

Municipality plans to turn graveyards into parks



Syria regime advances with Russian air support



N Korea ready for US war, leader tells 'versary parade'



Platini fights ban as FIFA plunged into chaos



BLASTS KILL 95 AT KURDISH RALLY IN TURKISH CAPITAL

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MISSING KUWAITI, MOM FOUND DEAD IN WELL IN EGYPT

KUWAIT: Egyptian security sources said Minya police found the bodies of a Saudi woman and her Kuwaiti daughter, who had been missing in Egypt for three weeks, in a well on a farm yesterday. An Egyptian man is suspected in their murders. The Saudi woman, 61, and her Kuwaiti daughter, 27, went to Cairo in August on an invitation from the Egyptian suspect. The women wanted to buy a flat and had a large amount of money with them, but all contact was later lost with them.

The women were killed in a village near a desert expressway and their bodies dumped in a 20-m deep well. Informed sources had earlier said Egyptian national security had recently interrogated the woman's brother and sister after summoning them to Cairo, where they inquired about all their relatives and acquaintances in Egypt. The sources noted that the Kuwaiti embassy in Cairo had also started an investigation to locate the two missing women. — Agencies



ANKARA: A man holds a woman as she cries, their faces and clothing splattered with blood, after twin explosions at a rally yesterday. — AP

ANKARA: At least 95 people were killed when two suspected suicide bombers struck a rally of pro-Kurdish and labor activists outside Ankara's main train station just weeks before elections, in the worst attack of its kind on Turkish soil. Bodies covered by flags and banners, including those of the pro-Kurdish opposition Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP), lay scattered on the road among bloodstains and body parts. The HDP blamed the government which, it said, had blood on its hands.

Footage screened by broadcaster CNN Turk showed a line of young men and women holding hands and dancing, and then flinching as a large explosion flashed behind them, engulfing people carrying HDP and leftist party banners. "Like other terror attacks, the one at the Ankara train station targets our unity, togetherness, brotherhood and future," said President Tayyip Erdogan, who has vowed to crush a Kurdish militant insurgency since the collapse of a ceasefire and resumption of intense violence in July.

As well as the 95 dead, 246 wounded people were still being treated, 48 of them in intensive care, the prime minister's office said. The HDP later said 97 had died. Witnesses said the two explosions happened seconds apart shortly after 10 am as crowds, including HDP activists, leftists, labour unions and other civic groups, gathered for a planned march to

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ISRAELI FORCES KILL 5 PALESTINIANS

DEATH TOLL CLIMBS AS UNREST SPIRALS

E-MEDIA BILL WON'T APPLY TO SOCIAL MEDIA

KUWAIT: The new electronic media law will not apply to social media including Twitter, YouTube, Instagram and others, a senior media official said yesterday. "All the articles of the law, which have been sent by the government to the National Assembly, have nothing to do whatsoever with personal accounts on social media," Assistant Undersecretary of the Information Ministry for Media Planning and Knowledge Development Mohammad Al-Awash said in a press statement.



Al-Awash

The e-media draft law is primarily meant to regulate professional media work, online papers, private news agencies, publishing houses, commercial media services and online news channels, he elaborated. It also aims at filling the legislative gap in this regard, organizing deals and protecting dealers' rights, the official pointed out. Awash confirmed that the fresh piece of legislation imposes no restrictions on personal freedoms that are enshrined in the country's constitution, adding that the bill is the fruit of long discussions and debates that were attended by members of parliament, experts, specialists and civil society representatives. — KUNA

JERUSALEM/GAZA: Israeli security forces shot dead two Palestinians aged 12 and 15 in protests along Gaza's border fence yesterday, Palestinian medics said, and Israeli police said they had killed three knife-wielding Palestinian assailants in Jerusalem. Eleven days of bloodshed in which four Israelis and 21 Palestinians, many of whom had carried out knife attacks, have been killed in Jerusalem, the Israeli-occupied West Bank, Gaza and Israeli cities have raised concerns that a new Palestinian uprising may be brewing. Israeli forces killed sev-

en Palestinians in Gaza on Friday. Palestinians have been angered by events at the Al-Aqsa mosque compound in Jerusalem's walled Old City and fear Israel wants to change the status quo at Islam's third holiest shrine, revered by Muslims as the Noble Sanctuary and by Jews as the Temple Mount. Yesterday, two Palestinians were shot dead by police after stabbing at least four Israelis in separate attacks near Jerusalem's Old City, Israeli police spokesman Micky Rosenfeld said.

Continued on Page 13



HEBRON: A Palestinian is pushed by an Israeli policeman amid clashes yesterday. — AP



DISABLED KUWAITI DIVER FAISAL AL-MUSAWI AND FELLOW DIVERS UNFURL THE KUWAITI FLAG AT THE SITE OF A SHIPWRECK IN THE RED SEA.

DISABLED KUWAITI DIVER PLUNGES TO NEW DEPTHS

By Nawara Fattahova

KUWAIT: In his fourth challenging trip to the Red Sea, Kuwaiti disabled diver Faisal Al-Musawi dived to the world's second most popular shipwreck, the only disabled diver to achieve this feat. Musawi began his trip from Hurghada and Sharm Al-Shaikh in Egypt until he reached the shipwreck of the British military ship Thistlegorm, which sank during the Second World War and is considered the most popular shipwreck in the Red Sea.

The trip also included diving to the El Minya shipwreck, which Russia granted to Egypt during the war with Israel and which sank in 1970, in addition to diving

in the Abu Ramada Reef, which is one of the most popular diving locations in Hurghada as it's very rich in sea creatures including sharks, barracuda, corals and many other species.

Musawi is the first disabled diver in Asia and the Middle East to obtain five international diving licenses from the Professional Association of Diving Instructors (PADI). He improved further and became a rescue diver. Musawi has previously dived in Malaysia, Thailand and the Maldives as the first disabled diver, as diving is very difficult in those locations. This diving trip was sponsored by Kuwait Science Club, of which Musawi is a member.

BLACK MEN CALL FOR CHANGE AT MILLION MAN MARCH 'VERSARY

WASHINGTON: Black men from around the nation returned to the National Mall to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Million Man March and call for changes in policing and in black communities. Waving flags, carrying signs and listening to speeches and songs, the crowd wove their way through security barricades and souvenir vendors at the US Capitol and spread down the Mall on a sunny and breezy fall day. Among the attendees was Nate Smith of Oakland, California, who joined the 1963 March on Washington and the 1995 Million Man March. "It's something that I need to do," the 70-year-old man said. "It's like a pilgrimage for me, and something I think all black people need to do."

Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan, who spearheaded the original march, led an anniversary gathering yesterday at the Capitol called the "Justice or Else" march. "I plan to deliver an uncompromising message and call for the government of the United States to respond to our legitimate grievances," Farrakhan said in a statement.

Attention has been focused on the deaths of unarmed black men since the shootings of 17-year-old Trayvon Martin in 2012 in Florida and 18-year-old Michael Brown in 2014 in Ferguson, Missouri.

Continued on Page 13



WASHINGTON: People gather on the National Mall during the Justice or Else! rally yesterday. — AFP



KUWAIT: People attend the launch ceremony of the brand new Apple iPhone 6s and iPhone 6s Plus smartphones in front of Ooredoo Kuwait's headquarters in Kuwait City early yesterday. The phones were launched by Ooredoo in a midnight massive celebration. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat (See Page 25)

CRIMINAL COURT ACQUITS CITIZEN

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: The Criminal Court has acquitted a citizen who had been accused of possessing a variety of drugs for his use. The citizen was arrested in Salmiya.

