss.)

'Steve Jobs: Man in the machine' (2015)

This documentary from another Academy Award winner, Alex Gibney, leaves viewers with an appreciation for Jobs' achievements and a disdain for his often boorish behavior. It's a particularly damning portrait because it's told through clips of Jobs himself and interviews with some of the people who knew him best. The list of participants includes: Brennan, Lisa's mother, and Daniel Kottke, who befriended Jobs at Reed College and became one of Apple's early employees only to be denied stock when the company went public.

What the movie lacks is the perspective of Jobs' admirers, including Apple executives who still lionize him. Among that group is Eddy Cue, the company's senior vice president of Internet software and services, who blasted the film in a March tweet as "an inaccurate and mean-spirited view of my friend."

'Pirates of silicon valley' (1999)

This made-for-TV movie came out before Jobs transformed Apple and society with the release of the iPod, iPhone and iPad. Jobs, played by Noah Wyle, shares top billing with Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates in this movie, based on the book "Fire In The Valley." It covers Jobs' staunch refusal to recognize Lisa as his daughter and his caustic attitude toward people.

Although the movie depicts Jobs as the hipper of the two men, the more nerdy Gates ends up outmaneuvering his rival to get the technology that became Windows and helped turn Microsoft into the world's most valuable company at one point. The movie closes with Gates looking down at Jobs from a giant video screen during a 1997 conference announcing that Microsoft had invested \$150 million in Apple at a time it nearly declared bankruptcy. If that is how the story had really ended, there probably would have never been another movie made about Jobs. — AP



Music Review

This CD cover image released by Partisan Records shows 'Grey Tickle, Black Pressure,' by John Grant. — AP

Grant's baritone tackles range of subjects

Synthesizers throb and gurgle while violins rise and fall above drums both digital and real. There's brass and a bass and even a bass clarinet. But the most ear-catching instrument on any John Grant album: Grant's voice. Blessed with an elegant baritone, effortless delivery and two-octave range, Grant could sing lame power ballads and make a handsome living. He's not into pretty, however, and while "Grey Tickle, Black Pressure" benefits from fetching melodies, the 12-song set is also filled with edgy arrangements and whimsical lyrics regarding a wide range of subjects. Grant

addresses his HIV diagnosis (the title cut), his battle with addiction ("Magma Arrives"), and even Hitler and decoupage ("You and Him"). The singer and songs are so strong they would benefit from unplugging the synths in favor of a more organic approach. And the cover art is awful. But the album is engaging from start to finish - the closing cut is a child's recitation of 1st Corinthians 13:4-8. Maybe it will become a hit. — AP

Gomez reveals she has Lupus, underwent Chemotherapy

Selena Gomez has revealed she has lupus. The 23-year-old opened up about battling the autoimmune disease nearly two years after initial reports emerged that she had been diagnosed. "I was diagnosed with lupus, and I've been through chemotherapy," Gomez told Billboard. "That's what my break was really about. I could've had a stroke."

The singer canceled the Asian and Australian leg of her Stars Dance tour in late 2013 and early 2014. Not long after that, Gomez entered treatment at Dawn at The Meadows recovery facility for "emotional issues" and "partying," but not for substance abuse, her rep maintained, which many rumors suggested. During that time, Gomez also underwent chemotherapy, and said she resented the addiction rumors. "I wanted so badly to say, 'you guys have no idea. I'm in chemotherapy. You're assholes,'" she said. "I locked myself away until I was confident and comfortable again." She also touched on her body image issues, talking about when she

was slammed online after posting a picture of herself in a bikini. "That was the first time I'd experienced body shaming like that," she said. "I believed some of the words they were saying." — Reuters



Selena Gomez arrives at the MTV Video Music Awards in Los Angeles. — AP



Hari Viswanath, Indian director of 'Radio Set' poses for a photo in front of his movie poster at the Busan International Film Festival in Busan, South Korea. — AP photos



Hadi Mohaghegh, Iranian director of 'Immortal', poses for a photo at the Busan International Film Festival in Busan, South Korea.

New face of Asian cinema shows Indian film outside Bollywood

A film from outside Bollywood reflecting generational gaps in India and an image-driven Iranian movie about a grieving old man were among the works showing new trends of Asian cinema at this year's Busan International Film Festival. The New Currents section at one of the most influential film fairs in the world has introduced first- or second-time feature movie directors who could become the next global name. It is Busan's only competition section and in the past has premiered early works by award-winning Chinese director Jia Zhangke.

The eight works competing this year are: "Black Horse Memories" by Iranian director Shahram Alidi; "Go Home" by Beirut, Lebanon-born director Jihane Chouaib; "Immortal" by Iranian director Hadi Mohaghegh; "West North West" by Japanese director Takuro Nakamura; "Communication & Lies" by South Korean director Lee Seung-won; "Night and Fog in Zona" by South Korean director Jung Sung-il; "Radio Set" by Indian director Hari Viswanath; and "Walnut Tree" by director Yerlan Nurmukhambetov from Kazakhstan. The Associated Press talked to directors of "Radio Set" and "Immortal."

Realistic Indian movie

Hari Viswanath, director of "Radio Set," wanted to make a "realistic" Indian movie reflecting the current society, not the conventional Bollywood films of melodrama and dance. Unlike many other Indian movies played at the festival, his work is in the Tamil language spoken in southern India. But Viswanath believes that the movie can resonate globally. "Radio Set" shows an endearing old man, after losing his deeply attached old-style radio that he received from his late father, develops relationships with a neighboring kid, a colleague and an old man on the street.

While using some elements of fantasy, the work offers a glimpse into the current Indian society with generation gaps between a father and a son. "I used to see an old man on the road who is partially deaf and alone. I used to wonder what made him isolated and why?" he said. "So once my friend and I were discussing about a

hearing aid problem and each one of us were talking about our grandfather. That's where I recollected the memories of my grandfather with his radio set."

The 36-year-old said he represented a growing number of new Indian filmmakers who would like to show the world movies outside the Hindi-based Bollywood film industry that often feature surprise songs and dance scenes and heavy melodrama. "There are I would say more newcomers, new generations of directors," he said. These new Indian movies, such as his "Radio Set," show what is "actually happening now" in India.

Image-driven Iranian movie

Hadi Mohaghegh, the Iranian director of "Immortal," is one of the strongest contenders of the New Currents section, the winner of which will be named on the festival's last day Saturday. His work has received great reviews and praise in Busan. "Mohaghegh continues Iranian cinema's tradition of doing more with less, ultimately crafting a moving and compelling drama that never strains to tell its story," Elizabeth Kerr said in Hollywood Reporter. The work "should garner plenty of interest from broad spectrum film festivals globally." "Immortal" unfolds the story of an old man suffering from guilt and grief from the loss of his family. The guilt drives him to kill himself, and his constant attempts at suicides slowly destroy him. Shot at the director's hometown in southwestern Iran, the film uses stunning landscapes to emphasize the man's grief.

Mohaghegh said the movie's idea came from a true story about an old woman told by a friend. "When (my friend) finished the story ... it didn't leave me," he said. He changed the character to male because it was difficult to film a movie with female nudity in Iran, but the director emphasized the movie is not just about the pain of the old man. "If a man as a human doesn't have pain, we cannot call him a human," he said. — AP

Film portrays costs of South Korean craze for top schools

A documentary film about the social and personal costs of South Koreans' craze for being admitted to the nation's top three universities depicts a system that is a far cry from President Barack Obama's praise of the Asian country as a model for US educational reforms. "Reach for the SKY" follows three students and a teacher working for a test-prep company before and after South Korea's college entrance exam. The once-a-year exam is the final and the crucial checkpoint to enter "SKY," a shorthand reference to the country's three most prestigious universities.

Gaining admission to a SKY school is the ultimate goal of one's 12-year education and is akin to being admitted to a better class of people who later lead a company or the country. Only the top few test-takers reach the SKY. The rest spend another year or two working to improve scores and retake the test - the "repeaters" in the movie - or they are doomed to live out their lives as losers. "We wanted to focus on the kids who are in a race for their own life," said South Korean co-director Choi Wooyoung. "And think about the energy that we all consume only for the top 1 percent."

English sentence

The documentary, a co-production of Belgium and South Korea, premiered during the 20th Busan International Film Festival, which ends Saturday. The scenes in the film cannot be farther from Obama's image of South Korea as a country where schoolteachers are revered as "nation builders" and students stay longer at schools for the better. The test-prep English teacher is seen on film as a guru, a rock star of test prepping, who reads an English sentence, "Have the courage to follow your heart and intuition," to students who do not.

He's drives a BMW in an early scene and later is shown backstage being introduced as if he were the world's boxing champion. As he steps onto the stage, applause from tens of thousands of students fills the Olympic stadium. As the test-prep employee shares strategies for the upcoming exam, the camera pans the stadium and it becomes clear who the real teacher is in the country. The students are riveted as if they were watching Apple announce a new iPhone. For the foreign director of the documentary, the stadium scene was one of the astounding aspects of the South Korean educational system.

"But none of it is ridiculous, if you understand the context. And somehow I hope that's what this film can show," said co-director Steven Dhoedt. Choi and Dhoedt got rare scenes of life at a private boarding school for "repeaters," recent high-school graduates dedicating one or more years at a testing boot camp to try to attain SKY-level scores when they retake the exam. The place embodied the academic craze in the Korean education system, Dhoedt said, and getting access there meant easing worries that the crew's presence would distract the students from preparing for the college exam. "It really sums up the level of commitment that students and parents are willing to put in to get to a good university," the Belgian director aid. —AP



The 'Martian', shows the importance of agriculture

By Athoob Al-Shuaibi

It seems that Hollywood is always in search for Matt Damon. First, it had been "Finding Private Ryan". Second, looking for the "Interstellar" and now, the "Martian" was left behind on Mars to become the first man who colonizes the planet. Kuwait Times went to "The Martian" at Grand Cinema in Al-Hamra Tower. It was a pleasurable experience and the movie was thrilling to the audience. Indeed, Mark Watney (Matt Damon) mastered the role of the problem solver who chooses to live over surrendering to all the collapsing circumstances when NASA crew left him on the planet because they thought he's dead.

Meanwhile, Melissa Lewis the crew commander (played by Jessica Chastain) believed it was her fault even though he stressed on her acquittal. How will NASA save Mark Watney? The whole world is grilling about the rescue operation. Thanks to the star of 12 Years A Slave, Chiwetel Ejiofor, who plays the role of the director of the Mars mission, NASA managed to communicate with Damon. In the final analysis, The Martian emphasis the importance of agriculture - reminding the audience that even though the technology and travelling to space give us wings, we should never forget our agricultural roots. The movie was directed by Ridley Scott and based on a science fiction 2011 novel The Martian that was written by Andy Weir - released on the 8th of October in Kuwait.



Co-directors South Korean Choi Wooyoung, right, and Belgian Steven Dhoedt pose for a photo in Seoul, South Korea. — AP



Gloria Trevi accepts the award for Favorite Female Artist at the Latin American Music Awards at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles. — AP/AFP photos



Daddy Yankee poses backstage with the awards for favorite song - urban for 'Sigueme y te Sigo' and for favorite male artist - urban.



Luis Coronel accepts the award for favorite male artist - regional Mexican.



Ximena Duque, left, and Carlos Ponce present the award for favorite female artist.



Randy Malcom Martinez, left, and Alexander Delgado of Gente de Zona accept the award for favorite duo or group - urban.

2015 Latin American Music Awards: Gomez, Lovato & more snag an award

Spanish-language music took center stage at the Latin American Music Awards, the first of its kind to follow the American Music Awards' fan-voted platform. Hosted by Latin America's sweetheart and telenovela star Lucero, the evening delivered explosive performances from musical sensations across multiple genres including Paulina Rubio, Lil Jon, Shaggy and Daddy Yankee as well as appearances from Adrienne Bailon and Chiquis Rivera. Salsa icon Celia Cruz was honored with an unforgettable medley from AymEe Nuviola-portrayed the late singer in an upcoming Telemundo series-alongside singers Maluma, India and Yuri.

The complete list of winners from the Latin AMAs:

- Artist of the Year:** Enrique Iglesias
- New Artist of the Year:** J Balvin
- Song of the Year:** "El Perd?n," Nicky Jam & Enrique Iglesias
- Album of the Year:** "A Quien Quiera Escuchar," Ricky Martin
- Favorite Female Artist:** Gloria Trevi
- Favorite Male Artist- Pop/Rock:** Enrique Iglesias
- Favorite Song- Urban:** "S?gueme y Te Sigo," Daddy Yankee
- Favorite Artist- Tropical:** Romeo Santos
- Favorite Collaboration:** "El Perd?n," Nicky Jam & Enrique Iglesias
- Favorite Duo or Group:** Camila
- Favorite Song- Pop/Rock:** "La Mordidita," Ricky Martin feat. Yandel
- Favorite Male Artist- Regional Mexican:** Luis Coronel
- Favorite Duo or Group- Regional Mexican:** Juli?n ?lvarez y su Norte?o Banda
- Favorite Song- Regional Mexican:** "Y As? Fue," Juli?n ?lvarez y su Norte?o Banda
- Favorite Male Artist- Urban:** Daddy Yankee
- Favorite Song-Urban:** "S?gueme y te Sigo," Daddy Yankee
- Favorite Crossover Artist:** Demi Lovato
- Favorite Song-Tropical:** "La Gozadera," Gente de Zona feat. Marc Anthony
- Favorite Dance Song:** "I Want You To Know," Zedd feat. Selena Gomez
- Favorite Streaming Song:** "El Perd?n," Nicky Jam & Enrique Iglesias
- Favorite Duo or Group- Urban:** Gente de Zona-uk.eonline.com



Gonzalo Garcia Vivanco, left, and Fernanda Castillo present the award for favorite song - tropical.



Modesto Lacen, from left, Maluma, Jeimy Osorio, La India, Yuri, and Aymee Nuviola perform a tribute to Celia Cruz.



Gene Noble performs on stage.



Daddy Yankee performs onstage.



Shaggy, from left, Yandel, and Alex Sensation perform on stage.



Bryan Mouque, from left, Jos Canela, Alonso Villalpando, and Alan Navarro of CD9 pose backstage.



Fonseca performs on stage.



Maluma performs a tribute to Celia Cruz.



Jesse Huerta, left, and Joy Huerta of Jesse and Joy perform on stage.



Ana Maria Canseco, left, and Julio Bracho introduce a performance by Maluma.



Alonso Villalpando, from left, Bryan Mouque, Jos Canela and Alan Navarro of CD9 perform on stage.



Jorge Bernal, left, and Gaby Espino present the award for new artist of the year.



Gerardo Ortiz y su Banda performs on stage.



Host Lucero speaks on stage.



This classic workspace designed by Flynn leaves room for a laptop while offering two table lamps for warm, appealing lighting during late-night work sessions.



This home office designed by Flynn, with bold colors and geometric patterns brings a creative, upbeat energy to a very functional workspace.

Designers take on the evolving home office



A workspace designed by Flynn that combines a plush loveseat and a sleek table, making the space easy to use for lounging or reading a book when work is done.

Maybe you dash off work e-mails while making dinner, or you squeeze in a half-hour of work on a spreadsheet before bedtime. The line between “at work” and “at home” has become a blurry one for many people, and for others it has disappeared entirely. That makes a home workspace more necessary than ever. Not every home includes a spare room available for use as an office, but design experts say that’s not a problem: Today’s streamlined technology means that just about any space can be transformed into an appealing and organized area for working.

“Walk into any creative corporation and you’ll find the CEO sitting right smack in the middle of a large, open space along with almost every other key player,” says designer Brian Patrick Flynn of Flynnside Out Productions. “This relaxed, informal atmosphere has become the norm, not just in corporate settings but also in the home.”

Here, Flynn and two other interior designers - New York City-based Young Huh and Danielle Colding - offer advice on creating a home work area that’s both practical and inspiring.

Part of a room is perfect

With today’s smaller computers and wireless connections, there’s less need for a boxy desktop and connecting cables. A desk built into a wall of shelving and cabinets can often serve as a fully functioning home office. So unless your work requires total concentration and silence, don’t give up an entire room even if you have one available. And built-in pieces don’t have to be

expensive. “I turned dead space into a mini-home office by configuring Ikea kitchen cabinets and a laminate countertop as a tall workstation,” Flynn says. “You can assemble it all yourself and have the counter cut to size at a local home improvement store.” Once the pieces are installed, “it looks architectural, almost like it’s always been part of the home.”

Or installing these items in a bedroom closet creates a mini-office that can easily be closed off for privacy. In a New York City apartment, Colding opened up the wall between the living room and a small bedroom that had been used as an office. She filled one wall with built-in shelving, cabi-

netry and a desktop, so the now-larger living room still offered a complete workspace. And she added a Murphy bed along that wall so the room could still accommodate an overnight visitor.

Another option: Buy a “secretary,” a large piece of furniture with doors that conceal shelves and drawers. “I love using secretaries because they have a drop-down tabletop that allows you to work, and drawers for storing things,” Huh says, “but then you can close everything up when you are entertaining or want to hide your work mess.”

Go bold

Offices outside the home are often decorated in neutral or drab colors. But Flynn recommends bold or bright hues and fun patterns for home workspaces. “There’s something inviting that draws you in and even excites you about getting some work done if the overall look is fun,” he says. In a small space, white walls can help. “All white can make any cramped ‘bonus room’ instantly feel like a light and bright home workspace,” says Flynn. — AP



In this photo provided by Brian Patrick Flynn, the designer Flynn installed a desktop and plenty of shelving for storage and organization to turn this closet into a fully functioning home office space that can easily be hidden away. — AP photos

Napa farmer wins Northern California giant pumpkin contest

A Napa farmer won a Northern California contest with a record-setting 1,806-pound pumpkin that judges nicknamed “The Flying Saucer” because of its wide and flat shape. Grower Tim Mathison was one of about 50 big pumpkin farmers to haul their heaviest crops to the annual weigh-in at the Elk Grove Giant Pumpkin & Harvest Festival, the Sacramento Bee reported Sunday.

Most of the pumpkins entered in Saturday’s contest were grown in about 90 days, sometimes growing as fast as 30 pounds per day, said Brian Myers, chairman of the California Pumpkin Growers Association. There were about half as many pumpkins entered this year than in previous years, largely due to what farmers said were overly hot and suboptimal growing conditions. Mathison collected \$12,000 in prize money

but he says the most important part of Saturday’s event was sharing it with his 28-year-old daughter Tara, who uses a wheelchair and has a neurodevelopmental disorder called Rett syndrome. She was with him almost every night as he tended to his patch, he said. He purchased the unique seed from which he grew the pumpkin from the Make-a-Wish Foundation, a charity that arranges joyful experiences for children with life-threatening conditions.

“She knows what it’s all about,” he said. “It makes her really happy.” The winning pumpkin beat last year’s monster pumpkin, which weighed in at 1,584 pounds. But no one came close to beating the current national record for heaviest pumpkin - 2,154 pounds. — AP



In this Saturday, Oct 3, 2015, photo, the grand prize-winning pumpkin weighing in at 1,806 pounds is displayed at the Elk Grove Giant Pumpkin Festival in Elk Grove, Calif. — AP

Sotheby's to auction Picasso's 'La Gommeuse'

A rare Pablo Picasso painting from the collection of US tycoon Bill Koch that will be sold on November 5 was shown in London for the first time yesterday. The painting by the Spanish artist depicts a morose-looking nude cabaret singer with red lips and brown curly hair, contrasting with her unhealthy pale skin. Conservation work uncovered hidden under the lining on the reverse of the painting a portrait of Picasso's anarchist friend and art dealer Pere Manach.

"The whimsical and wicked rendering depicts the dealer wearing an exotic headdress, with his head on a female body in a dancer's leap," Sotheby's said in a statement. "La Gommeuse" is estimated at some \$60 million (53 million euros) and is due to be auctioned in New York, where it will be put on display from October 30. The painting is a rare one from the artist's Blue Period that is not in a museum.

It was painted in 1901 by a 19-year-old Picasso—a year after he

arrived in Paris. Koch, brother of conservative mega-donors Charles and David Koch, bought the painting in 1984. Picasso's masterpiece "Les Femmes d'Alger" became the most expensive painting ever sold at auction when it went for \$179.36 million at Christie's in New York in May. The previous record had been held by Francis Bacon's "Three Studies of Lucian Freud" which sold for \$142.4 million at Christie's in New York in 2013. — AFP



Mothers with their babies attending an exercise class dubbed 'Mumba', a new twist on the baby-wearing trend gripping mothers in the city. — AFP photos

Baby-wearing revival gets a fitness twist in Hong Kong

High up in one of Hong Kong's ubiquitous skyscrapers a group of women are being put through their paces, straining against the weight of a novel training accessory—their children. Dubbed 'Mumba' these exercise classes are a new twist on the baby-wearing trend gripping mothers in the city. Once the preserve of traditional communities, the art of wrapping a baby across a caregiver's body so it can be carried during daily activities is being taken up by modern parents.