Alternative national income

MP Talal Al-Jallal urged the government to implement reform measures to resolve the problem of the budget deficit resulting from decreasing oil prices. "The government must find alternative national income sources," he stressed, noting that relying on oil as a sole resource forever was very dangerous in view of falling oil prices. In another development, a consortium including three main companies led by the Spain's Tecnicas Reunidas, who won a bid to execute the first phase of the Al-Zour refinery project, arrived in Kuwait pending signing the contracts on Tuesday. The first phase of the project is worth KD 1.21 billion and the contract's duration is 45 months.

Jaber Al-Ahmed Hospital

MoH Undersecretary Dr Khalid Al-Sahlawi said CSC recently allocated 2,800 job vacancies for nurses to work at Jaber Al-Ahmed Hospital and that those nurses had been temporarily working at various hospitals pending referral to Jaber Al-Ahmed Hospital once it is ready for operation.

GCC ministerial meeting

The GCC ministerial meeting due to be held in preparation for the GCC summit in Riyadh in December will be dominated with discussing military and security issues, said informed sources, noting that most of the summit's decisions would focus on GCC security and establishing a GCC unified army, especially since the Arab unified force idea had so far failed.

Al-Turaiji's threats

Governmental sources stressed that MP Abdullah Al-Turaiji's threats to grill Finance Minister Anas Al-Saleh if the government sold

KIFCO were unjustified and only reflect how misinformed the lawmaker is. "The government had previously announced its intention to sell its shares in many companies, which was approved by the parliamentary financial affairs committee and many MPs," explained the sources, pointing out that the sale would be done according to the law.

76 armored vehicles

The office of the Iraqi national alliance leader Ayad Allawi demanded an investigation concerning 76 armored vehicles sent by Kuwait to equip the Iraqi army that have not so far been delivered to the defence ministry. The office added that upon the PM's instructions, Allawi had contacted several Arab and GCC states requesting supplying the Iraqi army with free carriers and that GCC states had agreed to send 500 of them, starting by shipping 76 by air to Baghdad international airport. According to defence ministry reports, the vehicles arrived at Baghdad airport but were not handed over to the Iraqi army.

DEVELOPMENT PLANS

Minister of Social Affairs and Labor and Minister of State for Planning and Development Hind Al-Sabeeh yesterday praised the work being done by the Supreme Council for Planning and Development in meeting the national goals for growth and development. She stressed in a press statement yesterday the enormous importance the government was giving to development plans with particular attention to empowering the sector of the young in the nation's population. She referred to the fact that the Supreme Council held last Thursday an open forum under the banner line 'the role of the youth in the nation's development plans,' in which numerous government agencies and ministries and the private sector took part.

Local Spotlight

RUSSIAN INTERVENTION IN SYRIA



By Muna Al-Fuzai

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Russia today is leading the political scene in the Middle East. It was a surprise for many Arabs that Russia sent its aircraft to Syria and set up a military base, but the question that comes to the minds of many is why Russia intervened in Syria at this particular time? This topic is worth talking about. Until last week, all signs in Syria were that the crisis in the country is heading to no solution, no peace and a long war of attrition, while organizations like the United Nations and its agencies around the world are observing the situation with faint calls demanding to stop fighting as more people are suffering and dying, especially in the absence of consensus to address the international crisis and a scary population displacement of almost the entire country of its citizens.

Russia chose to enter the Syrian quagmire with all its military and political power, and Russia has all the logical reasons to do so now. I find this timing perfect. It's really a hard blow to opponents of Russia, but Russia wants to protect its interests. Certainly, the Russian decision to intervene in Syria was not unilateral, but in coordination with Iran, Iraq and decision-makers in the region. Such a move can't be taken solo.

The Russian official justification was that fighters from Chechnya and the rest of the former Soviet Union have formed their own faction in the north of Syria and are posing a real threat to Russian national security. I remember how many times I wrote about the seriousness of foreign fighters and that they may evolve from merely scattered militants to a strong group with expansionist interests, especially since there are many countries adjacent to Russia that may constitute a threat to Russian security and interests. I know that some people do not see this as a satisfactory reason or only a half-truth. It is enough for those who just want to see the killings stop.

There are many objectives for Russia from Syria today. The first is to send a message to the world that Russia is a power that gave a long time to the US administration to resolve things to no avail. It became evident to the world that the United States is not serious in eradicating IS or ending the killings in Syria. A year ago, it formed an international coalition alliance to strike IS in Syria, but things appear that is more like an alliance to protect it, other terrorist groups and foreign fighters and not eliminate it, and today America plans to send weapons to the Syrian opposition. We are not so stupid!

Whatever the justifications and reasons for the Russian intervention in Syria, the important question is how will this be reflected on the course of events in Syria and in the region? The goals of the Russian intervention is not only to protect the Syrian regime - this may be one reason - but to change the military balance dramatically, and if Russia succeeds in doing so, it will impose itself as a superpower in the world and will have a view on all issues, plus gaining the respect and trust of the allies and more. So far, Russia looks strong enough to inflict painful blows to the militias' terrorist centers.

It is very important for Russia to resolve matters quickly there, so the coming months will be crucial to avoid entering a war of attrition like in Afghanistan, but the situation is different now than it was at that time. A military escalation is very likely in the coming weeks and possibly for Iraq too, and surrounding countries such as Kuwait may need to raise the level of security readiness. We are in a war zone or at least a conflict, so we need to be alert and cautious.

The success of Russia in Syria means that it will have easy access to Iraq to eliminate all terrorist demons there. This will have direct repercussions on all issues of conflict in the region, and will be an explicit declaration of victory of the Russian-Iranian axis over the American-EU alliance. It's a painful blow indeed. Certainly, we are on the cusp of a battle between international hubs, and the course of events in the region after the Russian intervention will never be as they were before.

FILIPINO BURNED TO DEATH

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: A Filipino burned to death when his vehicle burst into flames after a collision along King Fahd Highway, said security sources, noting that three Indians and an Egyptian were also seriously injured in the collision.

Policeman stabbed

A policeman was stabbed in the shoulder when he was trying to arrest a drug abuser near a Jahra co-op branch, said security sources, noting that the suspect resisted arrest and stabbed the policeman, who was rushed to hospital for treatment. In another development, a criminal investigator reported that a citizen had insulted him while on duty, said security sources. A case was filed and further investigations are in progress.

Construction worker killed

An Arab construction worker was killed instantly when a ceiling and a wall collapsed on him in a house he was working in Egaila, said security sources.



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KUWAIT BATTLING TERRORISM AND EXTREMISM

WASHINGTON: The UN Envoy for Humanitarian Affairs and Amiri Diwan Advisor of Kuwait Dr Abdullah Al-Maatouq has re-affirmed that Kuwait is proceeding with actions aimed at confronting intellectual extremism and renouncing terrorism. Dr Al-Maatouq made the remarks after meeting officials of the US State Department and the US-based international relief organization, USAID, discussing bilateral relations and cooperation in various fields, namely humanitarian activities and combating terrorism.

He told Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) that his talks with the US officials dealt with plans to hold the fourth international donors' confer-

ence for Syria, tentatively due in Britain soon, and means of drumming up support for the forecast humanitarian event. He also affirmed the US officials' desire to ensure success of the expected convention, noting success of the three previous conferences that had been held for this purpose since break-out of the Syrian crisis in 2011.

The internationally renowned Kuwaiti official added in the remarks to KUNA that the American officials expressed gratitude to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah for his patronization of the three conventions, affirming that His Highness earned the UN title, the "Humanitarian Leader"—along with the

State of Kuwait, which was designated as the "Humanitarian Center."

Dr Al-Maatouq also said he deliberated with the Americans means of backing relief agencies in Kuwait and the US, in addition to confronting terrorism and radical thoughts. The Amiri Diwan Advisor said he notified the American side that the State of Kuwait is continuing the war on terrorism, through support of governments of various states, noting formation of the Supreme Committee for Promoting Moderation, aimed at publicizing moderate religious rhetoric.

Al-Maatouq, also the Chairman of the Kuwait-based International Islamic Charitable Organization, added that he invited the American

officials to take part in a conference, to be organized by the association in late November. The convention, due to group all humanitarian NGOs in Kuwait, will be patronized by the First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. Kuwait, which has been granting aid to people in need around the world for years, has succeeded in pledging up to \$1.3 billion in aid for the Syrians as a result of the three previous conferences for the troubled nation.

Regional challenges

Meanwhile, Kuwait's Ambassador to Bahrain Sheikh Azzam Mubarak Al-Sabah said yesterday that bolstering

democratic path and strengthening national unity are considered one of the main protective fences against regional challenges. In a statement marking the second session of the Bahraini Parliament and Shura Council's fourth legislative term, scheduled to kick off today, Sheikh Azzam said the democratic reforms initiated by the Bahraini King are a protective fence against regional challenges in all areas. Sheikh Azzam added that Kuwaiti and Bahraini leading democratic experience has led to various developments and achievements, noting that Kuwait has presented a unique form of dynamic democracy which allows it to continue and flourish. —Agencies



The UN Envoy for Humanitarian Affairs and Amiri Diwan Advisor of the State of Kuwait Dr Abdullah Al-Maatouq.

News

In brief

Anti-corruption authority charges Kuwait officials

KUWAIT: The Public Authority for Combating Corruption (PACC) has referred a number of officials, involved in agricultural contracts, on charges of falsification and public funds' misappropriation to the Public Prosecution. The PAAC in the suit accuses a number of officials, involved in the case of an agricultural plot for an authority working in agricultural contracts, under umbrella of the Public Authority for Agriculture and Fisheries, of counterfeiting, public funds' misappropriation and power misuse, according to relevant laws and regulations. The authority indicated that it opted to resort to legal action after initial investigations revealed that the officials were suspected of involvement in these illegal acts, indicating that the case was submitted to the prosecution on October 8th.

Ministry of Commerce responds to violations

KUWAIT: Minister of Commerce and Industry Dr Yousef Al-Ali said yesterday that his ministry has continued to respond to violations issued by government monitoring entities in the past years, particularly those related to the undersecretary's technical office work and its organizational structure. In a statement, Al-Ali said they're responding to such violations for the purpose of improving work environment in the ministry and utilizing available human energy, including employing the technical office's workers in various administrations vacancies at the ministry. Al-Ali noted that such measures of employing are also based on their field and in implementation of the Civil Service Commission's recommendations and State Audit Bureau's report of 2013-14. The minister added that the ministry's response is also part of the government and parliament cooperation in responding to all remarks provided in these reports. Al-Ali said the ministry's upcoming work plan will be based on two factors, development and productivity with the focus on caring for the human element, namely the national one.

Last phase of applying IBAN system finalized

KUWAIT: Central Bank of Kuwait Governor Mohammad Al-Hashel announced that the CBK has finalized last phase of applying the IBAN (the International Bank Account Number), for unifying banking systems globally. The CBK Governor affirmed in a statement the necessity of implementing the electronic system for it secures rapid transfers, without any time consuming faults. First phase of implementing the IBAN was launched on January 1st, 2011, the second phase resulted in full preparedness by the banks in Kuwait to apply the IBAN, effective April 2013 and the third stage would end with full readiness of all government departments for its installment—which has become compulsory for all financial transfers, as of November 1st, 2015. Governor Al-Hashel emphasized keenness of staying abreast of latest innovations in the sector globally.



Central Bank of Kuwait Governor Mohammad Al-Hashel

Kuwait takes part in ICEEE meetings in US

KUWAIT: Undersecretary of the Ministry of State for National Assembly Affairs Engineer Ahmad Al-Marshad took part in the meetings of the International Conference of Electrical and Electronics Engineering (ICEEE) in the United States representing Kuwait. Al-Marshad told KUNA by phone that this meeting comes within the framework of activities of the ICEEE which is a professional non-profit organization based in the United States and has branches in all countries of the world, pointing out that the ICEEE seeks to raise the technical and vocational level of its members. He added that Kuwait's branch, headed by Abdul Rahman Al-Ghoneim, has already proposed the establishment of the Gulf branch, which consists of all branches of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), recalling the annual conference of Electrical and Electronics Engineers in the GCC.

Princess Basma lauds Jordanian-Kuwaiti ties

AMMAN: Princess Basma bint Talal said yesterday that the bilateral relations between Jordan and Kuwait are "distinctive and historic" on all levels. Princess Basma, who heads Um Al Hussein orphanage charity stressed, in a statement to Kuwait News Agency on the sidelines of the opening of a diplomatic charitable bazaar in the Jordanian capital, keenness of the leaderships of both countries to develop relations and strengthen them constantly, pointing out that the Kuwaitis are like family and friends for all Jordanians. She praised the continued participation of Kuwait represented by its embassy to Jordan in the annual bazaar which is dedicated to orphans and charitable work overseen by Um Al Hussein orphanage charity. For his part, Kuwaiti Ambassador to Jordan Dr Hamad Al-Duajj asserted to KUNA keenness of the Kuwaiti diplomatic mission to participate in the Bazaar which comes within the framework of humanitarian action. He added that this humanitarian activity, which is renewed annually, embodies the highest sense of partnership, solidarity and humanitarian work with the diplomatic corps operating in Jordan, stressing the importance of strengthening the humanitarian and charity work and actively participate in any activity aimed at helping the needy.



Former Lebanese Prime Minister Najib Mikati seen with Kuwait Embassy's Representative to Lebanon Mohammed Al-Khaldi during the inauguration ceremony. — KUNA



KUWAIT-FUNDED ORPHANAGE OPENS IN LEBANON'S TRIPOLI

TRIPOLI: Lebanon's former Prime Minister Najib Mikati inaugurated yesterday a Kuwaiti-funded orphanage for handicapped children in Tripoli city, north of Lebanon, in presence of Kuwait Embassy's Representative to Lebanon Mohammed Al-Khaldi. The inauguration ceremony was held on the sidelines of the 6th International Scientific Conference, entitled "Technology and Rehabilitation In Serving Children's Mental and Physical Health" organized by Al-Rahma Medical Complex.

Mikati, in a statement to KUNA, praised Kuwait's proactive role and

efforts in the philanthropic and humanitarian field, as well as its permanent support of humanitarian issues, affirming his country's appreciation to Kuwait and its people. He also thanked organizers and financiers of the new orphanage, stressing the importance of constructing such centers and projects that contribute to the fortification of communities and improving their living and health conditions.

Tripoli's Grand Mufti Malek Al-Shaar expressed his most gratitude to His Highness the Amir, government, and people of Kuwait for providing constant

aid and support to Lebanon, indicating that Kuwait has left a significant mark on every philanthropic, humanitarian, and Islamic project in his country and the world. Meanwhile, Walid Al-Ammar, Director of the External Relations Department in Kuwaiti Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Ministry, told KUNA that the ministry has contributed \$300,000 for the new orphanage building project as part of its support of humanitarian cases.