In Hong Kong, where narrow hilly streets and unforgiving urban landscape often render strollers and prams useless—many frustrated parents are now going back to basics out of necessity. Proving the old adage, invention has followed. 'Mumba' fitness, baby-wearing bellydance, ballet, yoga and pilates classes, and even suspension training (TRX) classes have sprung up in recent months—all allowing parents to exercise while their baby is strapped to them in a carrier. "There is huge demand from mums who wanted to get back in shape and to get strong again after the challenges of labour, but who also didn't want to leave their young babies behind while they spent time exercising," explains Ifat Hindes, co-founder of Mumba Fitness.

"We have combined different types of exercise including yoga, dance, TRX, and pilates, and the bonus is that you are using your baby for weight training," she says. "There's no need for expensive gadgets—it's just you and your baby, with other parents, being guided by a professional. You know everyone is in the same boat. Hong Kong can be a difficult and unwelcoming city for new mothers."

Back in vogue

While in many cities frazzled parents can soothe their baby—and stretch their legs—by strolling through the park with the pram, Hong Kong's high-rise living and unwieldy streets can leave many here feeling trapped and lonely in relatively small apartments. New mother Angela Gou explains: "I was looking for a way to get out and meet other mums. I always want to exercise but it's hard to leave the baby at home. So these sessions solve the problem. Plus my baby likes it and thinks we're playing a game." Most baby-wearing exercise programs recommend infants are three months or older to take part to ensure adequate neck control, and check positioning to ensure babies hips are protected.

Chartered physiotherapist Helen Binge, who runs paediatric firm Physiobaby, told AFP: "The growing trend to exercise whilst baby-wearing is fine, as long as the baby sling is very supportive,

and the activity level of the baby wearer is not too vigorous." From structured types for sport to traditional woven cloth style, there is now a baby-wearing option for every occasion.

"Carriers have been used across cultures for thousands of years, but, like breastfeeding, went out of 'vogue' for a long period as people moved toward a more product-driven approach toward caring for small babies," says Trish Kelly who co-founded Hong Kong's Babywearing group. She adds that renewed interest in natural birth and breastfeeding has meant traditional approaches to child-rearing are back in fashion. "But for Hong Kong I think it comes down to practicality. Moms like what works. Baby-wearing is a practical way of getting around. It is notoriously wheelchair and stroller unfriendly—I feel like every ramp has a set of stairs at the end."

On every parent's list

Retailers and fitness services in the city have picked up on this desire for a practical solution. Mey Jen, director of Oasis Dance Centre, adapted her traditional belly-dancing class to incorporate baby-wearing after requests from mothers desperate to keep up with their hobby once their children were born. She says: "The mothers want to belly-dance and they want to be with their

babies at the same time. The little ones react very naturally to the beats and the movement. Often the babies become very calm and fall asleep." Hong Kong retailer Bumps to Babes has seen carrier sales jump by nine percent in 2015. Director Katrin Walker comments: "Virtually every new parent who comes into the store has it on their list and we highly recommend them. Parents that think a pushchair is the only thing they need invariably come back within the first month to buy one anyway."

Victoria Chuard who runs local boutique Petit Tippi adds demand for activewear wraps is rising. "Since we began selling the Wrapsody Duo—which is perfect for exercise, swimming, even showering if you can't put your baby down and desperately need one, as well as normal use—we have seen a 200 percent increase in sales," she explains. Brands such as Ergo, which has a carrier that allows the baby to be carried on the hip, on the front or at the back, are now as well known to parents as big stroller names such as Bugaboo and Maclaren in the city. Mother-of-two Kelly says: "I have three high-end strollers that have sat mostly unused since I began wearing. It's simplified things." — AFP





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

Paris Fashion Week





Models present creations by Shiatzy Chen during the 2016 Spring/Summer ready-to-wear collection fashion show.

Hungary fashion photographer under fire over 'migrant chic' shoot

A fashion shoot that took its inspiration from the scenes of refugees and migrants desperately trying to reach Europe drew widespread fury on social media Thursday, forcing the Hungarian photographer to pull the pictures from his website. One picture in Norbert Baksa's "Der Migrant" series shows a model sensually clad in a wide-open shirt and wearing a headscarf, posing for a selfie by a barbed-wire fence similar to the ones Hungary has erected on its borders to stop the migrant inflow. Another image in black and white shows a woman glaring vacantly into the distance as she grips a section of the fence while sitting on the ground, wearing what

appear to be suede knee-high boots and a glamorous black satin jacket.

"Disgusting & distasteful campaign," Syrian freelance photographer Sima Diab wrote on Twitter. "Art gone berserk," tweeted Nigel Britto. "Well now this is utterly sick," wrote photographer Lewis Bush. Faced with the criticism, Baksa, whose work has featured in *Cosmopolitan*, *Elle* and *Playboy* magazine, took the pictures down within 48 hours of posting them on his site. In a statement on his Twitter account, the photographer appeared to accept the criticism. But he added that "the aim of the photo shooting was precisely to make people examine the situation from different angles and

judge from different points of view."

Speaking to AFP, Baksa had criticized what he said was the media's "incomplete" coverage of Europe's worst migrant crisis since World War II. "The situation is very ambiguous and we wanted to represent this ambiguity (by photographing) someone who is miserable but at the same time very beautiful, and who despite the situation owns good quality clothing and a smart-phone," he said. The hostility of the Hungarian government towards hundreds of thousands of people fleeing war, persecution and poverty has drawn condemnation from the UN, several European countries and civil society groups.—AFP



MOBILE PHONES 'TRANSFORMING' AFRICA BUT GROWTH TO SLOW

CAPE TOWN: The rapid spread of mobile phones across Sub-Saharan Africa is transforming the region, but record levels of growth are due to slow sharply, an industry report said this week.

The industry contributed more than \$100 billion to the region's economy last year equivalent to 5.7 percent of gross domestic product, according to a study released at a conference in Cape Town by the GSMA association which represents mobile operators. It forecast that there will be 386 million mobile subscribers in Sub-Saharan Africa by the end

of this year-equivalent to 41 percent of the population.

"The mobile industry remains a key driver of economic growth and employment in Sub-Saharan Africa, making a vital contribution given the population growth and high unemployment levels seen in many countries," said GSMA acting director general Alex Sinclair.

"Mobile technology is also playing a central role in Sub-Saharan Africa by addressing a range of socio-economic challenges, particularly digital and financial inclusion, and

enabling access to vital services such as education and healthcare." For many Africans faced with poor or non-existent landline infrastructure, mobile phones are the route to the Internet instead of laptops or desktop computers.

The number of subscribers has grown by 13 percent a year during the first half of this decade-more than twice the global average of six percent.

But the growth rate in Sub-Saharan Africa is expected to slow sharply over the next five years, to around six percent. The rapid

growth in the first half of the decade was partly due to starting from a low base, with less than a quarter of the population having a mobile subscription in 2010.

Another factor limiting future growth is the "weak business case for rural network rollout" where the income from remote communities makes it difficult to justify the high investment costs, the study says. "Future progress will depend on governments working with the industry to provide a regulatory environment that encourages investment and innovation," said Sinclair.—AFP

HUNGRY? CHINA'S FOOD DELIVERY APPS BITE INTO YUM REVIVAL

SHANGHAI: As China's economy stutters, growing numbers of diners on a budget are tapping into smartphone applications to snap up meal delivery deals, spelling big trouble for fast food chains like Yum Brands Inc's KFC and Pizza Hut.

People like Li Jiali, a 20-year-old Shanghai student, say they have all the dining options they need nestling in their phones, without needing to venture out of the house. Yum's shares dived this week after it said it's way behind target in a bid to recover from damaging food scandals in China, its top driver for profit and revenue.

Li's Huawei smartphone is packed with cut-price food delivery apps from some of China's biggest internet firms, like Baidu Inc's Waimai, Alibaba-linked Meituan and Tencent-backed Ele.me - meaning "Hungry?". These allow thousands of mom-and-pop restaurants to lure diners previously beyond their marketing reach.

"On my phone I have Meituan, Baidu and Ele.me, and I use whichever one has the biggest discount," Li said. Baidu's platform is currently offering the best deals at around 40 percent off, she said, evidence of a price war raging online.

Yum this week pointed the finger at a "savage battle" under way between apps to explain why China same-store sales grew only 2 percent in the third quarter, well below the expected 9.6 percent jump. Yum cut its global forecasts on weakness in China, where the firm has been whipsawed by food safety scandals and marketing missteps over the last few years. The rise of online apps is an extra blow to Yum, already facing a crowded fast food market, where consultants Euromonitor forecast growth will slow to around 4 percent by 2019, less than a third of the pace a decade before.

"We are experiencing what we believe is a short-term but significant impact of online ordering aggregators entering the casual dining space," Yum's chief financial officer Pat Grismer said on an earnings call after the results.

The company's executives also cited a dud marketing campaign at its Pizza Hut brand and slowing growth in the world's second-biggest economy hitting consumers' willingness to fork out on discretionary spending. Shares sank nearly 20 percent after the earnings report.

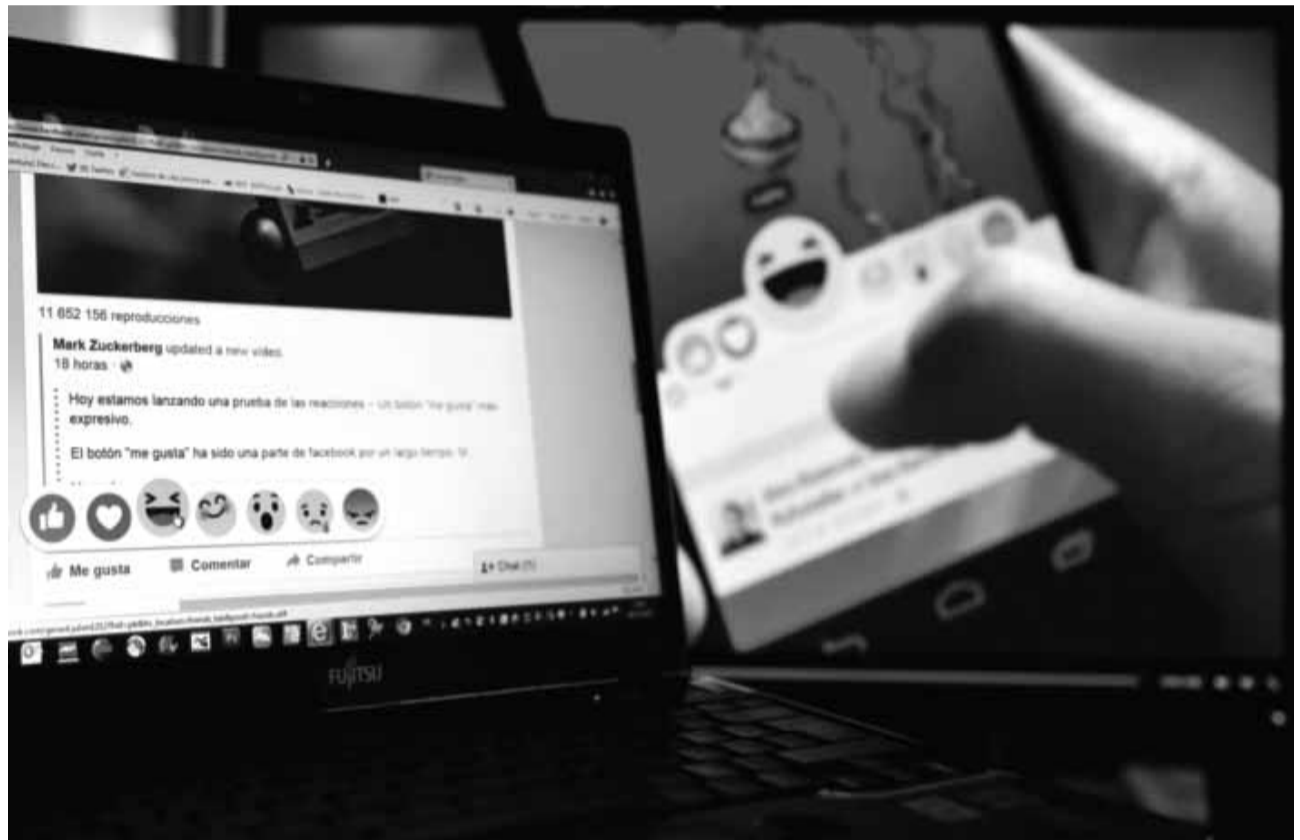
LEVELLING OUT

Yum's stumble also undermined bullish predictions earlier in the year, when the firm pegged global growth targets to a then-hoped-for sharp second-half China bounce, posing a problem for newly installed China boss Micky Pant.

"Apps like this level the playing field so that every venue has its virtual spot that's equal," said Stone Shi, Shanghai-based founder and Chief Executive of restaurant search platform Bon App. "It used to be about being a household name in one sector - pizza, pasta, fast food etcetera. Now people want to see what else is out there." Yum did not respond to specific queries after the earnings disclosure on how the firm would combat the rise of online platforms in China.

The firm, which has 6,867 restaurants in the country, now also faces the challenge of reviving growth when consumers are redirecting spending from food to other areas such as healthcare and transport, analysts said.

"(Chinese) consumers now really watch what they are spending," said Edward Jones senior analyst Jack Russo. Yum's executives say they remain bullish on China in the long-term. But the concern for investors is how the US chain was caught out so dramatically - and whether headwinds such as online apps will continue to cause a drag in the market.—Reuters



MADRID: A picture taken yesterday in Madrid shows a computer screen displaying the Facebook webpage with the new "Reactions" options as an extension of the "like" button, to give people more ways to easily signal how they feel. —AFP

FROM SADNESS TO WOW

FACEBOOK LAUNCHES REACTION BUTTONS BEYOND LIKE

SAN FRANCISCO: Like it or not, Facebook Inc's trademark "like" button is set to get more expressive. Users will soon be able to do more than "like" posts. They will be able to love them and express sympathy, anger or sadness with animated emoticons.

The social network said on Thursday it is launching a pilot test of "Reactions," with users able to select from seven emotions, including like and "wow."

"Dislike," however, is not one of the options. Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg said in a Facebook post Thursday that users have been requesting ways other than like to respond to posts, such as when someone posts about the death of a loved one or a tragic news story.

"Not every moment is a good moment, and sometimes you just want a way to express empathy," wrote Zuckerberg, who said last month the company was working on expanding the like button. "A like might not be the best way to express yourself."

In a video accompanying a

Facebook post by Chief Product Officer Chris Cox, the six new buttons appear as animated emoticons and pop up when the "like" button is long-pressed. (<http://on.fb.me/1LBnXIG>)

The company said it would pilot the new features in Ireland and Spain on iOS, Android and desktops. The feedback from the pilot test will be used to improve the feature. The company hopes "to roll it out to everyone soon," Cox wrote in the post, which was "liked" by more than 7,500 people within two hours.

"As you can see, it's not a 'dislike' button, though we hope it addresses the spirit of this request more broadly," Cox wrote in his post.

Zuckerberg's comments last month, which many users took to mean the social network was working on a "dislike" button, spearheaded a debate over whether it would cause cyberbullying and negativity on the site. But users mostly welcomed Cox's announcement, saying on social media it was a smart idea. Facebook user Marc Marasco posted on Cox's Facebook

page: "Elegant solution."

Beyond 'Like'

Sometimes "Like" just doesn't cut it. So how about Love or Angry? Haha or Sad? Or just Yay or Wow? Facebook is going "Inside Out" on the Like button, adding a range of new emotional reactions to the iconic thumbs-up icon it launched in 2009.

You won't see the new emoji right away unless you live in Ireland or Spain, the two locations the Menlo Park, California-based social network chose to begin testing them on Friday.

But Chris Cox, Facebook's chief product officer, says in a post that the company plans to use the feedback from the test run to make improvements, with the hope of launching the buttons globally "soon."

Many Facebook users have been clamoring for the company to add a "Dislike" button for years, arguing that hitting the "Like" button in many instances - such as in reaction to a tragic news event - can seem a bit shallow, or even inappropriate.—Agencies



A honeybee works atop gift zinnia in Accord, NY. While scientists have documented cases of tiny flies infesting honeybees, causing the bees to lurch and stagger around like zombies before they die, researchers don't know the scope of the problem. Now they are getting help in tracking the honeybee-killing parasite from ZomBee Watch, created in 2012 by John Hafernik, a biology professor at San Francisco State University. —AP

ZOMBEE WATCH HELPS SCIENTISTS TRACK HONEYBEE KILLER

HURLEY, NY: Call them "The Buzzing Dead." Honeybees are being threatened by tiny flies that lead them to lurch and stagger around like zombies. The afflicted bees often make uncharacteristic night flights, sometimes buzzing around porch lights before dying. Well-documented on the West Coast, some zombie-bee cases also have been detected in eastern states by volunteers helping track its spread. This comes as honeybees have already been ravaged in recent years by mysterious colony collapse disorder, vampire mites and nutritional deficiencies.

"We're not making a case that this is the doomsday bug for bees," said John Hafernik, a biology professor at San Francisco State University. "But it is certainly an interesting situation where we have a parasite that seems to affect the behavior of bees and has them essentially abandoning their hive."

Hafernik in 2012 started a project to enlist people to track the spread of zombie bees called ZomBee Watch. Participants are asked to upload photos of the bees they collect and photos of pupae and adult flies as they emerge. They have more than 100 confirmed cases.

The fly had already been known to afflict bumblebees and yellow jackets. Then in 2008, Hafernik made a discovery after scooping up some disoriented bees beneath a light outside his campus office. Before long, he noticed pupae emerging from a bee.

That led to the first of many zombie honeybee cases found in the San Francisco area and beyond. Researchers believe *Apocephalus borealis* flies attack bees as they forage. The flies pierce the bees' abdomens and deposit eggs, affecting the behavior of the doomed bees.

A beekeeper in Burlington, Vermont, detected the first zombie case in the East, in 2013. Then this summer, amateur beekeeper Joe Naughton of Hurley, New York, discovered the first of two recently confirmed cases in the Hudson Valley, north of New York City.

Naughton, who has 200,000 or more bees, is not panicking just yet. "You know, the 'zombie' thing is a little bit sensational and some people hear that and they go right into alarm bells ringing," Naughton said. "Where the state of things are right now is mostly just fact finding."

And there are a lot of facts to find.

It's possible that zombie watchers like Naughton are just now detecting a parasite that has been targeting honeybees for a long time, though Hafernik notes that reports of honeybees swarming night lights are a recent phenomenon. It's not clear if zombie bees can be linked to colony collapse disorder, a syndrome in which whole colonies fail after the loss of adult worker bees. Scientists have not been able to prove what causes CCD, though some believe it could be an interplay of factors including mites, pesticides and habitat loss. For now, threats like mites are more of a concern to researchers than the spread of zombie fly parasites.—AP

HIGH-TECH FIRM'S PLANS TO MAKE DRONES IN NY SPARK QUESTIONS

OFFICIALS MUM ON QUESTION OF BEAMING INTERNET SERVICE

RIVERHEAD, NY: A plan to manufacture solar-powered drones at a suburban New York site that once made fighter jets for the US military is sparking questions about whether the aircraft will be used to beam Internet service. So far, company officials are staying mum.

Daniel Preston, the CEO and chief technology officer of Luminati Aerospace LLC., appeared Thursday with other company officials at a meeting of town board members in Riverhead, seeking permission for Luminati to use one of two runways on property it recently purchased. The land was once used by defense contractor Northrop Grumman to test fighter jets.

Preston said the company, which closed last month on a \$3.4 million deal to acquire 16.3 acres of land from the operator of a now-closed skydiving facility, intends to develop the next generation of drones at the site. Initially, the company intends to immediately hire about 40 employees for high-tech positions, but described its long-term goals as "multimillion-dollar in nature." This summer, Facebook announced it will begin test flights later this year for a solar-powered

drone to deliver Internet connectivity

to remote parts of the world, but Preston would not comment on whether his firm is associated with that or any other tech company.

"I have to respect the confidential nature of this program and of our client," he told reporters after meeting with town officials.