The ministry also contributed to projects that serve Syrian refugees in Lebanon and Jordan, Al-Ammar said,

noting that the ministry also provides aid and support, in cooperation with Kuwaiti Zakat House, to projects and activities that alleviate the displacement burdens for Syrians. For his part, Kuwaiti Embassy's Representative Al-Khaldi affirmed Kuwait's humanitarian role in providing various potentials and opportunities to support humanity and help it in times of difficulty. He also confirmed that Kuwaiti philanthropists never hesitated in providing all forms of help and contribution for whatever serves humanity and improves health services in communities around the world. — KUNA

PLAN TO BUILD FIRST LOCAL PLASTIC RECYCLING PLANT

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: The Kuwait Society for Environmental Protection plans to build the first plastic recycling plant in Kuwait. The society's Secretary General Abdul Ameer Al-Jazzaf said that the society was open to all suggestions and national voluntary projects designed to protect the environment. "The Omneya project is mainly concerned with collecting used plastic water bottles," he explained, adding that the project was part of the 'Green Schools' program organized by the society this year. Sana Al-Ghemlas, who launched the Omneya project, said that the project started with an initiative by Farah Shaaban, Saud Al-Fauzan and herself with the aim of recycling all used plastic water bottles and all types of recyclable plastics.

Moon close to planets

Manager of the space and astronomy

department at the Scientific Club Bader Al-Omaira said that the moon would be seen close to Mercury, Venus, Mars and Saturn starting from Oct 8 for four subsequent days.

Branch request

Kuwait Credit Bank has urged the Municipality to allocate a temporary mobile location for it in Sabah Al-Ahmad City in order to help facilitate transactions for engineers working there on construction, expansion and repair sites. The bank also requested that the branch be located close to the transmission tower because all its transactions mainly depended on the Internet.

New wedding hall

The Municipality has agreed to allocate a new location to build a 1,500-sq-m wedding hall in Qairawan with a 2,400-sq-m parking area around it.

ITPGRFA ELECTS KUWAIT TO TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

ROME: Members of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) elected Kuwait yesterday to be a member of its consultative technical committee for sustained usage for genetic plant and agriculture resources. The announcement was made at the conclusion of the 6th session of the Governing Body of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) 136-member nation plant treaty, held in Rome.

Kuwait's Representative to the ITPGRFA Dr Fadhilah Al-Salamin expressed, in a statement to KUNA, her appreciation for the election, which would surely boost Kuwait's role with regard to international treaties, namely the 2003 treaty, which was signed by 40 other nations, including Kuwait, in 2004. Salamin stressed the importance of the ITPGRFA as a binding legal treaty that includes all genetic

resources related to food and agriculture, and aims at protecting genetic plants, food and agriculture.

Kuwait, through the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR), seeks to introduce new types of improved crops in line with the treaty through the exchange of genetic plants, with the goal to improve Kuwait's non-commercial agricultural sector and genetic plant development research, Al-Salamin added.

The Kuwaiti representative stressed Kuwait's keenness to make better use of the treaty through training courses and scientific and practical workshops for Kuwaiti personnel and specialists. Earlier, the FAO session tackled ways on how to enhance the current multi-lateral system through the creation of one Global Information System on Plant Genetic Resources. — KUNA

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Special report

CONVERTING GRAVEYARDS INTO PARKS?



KUWAIT: People visit the gravesites of their relatives. —Photos by Joseph Shagra



By Nawara Fattahova

KUWAIT: The Municipality is planning to convert old cemeteries into public parks, but there have been some protests over such moves. The Municipal Council is in charge of allocating properties to various public institutions and is in charge of cemeteries as well. Kuwait Times spoke to the Director of the Municipal Council Muhalhal Al-Khaled to learn more about this issue and others.

"There is a rule that after 50 years of disuse, a cemetery goes out of service and can be changed into a park. An example is the Baladiya Park, which was originally a graveyard. Later, a fatwa was issued forbidding this change, and ideas were proposed to build multi-storey car parks on cemetery grounds. Many conflicts ensued, so the municipality preferred not to execute these projects and avoid problems. So we only planted flowers on top of the gravesites," said Khaled. There are 50 cemeteries in Kuwait including one on Failaka Island, but only cemeteries in three areas are in use. "One cemetery is in Jahra, three in Sulaibikhat for Sunnis, Shiites and non-Muslims, and one in Subhan. All other cemeteries are abandoned and not used anymore," he said. The current cemeteries have enough space to operate for the next 10 years and more. "Although we don't have a shortage presently, there are expansion works in progress at the Sulaibikhat cemetery. The cemetery will expand from the boundary wall to Jahra Road and the mosque there will be shifted to the residential area in Nahda," Khaled added. The bodies of about 80 percent of non-Muslims who die in Kuwait are repatriated.



"We don't have many non-Muslims buried here as mostly their families choose to send their bodies back home. But the new expansion of the Sulaibikhat cemetery will include the non-Muslim cemetery," noted Khaled.

Other Projects

The Municipal Council is working on many other projects that will be executed in the future. "We have a project plan that hasn't been approved yet by the Amiri Diwan. After it's signed, we will announce it. This plan includes developing and connecting the northern islands with a bridge and building various vital projects there," Khaled explained. More projects will be executed soon. "The zoo will be transferred to Mutlaa from its present location in Omariya. It will be much bigger there. I don't think that the distance will stop people from visiting it, as today the roads are modern and a long drive is part of a picnic far away from the city. Also, Mutlaa will be a residential city and to have the zoo there is better than in a crowded area," he pointed out.

The Public Authority for Agricultural

Affairs and Fish Resources has also demanded receiving control of 18 public parks in various areas to change them into indoor parks. "The co-ops in these areas will be responsible for establishing health clubs in these parks with nominal entrance fees. These parks or locations were in bad condition and almost abandoned," stressed Khaled.

"We are also completing housing units. The houses are divided in various areas including 55,000 houses in Subbiya, 25,000 in Mutlaa, 53,000 in Nawaf City, 43,000 in South Saad Al-Abdullah and 25,000 in South Sabah Al-Ahmad City. The parliament has decided to distribute 12,000 houses every year, while in the past it was only about 350 annually. This should end the housing problem as there are about 106,000 applicants waiting," he stated. The Municipal Council will also revamp the ageing Entertainment City. "The enlargement will be of more than one kilometer, and will be executed by an international company. The executive director of this company has many innovative ideas to develop this city and this is in the interests of the public," Khaled concluded.



International Monetary Fund Middle East Center for Economics and Finance Kuwait "Office Administrator" Vacancy Announcement

The IMF-Middle East Center for Economics and Finance (CEF), located in Kuwait, is an office of the IMF with a mission to strengthen the economic management in Arab League Member Countries by delivering an integrated curriculum of training courses and seminars that address the key skill sets needed to support this goal. In particular, the training aims to improve the ability of officials of these countries to analyze economic conditions, diagnose problems, and design and implement appropriate.

The Center is seeking an "Office Administrator" to carry out administrative functions related to training activities at the CEF.

This is a full time position with an initial appointment term of two-years (renewable), and carries a competitive salary and benefits package commensurate with the successful candidate's experience and qualifications.

Qualifications and skills:

I. Functions/ Key Results Expected:

- Manage the Director's agenda to determine scheduling priorities.
- Respond to telephone and e-mail enquiries, routing correspondence, and maintain supplies.
- Administer HR records and HR-related functions, travel arrangements, and expense reports for CEF staff.
- Prepare standard responses to routine correspondence.
- Prepare, proofread, and format documents in accordance with Fund style and CEF guidelines.
- Prepare lecture materials for economist staff using standard presentation software.
- Prepare statistical reports with the use of Participants and Applicant Tracking Systems (PATS) and assist with the registration of CEF applications using PATS.
- Assist with the maintenance of CEF databases, file and retrieve documents and online information from document repositories, and electronic sources.
- Provide, as needed, basic technology guidance and assistance to colleagues and perform other administrative duties, as required.

II. Competencies:

- Excellent organizational skills with proven ability to plan workload and balance competing demands.
- Ability to manage multi-task, meet deadlines, and work under pressure with minimum supervision.
- Ability to exhibit a high degree of initiative, tact, and judgment in handling confidential information and ambiguous situations.
- Excellent interpersonal skills and customer service orientation in dealing with diverse groups of people.
- Strong database skills and ability to access, retrieve, and generate reports using CEF specific networks.

III. Qualification Requirements:

- 1- Education: University degree in Business Administration, Public Relations or any other related field.
- 2- Experience: At least 3 years of experience.
- 3- Language: Fluency in English and Arabic is required.
- 4- IT Skills: Proficiency in Word, Excel, PeopleSoft, familiarity with the Internet.

Closing date of the application is October 17, 2015. Interested Candidates can submit their CVs to the following email: cefinfo@imf.org

GULF BANK WINS 'BEST CASH MANAGEMENT BANK' AWARD

KUWAIT: Gulf Bank is pleased to announce it has been recognized as the 'Best Cash Management Bank in Kuwait' by The Asian Banker, one of Asia's leading consulting companies in financial services research, benchmarking, and intelligence. The awards ceremony was held during the '2015 Future of Finance Summit - Middle East and North Africa' held on 6 October 2015 at the Park Hyatt Saadiyat Island, Abu Dhabi, UAE. This 'Best Cash Management Bank in Kuwait' award recognizes Gulf Bank's commitment to offer the best cash management and payment solutions to its corporate customers and, in particular, the

exponential growth of the Bank's corporate online banking platform with its state-of-the-art features and capabilities, such as online salaries payment.

The award itself was based on growth in clients, transaction volume and value, profitability and revenue growth, the range and unique features of products and services provided by the bank, operational and platform capabilities and key achievements and deals done in the year under review. The score was also based on a survey of all domestic banks based on overall satisfaction; primary provider; sustainable relationship building; flexibility in pricing and documentation; local support capabilities; and value for price quoted to domestic banks in this business.

The selection process for this award began in June and ended in August and involved a team of international judges and researchers. The selection criteria for the award was based on evaluation of feedback from international and domestic financial institutions in the region; feedback of leading corporations in the region; an assessment of the institution's product proposition, product infrastructure and ability to deliver value to clients relative to peers in the year under review; as well as demonstration of investment in actionable innovation that has contributed to the bottom line.

Gulf Bank continually seeks to be innovative, to raise standards, and set the benchmark for banking excellence in the region. The bank is frequently honored with prestigious awards and accolades. In 2015 the bank won "Asian HR Leadership Award" from The Asian Banker; "Best Retail Bank in Kuwait" by The Asian Banker; "Best Retail Bank in Kuwait" and "Best Retail Customer Service Bank in Kuwait" awards from International Finance Magazine (IFM); "Best Commercial Bank" and "Best Innovation in Retail Banking" awards from International Banker; "Best Customer Experience Overall Branch" from Ethos Integrated Solutions; as well as "Best Car Loan" and "Best Customer Service (Retail)" from Banker Middle East. To learn more about any of Gulf Bank's awards, products and services, visit one of Gulf Bank's 58 branches, call the Customer Contact Center on 1805805, or log on to Gulf Bank's bilingual website: www.e-gulfbank.com.



KUWAIT: Valery Talma, Deputy General Manager, Head of Wholesale Banking Products at Gulf Bank receiving the 'Best Cash Management Bank in Kuwait' award from The Asian Banker.

AMIR TO PATRONIZE SMES CONFERENCE

KUWAIT: Under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the Amir of Kuwait, the Arab Open University (AOU) in cooperation with Arab Gulf Program for Development (AGFUND), Arab Urban Development Institute and Kuwait Banking Association will organize a regional conference entitled "Small and Micro Enterprises (SMEs) in the Arab Countries: Reality and Aspirations" during 28-29 October 2015 at the building of Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, Prof Moudi Al-Humoud, Rector of the AOU, announced.

The conference will witness a participation and attendance of decision makers and figures with expertise and experience from various government and public organizations, working in the field of SMEs development, from all corners of the world. Prof. Al-Humoud said, adding there would be two workshops accompanying the conference, the first entitled "How to Prepare an Economic Feasibility Study on Small and Medium Enterprises" and the second on "Empowering Arab Women to Manage Small Enterprises" on 27 October 2015 at the Training Center of the Arab Open University.

In a news release, Prof Al-Humoud expressed her deep gratitude and appreciation to HH Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad for his patronage, which is greatly significant and has a clear message for his attention and care to the University and all initiatives that support developmental strategic plans in the Arab countries and that face the challenges occurring in the region. She said that the conference aims at promoting private sector and alleviating burden on government sector as well as developing labor environment, creating new jobs and

empowering women.

The conference comes to achieve the vision of the University founder, HRH Prince Talal Bin Abdulaziz, Chairman of the AOU Board of Trustees, and the noble message of the University, which seeks to provide high quality of education to all society sectors and enrich the Arab market with highly qualified graduates, who definitely serve tracks of human development in all the Arab countries, hoping that the University spreads in

alleviating poverty. She added it is necessary to face the challenges of SMEs and to take advantage of recent economic trends and strategies of developing local societies in addition to benefit from pioneering experiments in development of comprehensive and institutional support systems, including establishment of banks for the poor and villages and for SMEs financing, which will achieve a comprehensive financial inclusion.

Prof Al-Humoud concluded the statement by offering gratitude to all sponsors and committees of the conference and congratulating academic and administrative staff of all AOU branches on commencement of the academic year, praying to Almighty Allah that the new academic year will be full of excellence and achievement for all students of the University and whole Arab World. Some participations in the conference will gain a unique significance through its national initiatives that support SMEs, such as the National Fund for SMEs Development in Kuwait that will highlight its strategy of supporting national work force and providing all sorts of support to SMEs at the Kuwaiti national level.



Prof Moudi Al-Humoud

every Arab capital to meet ambitions and needs of knowledge-seekers as well as needs of international and Arab labor markets.

She pointed out the importance of the conference came from its reliance on studying experiences and challenges of SMEs development in a number of Arab and Islamic countries, adding SMEs development is a fundamental base for social and economic development and an essential contribution to increasing family numbers, improving their living conditions, reducing unemployment and

The University appreciates and values trust of the conference sponsors. The sponsors of the conference are AGFUND, Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, Arab Urban Development Institute, Kuwait Banking Association, the National Commercial Bank- Saudi Arabia, Banque Saudi Fransi, the Saudi Telecom Company (STC), Islamic Development Bank, Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), Commercial Bank of Kuwait, the Arab Towns Organisation, Bank Audi, Industrial Bank of Kuwait and Arab Planning Institute.



VIVA ANNOUNCES RESULTS OF STARTUPQ8 WEEKEND COMPETITION FOR TECHNOLOGY

KUWAIT: VIVA, Kuwait's fastest-growing and most developed telecom operator, announced the results of StartupQ8 Weekend competition, specialized in technology, held between 17 and 19 September. The Startup Weekend Kuwait competition is one of the biggest startup competitions in the GCC. Twenty-One teams had 54 hours to come up with an idea for an e-business such as an application or website, form a team, build a prototype, and present it in front of the judges and audience.

Participants were programmers, designers, marketers, or general business people. Abdulrazzaq Bader Al Essa, Director of Corporate Communications at VIVA, said: "VIVA's sponsorship of this program stems from its belief in startups and investing in the intellectual capabilities of young men and

women in Kuwait, and its responsibility by supporting them with the tools they require to make their projects successful".