"There's a confidential proprietary aspect to what we're developing and we're trying to be respectful of that." Facebook engineers have said they've designed a drone with a 140-foot wingspan that weighs less than 1,000 pounds. Designed to fly at high altitudes for up to three months, it will use lasers

to send Internet signals to stations on the ground. Other tech companies have launched similar initiatives. Google is experimenting with high-altitude balloons as well as drones and satellites. Microsoft has funded a project that will transmit Internet signals over unused television airwaves.

Neither Facebook nor Google immediately commented. Sean Walter, the Riverhead town supervisor, called the Luminati project "the biggest thing to hit Long Island in a long, long time." He said he has been told the aircraft would fly at altitudes of 60,000 feet or more

and have a wingspan of about 160 feet. The Facebook drones are designed to climb to 90,000 feet, safely above commercial airliners and thunderstorms, and they will fly in circles through the day. At night, he said, they will settle to about 60,000 feet to conserve battery power.

"What's really exciting is we are bringing the aerospace industry back to Long Island," Walter said. He noted that Grumman, the predecessor of Northrop Grumman, designed and built fighter jets for the US military at several sites on Long Island. Grumman's plant in Bethpage built the lunar module that carried men to the moon in 1969. Preston, who founded and ran Atair Aerospace from 2001 to 2008, said Luminati expects to be in a research and development phase for about two years before commencing production. He told Riverhead town officials the company will be seeking permission to expand one of the facilities on its property to accommodate machinery necessary to construct the aircraft. It also intends to consider seeking permission to use the second of the two runways situated at the site. He told town officials the company would pay for repair and maintenance of the runways.—AP

UBER PROBES IP ADDRESS ASSIGNED TO LYFT EXEC

SAN FRANCISCO: Eight months after disclosing a major data breach, ride service Uber is focusing its legal efforts on learning more about an internet address that it has persuaded a court could lead to identifying the hacker. That address, two sources familiar with the matter say, can be traced to the chief of technology at its main US rival, Lyft.

In February, Uber revealed that as many as 50,000 of its drivers' names and license numbers had been improperly downloaded, and the company filed a lawsuit in San Francisco federal court in an attempt to unmask the perpetrator.

Uber's court papers claim that an unidentified person using a Comcast IP address had access to a security key used in the breach. The two sources said the address was assigned to Lyft's technology chief, Chris Lambert. The court papers draw no direct connection between the Comcast IP address and the hacker. In fact, the IP address was not the one from which the data breach was launched.

However, US Magistrate Judge Laurel Beeler ruled that the information sought by Uber in a subpoena of Comcast records was "reasonably likely" to help reveal the "bad actor" responsible for the hack. On Monday, Lyft spokesman Brandon McCormick said the company had investigated the matter "long ago" and concluded "there is no evidence that any Lyft employee, including Chris, downloaded the Uber driver information or database, or had anything to do with Uber's May 2014 data breach."

McCormick declined to comment on

whether the Comcast IP address belongs to Lambert. He also declined to describe the scope of Lyft's internal investigation or say who directed it.

Lambert declined to comment in person or over email. Attorneys for the Comcast subscriber, who is not named in court documents, did not respond to an interview request on Monday. In an email on Monday, an Uber spokeswoman declined to comment on any aspect of the case beyond what is in court filings, including what led the company to believe that more information about the Comcast subscriber might lead them to the hacker.

Uber's lawsuit alleges the hacker violated civil provisions of the federal Computer Fraud and Abuse Act, as well as a similar California law. It is unclear if the leaked driver information was ever used by the

hacker or anyone else. According to documents filed in the case, the company learned months after the hack that someone had used an Uber digital security key to access the driver database. A copy of the key was inadvertently posted by Uber on one of its public pages on the code development platform GitHub in March of 2014, prior to the breach, the court filings show, and remained there for months.

After Uber discovered the unauthorized download, it examined the Internet Protocol addresses of every visitor to the page during the time between when the key was posted and when the breach occurred, according to court documents. The Uber review concluded that "the Comcast IP address is the only IP address that accessed the GitHub post that Uber has not eliminated" from suspicion, court papers say.—Reuters



SAO PAULO: Taxi drivers block a street to protest the ride-booking company Uber, next to the City Hall in downtown Sao Paulo on Thursday. Sao Paulo will introduce new regulations to govern Uber instead of banning it.—AP

BBC
lifestyle

00:10 Rachel Khoo's Kitchen
Notebook: Cosmo Cook
00:35 Bargain Hunt
01:20 Masterchef: The Professionals
02:15 Beat My Build
03:05 Homes Under The Hammer
03:55 The Roux Legacy
04:30 Beat My Build
05:20 Bargain Hunt
06:05 Masterchef: The Professionals
07:00 Phil Spencer: Secret Agent
08:40 Bill's Kitchen: Notting Hill
09:30 Marbella Mansions
11:00 Masterchef: The Professionals
12:45 Hairy Bikers' Bake-ation
13:35 The Roux Legacy
14:45 The Good Cook
15:10 The Planners
16:00 Come Dine With Me
18:05 Phil Spencer: Secret Agent
19:45 Bill's Kitchen: Notting Hill
20:35 Marbella Mansions
22:05 Masterchef: The Professionals
23:50 Hairy Bikers' Bake-ation

Discovery
CHANNEL
HD

00:20 Cook County Jail
01:10 Fast N' Loud
02:00 Patrick Dempsey: Racing Le Mans
02:50 Street Outlaws
03:40 How Do They Do It?
06:00 Marooned With Ed Stafford
06:50 Kings Of The Wild
07:40 Deadliest Catch
08:30 Outback Truckers
09:20 Manhunt With Joel Lambert
10:10 Fast N' Loud
11:00 Patrick Dempsey: Racing Le Mans
11:50 Street Outlaws
12:40 Idris Elba: No Limits
13:30 Auction Hunters
14:20 Dallas Car Sharks
15:10 Baggage Battles
16:50 Tethered
17:40 Ice Lake Rebels
18:30 Dynamo: Magician Impossible
19:20 Chaos Caught On Camera
20:10 Head Games
21:00 Yukon Men
21:50 Ice Lake Rebels
22:40 Alaska: The Last Frontier
23:30 Deadly Dilemmas
23:55 Deadly Dilemmas

E!

00:00 Dash Dolls
00:55 We Have Issues
01:25 Hollywood Cycle
02:20 E! News
03:15 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
04:10 THS
05:05 E!ES
06:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
06:55 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
07:50 Style Star
08:20 E! News
09:15 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills
10:15 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills
11:10 We Have Issues
11:35 New Money
12:05 E! News
13:05 Stewarts And Hamiltons
14:05 Hollywood Cycle
15:00 Hollywood Cycle
16:00 WAGs
17:00 WAGs
18:00 E! News
19:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
20:00 Dash Dolls
21:00 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills
22:00 E! News
23:00 The Soup
23:30 Sex With Brody

itv
hd
CHOICE

00:10 The Chase
01:05 May The Best House Win
02:00 Shetland
02:55 Emmerdale
05:15 Coronation Street
06:30 Keep It In The Family

07:30 Lewis
08:25 Doc Martin
09:20 Who's Doing The Dishes?
11:50 Keep It In The Family
12:45 Lewis
13:45 Shetland
14:40 Doc Martin
15:35 Agatha Christie's Poirot
17:10 Keep It In The Family
18:05 Tricked
19:00 Doc Martin
19:50 Shetland
20:45 Lewis
21:35 Tricked
22:30 Eggheads
23:00 Coronation Street

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CHANNEL HD

00:10 The Happenings
01:00 Paranatural
02:00 Megastructures
02:55 Mega Bridges
03:50 I Wouldn't Go In There: Ww2 Special
04:45 Money Meltdown
05:40 Ultimate Survival Alaska
06:35 Richard Hammond's Wildest Weather
07:30 Science Of Stupid
08:25 Dog Whisperer
10:15 Monster Fish
11:10 Wicked Tuna
12:05 Youtube Revolution
13:00 The 2000's Greatest Tragedies
14:00 Richard Hammond's Wildest Weather
15:00 Exploring Malaysia
16:00 Science Of Stupid
17:00 Danger Decoded
18:00 Building Wild
19:00 Cabin Fever
20:00 Science Of Stupid
20:50 Danger Decoded
21:40 Building Wild
22:30 Cabin Fever
23:20 Exploring Malaysia

om FIRST HD
COMEDY

00:30 About A Boy
01:00 The Nightly Show With Larry Wilmore
01:30 You're The Worst
02:00 You're The Worst
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
13:30 Til Death
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 Young & Hungry
19:30 Young & Hungry
20:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
21:00 About A Boy
21:30 The Nightly Show Global Edition
22:00 Saturday Night Live
23:00 Family Guy
23:30 Late Night With Seth Meyers

om FIRST HD

00:00 Tyrant
01:00 Grey's Anatomy
02:00 Survivor: Second Chance
03:00 Devious Maids
04:00 Survivor: Second Chance
05:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
06:00 Red Band Society
07:00 Glee
08:00 Chicago Fire
10:00 Red Band Society
11:00 Glee
13:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
14:00 Chicago Fire
15:00 Red Band Society
18:00 Chicago Fire
19:00 Grey's Anatomy
20:00 The Amazing Race
21:00 Heroes Reborn
22:00 The Blacklist
23:00 The Player

om FIRST
MORE

00:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
01:00 Good Morning America
03:00 Salem
04:00 Grimm
05:00 Good Morning America
08:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
09:00 Suits
11:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show

12:00 Parenthood
13:00 Supernatural
15:00 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

om MOVIES
ACTION

00:00 Max Payne
02:00 Insidious: Chapter 2
04:00 The Malay Chronicles: Bloodlines
06:00 The Legend Of Hercules
08:00 Aeon Flux
10:00 Rush Hour
12:00 The Day The Earth Stood Still
14:00 The Legend Of Hercules
16:00 Aeon Flux
18:00 Rush Hour 2
20:00 Falcon Rising
22:00 Battle Of The Damned

om MOVIES HD
ACTION

00:00 Insidious: Chapter 2-PG15
02:00 The Malay Chronicles: Bloodlines-PG15
04:00 The Legend Of Hercules-PG15
06:00 Aeon Flux-PG15
08:00 Rush Hour-PG15
10:00 The Day The Earth Stood Still
12:00 The Legend Of Hercules-PG15
14:00 Aeon Flux-PG15
16:00 Rush Hour 2-PG15
18:00 Falcon Rising-PG15
20:00 Battle Of The Damned-PG15
22:00 The Terminator-18

om MOVIES HD
COMEDY

00:00 Save The Date
02:00 Zoolander
04:00 Liar, Liar
06:00 The Naked Gun: From The Files Of Police Squad
08:00 Captain Ron
10:00 Liar, Liar
12:00 Zoolander
14:00 Moms' Night Out
16:00 Captain Ron
18:00 How To Lose A Guy In 10 Days
20:00 Malavita
22:00 Not Another Teen Movie

om MOVIES
DRAMA

01:15 A Promise-PG15
03:00 Begin Again-PG15
05:00 Knockout-PG15
07:00 Seven Days In Utopia-PG15
09:00 The Signal-PG15
11:00 Knockout-PG15
13:00 Dawn Rider-PG15
15:00 Parkland-PG15
17:00 The Signal-PG15
19:00 A Thousand Times Good Night-PG15
21:00 God Help The Girl-PG15
23:00 Night Train To Lisbon-18

om MOVIES HD
FESTIVAL

02:30 Disconnect
05:00 Grand Piano
07:00 Nebraska
09:00 Phantom
11:00 Mr. Pip
13:00 Jodorowsky's Dune
15:00 Against The Ropes
17:00 Phantom
19:00 Seeking A Friend For The End Of The World
21:00 Frank
23:00 The Master

om MOVIES HD

01:00 The Last Of Robin Hood-PG15
03:00 Million Dollar Arm-PG15
05:15 Dinosaur Island-PG
07:00 Hours-PG15
09:00 At Middleton-PG15
10:45 Step Up All In-PG15
12:45 Tinker Bell And The Pirate Fairy-FAM
14:15 Transformers: Age Of Extinction-PG15
17:00 At Middleton-PG15
19:00 Chef-PG15
21:00 Low Down-PG15
23:00 Riddick-18

om MOVIES HD
KIDS

01:00 Jelly T
02:45 Kikoriki: Team Invincible
04:30 Hiroku: Defenders Of Gaia
06:00 Blue Elephant 2
07:45 Blackie And Kanuto
09:30 True Story Of Puss'n Boots
11:00 Jungle Shuffle
12:30 Kikoriki: Team Invincible
14:15 Back To The Sea

16:00 Earth To Echo
18:00 True Story Of Puss'n Boots
20:00 Asterix: The Mansions Of The Gods
21:45 Back To The Sea
23:30 Earth To Echo

om MOVIES HD
PREMIERE

00:15 The Conjuring-18
02:15 Lucy-PG15
04:00 Last Passenger-PG15
06:00 Alexander And The Terrible... Very Bad Day-PG
08:00 Grace Unplugged-PG
10:00 Planes: Fire And Rescue-PG
12:00 Playing For Keeps-PG15
14:00 Planet 51-PG
16:00 Tactical Force-PG15
18:00 Escape Plan-PG15
20:00 Walk Of Shame-PG15
22:00 Neighbors-18

STAR MOVIES

00:00 My Daughter Must Live
01:30 Meet Bill
03:00 Nearing Grace
04:45 Struck By Lightning
06:15 Thorne: Sleepyhead
08:30 Meskada
10:00 Valkyrie
12:00 The American
13:45 The Help
16:15 My Daughter Must Live
17:45 Face Off
20:00 Hostel Part 2
21:30 Boogeyman
23:00 The Rig

STAR WORLD

00:00 The Listener
01:00 Castle
02:00 Low Winter Sun
03:00 Lone Star Legend
03:30 Lone Star Legend
04:00 72 Hours
05:00 Cougar Town
05:30 Cougar Town
06:00 Scrubs
06:30 Scrubs
07:00 Switched At Birth
08:00 Private Practice
09:00 Private Practice
10:00 Low Winter Sun
11:00 Lone Star Legend
11:30 Lone Star Legend
12:00 72 Hours
13:00 Cougar Town
13:30 Scrubs
14:00 Nine Lives Of Chloe King
15:00 Nine Lives Of Chloe King
16:00 MasterChef - The Professionals
17:00 Melissa & Joey
17:30 Happy Endings
18:00 The Walking Dead
19:00 The Walking Dead
20:00 The Walking Dead
21:00 Melissa & Joey
21:30 Happy Endings
22:00 The Listener
23:00 The Listener

HISTORY

00:00 American Pickers
01:00 Duck Dynasty
01:30 Duck Dynasty
02:00 Storage Wars Texas
02:30 Pawn Stars
03:00 WWI: The First Modern War
04:00 Search For The Lost Giants
05:00 American Pickers
06:00 Ax Men
07:00 Shipping Wars
07:30 Shipping Wars
08:00 Down East Dickering
09:00 American Pickers
10:00 Mountain Men
11:00 Swamp People
12:00 Gold Hunters: Legend Of The Superstition...
13:00 American Restoration
13:30 American Restoration
14:00 Counting Cars
14:30 Counting Cars
15:00 Ice Road Truckers
16:00 Pawn Stars
16:30 Pawn Stars



HOSTEL PART 2 ON STAR MOVIES

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2015

17:00 Pawn Stars
19:00 Alone
20:00 Shark Wranglers
21:00 Alaska Off-Road Warriors
22:00 Ice Road Truckers



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
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



03:05 Last Tango In Halifax
04:00 The Omid Djalili Show
04:30 Rev.
05:00 The Green Balloon Club
05:25 Nina And The Neurons: In The Lab
05:40 Nina And The Neurons: In The Lab
05:55 Gigglebiz
06:10 The Green Balloon Club
06:35 Nina And The Neurons: In The Lab
06:50 The Weakest Link
07:40 Last Of The Summer Wine
08:10 Last Of The Summer Wine
08:40 Eastenders
09:10 Doctors
09:40 Call The Midwife
10:30 The Paradise
11:25 The Weakest Link
12:10 Last Of The Summer Wine
12:40 Last Of The Summer Wine
13:10 Call The Midwife
14:00 The Paradise
14:55 Last Of The Summer Wine
15:25 Last Of The Summer Wine

15:55 Doctors
16:25 Eastenders
16:55 The Weakest Link
17:40 Last Of The Summer Wine
18:10 Last Of The Summer Wine
18:40 Doctors
19:10 Casualty
20:00 Silent Witness
21:40 Alan Carr: Chatty Man
22:25 Getting On
22:55 The Omid Djalili Show
23:25 The Weakest Link
00:10 Doctors
00:40 Casualty
01:30 Silent Witness



03:20 Grojband
03:42 Grojband
04:05 Total Drama: Pahkewitew Island
04:27 Total Drama: Pahkewitew Island
04:50 Teen Titans Go!
05:10 Grojband
05:35 Grojband
06:00 The Amazing World Of 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: Pahkewitew Island
11:05 Johnny Test
11:50 Steven Universe
12:02 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...

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



03:06 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?
06:37 How It's Made
07:00 How It's Made
07:23 Mythbusters
08:08 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
13:23 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
17:18 How Do They Do It?
18:05 Mythbusters
18:50 Deadly Dilemmas
19:40 Food Factory
20:25 How It's Made
20:50 How It's Made
21:15 How Do They Do It?
22:00 Deadly Dilemmas
22:45 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
23:35 Space Pioneer
00:20 Mythbusters
01:08 Deadly Dilemmas
01:55 Food Factory
02:42 How It's Made



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

CHAN TUCKER

RUSH HOUR



RUSH HOUR 2 ON OSN MOVIES ACTION HD

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
01:30 Art Attack
01:55 Henry Hugglemonster
02:05 Calimero
02:20 Zou
02:30 Loopdidoo
02:45 Art Attack



06:00 The 7D
06:10 Boyster
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 Boyster
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
23:00 Programmes Start At 6:00am KSA



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

JUMEIRAH MESSILAH BEACH HOTEL & SPA CELEBRATES WELLNESS & DEVELOPMENT DAY

Jumeirah Messilah Beach & Spa announced its first Career & Wellbeing Day for colleagues on Monday, September 14th, 2015 dedicated to raising awareness on career, learning, health and wellness.

The team were invited for a health checkup courtesy of Al Seef Hospital medical staff. Complimentary eye tests were performed by a qualified optician from New English Optics, and the Talise Spa & Fitness team was on hand to provide health &

beauty advice. Guest lecturers addressed quit smoking programs and ways to maintain a healthy lifestyle, and the Toastmaster's Club challenged people to find their confidence with public speaking. Colleagues also enjoyed high energy sessions of Zumba, Masala Bhangra and Yoga. General Manager Hakan Petek said, "It is in our aim to foster a thriving, positive workplace culture for our colleagues where they can grow and develop to be future leaders in our industry."



Indian Embassy announcements

VALUE ADDED SERVICES AT CKGS CENTERS

The Embassy has outsourced its passport and visa services to M/s Cox & Kings Global Services, (CKGS) since 3 August 2014. This agency has three centers located in Sharq, Fahaheel and Jleeb Al Showaikh (Abbasiya) for providing services to Indian community, Kuwaiti nationals and other expatriates residing in or visiting Kuwait. They charge a service fee of KD 1.200 for passport services and service fee of KD. 3.250 for providing visa services. Following optional Value Added Services (VAS) are also available with CKGS, Kuwait.

It may be noted here that as instructed by the Embassy, the SMS charge of KD 0.400 has been discontinued by CKGS, Kuwait with effect from 30 September 2015. It has been observed that service seekers visiting CKGS centers in Kuwait are at times misled by touts hanging around these locations. They often fleece by charging higher amount from unsuspecting customers. All concerned are hereby advised to beware of touts and not to fall prey to their solicitations.

Tatkal scheme

Indian nationals in Kuwait are hereby informed once again

that the new Indian passports can be issued the same day under the 'Tatkal' Scheme in cases such as damage / loss of passport, near exhaustion of all blank pages in passport, near or expiry of passport etc. Applications for new passport issued under urgent or emergency circumstances are received in the Embassy Consular Wing and passports issued within a short span of 6-8 hours on payment of 'Tatkal' fee of KD 46/- in addition to the normal passport fee. The passport fees under the 'Tatkal' scheme are as given below:

- i) Ordinary passport (36 pages): KD 69.50
- ii) Jumbo passport (60 pages): KD 77.50
- iii) Passport in lieu of damaged/ lost passport: KD 92.50 for ordinary and KD 100.50 for Jumbo passport

This is to further inform that Kuwaiti nationals can apply for emergency visa at the Embassy which is issued the same day on payment of additional fee KD 12. Applicants may call the Embassy for any Tatkal passport and emergency visa related query at Tel No 22530600.

ASSE KUWAIT CHAPTER ORGANIZES CONTRACTOR SAFETY MONTH

American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE) Kuwait Chapter is Kuwait's premier voluntary and non-profit organization providing professional guidance, training and consultancy; in the field of Health, Safety and Environment; to the industrial and social sectors in the region.

Continuing its constant efforts towards social responsibility and commitment, American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE), Kuwait Chapter, is organizing Contractor Safety Month, where specialists from various companies will be conducting workshops on the safety equipment and Personnel Protective Equipment (PPEs) widely used at the work places.

The workshop will be conducted at Hubara Centre - Assembly Hall at KOC Ahmadi Township from 6.30 pm to 08.30 pm. Certificate of attendance will be given to the participants. Exciting prizes for active participation from the event sponsors M/s Safety plus a Division of Raja Company is also arranged.

The workshops are aimed to improve the awareness on these topics, for the supervisory and above level staff from contracting companies Oil Sector, Consultants, Government Sectors, etc. ASSE Kuwait Chapter welcomes them to attend all the workshops. The entry is free.

CRYCHESS 2015

Friends of CRY Club (FOCC), announces rescheduled dates for children's chess tournament 2015. "CRYchess 2015" will be held at the Gulf Indian School (GIS), Fahaheel, on Friday, 06th November 2015, from 0930 - 1630 hrs. It is open to all school children. The players will be placed into groups, allocated by their age, to play in the Swiss pairing format. Medals and certificates are awarded to all participating children and first 3 positions in each group win trophies. For more details, registration forms, Rules of CRYChess 2015, please visit <http://www.fockwt.org/> or contact FOCC members. Sponsors are also welcome to encourage the participating young chess players. The last date for registration is Sat, the 31st Oct, 2015.

ELIMINATION OF US PASSPORT EXTRA PAGES

Effective January 1, 2016, the Department of State will eliminate the addition of supplemental visa pages for passports. To mitigate the impact of this change, applicants for new passports have started receiving 52-page passports as of October 1, 2014. Please note that requests for extra pages on Form DS-4085 will only be accepted for current passports until Wednesday, December 30, 2015. Starting January 1, 2016, applicants who need more blank pages will need to apply to renew their passports and be issued the standard 52-page book.

As the US holiday travel season approaches, you should consider applying for extra pages while they are still available or applying to renew your passport to ensure you have enough blank pages for visa stamps from other countries. See travel.state.gov for more information on entry, exit, and foreign visa requirements.

For more information about how to apply for extra visa pages and to make an appointment with American Citizens Services, please visit <http://kuwait.usembassy.gov/passports/additional-visa-pages.html>. The Consular Section is located in the US Embassy in Bayan, Block 13, on Masjed Al-Aqsa Street. Services are available Sunday through Thursday (excluding American and Kuwaiti National Holidays), by appointment only, from 8.00am-4.30pm.



SWISS BELHOTEL PLAZA



SWISS BELHOTEL PLAZA SUPPORTS BREAST CANCER AWARENESS

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, which is an annual campaign to increase awareness of the disease. While most people are aware of breast cancer, many forget to take the steps to have a plan to detect the disease in its early stages and encourage others to do the same. The month of October is Breast Cancer Month that is celebrated

worldwide. Swiss-Belhotel Plaza Kuwait supported Breast Cancer Awareness Month on October 7th 2015 in collaboration with Al Sidra Center located in Sheikh Badriya Cancer Center Shuwaikh. We have provided selection of healthy snacks for the attendees composed of breast cancer patients, doctors and medical staff.

BSK GIRL TO PERFORM BHARATHANATYAM DANCE

It is a rare opportunity to perform at the Cosmic God Lord Nataraja's feet and getting his blessings in Chidambaram temple. Just before her arangetram, Nickie had the opportunity and gave a splendid performance amongst a big crowd.

She is a Grade 9 student of the Pickering High School, Ajax, Toronto (Ontario), Canada. Born as a millennium girl in 2000 at Trichy, Nickie started her school at the BSK (The British School of Kuwait). At the age of 3, she started Balavihar classes with Smt. SundariNagaraj who taught her slogas and Bhavat-Gita. She began learning music from Guru Smt. Jayanthi Siva of Shivranjani Fine Arts, Kuwait at the age of 4 and dance at the young age of 5, from Guru Smt. Rangashree (Artistic Director, Kinkini Kuwait Chapter); It used to be a regular phenomenon to

participate in Thyagaraja Aradhana in Kuwait for the vocal singing and dances in Kinkini every year. She also used to do stage appearances in Kuwait Tamil Sangam. Her parents are Senthil Kumar (working in EQUATE Petrochemical Company) and Padmavathy Senthil Kumar.

She has a passion for art/paint and learnt from Master Kondalraj in her spare time. Nickie was a member of the British School of Kuwait Choir and performed regularly at various functions being an ambassador for the school. She was a voracious reader, learnt the piano at her school and enjoyed playing badminton and tennis. In 2010, did her Salangai Pooja during her Grand Parents 50th wedding anniversary in the presence of Dr Swarnamalya Ganesh.

In 2010, Nickie moved to Canada and changed her

bharathanatyam style from Vazhuvur to Kalashetra under Guru PadminiAnand. It was a continuation of her dance in Canada and determined to have her bharathanatyamarangetram before she gets into Grade-10. She joined Girls Guide and got the best guide award in 2013/14. She has started giving performances in Canadian Hindu Temples and for DTA (Durham Tamil Association) in Canada. During her middle school at Vimy Ridge, Ajax, she was the Vice-President of the student council and became a popular girl of the school. She was so fascinated with music, dance, Indian culture, studies, space, etc, She is learning Tamil in Canada. She loves the Indian costumes especially the half-saree with jasmine flowers. God willing, Nickie wants to do medicine and help the needy in India.





BERKELEY, California: In this photo provided by UC Berkeley Public Affairs, taken June 20, 2014 Jennifer Doudna, right, and her lab manager, Kai Hong, work in her laboratory.



MANHATTAN, Kansas: Meat scientist Bob Danler prepares a sample of ground beef for testing at GreatO Premium Foods.—AP photos

GENE EDITING: RESEARCH SPURS DEBATE OVER PROMISE VS ETHICS

WASHINGTON: The hottest tool in biology has scientists using words like revolutionary as they describe the long-term potential: wiping out certain mosquitoes that carry malaria, treating genetic diseases like sickle-cell, preventing babies from inheriting a life-threatening disorder. It may sound sci-fi, but research into genome editing is booming. So is a debate about its boundaries, what's safe and what's ethical to try in the quest to fight disease. Does the promise warrant experimenting with human embryos? Researchers in China already have, and they're poised to in Britain.

Should we change people's genes in a way that passes traits to future generations? Beyond medicine, what about the environmental effects if, say, altered mosquitoes escape before we know how to use them? "We need to try to get the balance right," said University of California, Berkeley, biochemist Jennifer Doudna. She helped develop new gene-editing technology and hears from desperate families, but urges caution in how it's eventually used in people.

The US National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine will bring international scientists, ethicists and regulators together in December to start determining that balance. The biggest debate is whether it ever will be appropriate to alter human heredity by editing an embryo's genes. "This isn't a conversation on a cloud," but something that families battling devastating rare diseases may want, Dr George Daley of Boston Children's Hospital told specialists meeting this week to plan the ethics summit. "There will be a drive to move this forward."

Experimental treatment

Laboratories worldwide are embracing a technology to precisely edit genes inside living cells - turning them off or on, repairing or modifying them - like a biological version of cut-and-paste software. Researchers are building stronger immune cells, fighting muscular dystrophy in mice, and growing human-like organs in pigs for possible transplant. Biotech companies have raised millions to develop therapies for sickle cell disease and other disorders. The technique has a wonky name - CRISPR-Cas9 - and a humble beginning.

Doudna was studying how bacteria recognize and disable viral invaders, using a protein she calls "a genetic scalpel" to slice DNA. That system turned out to be programmable, she reported in 2012, letting scientists target virtually any gene in many species using a tailored CRISPR recipe. There are older methods to edit

genes, including one that led to an experimental treatment for the AIDS virus, but the CRISPR technique is faster and cheaper, and allows altering of multiple genes simultaneously.

"It's transforming almost every aspect of biology right now," said National Institutes of Health genomics specialist Shawn Burgess. CRISPR's biggest use has nothing to do with human embryos. Scientists are engineering animals with human-like disorders more easily than ever before, to learn to fix genes gone awry and test potential drugs. Engineering rodents to harbor autism-related genes once took a year. It takes weeks with CRISPR, said bioengineer Feng Zhang of the Broad Institute at MIT and Harvard, who also helped develop, and patented, the CRISPR technique. (Doudna's university is challenging the patent.)

Provide a cure

A peek inside an NIH lab shows how it works. Researchers inject a CRISPR-guided molecule into microscopic mouse embryos, to cause a gene mutation that a doctor suspects of causing a patient's mysterious disorder. The embryos will be implanted into female mice that wake up from the procedure in warm blankets to a treat of fresh oranges. How the resulting mouse babies fare will help determine the gene defect's role. Experts predict the first attempt to treat people will be for blood-related diseases such as sickle cell, caused by a single gene defect that's easy to reach. The idea is to use CRISPR in a way similar to a bone marrow transplant, but to correct someone's own blood-producing cells rather than implanting donated ones.

"It's like a race. Will the research provide a cure while we're still alive?" asked Robert Rosen of Chicago, who has one of a group of rare bone marrow abnormalities that can lead to leukemia or other life-threatening conditions. He co-founded the MPN Research Foundation, which has begun funding some CRISPR-related studies. So why the controversy? CRISPR made headlines last spring when Chinese scientists reported the first-known attempt to edit human embryos, working with unusable fertility clinic leftovers. They aimed to correct a deadly disease-causing gene but it worked in only a few embryos and others developed unintended mutations, raising fears of fixing one disease only to cause another.

If ever deemed safe enough to try in pregnancy, that type of gene change could be passed on to later generations. Then there are questions about designer babies, altered for

other reasons than preventing disease. In the US, the NIH has said it won't fund such research in human embryos. In Britain, regulators are considering researchers' request to gene-edit human embryos - in lab dishes only - for a very

different reason, to study early development. Medicine aside, another issue is environmental: altering insects or plants in a way that ensures they pass genetic changes through wild populations as they reproduce.—AP

EBOLA'S PERSISTENCE IN SURVIVORS FUELS CONCERNS OVER FUTURE RISKS

VIRUS CAN HIDE IN BODY PARTS

LONDON: Ebola virus can hide in parts of the body such as eyes, breasts and testicles long after leaving the bloodstream raises questions about whether the disease can ever be beaten. Virologists said yesterday's case of a Scottish nurse, Pauline Cafferkey, who had recovered from Ebola but is now suffering complications adds to signs that the virus is a long-term health risk and can lead to a "post-Ebola syndrome".

"Over the past few years there has been mounting evidence of mental and physical health problems in Ebola survivors that can last for years after the virus is cleared from the bloodstream," said Ben Neuman, an Ebola expert and lecturer in virology at Britain's University of Reading. "The newly discovered twist on this post-Ebola syndrome is that in some cases the health problems - often including damage to the eyes and joints - are caused by live Ebola virus growing in fluids in some of the less accessible compartments of the body."

Ebola, one of the deadliest viruses known in humans, infected 28,000 people and killed more than 11,300 of them in an unprecedented outbreak in West Africa which was declared in March 2014 and is only now coming under control.

Partly because of the vast numbers involved in the epidemic, which centred on Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia, infectious disease experts say we are learning more every day about Ebola from cases such as Cafferkey's and thousands more survivors. Ebola experts said in August that around half of Ebola survivors in West Africa were already reporting suffering from chronic problems, including serious joint pain and eye inflammation that can lead to blindness.

Large virus reservoir?

"Due to the sheer scale of this outbreak compared to previous ones we are going to

see aspects of Ebola virus infection that we have not observed before," said Julian Hiscox, a professor of infection and global health at Britain's Liverpool University.

He was concerned that Ebola's persistence in survivors, who have no obvious symptoms of Ebola infection and so are often living and working normally and not kept in isolation as a symptomatic patient would be, means they are "a potential reservoir of the virus".

"It's why men who have had Ebola and recovered are advised to abstain or wear condoms," he noted. The World Health Organization's advice is that all male survivors should be tested three months after the onset of symptoms and then monthly until they know they have no risk of passing on the virus through their semen. John Edmunds, an expert at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, said that while the risk of transmission from survivors harboring the virus in their eye fluids and other organs "appears to be very low", it still warrants attention.

"With so many survivors in West Africa now, there is a risk that further outbreaks can be triggered, which is why authorities have to remain very vigilant," he said. Cafferkey, a 39-year-old nurse, was back in hospital in London yesterday with doctors saying she would be treated in isolation as a precautionary measure. The hospital said in statement it had "identified a small number of close contacts ... that we will be following up as a precaution", but added: "The risk to the general public remains low." Cafferkey was the first person to be diagnosed with Ebola on British soil and was originally discharged in January after seemingly making a full recovery. Neuman said the likelihood of survivors spreading Ebola depends on how much of the virus is present in the blood. In Cafferkey's case, he said, "if her body was able to control the virus once, the chances are she can do it twice."—Reuters

TOKYO DISTRICT TRIES TO REEL IN TOURISTS WITH WHALE MEAT

TOKYO: When tourists think of Japan, images of dramatic landscapes, futuristic cities and world class sushi might spring to mind. But one Tokyo district is hoping to reel in outsiders with one of the country's more controversial traditions—slaughtering whales. Ebisu, a chichi gastronomic hub close to Tokyo's frenetic Shibuya shopping district, is hosting an annual food festival aimed at introducing foreigners to the culinary delights of whale meat. "With so many foreign tourists visiting Japan now, we would like to show how we really feel" about eating the animal, Takashi Furui, head of the event's executive committee, said at a press conference declaring the festival open last week.

A record 13.4 million foreigners visited Japan in 2014, up from 10.4 million the

previous year. The figure has already reached 12.9 million by August this year with many regions jostling for ways to stand out as the 2020 Olympics approaches. Around 30 restaurants in Ebisu district are offering whale dishes throughout the festival, which closes on 18 October. But few tourists visiting the district this week seemed willing to tuck into the dark meat, which fans say has a gamey quality, similar to venison. "I don't believe I would do that unless I was absolutely starving and there was nothing else to eat," Canadian visitor Betty Lidington told AFP near the main Ebisu station.

Her husband Bill agreed: "I don't really want to, and I won't miss it if I don't taste a whale." French tourist Agathe Lavielle said she was more open to the idea, though. "It doesn't shock me to eat differ-

ent kinds of food and meat," she said. "I could try some, maybe, yeah," she added, provided that the animal did not suffer.

Fishing god

Japan's culinary relationship to cetaceans is both controversial and complex. The seafaring nation has hunted whales for hundreds of years but the industry only really took off after World War II to help feed a hungry country. In recent decades it has used a legal loophole in the international ban on whale hunting that allows it to continue catching the animals in order to gather scientific data. But it has never made a secret of the fact that the whale meat from these hunts often ends up on dining tables—even though consumption has fallen sharply in recent years.

The country's influential Japan Whaling Association has given the festival its blessing. "If foreign visitors actually see the food being served at restaurants, I hope they understand and say it may be alright to use it as resources as long as the animals are not endangered," chairman Kazuo Yamamura, who attended the festival opening, told AFP.

Festival organizers say Ebisu's name is deeply entwined with fishing, whales and foreigners. Ebisu is a fishing god and one of the Seven Deities of Good Fortune—popularly venerated throughout Japan as the tutelary gods of one's occupation. The word can also refer to a whale, in a deified form, and was once used as a term to describe foreigners, relating to the belief that the gods of fortune come from far-away places.—AFP



MANHATTAN, Kansas: Meat scientist Bob Danler prepares a sample of ground beef for testing at GreatO Premium Foods.



TOKYO: Chef Eiichi Tsuchiya serving a dish of whale meat carpaccio and whale meat salad at his restaurant in Tokyo for the Ebisu whale meat festival.—AFP photos

CLINIC
PAGE



Kuwait Times
THE LEADING INDEPENDENT DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF

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



KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (08/10/2015 TO 14/10/2015)

SHARQIA-1
THE WALK 12:45 PM
24 HOURS 3:15 PM
AHWAK 5:30 PM
24 HOURS 8:00 PM
AHWAK 10:15 PM
24 HOURS 12:45 AM

SHARQIA-2
PAN 12:15 PM
PAN 2:45 PM
HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA23 5:15 PM
AHWAK 7:15 PM
PAN 9:45 PM
PAN 12:15 AM

SHARQIA-3
THE MARTIAN 12:45 PM
THE MARTIAN 3:45 PM
RUDHRAMADEVI 3:45 PM
THE MARTIAN 6:45 PM
RUDHRAMADEVI 6:45 PM
JAZBAA 6:45 PM
RUDHRAMADEVI 10:00 PM
BLACK MASS 1:00 AM
BLACK MASS 10:00 PM
THE MARTIAN 12:30 AM

MUHALAB-1
AHWAK 11:45 AM
24 HOURS 2:15 PM
AHWAK 4:30 PM
24 HOURS 7:15 PM
AHWAK 9:30 PM
THE WALK 12:05 AM

MUHALAB-2
24 HOURS 11:45 AM
HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA2 2:00 PM
THE MARTIAN 4:00 PM
RUDHRAMADEVI 4:00 PM
JAZBAA 4:00 PM
THE MARTIAN 7:00 PM
RUDHRAMADEVI 7:00 PM
RUDHRAMADEVI 10:00 PM
PAN 10:00 PM
24 HOURS 1:00 AM

MUHALAB-3
PAN 11:30 AM
PAN 2:00 PM
RUDHRAMADEVI 1:30 PM
THE MARTIAN 4:30 PM
PAN 7:30 PM
THE MARTIAN 10:00 PM
PAN 12:45 AM

FANAR-1
24 HOURS 12:45 PM
HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA2 3:00 PM
THE WALK 5:00 PM
24 HOURS 7:30 PM
24 HOURS 9:45 PM
24 HOURS 12:05 AM

FANAR-2
AHWAK 11:30 AM
AHWAK 1:45 PM
AHWAK 4:00 PM
AHWAK 6:30 PM
AHWAK 9:00 PM
THE MARTIAN 11:30 PM

FANAR-3
THE MARTIAN 12:15 PM
THE MARTIAN 3:15 PM
ETIQUETTE FOR MISTRESSES 6:45 PM
JAZBAA 6:15 PM
SINGH IS BLIING 9:15 PM
JAZBAA 9:15 PM
THE MARTIAN 12:15 AM

FANAR-4
PAN 11:30 AM
PAN 2:00 PM
PAN 4:30 PM

THE MARTIAN 7:00 PM
PAN 10:00 PM
PAN 12:30 AM

FANAR-5
BLACK MASS 11:30 AM
BLACK MASS 1:45 PM
BLACK MASS 4:15 PM
NO FRI
RUDHRAMADEVI 3:45 PM
THE WALK 6:45 PM
RUDHRAMADEVI 6:45 PM
RUDHRAMADEVI 9:45 PM
RUDHRAMADEVI 10:00 PM
THE WALK 9:45 PM
BLACK MASS 1:00 AM
BLACK MASS 12:45 AM

MARINA-1
THE MARTIAN 12:30 PM
24 HOURS 1:30 PM
BLOWTORCH 3:30 PM
24 HOURS 5:15 PM
THE MARTIAN 7:30 PM
24 HOURS 10:30 PM
24 HOURS 12:45 AM

MARINA-2
HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA2 11:30 AM
THE MARTIAN 1:30 PM
THE MARTIAN 4:15 PM
AHWAK 7:15 PM
AHWAK 9:45 PM
THE MARTIAN 12:15 AM

MARINA-3
PAN 12:30 PM
PAN 3:00 PM
HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA2 5:30 PM
PAN 7:45 PM
THE WALK 10:15 PM
PAN 12:45 AM

AVENUES-1
THE WALK 11:45 AM
THE WALK 2:30 PM
THE WALK 5:15 PM
THE WALK 8:15 PM
THE WALK 11:15 PM

AVENUES-2
HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA2 12:15 PM
HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA2 2:15 PM
HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA2 4:15 PM
HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA2 6:15 PM
BLOWTORCH 8:15 PM
BLOWTORCH 10:00 PM
BLOWTORCH 11:45 PM