The 3 winners:

First place: "Mukancom" a platform for finding co-working spaces in Kuwait. - Second place: "Care and Compare" an application to find and compare kindergartens and day care facilities in Kuwait. - Third place: "Roster" an application for connecting amateur football players and setting up matches. The first team was awarded with 1,000 KD, as well as other non-cash prizes. Startup Weekend is a non-profit organization, and the entire competition is organized by volunteers in Kuwait. Registering and participating in the event is free for everyone. To register and find out more, visit www.SWKuwait.com.

KUWAIT SPORTS LAWS IN HARMONY WITH INTERNATIONAL REGULATIONS

KUWAIT: Kuwaiti sports officials have affirmed that local laws absolutely do not contradict with the Olympic Charter and constituent laws of international sports federations. The officials, in remarks to Kuwait News Agency (KUNA), emphasized that there has been no government intervention, whatsoever, that may impede the Kuwaiti sports, noting that without the material and moralistic support given by the Government and the Public Authority for Youth and Sports (PAYS), the national clubs and sports federation would not have been able to practice their role locally and abroad.

Asaad Al-Banwan, Chairman of Kazma Club, said the Kuwaiti Government and PAYS do not intervene at all in the sports clubs' affairs, neither at the administrative level nor at the technical level; instead they have been giving support to the Kuwaiti sports during various games and sports events. Kazma Club, which was the first one that endorsed its constituent legal system, has affirmed full support for the Kuwaiti laws, in general, and sports legislations in particular, namely Law 42/1978, Decree-into-Law 26/2012, Decree-into-Law 117/2014 and Law 25/2015.

He praised PAYS' full support for the club, which endorsed the constituent laws during an extraordinary general assembly last week, as well for the other clubs with respect of organizing and hosting various tournaments, holding training camps and participating in sports events abroad. Kazma Club supports all actions that have been taken by the Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah for promoting the Kuwaiti sports, Al-Banwan said, stressing on the club respect for the national sovereignty and laws incorporated in its constituent laws that do not contradict with the international laws and the Olympic Charter.

Committee grouping experts

The club board has formed a committee grouping experts, headed by the former secretary Hussein Bouskandar, with the members; the Deputy Chairman Walid Al-Yagout, the former treasurer Jihad Gharabally, the ex-assistant secretary Salem Al-Abkal, the treasurer Meshal Hamad, member of the general assembly Ahmad Khamees and the rapporteur Mohammad Abdulwahab, for sake of amending the club's constituent laws. Al-Banwan added that the committee has keenly sought to implement

the provision of PAYS' resolution 548/2015, hailing the commission chairman and its members for their distinguished efforts that resulted in enacting the new basic regulations, in harmony with the laws 5, 42 of 1978 and 2007.

He expressed gratitude to the Minister Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud for his devotion for promoting the Kuwaiti sports, and addressed identical sentiments to PAYS Chairman Sheikh Ahmad Al-Mansour Al-Sabah, his deputies and the board members for supporting the national sports.

For his part, Kuwait Club Secretary Walid Al-Rashed said attendance of nine Kuwaiti clubs of the meeting, hosted by Salmiya Sport Club, several days ago, to discuss repercussions of FIFA's warning to suspend soccer in Kuwait as of October 15, constituted an affirmation that the laws in the State of Kuwait do not contradict with the international laws, thus there is not justification to suspend the sports in Kuwait. Al-Rashed stressed that the club stands alongside the sagacious Kuwaiti Government and supports the laws that have been adopted by the Kuwaiti Parliament that do not breach the Olympic Charter.

Meanwhile, Abdulrazzak Al-Mudhaf, the Secretary at Al-Arabi Sports Club, said the constituent laws of the Kuwaiti Football Association are a copy of FIFA's basic laws. "We at Al-Arabi Club are certain that the domestic laws do not contradict with the Olympic Charter and the international laws," Al-Rashed added, calling for respect of the legislations, endorsed by the Kuwaiti National Assembly (the Parliament) which are compatible with the international laws. "We are certain that the local sports laws do not breach the international ones," he stressed, urging all sports authorities and personalities to be united.

He affirmed Al-Arabi's abidance by the nine clubs' statement released at their latest meeting and compatibility of the Kuwaiti sports regulations with international criteria in this respect. The Kuwaiti clubs had affirmed support for the national sovereign laws that ensure that the State does not meddle in affairs of the local clubs, either at the administrative level or the technical level, and their respect for the Olympic Charter and constituent rules of the international federations. The nine clubs of the country's overall 15 ones affirmed after the meeting their support for the national sovereignty under leadership of His Highness the Amir, His Highness the Crown Prince and His Highness the Premier. —KUNA

KUWAIT MARKS ARTHRITIS DAY

KUWAIT: Marking World Arthritis Day 2015 in Kuwait aims at raising awareness among people on the most important rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases, influencing decision makers to improve arthritic patients' care, a medical consultant said yesterday. This year's event, kicked off under the slogan "It's In Your Hands, Take Action", is held under the auspices of Minister of Health Dr Ali Al-Obaidi, and is organized by Kuwait Rheumatism Association, Dr Yasser Mustafa, Consultant of Internal Medicine, Rheumatology, Allergy and Immunology at Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital, told KUNA.

Every year, Kuwait takes part in this international commemoration by holding several activities and events that include organizing meetings between rheumatic patients and physicians with expertise on

curing the disease, Mustafa noted, adding that the celebration's first day was divided into two segments. The first segment was dedicated to physicians of various medical specialties, including primary care, family, internal, dermatology and gastroenterology, who organized several symposiums in the morning on rheumatic diseases, he said.

The second segment of the event included several short awareness lectures for the audience by consultants at different hospitals in Kuwait, Mustafa said, adding that a question and answer session was held for the audience following each lecture. Declared in 1996, World Arthritis Day falls on Oct 12, where people with rheumatic and musculoskeletal disorders from around the world join together to make their voices heard. —KUNA



KUWAIT: Kuwait Diving Team, of the Voluntary Environmental Charity recently salvaged a 4-ton and 36-foot-long yacht that had burnt and sunk at Shamlan Marina. The Marine Operations Manager, Waleed Al-Shatti said the yacht and all its debris were removed.

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BULLETS DUMPED IN MOSQUE

KUWAIT: Security forces were recently alerted on a large number of bullets dumped in a Rabiya mosque. Case papers indicate that Farwaniya security received a report about finding a bag of bullets in the Khrajneq Mosque's yard. Rushing to the scene, security forces found a tightly sealed wet white bag full of bullets. A case was filed and further investigations are in progress.

Egyptian mugged and robbed

An Egyptian reported that an unidentified robber mugged and robbed him in Adan, stealing KD 140 and his mobile phone. A case was filed and further investigations are in progress. In another development, a stateless female teacher reported that her sister had attacked and tried to stab her at her house in Waha in Jahra, said security sources, noting that on summoning the sister, she denied the charges and stressed that she had only gone to her sister's house to pick up her purse. A case was filed and both sisters were referred to relevant authorities for further investigations.

52 homemade liquor bottles

An Asian was arrested with 52 homemade liquor bottles in Jahra industrial area, said security sources. Case papers indicate that a police patrol suspected the man driving his vehicle around the area and on stopping him, he seemed confused, which called for searching him and his vehicle to find the liquor. A case was filed.

Kuwaitis arrested in UK?

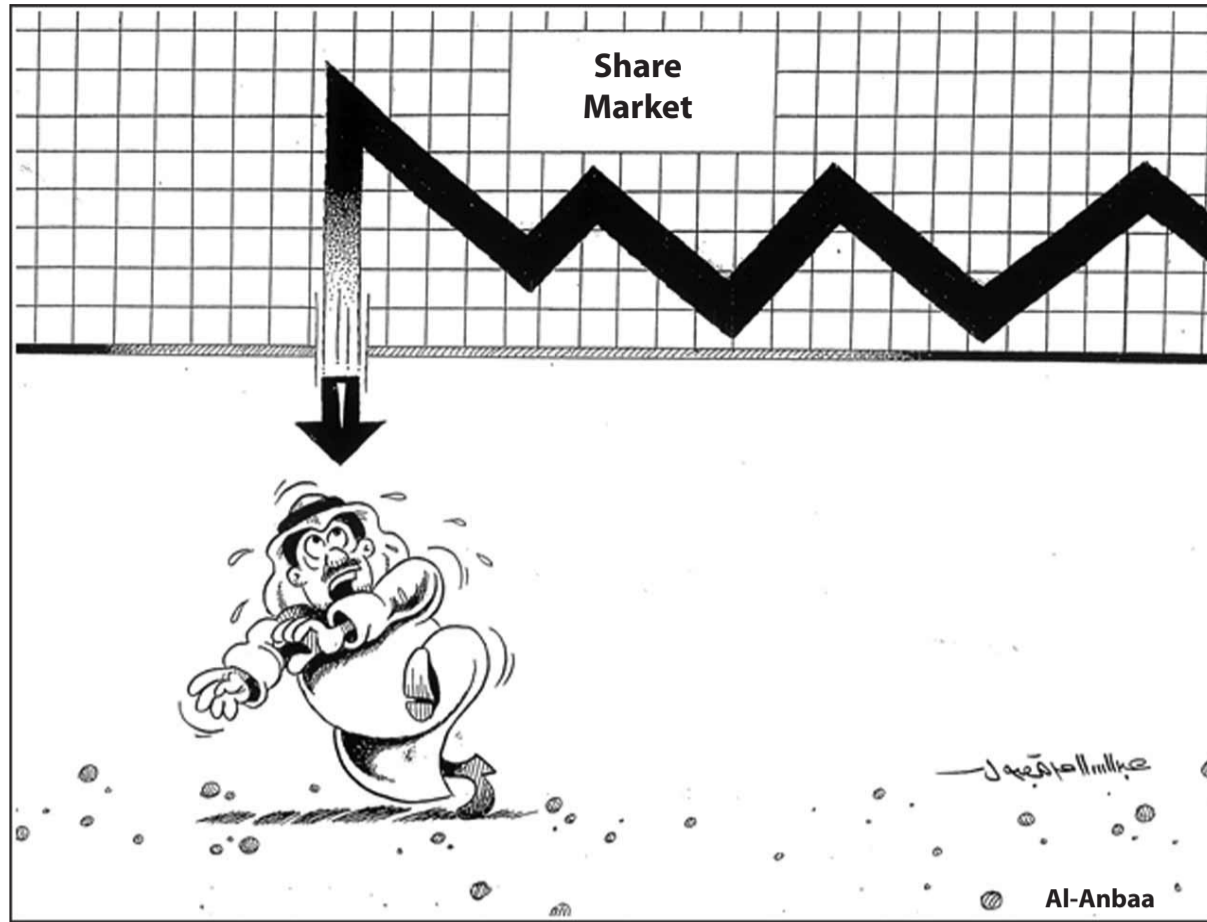
The British Surrey county police recently posted a tweet announcing arresting a five-member Arab family for suspected illegal entry into the UK, said security sources, noting that the family members claimed to be Kuwaitis. The British police announced that the suspects were referred to relevant authorities and that further investigations are in progress.

Citizen beaten, stabbed

A citizen was beaten and stabbed by two others with whom he had some unsettled old scores in Fintas, said security sources. Case papers indicate that both parties accidentally met in a shopping mall where they argued and fought before the two assailants fled the scene after stabbing the victim. A case was filed and a search is on for the suspects.

40 psychotropic pills

Three citizens - two men and a woman - were arrested with 40 psychotropic pills. Moreover, one of the men was found wanted for a KD 770 financial claim while the woman was wanted for a KD 17,000 claim. —Al-Rai and Al-Anbaa



Al-Anbaa

PHOTOSHOP REVOLUTIONS

By Salah Al-Sayer

Humanity has witnessed several major revolutions that managed to change the societies they took place in and reversed their dominant concepts by subjecting them to deep political and socioeconomic changes that moved them from certain situations to the exact opposite. One of the most famous such revolutions is the French one that called for liberty, equality and fraternity, and thus, emphasized and launched the enlightenment era that paved the way for Europe to move from old to new and modern ages.

What about the Arab world where so many bright shining names are falsely given without reflecting the real truth about any incidents. They describe military coups as revolutions such as that of July 23, 1952 in Egypt, Sept 26 in Yemen, July 14 in Iraq and Sept 1 in Libya. They were all coups that

toppled ruling monarchies, and were carried out by the military that moved overnight from barracks into palaces and spread injustice and corruption everywhere.

Those Arab coups named as revolutions did not reflect nor meet people's aspirations or pains. They rather helped realize the ambitions of groups of army officers who only changed signs and convinced the people that what was happening was on public demand. Even Arab revolutions against foreign colonists were not, unfortunately, too far from exaggeration and cheating. There is solid proof until the moment of writing this article that the Algerian resistance against the French, the one known as the one-million martyr revolution, did not actually lose that number of martyrs.

—Translated by Kuwait Times



Al-Jarida

FATWAS ON JIHAD IN SYRIA

By Dr Bader Al-Daihani

The political situation in Syria is now very tough and complicated, which calls for serious action by the international community because foreign interference in any country is absolutely unacceptable. On the other hand, fatwas made by religious groups about jihad are deemed as serious violation of their respective countries' foreign and defense policies. Without going into details about what is currently going on in Syria, the Syrian people peacefully revolted a few years ago against a tyrannical regime where a small group monopolized power and wealth. However, the regime's brutal oppression against peaceful demonstrations gradually forced some opposition groups to carry weapons and demand toppling the regime.

Things soon developed into a civil war that caused regional and international interference. Some countries provided direct support with either funds or weapons or with both to some fascist religious militias that were no less brutal than the oppressive regime that took advantage of the civil war and the complicated political situation to claim to the whole world that it was fighting theorist groups like IS, Al-Qaeda and others, while it was in fact supporting them all and allying with them against the people's revolution demanding democracy, dignity, liberty and decent life for the entire Syrian people.

The political situation in Syria is now very complicated, which worsened the Syrian people sufferings as Syria turned into a battlefield for a vicious bloody conflict where capitalist powers, namely the US and Russia, are competing through their local and regional representatives on splitting regional areas and controlling the world's economic and political powers. Russia is trying to set foot in the world arena in the aftermath of the economic crisis that affected the US more than any other capitalist nation.

Russian interference in Syria is not different from that of US in Iraq or Syria. National sovereignty had been violated and national resources were looted in both cases. They both either supported tyrannical regimes and their militias or other radical religious ones. They both kill innocent people and children. They both prolong the civil war. In other words, both countries interference is not meant for the Syrian people's greater good and neither for this or that faction. It is mainly done for their own benefit, influence and powers. —Translated by Kuwait Times

WID FINDS IMPORTED WEAPONS MISSING

KUWAIT: As part of its weapon collection campaigns, the Weapons Investigation Department (WID) started inspecting gun stores in Kuwait and found out that many millions of bullets were being sold without registering them. "Inspecting a local weapons company, the force discovered several violations such as 3,640,305 unaccounted for bullets that were not in the company's register.