AVENUES-3
AHWAK 11:30 AM
THE MARTIAN 2:00 PM
THE MARTIAN 5:00 PM
THE MARTIAN 8:00 PM
THE MARTIAN 11:00 PM

AVENUES-4
THE MARTIAN 12:15 PM
THE MARTIAN 3:15 PM
AHWAK 3:15 PM
THE MARTIAN 6:15 PM
JAZBAA 6:15 PM
JAZBAA 6:15 PM
THE MARTIAN 9:15 PM
THE MARTIAN 12:15 AM

AVENUES-5
PAN 11:30 AM
PAN 2:00 PM
PAN 4:30 PM
HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA2 4:30 PM
AHWAK 7:00 PM
AHWAK 9:30 PM
PAN 12:05 AM

AVENUES-6

HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA2 11:30 AM
AHWAK 1:30 PM
AHWAK 4:00 PM
AHWAK 6:30 PM
AHWAK 9:00 PM
AHWAK 11:30 PM

AVENUES-7
THE NUTCRACKER SWEET 11:45 AM
BLACK MASS 1:45 PM
THE NUTCRACKER SWEET 4:15 PM
BLACK MASS 6:15 PM
ETIQUETTE FOR MISTRESSES 8:45 PM
THU+FRI+SAT
BLACK MASS 8:45 PM
NO THU+FRI+SAT
BLACK MASS 11:15 PM

AVENUES-8
SINGH IS BLIING 12:30 PM
SINGH IS BLIING 3:30 PM
SINGH IS BLIING 6:30 PM
SINGH IS BLIING 9:30 PM
JAZBAA 12:30 PM
JAZBAA 3:30 PM
JAZBAA 6:30 PM
JAZBAA 9:30 PM
THE MARTIAN 12:30 AM

AVENUES-9
THE MARTIAN 1:00 PM
THE MARTIAN 4:00 PM
RUDHRAMADEVI 4:00 PM
THE MARTIAN 7:00 PM
RUDHRAMADEVI 7:00 PM
RUDHRAMADEVI 10:00 PM
THE MARTIAN 10:00 PM
AHWAK 1:00 AM

AVENUES-10
24 HOURS 11:45 AM
24 HOURS 2:00 PM
24 HOURS 4:15 PM
24 HOURS 6:30 PM
24 HOURS 8:45 PM
24 HOURS 11:00 PM
24 HOURS 1:15 AM

AVENUES-11
PAN 12:30 PM
PAN 3:00 PM
PAN 5:30 PM
PAN 8:00 PM
PAN 10:30 PM
PAN 1:00 AM

360°-1
THE MARTIAN 12:15 PM
THE MARTIAN 3:15 PM
THE MARTIAN 6:15 PM
THE MARTIAN 9:15 PM
THE MARTIAN 12:15 AM

360°-2
HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA2 11:30 AM
THE WALK 1:30 PM
THE WALK 4:15 PM
THE WALK 7:00 PM
THE WALK 9:45 PM
THE WALK 12:30 AM

360°-3
HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA2 1:15 PM
HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA2 3:15 PM
HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA2 5:15 PM
HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA2 7:15 PM
AHWAK 9:15 PM
AHWAK 11:45 PM

AL-KOUT.1
PAN 11:45 AM
PAN 2:15 PM
PAN 4:45 PM
BLACK MASS 7:30 PM
PAN 10:00 PM
PAN 12:30 AM



Flight Schedule

DIAL 161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

In case you are not travelling, your proper cancellation of bookings will help other passengers use seats

Arrival Flights on Saturday 10/10/2015

Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
PIA	205	Lahore	00:15
JZR	239	Amman	00:20
SYR	343	Damascus	00:25
JZR	267	Beirut	00:30
DLH	637	Dammam	00:35
THY	772	Istanbul	00:35
FDB	069	Dubai	00:55
JZR	539	Cairo	01:30
SAI	441	Lahore	01:35
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:40
RJA	642	Amman	01:45
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	01:50
OMA	643	Muscat	02:05
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15
KKK	6507	Istanbul	02:15
UAE	853	Dubai	02:25
QTR	1076	Doha	02:55
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:05
FDB	067	Dubai	03:15
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15
KAC	1544	Cairo	03:35
PGT	860	Istanbul	03:45
THY	1464	Istanbul	03:55
MSC	401	Alexandria	04:00
JZR	555	Alexandria	04:15
THY	770	Istanbul	04:40
THY	5582	Bursa	05:05
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10
KAC	416	Jakarta/Kuala Lumpur	06:00
JZR	529	Asyut	06:00
KAC	412	Manila/Bangkok	06:15
BAW	157	London	06:35
JZR	1541	Cairo	06:40
JZR	503	Luxor	07:20
KAC	382	Delhi	07:30
KAC	206	Islamabad	07:45
KAC	204	Lahore	07:50
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:55
KAC	354	BLR	07:55
QTR	1086	Doha	07:55
KAC	154	Istanbul	08:10
KAC	352	Kochi	08:15
KAC	344	Chennai	08:15
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25
KAC	362	Colombo	08:30
KAC	284	Dhaka	09:00
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:05
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:10
IRM	1186	Tehran	09:15
QTR	1070	Doha	09:25
RJA	648	Amman	09:30
KAC	350	Kochi	09:40
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40
SYR	341	Damascus	10:00
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40
UAE	873	Dubai	10:40
JZR	325	Al Najaf	11:20
MSC	405	Sohag	11:20
RBG	553	Alexandria	11:30
AGY	680	Alexandria	11:40
IRM	1188	Mashhad	11:45
JZR	165	Dubai	11:50
OMA	641	Muscat	11:50
IAW	157	Al Najaf	12:00
FDB	075	Dubai	12:25
NIA	151	Cairo	12:35
JZR	241	Amman	12:40
UAE	871	Dubai	12:45
IRC	6511	ABD	12:50
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00
THY	766	Istanbul	13:10
KAC	672	Dubai	13:55
MSR	575	Sharm el-Sheikh	13:55
IRC	526	Mashhad	14:00
QTR	1078	Doha	14:05
KNE	460	Riyadh	14:10
GFA	221	Bahrain	14:20
FDB	057	Dubai	14:20
IZG	4167	Mashhad	14:30
KAC	540	Sharm el-Sheikh	14:50
IZG	4161	Mashhad	14:50
JZR	257	Beirut	14:55
ABY	127	Sharjah	14:55
KAC	788	Jeddah	15:00
RJD	135	Abu Dhabi	15:00
OMA	645	Muscat	15:05
KNE	462	Madinah	15:05
UAE	857	Dubai	15:45
NIA	251	Alexandria	15:50
RJA	640	Amman	15:55
ETD	303	Abu Dhabi	16:00
KNE	472	Jeddah	16:00
JZR	535	Cairo	16:05
FDB	051	Dubai	16:10
KAC	512	Mashhad	16:10
QTR	1072	Doha	16:20
JZR	125	Bahrain	16:25
KAC	118	New York	16:30
ETD	9909	CCU	16:35

KAC	562	Amman	17:00
IRA	669	Mashhad	17:10
SVA	510	Riyadh	17:15
UAL	982	IAD	17:25
JZR	357	Mashhad	17:30
GFA	215	Bahrain	17:30
JZR	177	Dubai	17:45
JZR	777	Jeddah	17:50
SVA	500	Jeddah	18:00
FDB	065	Dubai	18:05
IRM	1180	Mashhad	18:10
KAC	176	Geneva/Frankfurt	18:20
KAC	786	Jeddah	18:35
KAC	502	Beirut	18:35
CLX	856	Luxembourg	18:50
QTR	1080	Doha	18:55
KAC	542	Cairo	18:55
KAC	618	Doha	18:55
KAC	104	London	19:00
GFA	217	Bahrain	19:05
UAE	875	Dubai	19:05
FDB	063	Dubai	19:10
KAC	614	Bahrain	19:10
JAI	572	Mumbai	19:35
KAC	742	Dammam	19:40
KAC	774	Riyadh	19:40
FDB	061	Dubai	19:50
AGY	684	Sohag	19:50
OMA	647	Muscat	20:00
KAC	674	Dubai	20:00
KNE	480	Taif	20:10
MEA	402	Beirut	20:15
ABY	121	Sharjah	20:20
DLH	634	Frankfurt	20:20
JZR	189	Dubai	20:25
MSR	618	Alexandria	20:40
KAC	174	Munich	20:55
ALK	229	Colombo	21:10
ETD	307	Abu Dhabi	21:15
UAE	859	Dubai	21:15
KLM	415	Amsterdam	21:25
FDB	073	Dubai	21:30
QTR	1074	Doha	21:30
GFA	219	Bahrain	21:45
ETD	309	Abu Dhabi	22:10
THY	764	Istanbul	22:10
AIC	987	Chennai/Hyderabad	22:25
UAL	981	Bahrain	22:40
MSC	407	Sohag	22:45
FDB	059	Dubai	22:50
JZR	157	Dubai	22:55
JZR	185	Dubai	23:00
JAI	574	Mumbai	23:20
MSR	614	Cairo	23:30
JZR	513	Sharm el-Sheikh	23:30
FDB	071	Dubai	23:55

Departure Flights on Saturday 10/10/2015

Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
AIC	976	Goa/Chennai	00:05
RBG	556	Alexandria	00:05
BBC	044	Dhaka	00:10
JAI	573	Mumbai	00:25
MSR	615	Cairo	00:30
FDB	072	Dubai	00:30
KLM	413	Amsterdam	00:55
JZR	502	Luxor	01:10
SYR	344	KAC/Damascus	01:25
PIA	206	Lahore	01:30
DLH	637	Frankfurt	01:35
THY	773	Istanbul	02:05
SAI	442	Lahore	02:35
ETH	621	Addis Ababa	02:50
PGT	859	Istanbul	02:55
KKK	6508	Istanbul	03:10
OMA	644	Muscat	03:35
UAE	854	Dubai	03:45
FDB	068	Dubai	04:00
ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	04:05
MSR	613	Cairo	04:15
PGT	861	Istanbul	04:45
THY	765	Istanbul	04:55
MSC	406	Sohag	05:00
QTR	1077	Doha	05:05
THY	1465	Istanbul	05:55
RJA	643	Amman	06:35
GFA	212	Bahrain	06:50
THY	771	Istanbul	06:50
FDB	070	Dubai	07:05
JZR	240	Amman	07:05
JZR	164	Dubai	07:15
JZR	256	Beirut	07:30
KAC	173	Munich	07:45
JZR	324	Al Najaf	07:55
BAW	156	London	08:30
FDB	054	Dubai	08:30
KAC	539	Sharm el-Sheikh	08:50
QTR	1087	Doha	08:55
JZR	534	Cairo	09:15
KAC	671	Dubai	09:25
KAC	787	Jeddah	09:30
ABY	126	Sharjah	09:45

UAE	856	Dubai	09:50
ETD	302	Abu Dhabi	10:00
KAC	101	London/New York	10:00
RJA	649	Amman	10:15
KAC	511	Mashhad	10:20
IRM	1181	Mashhad	10:25
QTR	1071	Doha	10:40
FDB	056	Dubai	10:40
SYR	342	Damascus	10:55
KAC	501	Beirut	11:00
KAC	165	Rome/Paris	11:25
KAC	561	Amman	11:25
GFA	214	Bahrain	11:35
JZR	356	Mashhad	11:40
KAC	541	Cairo	12:05
UAE	874	Dubai	12:10
RBG	554	Alexandria	12:10
JZR	776	Jeddah	12:15
MSC	402	Alexandria	12:20
AGY	685	Sohag	12:40
IAW	158	Al Najaf	13:00
KAC	785	Jeddah	13:00
IRM	1189	Mashhad	13:10
FDB	076	Dubai	13:10
JZR	176	Dubai	13:10
OMA	642	Muscat	13:15
JZR	124	Bahrain	13:30
NIA	152	Cairo	13:35
IRC	6512	ABD	13:50
MSR	611	Cairo	14:00
THY	767	Istanbul	14:10
UAE	872	Dubai	14:15
MSR	576	Sharm el-Sheikh	14:40
IRC	527	Mashhad	15:00
QTR	1079	Doha	15:05
FDB	058	Dubai	15:05
GFA	222	Bahrain	15:05
KNE	481	Taif	15:10
KAC	617	Doha	15:15
KAC	673	Dubai	15:20
IZG	4168	Mashhad	15:30
JZR	188	Dubai	15:50
KAC	741	Dammam	15:55
KAC	773	Riyadh	15:55
KAC	613	Bahrain	16:00
KNE	463	Madinah	16:00
OMA	646	Muscat	16:05
IZG	4162	Mashhad	16:10
RJD	136	Abu Dhabi	16:10
ABY	128	Sharjah	16:15
ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	16:45
NIA	252	Alexandria	16:50
RJA	641	Amman	16:55
KNE	473	Jeddah	16:55
JZR	266	Beirut	17:05
FDB	052	Dubai	17:10
JZR	512	Sharm el-Sheikh	17:15
QTR	1073	Doha	17:25
UAE	858	Dubai	17:40
IRA	666	Esfahan	18:10
SVA	511	Riyadh	18:15
JZR	184	Dubai	18:20
GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20
KAC	563	Amman	18:30
JZR	156	Dubai	18:35
JZR	538	Cairo	18:40
UAL	982	Bahrain	18:40
JZR	238	Amman	18:45
FDB	066	Dubai	18:55
IRM	1187	Tehran	19:10
SVA	505	Jeddah	19:30
ETD	9910	Abu Dhabi	19:35
GFA	218	Bahrain	19:50
FDB	064	Dubai	19:50
QTR	1081	Doha	19:55
KAC	361	Colombo	20:00
CLX	856	Hong Kong	20:20
UAE	876	Dubai	20:35
JAI	571	Mumbai	20:35
FDB	062	Dubai	20:35
KAC	287	Dhaka	20:40
KAC	331	Trivandrum	20:45
AGY	681	Alexandria	20:50
KAC	1543	Cairo	20:55
OMA	648	Muscat	21:00
ABY	122	Sharjah	21:00
KAC	351	Kochi	21:05
KNE	461	Riyadh	21:10
JZR	554	Alexandria	21:15
MEA	403	Beirut	21:15
MSR	607	Luxor	21:40
DHX	171	Bahrain	21:50
ETD	308	Abu Dhabi	22:05
FDB	074	Dubai	22:10
KAC	381	Delhi	22:20
ALK	230	Colombo	22:20
UAE	860	Dubai	22:25
KLM	415	Dammam/Amsterdam	22:25
KAC	301	Mumbai	22:30
KAC	349	Kochi	22:30
QTR	1075	Doha	22:40
GFA	220	Bahrain	22:45

Word Search Puzzles

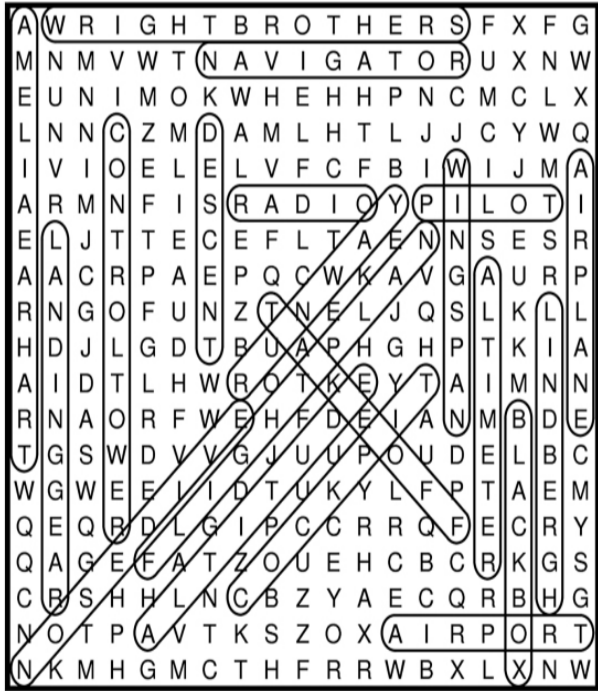
GONE WITH THE WIND WORD SEARCH PUZZLE



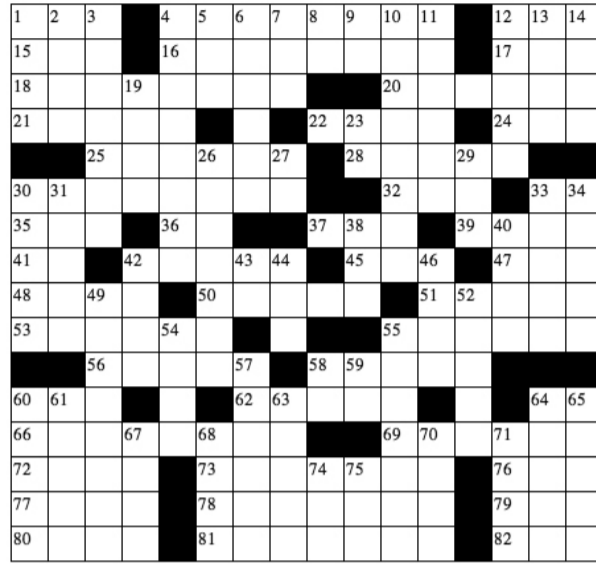
- ASHLEY WILKES
- ATLANTA
- BONNIE BLUE
- CIVIL WAR
- CONFEDERATE
- GEORGIA
- MARGARET MITCHELL
- OLD SOUTH
- PLANTATION
- PRISSY
- RECONSTRUCTION
- RHETT BUTLER
- ROMANCE
- SCALAWAG
- SCARLETT O'HARA
- SLAVERY
- SOLDIERS
- SOUTHERN BELLE
- TARA
- TWELVE OAKS

Yesterday's Solution

SOLUTION TO AVIATION PUZZLE



CROSSWORD 1045



ACROSS

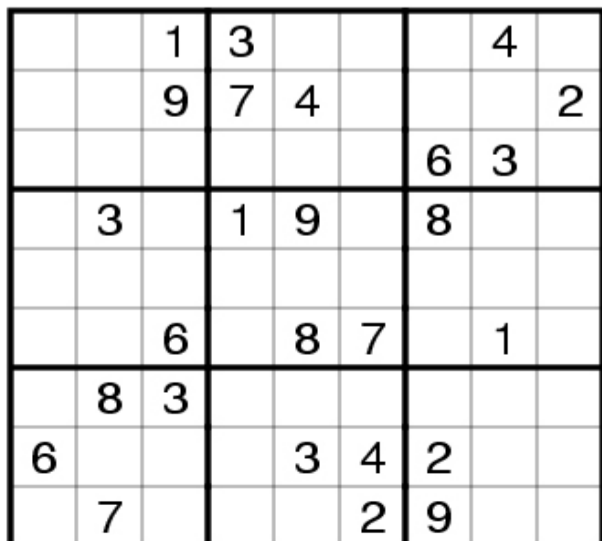
1. A spacecraft that carries astronauts from the command module to the surface of the moon and back.
4. Of or relating to whales and dolphins etc.
12. A doctor's degree in dental medicine.
15. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
16. In a hoarse or husky voice.
17. A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
18. Related to or derived from the people or culture of Spain.
20. The wood of an African obeche tree.
21. Irish prelate who deduced from the Bible that Creation occurred in the year 4004 BC (1581-1656).
22. European freshwater game fish with a thick spindle-shaped body.
24. The sound made by corvine birds.
25. (often used in combination) Having hair as specified.
28. A republic on the island of Malta in the Mediterranean.
30. The chief one of a related group.
32. A beverage made by steeping tea leaves in water.
35. A unit of absorbed ionizing radiation equal to 100 ergs per gram of irradiated material.
36. The 12th letter of the Greek alphabet.
37. Explosive consisting of a yellow crystalline compound that is a flammable toxic derivative of toluene.
39. A United Nations agency created to assist developing nations by loans guaranteed by member governments.
41. The azimuth of a celestial body is the angle between the vertical plane containing it and the plane of the meridian.
45. The cry made by sheep.
47. The most common computer memory which can be used by programs to perform necessary tasks while the computer is on.
48. (Greek mythology) Winged goddess of victory.
50. Not in a state of sleep.
51. God of wealth and love.
53. Large American feline resembling a lion.
56. Syncopated music in duple time for dancing the rumba.
60. (Irish) Mother of the ancient Irish gods.
62. A rechargeable battery with a nickel cathode and a cadmium anode.
66. Soviet physicist and dissident.
69. (plate tectonic theory) A hypothetical continent including all the land-mass of the earth prior to the Triassic period when it split into Laurasia and Gondwanaland.
72. Small deer of Japan with slightly forked antlers.

73. The 15th letter of the Greek alphabet.
76. The elementary stages of any subject (usually plural).
77. Any of various strong liquors distilled from the fermented sap of toddy palms or from fermented molasses.
78. Italian painter (1696-1770).
79. Resinlike substance secreted by certain lac insects.
80. Long coarse hair growing from the crest of the animal's neck.
81. Tropical American trees.
82. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.

DOWN

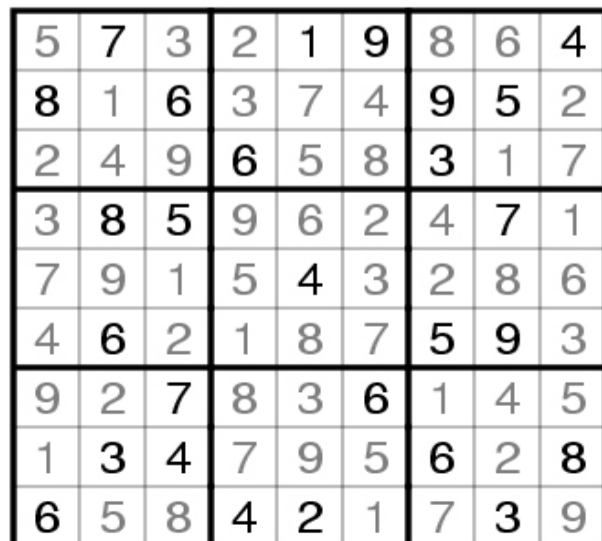
1. A Loloish language.
2. Armor plate that protects the chest.
3. The holy city of Shiite Muslims.
4. A personal attractiveness that enables you to influence others.
5. The longest division of geological time.
6. The capital of Nationalist China.
7. Electrical conduction through a gas in an applied electric field.
8. A soft silver-white ductile metallic element (liquid at normal temperatures).
9. The branch of engineering science that studies the uses of electricity and the equipment for power generation and distribution and the control of machines and communication.
10. Howler monkeys.
11. A small byte.
12. The capital and largest city of Bangladesh.
13. A member of the Siouan people formerly living in the Missouri river valley in NE Nebraska.
14. United States actor (born in Ireland).
19. Small beads made from polished shells and formerly used as money by native Americans.
23. A metric unit of length equal to 100 meters.
26. Long pinkish sour leafstalks usually eaten cooked and sweetened.
27. A person forced to flee from home or country.
29. Of or relating to or characteristic of Thailand of its people.
31. An ancient region of west central Italy (southeast of Rome) on the Tyrrhenian Sea.
33. An ancient city in northern Portugal.
34. Someone whose business is advertising.
38. The compass point that is one point east (clockwise) of due north.
40. (informal) Exceptionally good.
42. A city in southeastern South Korea.
43. A radioactive transuranic element synthesized from californium.
44. The sense organ for hearing and equilibrium.
46. In bed.
49. East Indian cereal grass whose seed yield a somewhat bitter flour, a staple in the Orient.
52. Austrian composer who influenced the classical form of the symphony (1732-1809).
54. Type genus of the Amiidae.
55. Small siskin-like finch with a red crown.
57. Personal state of isolation and anxiety resulting from a lack of social control and regulation.
58. A state in southeastern United States.
59. (Akkadian) God of wisdom.
61. The basic unit of money in Nigeria.
63. Overgrown with ivy.
64. Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
65. An indehiscent fruit derived from a single ovary having one or many seeds within a fleshy wall or pericarp.
67. The lean flesh of a fish similar to cod.
68. A training program to prepare college students to be commissioned officers.
70. Small buffalo of the Celebes having small straight horns.
71. Offering fun and gaiety.
74. An emergency procedure consisting of external cardiac massage and artificial respiration.
75. Fish eggs or egg-filled ovary.

Daily SuDoku



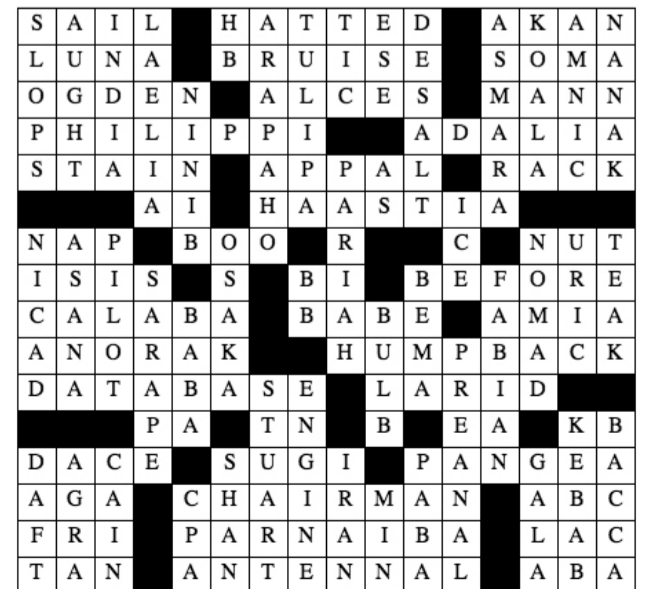
medium

Yesterday's Solution



hard

Yesterday's Solution



RAIN AND DIESEL SPILLAGE HIT RUSSIAN PRACTICE

SOCHI: Formula One fans endured more spills than thrills at the Russian Grand Prix yesterday after a cleaning truck leaked diesel across the circuit before first practice and rain washed out the afternoon session.

Force India's Nico Hulkenberg eventually topped the morning timesheets while Felipe Massa was fastest for Williams after lunch. Neither session offered much for the crowd sheltering in the stands, let alone those viewing from afar, with only eight drivers setting a lap time in the afternoon.

"Today the weather conditions were

not very nice, we could not get much running and we learned pretty much nothing," said Ferrari's Kimi Raikkonen. The Mercedes drivers, whose team could clinch their second successive constructors' title tomorrow, failed to set a time after lunch. They did at least achieve that in the first session, however, with world champion Lewis Hamilton leaving it until the last five minutes to complete a lap and ending up seventh on the timesheets. Hulkenberg led a practice session for the first time this season after banging in a quick lap right at the finish, 0.052 quicker than Mercedes' Nico

Rosberg, for a best time of one minute 44.355 seconds.

Hamilton, who leads team mate Rosberg by 48 points with five races remaining, had been second fastest with two minutes to go as the track got quicker and would have been faster without a late spin.

"Since it almost certainly won't rain for the rest of the weekend, we chose not to do a lot of practice in the wet with the risk it gives to the cars," said Mercedes technical head Paddy Lowe. "It's disappointing for the spectators." The Mercedes drivers did just 34 laps

between them over the two sessions.

The opening 90 minute session was reduced to an hour as workers hosed and cleaned the track following the 'significant' spillage from a truck that had been supposed to sweep the asphalt. When drivers did go out, on wet tyres, it was on a slippery track with ominous rainclouds replacing the early morning sunshine. "What a mess," exclaimed Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel, who was third fastest in the morning and second in the afternoon, over the team radio after driving through the affected turns seven and eight. — Reuters

ECCLESTONE SAYS RED BULL ENGINE SUPPLY IS 'SORTED'

SOCHI: Formula One supremo Bernie Ecclestone played down fears yesterday that former champions Red Bull could walk away from the sport by saying he was confident their engine supply problems were 'sorted'. Without giving any details, and despite reports that Ferrari had joined Mercedes in refusing to supply their rivals with engines for 2016, the 84-year-old sounded upbeat at the Russian Grand Prix.

"Everything's been sorted out so I wouldn't worry about it," he told reporters. "We don't want them to drop out. I think they have sorted it all out now," added the Briton, who said he was confident there would be 22 cars on the starting grid next year with the addition of new team Haas F1. Red Bull's engine predicament has become the talk of the Formula One paddock, with the energy drink company owning two of the 10 teams but potentially having no power units after this season. Red Bull Racing and Toro Rosso are currently supplied by Renault and had a deal for 2016 — but that relationship has soured, with the French manufacturer seemingly set to buy troubled Lotus.

Red Bull's billionaire owner Dietrich Mateschitz has warned the teams will quit unless they have a competitive engine, which leaves only Ferrari and Mercedes-given Honda's woeful performance with McLaren—unless they mend fences with Renault.

Ecclestone said, however, that suggestions Mateschitz had fallen out of love with the sport were wide of the mark. "He's never fallen out of love. He just wants to be in a position where he can be competitive. And that's what will happen. He'll be OK," he said.

Mercedes are already committed to four teams, including their own reigning world champions, and have ruled out providing dominant power units to a rival that could beat them.

Reports have indicated that Ferrari, who are already committed to three teams, would be unable to supply Red Bull with their latest specification units and reluctant also to expand to five teams.

Germany's Auto Motor und Sport reported that Ferrari were willing to supply engines to Italian-based Toro Rosso only. A Ferrari spokesman was unable to give any details about the situation while Red Bull consultant Helmut Marko refused to comment to Reuters.

"There are a lot of negotiations going on, nothing is fixed," Red Bull principal Christian Horner told Sky Sports television. Although Ecclestone had a long meeting with Mercedes motorsport head Toto Wolff and the team's non-executive chairman Niki Lauda on Friday, Wolff said engines had not been discussed and the manufacturer's position had not changed. "It was a conversation about general topics," Wolff told reporters. "Bernie doesn't twist arms, Bernie makes it very subtle," he added. "Honestly, we didn't discuss the topic (of engines)...we didn't change on our opinion." — Reuters



SOCHI: Ferrari's German driver Sebastian Vettel takes pictures with a camera as he waits in the pits during the second practice session of the Russian Formula One Grand Prix at the Sochi Autodrom circuit yesterday. — AFP



PHILADELPHIA: Philadelphia Eagles head coach Chip Kelly walks off the field after an NFL football game against the Dallas Cowboys in Philadelphia. The NFL's coaching hot seat already has burned Joe Philbin in Miami. Torching could happen again in Detroit, Cleveland, San Francisco and, yes, to Chip Kelly in Philadelphia if success doesn't come soon on the field. — AP

DALLAS TO UNLEASH BAD-BOY HARDY ON BRADY AND PATRIOTS

LOS ANGELES: The Dallas Cowboys will unleash controversial new signing Greg Hardy against Tom Brady and the New England Patriots tomorrow as they attempt to stop their injury-ravaged season from sliding into negative territory.

The early optimism of the Cowboys' 2-0 start has been punctured by a devastating array of injuries which have sidelined quarterback Tony Romo, star receiver Dez Bryant, key linebacker Sean Lee and running back Lance Dunbar. The Cowboys have slipped to 2-2 since Romo's absence, a record most pundits expect to become 2-3 after Brady and the free-scoring Patriots' trip to Texas for week five's glamour match-up.

In the circumstances, the availability of defensive end Hardy—banned for the first four games of the season for violating the NFL's personal conduct policy—could not be more timely. Yet several comments made by Hardy this week have underscored the sense of queasiness that accompanied his signing for Dallas in March, which came barely a month after he escaped prosecution for domestic violence charges.

In July last year a judge ruled he had assaulted his ex-girlfriend after hearing evidence that he had dragged her by the hair

and thrown her onto a sofa covered with four semi-automatic weapons and three other guns. However the case ended when Hardy opted for a jury trial and North Carolina prosecutors could not locate his alleged victim, who had reportedly been paid a settlement by the player. Hardy appeared largely unrepentant when speaking to the reporters for the first time this week since he joined the Cowboys, shrugging off questions about domestic violence with a vague statement that "the best way to win a game is stick to the game plan."

Raised eyebrows

He also raised eyebrows with remarks about Brady's supermodel wife, Gisele Bundchen. "I love seeing Tom Brady, he's cool as crap," Hardy said. "Have you seen his wife? I hope she comes to the game. I hope her sister comes to the game, all her friends come to the game." Another less than tactful remark alluding to his desire to come out "all guns blazing" also drew criticism, ultimately prompting head coach Jason Garrett to give Hardy a talking to. "We want to distinguish ourselves with our play, not with what you say," Garrett told the Fort Worth Star-Telegram. "(Hardy) understands that now." Brady, meanwhile, the driving force behind

the Patriots and their unbeaten start to the season, responded to Hardy's comments with measured indifference.

"No, I'm just getting ready to play," Brady began when asked if the comments had bothered him. "I'm focused on my job. He's a great player. It takes a lot of different things to handle a guy like that. He's been a great player since he's been in the league...I don't really care about his personal feelings." Elsewhere tomorrow, the Cincinnati Bengals' unbeaten start to the season is likely to face a searching examination from NFC powerhouses the Seattle Seahawks, who have improved to 2-2 after losing their first two games of the season.

A win for the Seahawks would put them firmly back in the frame in the NFC West, with divisional rivals the St. Louis Rams (2-2) facing a daunting trip to Lambeau Field to face Aaron Rodgers and the unbeaten Green Bay Packers, who are 4-0. The Denver Broncos meanwhile will be looking to tighten their grip on the AFC West when they face the Oakland Raiders (2-2) in California.

The Broncos are 4-0 despite misfiring offensively this season, but will put more daylight between themselves and their divisional rivals with a win in Oakland. — AFP

PRESIDENTS CUP CONTROVERSY AS US PAIR LOSE HOLE 'TWICE'

INCHEON: Confusion and controversy struck the Presidents Cup yesterday when Phil Mickelson and Zach Johnson lost the seventh hole "twice" after being penalised in a baffling rules infringement. The US pair stood on the seventh tee at the Jack Nicklaus Golf Club, Incheon, all square in their four-ball match against Aussie duo Adam Scott and Jason Day.

But by the time they walked off the green they were two holes down—something that would seem impossible in match play golf. It turned out Mickelson had breached a little known match play rule which states you must play the entire round with the same brand and model of golf ball in fourballs and singles. "I used a firmer Callaway that would

go a little bit longer and try to get there in two," explained Mickelson. "Didn't really think much about it. But I was talking with Jay (Haas, US captain), and I just thought, 'Gosh, I'm going to ask. I'm sure it's not an issue'. "Turned out it was an issue. Obviously as a player, you need to know that. You need to know the rules. "The weird thing was I've never heard of a match adjustment penalty. I just thought I pick up, put the right ball in play the next hole. But obviously that was not what happened."

Johnson made a par five, but Day won the hole for the International team with a birdie four. Mark Russell, vice-president of rules and competition for the PGA Tour, told reporters why the unusual penalty had been

imposed. "He breached the 'One-Ball Condition,'" said Russell. "In this situation, the penalty for breach of this condition is a one-hole adjustment to the state of the match.

"The USA side lost the seventh hole, making the International side one up. At this point, the adjustment penalty of one hole is applied, resulting in the International side being two up through seven holes." In effect, the US 'lost' the hole twice.

Official mistake

Russell admitted that Mickelson could have continued on the hole but was advised he was disqualified from it by the rules committee in discussion with the match referee Gary Young. "Okay. I accept total responsibility

for that mistake," Russell said. He added he could not remember ever a situation where a pair lost two holes while playing only one. "I can't (remember that happening). We don't play fourball match play very often. You know, it's a strange situation." US captain Jay Haas said the issue was over. "It's just unfortunate that he was told he had to pick up the ball," Haas told reporters. "Had he been able to play out and make a four and tie the hole, then it would only have been one down instead of two down. "We talked to Mark Russell, and they (rules committee) acknowledged that it was their error, but again, there's nothing to be done." The ruling had competitors, watching media and spectators alike scratching their heads. — AFP



SEOUL: Bae Sang-Moon of South Korea (Left) and Danny Lee of New Zealand (Right) celebrate their win on the 18th hole during the second round four-ball matches at the 2015 Presidents Cup at the Jack Nicklaus Golf Club in Incheon, west of Seoul, yesterday. — AFP

INTERNATIONALS SALUTE BAE AFTER STUNNING WIN

INCHEON: Bae Sang-moon's career will take a backseat to military service for the next two years but when he sits back in his barracks, taking time out between drills, his thoughts will surely drift to yesterday and the putt that won a point at the Presidents Cup. Bae, who has won twice on the lucrative PGA Tour and was granted US residency in 2013, was charged in February with violating national service laws after failing to return home when his overseas travel permit expired. The 29-year-old had hoped the courts would allow him to delay his military service and continue his career in the United States but the military's case was upheld in July and Bae immediately accepted the ruling.

With the country still technically at war with the North after the 1950-53 Korean War, all South Korean men between 18 and 35 must complete two years of military service. The uncertainty surrounding his future weighed heavily on Bae while he waited for a decision, and his game nosedived. But keen to get a Korean on his team for the Presidents Cup, Internationals captain Nick Price took a chance

on Bae, the 88th ranked player in the world, hoping his prior wins on the Jack Nicklaus-designed course would also stand him in good stead. The South Korean had to cool his heels on the sidelines in Thursday's foursomes, but was thrust into Friday's four-balls partnering Incheon-born New Zealander Danny Lee against Americans Rickie Fowler and Jimmy Walker. The American pair, who crushed Thongchai Jaidee and Anirban Lahiri 5&4 on Thursday, came out all guns blazing and were two up after three.

Putt of a lifetime

Lee struggled mightily on the greens, glowering and grimacing and taking his frustrations out on his putter, but Bae stood strong to keep his team in the game. Chipping away at the Americans' lead around the turn, the match was all square by the 18th and, incredibly, Bae found himself standing over a 12-foot putt to beat Fowler and Walker. With the huge home gallery willing him on, and Lee barely able to watch, Bae drained the putt of a lifetime to seal the match and hand the

Internationals another crucial point. "It was the first time for me to play in the Presidents Cup and I never really imagined how strong the camaraderie between the team members would be," Bae told reporters. "So I was really desperate... to help out the International team and after I did the last shot on the 18th hole today, I was very happy.

"But it was a different kind of happiness because I felt like I did something for the team and I also created momentum for the other players, so I was very happy and it was a very thrilling moment." Lee agreed he had an off day and said nerves got the better of him. Just watching Bae putt at the last was unbearably tense. "I was nervous watching him. So he had to stand up and man up and hit that golf ball; I'm pretty sure he was shockingly nervous," said Lee. "I've never felt this kind of nerves before... never been so nervous in my life." Price has handed Bae another chance to shine in the Saturday morning foursomes, pairing him with Japan's Hideki Matsuyama against Bill Haas and Matt Kuchar. Lee will sit the foursomes out. — Reuters

TEENAGER JIN FOCUSED ON MORE AMATEUR SUCCESS

SINGAPORE: Amateur golfers in Asia-Pacific will have little respite over the coming years with Chinese teenager Jin Cheng saying he has no plans to turn professional anytime soon.

The 17-year-old, who counts world number one Jordan Spieth and Chinese great Zhang Lianwei as his role models, was crowned Asia-Pacific Amateur champion last week at the weather-curtailed 2015 edition in Hong Kong.

With the trophy also came a prized place in the field for next year's US Masters at the fabled Augusta National course in Georgia and also a spot in qualifying for the British Open. Japan's Hideki Matsuyama, 23, the world number 15, used the capturing of the amateur prize in 2010 and 2011 to help springboard a brilliant start to his professional career, with a first win on the US PGA Tour last year. Jin, though, believed such moves were a long way off for him.

"Probably not in the coming years, because I don't think I'm ready for it," he told reporters in a conference call on Friday after his "life-changing" win. "I need more experience and learn more and learn my skills more."

Jin, 19th in the amateur world rankings, will have the opportunity to gain some experience at next week's Venetian Macao Open on the Asia Tour, an event won twice previously by Zhang.

His Hong Kong success is likely to result in a place in the field at the Thailand Golf Championships and also events on the PGA Tour of China, although he says his schedule is yet to be confirmed.

The Beijing native, who honed his talents playing night golf in Singapore as to avoid the mosquitoes and hot temperatures in the southeast Asia city state, was understandably looking ahead to the one confirmed date in his diary in April at the Masters. "I'm looking forward to everything there," Jin said. "I think Augusta is the dream of every golfer and now waiting for the dream to come true is exciting." He will be hopeful of being grouped with defending champion Spieth, who enjoyed a breakout season this year by winning the first two majors of the year, the Tour Championships and FedEx Cup bonus at just 22.

"I think Jordan is someone to learn from, he isn't that old and isn't much older than me. Such big achievements at this age is just incredible." — Reuters



KUALA LUMPUR: Michelle Wie of the US hits a shot on the second hole during the second round of the Sime Darby LPGA Malaysia 2015 golf tournament at the Kuala Lumpur Golf and Country Club in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. — AFP

FRANCE RECALL PICAMOLES, NAKAITACI AGAINST IRELAND

CARDIFF: France coach Philippe Saint-Andre has recalled No 8 Louis Picamoles and Fiji-born winger Noa Nakaitaci to face Ireland in a key World Cup pool decider tomorrow. Picamoles, who will win his 50th cap, and Nakaitaci both started the first two France matches, but sat out the 41-18 win over Canada. They return to the starting XV in place of Bernard Le Roux and Remy Grosso respectively. Damien Chouly switches from number eight against Canada to openside flanker in the one positional change, Le Roux named on the bench and Grosso missing out altogether.

The match at Cardiff's Millennium Stadium is crucial as the winner will probably avoid a quarter final against defending champions New Zealand. The starting XV comprises 13 starters from France's opening match, a 32-10 win over Italy, with the only changes being the then-injured Wesley Fofana for Alexandre Dumoulin at inside centre and Brice Dulin for Yoann Huget, whose World Cup was ended by an injury in that match. Nakaitaci will play on the right wing, having played on the left in his first two matches, with Brice Dulin lining up on the other flank in a team captained by flanker Thierry Dusautoir and featuring 10 survivors from France's 18-11 Six Nations defeat by Ireland in February.

Dulin is normally a full-back, but Saint-Andre insisted his abilities under the high ball meant his selection was not unexpected. "Ireland have a very attacking kicking game and score lots of points off up-and-unders and cross-field kicks," Saint-Andre said. "So to start with two players who are full-backs is a bid to unnerve the Irish and have options for counter-attacking."

Sebastien Tillous-Borde and veteran Frederic Michalak continue as the half-back pairing. "The pairing works well," stressed Saint-Andre, who never lost to Ireland as a player in his illustrious France career but has never overseen a victory since taking over as coach in the 2012 Six Nations. "We beat England (25-20), Scotland (19-16), Italy (32-10) and Canada (41-18) with it. "Fred Michalak is like a red wine, he only gets better with age. And importantly, he is, along with Morgan Parra, the only back with World Cup experience."

The players, Saint-Andre added, were "starving" to take to the pitch against Ireland, the winner of the match coming out on top of Pool D and avoiding champions New Zealand in the quarter-finals. "I think all the pressure is on the shoulders of Ireland. They are favourites and it would be a huge shame for them if they lost on Sunday," Saint-Andre said, adding: "If you want to be world champion, it's good to win your pool matches. "Sunday's match is against one of world's leading rugby powers, fifth in the rankings. "There might be 35 or 40,000 Irish fans in the stadium with a closed roof for what will be a very intense, high quality game. I trust in the 15,000 who will make some noise for us! — AFP



LONDON: Australia's hooker Tatafu Polota-Nau (2R) catches the ball during the captain's run training session at Twickenham stadium in London yesterday on the eve of their Rugby World Cup 2015 pool A match against Wales. — AFP



KANSAS CITY: Kansas City Royals' Ben Zobrist, right, steals second base as Houston Astros second baseman Jose Altuve, left, leaps for the throw during the first inning in Game 1 of baseball's American League Division Series, Thursday, in Kansas City. — AP

YOUTHFUL ASTROS WIN AGAIN ON ROAD, ROYALS GET TO PRICE

TORONTO: The Houston Astros continued to dominate the Kansas City Royals, while David Price's postseason slump drags on as the road teams prevailed in the opening games of the AL Division Series playoffs.

Robinson Chirinos belted a two-run homer and Rougned Odor added a solo shot as the Texas Rangers beat Price's Toronto Blue Jays 5-3 in the best-of-five series opener on Thursday at Rogers Centre stadium in Toronto. Rangers right-hander Yovani Gallardo allowed four hits, one walk and two runs and struck out one in five innings to post his fourth win in four Major League Baseball career starts against Toronto.

"We stayed with the game plan and got some ground balls whenever I needed to and limited the damage," Gallardo said.

In the late game in Kansas City, the defending American League champion Royals lost for the fifth time in seven meetings with the Astros this season, going down 5-2 in their opener. Price allowed two home runs, five hits and five runs and two homers in seven innings. He allowed two walks and struck out five as he lost his sixth consecutive playoff start. His

career record in the postseason is now 1-6.

"It's been about seven years, so I want that monkey off my back," Price said. Right fielder Jose Bautista hit a solo homer for the Blue Jays. The Rangers jumped out to a 2-0 lead in the third inning. Chirinos put the Rangers ahead 4-1 with a home run to left field in the fifth.

The Blue Jays came back with a run in their half of the fifth on doubles by catcher Russell Martin and center fielder Kevin Pillar. Outfielder Jose Bautista greeted Rangers relief pitcher Keone Kela with a home run to open the bottom of the sixth to cut the Texas lead to 4-3. Odor restored the Rangers two-run lead when he lined a one-out homer to right field in the seventh. Right-hander Sam Dyson took over in the ninth for the Rangers and gave up a leadoff single to designated hitter Edwin Encarnacion but nothing else to record the save.

Both teams lost players to injury. The Rangers lost third baseman Adrian Beltre to a stiff lower back when he slid into second in the third and it was not certain when he might return. "We'll know more tonight and also in

the morning where he's at," Rangers manager Jeff Banister said. Blue Jays third baseman Josh Donaldson took a knee in the head when he slid hard into second base to break up a possible double play in the fourth.

Little light-headed

"He got a little light-headed," Blue Jay manager John Gibbons said. "They checked for a concussion and he apparently passed all the tests." Astros starting pitcher Collin McHugh pitched six solid innings and the bullpen did the rest for his team, which began the playoffs with back-to-back away victories after going a horrid 33-48 on the road during the regular season.

George Springer and Colby Rasmus homered for Houston, who beat the New York Yankees in a do-or-die wild card game earlier this week. Last year, the Royals beat the Oakland Athletics in the AL wild-card game, then swept the Los Angeles Angels and the Baltimore Orioles before falling to the San Francisco Giants in a seven-game World Series. — AFP

CHEIKA BACKS FOLEY TO COME THROUGH WALES EXAMINATION

LONDON: Australia coach Michael Cheika has no special plans to protect flyhalf Bernard Foley from an expected Wales onslaught in their Rugby World Cup Pool A decider at Twickenham today. Foley scored 28 points as Australia dumped hosts England out of the tournament last weekend with a record 33-13 victory and Wales are likely to target the number 10 as they seek the win that would take them to top spot in the pool. But Cheika has backed his forwards to keep the side on the front-foot and supply the

kind of ball Foley thrives off. "Teams are always targeting the flyhalf, it is pretty standard fare these days. We know they will get after him," Cheika told reporters yesterday.

"But rugby always has been about the platform laid by the forwards and if our pack deliver that platform on Saturday, it will be difficult for Wales to get to him. It's up to our forwards to give him the room to play." The victory over England has not changed the hard work being put in by the Australia players, many of who remember

well the dark place the side found themselves in when they lost six out of their last seven tests in 2014. "The mood has been pretty consistent to what it has been since the start (of the tournament)," Cheika said. "There is a lot of hard work and pain to go through each day. "From where we were coming from 12 months ago, we are taking nothing for granted and enjoying each day that we are here. "And that has pleased me, because there has been a lot of noise around us (since the England win), so for

the players to stay consistent is good."

Cheika thinks Saturday's match will be highly physical as both teams aim for top spot to avoid a quarter-final meeting with South Africa and potential semi against New Zealand. "I believe Saturday will be the most brutal game we have played in the pool. I have found in competition play that the further it (the tournament) goes on, the more brutal it gets because the stakes become higher and everybody wants to win more." — Reuters

BCCI PEPSI WORKING TO RESOLVE IPL 'CONCERNS'

MUMBAI: The Indian cricket board (BCCI) is confident they can address the concerns of PepsiCo amid local media reports the global food and beverage giant wants to end its title sponsorship of the scandal-hit Indian Premier League (IPL).

Cricket lords over other sports in India and teams in the IPL, with a \$3.5 billion estimated brand value, count Bollywood stars and major conglomerates such as Reliance Industries as investors.

PepsiCo bagged the IPL title sponsorship rights in 2012 for five years (2013-17) for 3.97 billion Indian rupees (\$61.31 million), almost double that DLF, India's biggest listed property developer, paid for the rights from 2008-12.

The Twenty20 league has been dogged by corruption allegations for years and in July a panel set up by India's top court recommended suspending the franchise owners of two teams for two years following an illegal betting and spot-fixing scandal. Reports said PepsiCo's decision was based on issues that have brought the game into "disrepute".

"BCCI and PepsiCo have had a longstanding cordial relationship and have been in discussions to work out a solution which addresses PepsiCo's concerns. Both parties will share it when ready," the board and the company said in a joint statement.

The statement gave no further details on the specific issues at stake. Around 90 percent of the advertisement money targeted at sports in India goes to cricket, analysts say, and one of the two teams that the court-appointed panel recommended for suspension is owned by India Cements.

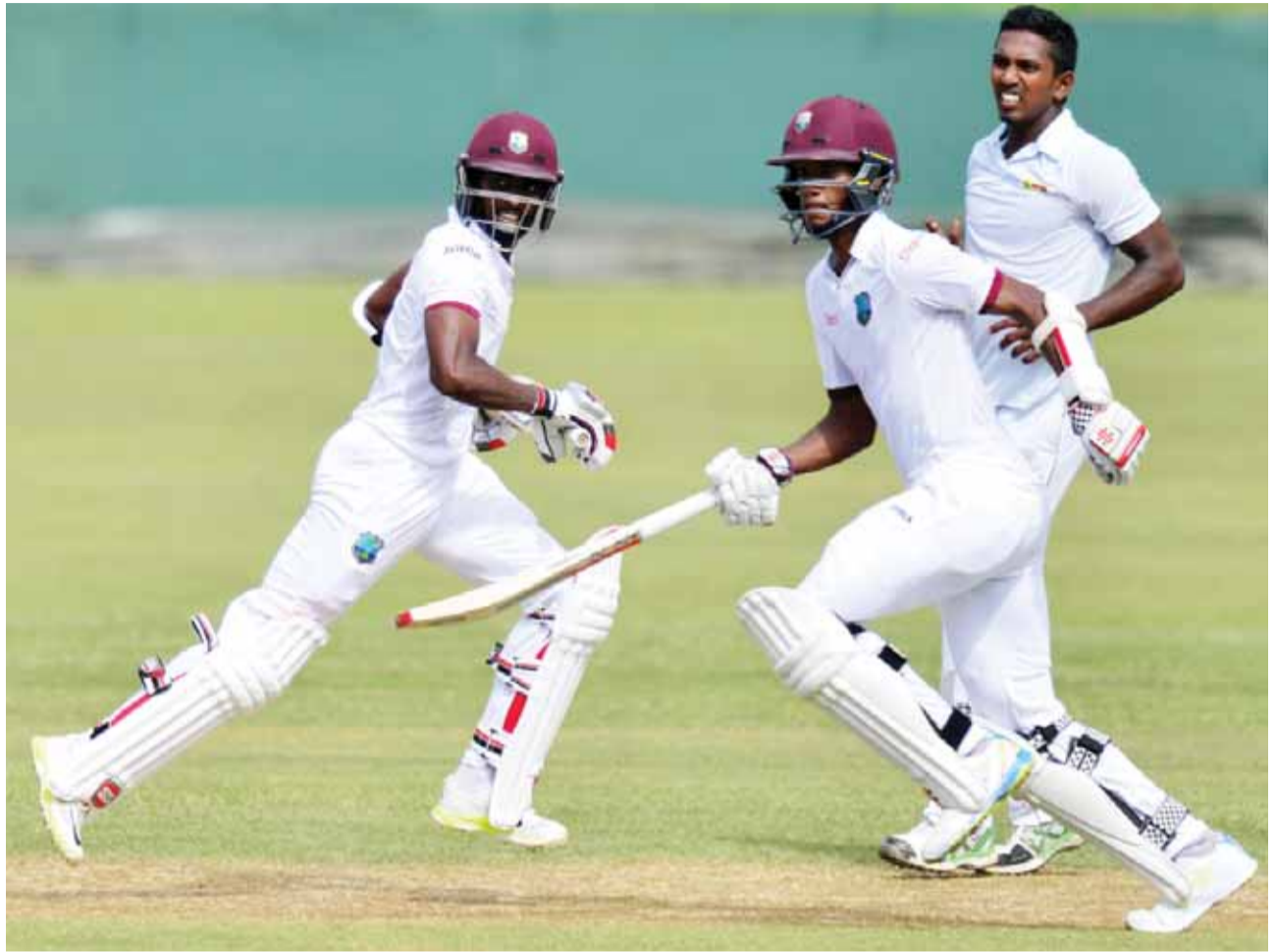
The panel was established by India's Supreme Court after a separate committee had carried out the investigation into the scandal, which broke in 2013.

More than two dozen people, including players, officials and bookmakers, were arrested by Indian police. Many were later charged with various offences. Three players—S. Sreesanth, Ajit Chandila and Ankeet Chavan—were charged with spot-fixing, the term given to incidents in a match that may not affect the final result but can easily attract illegal bets. A typical example in cricket is when a bowler deliberately delivers a wide or a no-ball.

The panel also recommended that Gurunath Meiyappan and Raj Kundra be banned for life from the sport after both were found guilty of betting on matches and passing on information to bookmakers.

Meiyappan is the son-in-law of Narayanswamy Srinivasan, the current chairman of the International Cricket Council and the managing director of India Cements. Kundra is a former co-owner of the other suspended franchise, Rajasthan Royals.

"We are in constant contact with them. We are working out a solution," IPL chairman Rajeev Shukla told reporters on Friday. "We are addressing their concerns and they are addressing our concerns. I think talks are going on in a very cordial relationship. They have been our long-standing partners. So I don't think there will be any problem and we will work it out." —Reuters



COLOMBO: West Indies cricketers Rajindra Chandrika (L) and Kraigg Brathwaite (C) run between the wickets as Sri Lankan President's XI cricketer Vishwa Fernando looks on during the first day of the three-day practice match between the West Indies and Sri Lankan President's XI team at The Sinhalese Sports Club (SSC) Ground in Colombo yesterday. —AFP

INDIA'S NUMBER SIX CONUNDRUM STAYS AHEAD OF T20 WORLD CUP

MUMBAI: With five months to go before next year's World Twenty20 at home, former champions India's search for an enforcer in the lower middle order shows no sign of ending anytime soon.

India mostly play one-off matches in the shortest format of the game and are ranked sixth in the world, just behind South Africa who won the first two games of a three-match series with the final Twenty20 abandoned due to a wet outfield in Kolkata. Winners of the inaugural World Twenty20 in 2007, India will play more 20-over matches in Australia and at home against Sri Lanka early next year as they look to seal their best combination for the March 11-April 3 biennial tournament. "As a unit we have played very little T20 cricket in bilateral

series," team director Ravi Shastri told reporters after Thursday's abandoned match.

"It's a young team, we're still figuring out on what will be our best combination and the best way forward." Shastri was right in pointing at the relative inexperience of the side in Twenty20 Internationals even though the players are well-versed with the format and feature regularly in the Indian Premier League (IPL).

Though teeming with exciting strokemakers, most of the India top and middle order batsmen need time to get their eyes in before they can accelerate. The brevity of the format does not always allow such luxury and while India do not have a power-hitter of the calibre of Australian Glenn Maxwell or West Indian Kieron Pollard,

skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni and Suresh Raina have often provided the late flourish.

Unfortunately for them, Dhoni looked out of touch and Raina unsure of his role in the two matches against South Africa. India tried Ambati Rayudu too but the 30-year-old is clearly not the answer to their quest for a player who can tear apart the opposition in the final five overs.

"We are very keen to see the month of December when all the one-day competitions are scheduled," former India captain Shastri added. "The No. 6 position has a different role in 50-over cricket, but an extremely important role in T20 cricket. The team that goes on to win the World T20, you will see that their No. 6 batsman could be a very crucial player." —Reuters

TAYLOR, BELL GEAR UP WITH FIFTIES IN TOUR GAME

SHARJAH: James Taylor and Ian Bell hit half-centuries in the drawn two-day game against Pakistan 'A' yesterday, to gear up for the more challenging three-Test series starting next week.

Taylor hit 61 and Bell scored 53 as England made an unimpressive 198-9 on the second and final day at Sharjah cricket ground. Pakistan 'A' had made 192-9 declared in their knock. But apart from Taylor and Bell only Jos Buttler made any significant contribution with 39, while

openers Alex Hales (nine) and Moeen Ali also failed with seven.

That leaves England's problems over top order batting unresolved as they want either Ali or Hales to partner skipper Alastair Cook in the first of three Tests against Pakistan starting in Abu Dhabi on October 13.

Since the match was a non-first class encounter, Ali was allowed two innings but he only managed 11 in the second outing. His bowling being a plus point

may earn him a place in the first Test.

Jonny Bairstow, who made a half-century in the first warm-up match, fell for nought while all-rounder Ben Stokes also failed to score, his second failure on the tour.

Bell and Taylor added 102 for the third wicket before the later retired to give others some batting practice. Bell hit four boundaries and a six during his sedate 100-ball stint.

Taylor knocked six boundaries during

his 123-ball stay. For Pakistan 'A' left-arm paceman Mir Hamza finished with 4-34 while Junaid Khan and Zafar Gohar took two wickets apiece.

The two teams will also play four one-day and three Twenty20 internationals after the Tests. Abbreviated Scores:

Pakistan 'A' 192-9 dec (Adnan Akmal 74 not out; S. Finn 4-16, Adil Rashid 3-53).

England 198-9 (J. Taylor 61, I. Bell 53 retired not out; Mir Hamza 4-34) Match drawn. — AFP

VOMIT, FACEMASKS AS 'EXTREME SMOG' CLOUDS CHINA OPEN

BEIJING: A player's complaint that the smog made him vomit and the unflattering sight of fans in face masks have put Beijing's notorious air pollution back in the spotlight after haze hit this week's China Open.

"Hazardous" levels of smog cleared by Thursday, but not before Martin Klizan's angry tirade and pictures highlighting the murky air went worldwide on social and traditional media. In a widely reported Facebook post, since deleted, the Slovakian world number 42 said he coughed uncontrollably and then vomited after his defeat to Fabio Fognini, and vowed never to play at the tournament again.

"Regardless of the result of today's match... it has been such an extreme smog in Beijing today that half an hour after the beginning of the match I started to cough uncontrollably after every point and I had to vomit after the match," the post read.

"There is such an extreme smog in this city, that due to my health, which should be a priority of

every tournament organiser, unfortunately, I will have to leave this tournament out from my calendar for the rest of my tennis career." Klizan later deleted the post, although several fans referenced the message in comments they left on his Facebook page.

New York Times journalist Christopher Clarey put further pressure on organisers when he tweeted: "Air quality should absolutely be a factor in whether a city gets to stage an outdoor tennis tournament...or not."

Tournament officials have not responded to a request for an interview and information about at what level of air pollution, if any, play would be suspended, and what contingency planning was in place. Levels of PM2.5 particulates—small enough to deeply penetrate the lungs—were above 300 micrograms per cubic metre for much of Wednesday, according to the website of the US embassy in Beijing. Measurements over 300 are rated as "hazardous" by the website and carry the

warning: "Everyone should avoid all outdoor exertion." Chinese authorities this week issued a yellow alert for smog, the third highest.

'Cuts days from your life'

Air pollution is a chronic problem for China and with a rising number of professional tennis events around the country, players' exposure is also likely to increase. The Women's Tennis Association has eight events in China this year, while the men's Association of Tennis Professionals has three. Most of the matches are played outdoors. The China Open was previously entangled in pollution controversy two years ago, when Swedish player Robert Lindstedt described Beijing as: "The city that cuts off days from your life every time you visit." "I get dizzy when I get up. Yesterday I couldn't recover between points in practice and was breathing heavily the whole hour... It's just not healthy to be here," he added in his blog.

Three players have complained of dizzy spells

this year although one of them, Eugenie Bouchard, suffered concussion in recent weeks, and Petra Kvitova blamed the glandular fever she has struggled with this year. The third, Jo-Wilfried Tsonga, staggered on court in his first-round match on Monday, and had his heartbeat checked with a stethoscope before he lost limply to Austria's Andreas Haider-Maurer.

"I don't know. You know, nothing in me can calculate if it's enough oxygen for me or not. I just play tennis," said Tsonga, when asked if the pollution was to blame. Many competitors have attempted to play down the situation or say that, after several years of visiting China, they are resigned to the smoggy conditions. "Well, (it's) definitely tough. A little bit different than usual. But I think we're all kind of used to it, right?" said Polish fourth seed Agnieszka Radwanska. Rafael Nadal inadvertently coughed before he dismissed the air pollution as "nothing new for us", while Angelique Kerber conceded: "It's a little bit difficult.—AFP

NISHIKORI FLOORS CILIC IN TOKYO THRILLER

TOKYO: Defending champion Kei Nishikori survived a war of attrition against Croatia's Marin Cilic to reach the Japan Open semi-finals yesterday, winning a cliffhanger 3-6, 7-5, 6-3.

Top seed Stan Wawrinka overpowered American qualifier Austin Krajicek 6-3, 6-4 to join him in the last four, though the Swiss required less than an hour to take care of business on a sunny afternoon in Tokyo. Second seed Nishikori was greeted like a rock star by 12,000 screaming fans but Cilic, who beat Japan's golden boy in last year's US Open final, had failed to read the script and quickly seized the initiative with some thunderous hitting.

Serving with such ferocity he knocked the racquet out of Nishikori's hand, the sixth seed broke first with a thumping forehand drive to lead 4-2 before wrapping up the opening set with an ace down the centre. Bidding for his third Japan Open in four years, Nishikori hung tough in the second set and, as cracks began to appear in Cilic's armour, levelled with an acrobatic leaping backhand that his opponent could only dump into the net. Cilic's game unravelled under the onslaught in the decider as Nishikori caught fire, breaking for 3-1 and closing out the quarter-final with an ace after two hours, 11 minutes.

World number four Wawrinka's path to the final was made easier when third seed Gilles Simon of France crashed out 6-3, 6-4 to Luxembourg's Gilles Muller. Wawrinka made no mistakes as he powered past Krajicek in just 58 minutes, and the left-hander had no answer to the rapier-like ground strokes of the French Open champion.

Wawrinka's one-handed backhand—one of the most venomous shots in men's tennis—did much of the damage and he closed out the match with a kicking serve which a deflated Krajicek swatted wide and long. "I felt a bit more relaxed today and confident with my game," said Wawrinka, who is chasing his fourth title of the year and the 11th of his career.

"A one-hour match, it was the perfect day for me today." Controversial Australian Nick Kyrgios, still looking for the first tournament victory of his fledgling career, was scheduled to play Frenchman Benoit Paire in a late match for the right to meet Nishikori in the semi-finals.—AFP



TOKYO: Kei Nishikori of Japan hits a return against Marin Cilic of Croatia during their quarter-final match at the Japan Open tennis tournament in Tokyo yesterday. — AFP



BEIJING: Rafael Nadal of Spain serves against Jack Sock of the US during their men's singles quarter-final match at China Open tennis tournament in Beijing yesterday. — AFP

NADAL FIGHTS BACK TO SET UP FOGNINI REVENGE MATCH

BEIJING: Rafael Nadal came from behind against hard-hitting Jack Sock on Friday to reach the China Open semi-finals and set up a rematch with his shock US Open conqueror Fabio Fognini. The Spanish great, scrapping to recover his form after a tough year, was frequently outgunned by the American's howitzer forehand but he dug deep to see off the world number 30, 3-6, 6-4, 6-3.

"Yes, it was an important victory for me. Obviously I finished the match playing better than what I started. It's important because I came back," Nadal said. "This year I lost a lot of matches when I had an advantage. So to have the chance to win a match when I start losing this one, so it's important for me, too.

Nadal had not reached a hardcourt semi-final for more than a year, but he will now play Fognini, who stunned him

last month in the US Open third round, for a place in the title match.

"He's a great player. When you play against a great player, especially if you don't play to your best, your chances are lower," Nadal said of the Italian, who beat Uruguay's Pablo Cuevas 6-1, 2-6, 6-2. "If I am able to play my best tomorrow... I am going to have my chances. If not, it's going to be tough. It's simple. Sport is simple." On a cold, bright day, Nadal paid for a slow start when he was broken in the first game. Sock's big forehand kept Nadal under pressure throughout the set, which he ultimately yielded with a double-fault. But the 14-time Grand Slam-winner hit back by breaking first-up in the second set, and he gave a fist-pump of relief and satisfaction when he eventually levelled the match 6-4.

They slugged it out to 3-3 in the third set until Sock blinked first, handing

Nadal three break points, and for once the American's forehand misfired as he shanked a routine shot high into the stands. And it was another miscued forehand which settled the quarter-final as Sock, serving to stay in it, hit one long to hand victory to Nadal on his first match point.

In the women's draw, Ana Ivanovic beat Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova 6-3, 7-5 to set up a semi-final with Tímea Babcsinszky, who recovered from a first-set 'bagel' to beat Sara Errani 0-6, 6-3, 7-5. Fourth seed Agnieszka Radwanska beat Angelique Kerber 6-1, 6-4 to reach the semi-finals, where she will play either Bethanie Mattek-Sands or Garbine Muguruza. In the last men's quarter-final, unbeaten five-time champion Novak Djokovic is playing America's John Isner for the prize of a semi-final against David Ferrer, who beat Taiwan's Lu Yen-hsun 6-3, 6-1. — AFP

NHL Results/Standings

Winnipeg 6, Boston 2; Ottawa 3, Buffalo 1; Tampa Bay 3, Philadelphia 2 (OT); St. Louis 3, Edmonton 1; Nashville 2, Carolina 1; Dallas 3, Pittsburgh 0; Minnesota 5, Colorado 4.

Western Conference

Central Division

	W	L	OTL	GF	GA	PTS
Winnipeg	1	0	0	6	2	2
Dallas	1	0	0	3	0	2
St. Louis	1	0	0	3	1	2
Nashville	1	0	0	2	1	2
Minnesota	1	0	0	5	4	2
Chicago	0	1	0	2	3	0
Colorado	0	1	0	4	5	0

Pacific Division

Vancouver	1	0	0	5	1	2
San Jose	1	0	0	5	1	2
Edmonton	0	1	0	1	3	0
Calgary	0	1	0	1	5	0
Los Angeles	0	1	0	1	5	0
Anaheim	0	0	0	0	0	0
Arizona	0	0	0	0	0	0

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division

Montreal	1	0	0	3	1	2
Ottawa	1	0	0	3	1	2
Tampa Bay	1	0	0	3	2	2
Toronto	0	1	0	1	3	0
Buffalo	0	1	0	1	3	0
Boston	0	1	0	2	6	0
Detroit	0	0	0	0	0	0
Florida	0	0	0	0	0	0

Metropolitan Division

NY Rangers	1	0	0	3	2	2
Philadelphia	0	0	1	2	3	1
Carolina	0	1	0	1	2	0
Pittsburgh	0	1	0	0	3	0
Columbus	0	0	0	0	0	0
New Jersey	0	0	0	0	0	0
NY Islanders	0	0	0	0	0	0
Washington	0	0	0	0	0	0

Note: Overtime losses (OTL) are worth one point in the standings and are not included in the loss column (L)



TAMPA: Ben Bishop #30 of the Tampa Bay Lightning makes a save on Jakub Voracek #93 of the Philadelphia Flyers as he's checked by Alex Killorn #17 at the Amalie Arena on Thursday in Tampa, Florida. — AFP

TAMPA'S DEFENSEMAN GARRISON MAKES HISTORY WITH OT GOAL

TAMPA: Jason Garrison scored his second goal of the game in overtime, and the Tampa Bay Lightning beat the Philadelphia Flyers 3-2 on Thursday night. Garrison's game-winner came on a breakaway at 2:17 of the extra period, which featured end-to-end action in the NHL's first 3-on-3 OT of the regular season.

The NHL moved overtime from 4-on-4 to the new setup this season. Tampa Bay's Ben Bishop faced his second penalty shot 1:27 into overtime and made a pad save on Scott Laughton. It

was the first NHL game for Philadelphia coach Dave Hakstol, who spent the past 11 seasons coaching at the University of North Dakota. Seven of his teams at North Dakota reached the NCAA Frozen Four. Matt Read and Brayden Schenn scored for the Flyers. R.J. Umberger had two assists. The Lightning also got a goal from Ryan Callahan. Tampa Bay unveiled its 2015 Eastern Conference championship banner before the game. Jonathan Drouin picked up two assists.

After Read beat Bishop from the low slot at 10:14 of the second, Schenn put

the Flyers up 2-1 with a rebound power-play goal 1:49 later. Callahan got Tampa Bay even at 2 on the rebound during a power play with 1:38 left in the second.

Garrison opened the scoring from the blue line when his shot through traffic eluded Steve Mason 1:25 into the second. Mason kept it a one-goal game less than a minute later by stopping a breakaway shot by Ondrej Palat.

Flyers captain Claude Giroux had a penalty shot with 6:13 left in the first, but sent a soft shot wide of the net after several stick-handling moves.— AP

BARCELONA BACK MESSI IN TAX FRAUD CASE

BARCELONA: Barcelona have given their full backing to Lionel Messi in the Argentina forward's tax fraud case and vowed to fight "external decisions" they say are unfairly targeting the club.

A Spanish court on Thursday ordered Messi and his father Jorge, who are accused of defrauding the Spanish state of 4.2 million euros (\$4.76 million) from 2007 to 2009, to stand trial and the state attorney said Barca's star player should serve a jail sentence of up to 22 months if found guilty.

In a statement published late on Thursday, Barca noted the state attorney's stance was "the complete opposite" to that of Spain's public prosecutor, who has said Lionel Messi should not have to answer the charges as his father oversaw his finances.

"FC Barcelona has expressed its affection and solidarity to Leo Messi and his family in such a peculiar situation," the statement said. "The club shall continue to offer him and his family its full support and assistance in the legal, fiscal and administrative aspects of these proceedings." Messi is one of several Barca players, including compatriot Javier Mascherano and Brazil forward Neymar, who have been targeted by the Spanish authorities in recent months. All deny wrongdoing.

The club itself was charged last year with tax fraud in the signing of Neymar from Brazilian club Santos and paid \$18.6 million in what it called a "complementary tax declaration". They said they remained "convinced the original tax payment was in line with their fiscal obligations".

Barca's legal problems have come on top of a FIFA ban for breaking rules on the signing of minors and president Josep Maria Bartomeu complained last year of what he called a concerted campaign to damage the Spanish and European champions.

He was repeatedly asked who was behind the alleged campaign, including if it might be arch rivals Real Madrid, but he declined to provide any names. "FC Barcelona condemns the accumulation of totally inadmissible and external decisions that have been going on for some time and that have nothing to do with strictly sporting affairs," Barca said on Thursday. "They are damaging to the smooth running of the club, its stability and that of the players that form part of it. The club shall be working with more determination than ever to defend its legitimate rights and is ready for any new challenges that might arise." — Reuters

N IRELAND, PORTUGAL SEAL EURO 2016 SPOTS

LONDON: Northern Ireland qualified for their first major finals since the 1986 World Cup and Ireland beat world champions Germany in Dublin on a great night for Irish soccer on Thursday.

There was also joy in Portugal as the Euro 2016 hosts booked their place at Euro 2016 in France. The biggest cheers in Europe came out of a half-renovated Windsor Park in Belfast after Northern Ireland beat 2004 European champions Greece 3-1 to reach the European Championship for the first time.

Two goals from skipper Steven Davis and one from John Magennis sealed the victory and left coach Michael O'Neill's men unbeaten after nine matches at the top of Group F. Their final game is against Finland in Helsinki tomorrow.

"It's an amazing feeling, how the players played was just outstanding," O'Neill told reporters. "It's a privilege to be here as their manager, proud to stand here as their manager." Davis described it as an

unbelievable evening. "A magnificent night and we couldn't have asked for it to go any better. Listen to that (crowd), unbelievable," he said. Ireland sealed one of their greatest ever results by beating world champions Germany 1-0 thanks to a superb angled shot from Shane Long after 70 minutes to keep their qualifying hopes alive in Group D.

Germany top the group on 19 points, followed by Poland and Ireland both on 18. Poland, with Robert Lewandowski scoring twice, drew 2-2 in Scotland, which ended Scottish hopes of qualifying, as they are cut adrift on 12.

Portugal sealed their place with a 1-0 victory over Denmark in Braga guaranteeing top spot in Group I thanks to Joao Moutinho's 66th-minute goal. Albania, who lost 2-0 at home to two late goals in a politically-charged match against Serbia in the same group, could have qualified for their first ever finals with a win. But because Denmark have now fin-

ished their programme, and are only a point ahead, Albania can still claim the automatic qualifying spot if they win in Armenia tomorrow.

Armenia, who only have two points, lost 4-0 to France in a friendly in Nice. Portugal have 18 points, Denmark 12 and Albania 11.

Hungary remained in contention to finish in the top three in Group F with a 2-1 win over the Faroe Islands thanks to two late goals from substitute Daniel Bode, as do Romania, who drew 1-1 with Finland who are out.

With one match to play Northern Ireland have 20 points, Romania 17 and Hungary 16. The top two teams in each of the nine groups qualify automatically along with the best-placed third team and four playoff winners from the remaining third-placed teams.

Hosts France, Austria, the Czech Republic, England and Iceland have already qualified.—Reuters

KLOPP PROMISES 'FULL THROTTLE' FOOTBALL AT ANFIELD

LONDON: Liverpool's new manager Juergen Klopp promised to bring "full throttle" football with a "big heart" to Anfield in his first comments since the German was unveiled as the Merseyside's club new manager on Thursday night. Invited to emulate Jose Mourinho's claim on arrival at Chelsea to be "the special one", however, he insisted he was "the normal one".

The club's American owners, Fenway Sports Group, signed the former Borussia Dortmund manager on what is reported to be a three-year contract, after sacking Northern Irishman Brendan Rodgers tomorrow.

One of the most coveted managers in world football, Klopp has been out of work since May when he finished a seven-year reign at Dortmund to take a sabbatical. "Firstly, I would like to offer thanks to the ownership of Liverpool Football Club for showing faith in me and my staff and presenting us with this wonderful opportunity," Klopp told the club's website on Friday (www.liverpoolfc.com). "They have presented to me a very clear vision and I share their ambitions and model of work," the German, who won two Bundesliga titles with Dortmund, added. "This is a talented group of players and there is still much to compete for this season."

"I believe in a playing philosophy that is very emotional, very fast and very strong. My teams must play at full throttle and take it to the limit every single game. "It is important to have a playing philosophy that reflects your own mentality, reflects the club and gives you a clear direction to follow. Tactical of course, but tactical with a big heart. "Liverpool has extraordinary supporters and Anfield is a world renowned home, with an incredible atmosphere. I want to build a great relationship with these supporters

and give them memories to cherish." Klopp has been joined at Liverpool by Zeljko Buvac and Peter Krawietz, his former assistants at Dortmund. "In Juergen Klopp we have appointed a world-class manager with a proven track record of winning and someone who has the personality and charisma to reignite this football club and take the team forward," Liverpool chairman Tom Werner said. "He is a strong, inspirational leader, who has a clear philosophy of high energy, attacking football. Critically, he is also a winner and someone who can connect with and enthuse our supporters," Werner added.

BURDEN OF HISTORY

In an impressive first news conference later on Friday, Klopp told a packed audience at Anfield that he wanted a positive approach on and off the pitch, to "turn doubters into believers".

Well aware that Liverpool have not won the league for 25 years, the new man said he did not want history to become a burden and that he was not prepared to promise immediate success.

"History is only the base for us. You can't carry it in your backpack every day. Five or six clubs in the Premier League can win the league. It's a problem."

Looking relaxed after a four-month break, he insisted that working as part of the club's much-criticised transfer committee would not be a problem and that he would have the final say. British media reports put the value of Klopp's contract at a basic 5 million pounds (\$7.68 million) per year, with bonuses taking that to a potential 7 million. For that he said, they are getting "a totally normal guy". "It's not normal club, it's a special club. I'm the normal one." — Reuters



Matches on TV
(Local Timings)

EURO QUALIFIERS 2016

Azerbaijan v Italy Abu Dhabi Sport	19:00
Kazakhstan v Netherlands Abu Dhabi Sport	19:00
Norway v Malta Abu Dhabi Sport	19:00
Iceland v Latvia Abu Dhabi Sport	19:00
Czech Republic v Turkey Abu Dhabi Sport	21:45
Andorra v Belgium Abu Dhabi Sport	21:45
Croatia v Bulgaria Abu Dhabi Sport	21:45
Israel v Cyprus Abu Dhabi Sport	21:45
Bosnia And Herzegovina v Wales Abu Dhabi Sport	21:45

BLATTER FIGHTS BAN AMID FIFA TURMOIL

ZURICH: FIFA president Sepp Blatter appealed against the 90 day ban that forced him out of office, his lawyers confirmed yesterday, as world football's sleaze-tainted governing body headed into months of turmoil over how to find a new leader.

The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) became the latest regional body to demand an emergency meeting of the FIFA executive after the suspension of Blatter, UEFA president Michel Platini and FIFA general secretary Jerome Valcke.

The row over Blatter's suspension took a fresh twist on Friday as FIFA's ethics watchdog rejected the 79-year-old's claims he was not allowed to give evidence before he was banned, saying he was given "all his rights".

Blatter's lawyers confirmed they had filed an official appeal and asked for further hearings with the ethics committee. The New York Times earlier reported that Blatter had complained that he only found out about his suspension after it was made public. But ethics committee spokesman Andreas Bantel said Blatter had been given the chance to put his case on October 1. Platini, hit with the same suspension on Thursday, also "had the very same rights" at an interview on the same day, Bantel said.

Platini also plans to appeal against his 90-day suspension. The Frenchman is a leading candidate in FIFA's presidential election in February, alongside South Korean tycoon Chung Mong-Joon who was banned from football activities for six years in the ethics committee purge.

Blatter, who has led FIFA since 1998, was provisionally banned by the ethics watchdog as Swiss prosecutors investigate him for criminal mismanagement. The crisis at FIFA has been building since May, when US authorities announced charges against 14 officials and sports marketing executives over bribery allegations amounting to more than \$150 million.

Asia's powerful football chief Shaikh Salman bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa wrote to acting FIFA president Issa Hayatou calling for an emergency meeting of the body's executive committee.

"These are exceptional circumstances and that is why we need the meeting. Only together will we overcome these difficult times," Al Khalifa said, according to a statement from the AFC. The German and English federations have made similar calls. A FIFA spokeswoman told AFP Hayatou was expected at Zurich HQ on Tuesday and would discuss the matter with committee members.

Some senior FIFA members have suggested the meeting could discuss postponing the election to replace Blatter, currently slated for February 26. Blatter, a 40-year veteran of FIFA, is still in Zurich, home of the organisation's headquarters, a source close to him told AFP.

PLATINI TARNISHED

A cloud now hangs over Platini, the former French captain and one of the greatest players of all time, who had presented himself as the man to clean up FIFA after years of scandal and graft allegations. The 60-year-old has been named in the investigation into Blatter because of a \$2 million (1.8 million euro) payment he received in 2011.

He insists the payment was legitimate and slammed the FIFA ban as "farcical", pledging to carry on with his bid to lead the world body. "I reject all the allegations that have been made against me," he said, indicating he too intended to appeal against the ban.

The 54-member UEFA will meet at its Nyon headquarters next Thursday to discuss the crisis. The suspensions handed out on Thursday can be renewed for another 45 days when they run out in January, which would take the exclusion until

just before the FIFA election. Platini said he had still registered his official papers to be a candidate in the FIFA race. The deadline is October 26. Further adding to the turmoil, on Friday the Swiss authorities approved the extradition to the United States of British-born businessman Costas Takkas, one of the officials whose arrest in May ignited the crisis.

Takkas is accused of taking millions of dollars in bribes in connection with the sale of marketing rights for 2018 and 2022 World Cup qualifiers. Chung, a candidate for the FIFA presidency along with Platini, said Friday he would sue the world body for "damaging his reputation" over his ban and make a formal appeal to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS). The scion of the Hyundai family was found to have contravened rules while lobbying for South Korea's bid for the 2022 World Cup which was awarded to Qatar in a controversial 2010 vote. — AFP



ZURICH: Confederation of African Football (CAF) President and FIFA Senior Vice-President Cameroon's Issa Hayatou (Left) delivering a speech next to FIFA President Sepp Blatter during the 65th FIFA Congress in Zurich. African football leader Issa Hayatou on Thursday took temporary charge of FIFA after Sepp Blatter was "relieved of his duties" because of his 90-day suspension, the world body said. — AFP

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