The force also found no guns in stock though the company records showed that the total number guns sold was only 29, while the company had imported 200. Inquiring from the own-

er, he admitted to selling the balance in full without any licenses to clients from Saudi Arabia, who collected the guns and the ammunition from his house in Adan," the sources said.

Informed sources said that the total number of stores licensed to sell weapons are 16 and that the license of one of them had been cancelled for committing many violations. "One of the remaining 15 was referred to prosecution while two more refused inspection and will lose their licenses," the sources added. The WID has also intensified its search for weapons at sea. —Al-Rai

SUGGESTION TO HIKE EXPAT CAR REGISTRATION FEES

KUWAIT: MP Kamel Al-Awadhi will submit a proposal suggesting solutions to resolve the traffic problem by several measures such as increasing the fees expats annually pay for renewal of car registration to match those they pay in their respective countries. Awadhi also suggested imposing special fees on vehicles exceeding the total number of members within any Kuwaiti family as

well as not allowing holders of Article 20 residency to register vehicles in their names.

Awadhi added that this package of proposals would be submitted as urgent suggestions during the coming parliamentary term in a bid to resolve the traffic problems once the new road grid is concluded. "The suggestions include having a different summer timing to

redistribute the rush hours when vehicles flock to main roads," he explained, adding that he would also suggest establishing a special taxi company whose vehicles are parked at special centers and only go out on streets on call. "Expat car registration fees can be increased to match those paid in Lebanon - \$1,000 - and £4,000-5,000 in Egypt," he explained. —Al-Rai

Photo

of the day



KUWAIT: Photo captures a man who is fishing in the Arabian Gulf Sea. Fishing in Kuwait is an old tradition - some people take it as a hobby that relieves them from stress and commotion of daily life. —KUNA

CIA-BACKED SYRIAN REBELS UNDER RUSSIAN BLITZ

Page 8



Leading Republican Ryan reconsiders running for speaker

Page 9



KAFR BATNA, Syria: A Syrian man rides a bike with his two daughters behind him in a plastic box in this town in the rebel-held Eastern Ghouta area on Friday. — AFP

FIERCE BATTLES IN CENTRAL SYRIA REGIME ADVANCES WITH RUSSIAN AIR SUPPORT

DAMASCUS: Syrian troops backed by Russian airstrikes seized a village in central Syria yesterday amid fierce clashes with rebels, part of a ground offensive launched earlier this week. That offensive marked the first major air-and-ground assault since Moscow began its military campaign in Syria on Sept 30. Russian officials say the airstrikes are targeting mainly Islamic State militants, but most strikes are hitting areas where the extremist group is not present. The fighting is concentrated in Hama and the northern Idlib provinces, where a consortium of mainstream rebels as well as Al-Qaeda's branch in Syria, the Nusra Front, are operating.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, which relies on a network of activists across Syria, said government troops seized control of Atshan on Friday amid intense Russian airstrikes in the region. It said troops also seized the nearby Um Hartein village. Syrian troops have faced stiff resistance from the rebels, who have used advanced US-made TOW mis-

siles to attack Syrian tanks and armored vehicles.

The Russian defense ministry said in a statement that Russian planes flew 64 sorties and targeted 54 sites in the past 24 hours, without elaborating. Among the sites attacked, it said, were command outposts in Aleppo and Idlib provinces. Russia, a key ally of Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad, has insisted its airstrikes are targeting the Islamic State group and other terrorists. But US officials said this week that Russia has directed parts of its air campaign against US-funded groups and other moderate opposition groups in a concerted effort to weaken them.

The Observatory said Russian warplanes yesterday bombed a headquarters of the ultraconservative Ahrar Al-Sham rebel group in Saraqeb, in Idlib province. There was no immediate confirmation or details. Heavy fighting was also taking place in the al-Ghab plain in Hama province a natural barrier between areas controlled by Sunni Muslims and the Alawite sect to which Assad and

many of his loyalists belong.

Syria's civil war, which has killed more than 250,000 people in the past four years, has displaced half the country's pre-war population of 23 million people. A US-led coalition has been striking Islamic State targets in Syria for over a year. A military official quoted by Syria's state-run SANA said yesterday that two F-16s from the US-led coalition violated Syrian airspace and targeted civilian infrastructure in Aleppo. The unnamed official said the strikes destroyed two power plants in the Radwaniyah area east of Aleppo city, causing a blackout.

The head of the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council, which includes key rebel backers Saudi Arabia and Qatar, meanwhile said Russia's intervention could help defeat the IS group if it works with other nations battling the extremists. "I am not downplaying the difficulties. The war against Daesh and defeating its dangers is possible if the opposing parties against Daesh, among them Russians, work together properly," GCC Secretary General

Abdullatif Al-Zayani said at an event in Abu Dhabi, referring to IS by its Arabic acronym.

The GCC is comprised of Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain and Oman. Saudi Arabia has denounced the Russian air campaign. Also speaking at the event in Abu Dhabi Saturday was UN Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliasson, who is headed to Iran on Sunday. He called on all countries in the region, and the Security Council, to work toward a "credible political transition in Syria." "An end to this war is in everybody's enlightened self-interest. Enough is enough," he said. — AP

TEN DEAD, INCLUDING KIDS, AT DUBLIN TRAVELLERS' SITE



DUBLIN: Irish police officers exit a site in the south Dublin suburb of Carrickmines yesterday where a fire killed at least 10 people. — AP

DUBLIN: Ten people have died, including a couple and their five children, after a pre-dawn fire yesterday at a site in Dublin housing members of the traveller community. "We can confirm 10 fatalities now," an Irish police spokesman told AFP, but he could not say how many were children. Members of two related families are believed to have died, including a baby as young as six months old. "Unfortunately a husband and wife, their four sons and baby daughter and other relations are lost," said Irish Prime Minister Enda Kenny. "It's such an unspeakable tragedy to have an entire family wiped out in a horrific inferno," he added.

A number of other people were taken to hospital after inhaling smoke at the site made up of caravans and prefabricated buildings. Dublin Fire Service said it was too early to establish the cause of the fire in the south Dublin suburb of Carrickmines, which is about 16 km from the city centre. A police source said the fire did not appear suspicious but that a forensic investigation was under way to discover the cause and how it spread. Emergency services were alerted shortly after 0300 GMT.

Irish President Michael D Higgins described the incident as a "dreadful tragedy". He added in a statement: "My thoughts at this time are with the families and friends of those who have lost their lives and those who have been injured." Local councillor Peter O'Brien said: "People went to bed on a Friday night looking forward to the weekend and never woke up." "That's a hard thing to get your head around," he told AFP at the scene where people have been laying flowers.

The victims are believed to be from three generations of the same family living on the site, according to Irish media reports. The Southside Traveller Action Group, which offers support to travellers in the area, said the community was "in a state of shock at the devastating" events. People left homeless by the fire will be accommodated by authorities in Dublin, the group said in a statement. "It is our understanding that... the names of the deceased will not be released today," it added. — AFP

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CIA-BACKED SYRIAN REBELS UNDER RUSSIAN BLITZ

WASHINGTON: CIA-backed rebels in Syria, who had begun to put serious pressure on President Bashar Al-Assad's forces, are now under Russian bombardment with little prospect of rescue by their American patrons, US officials say. Over the past week, Russia

has directed parts of its air campaign against US-funded groups and other moderate opposition in a concerted effort to weaken them, the officials say. The Obama administration has few options to defend those it had secretly armed and trained.

The Russians "know their targets, and they have a sophisticated capacity to understand the battlefield situation," said Rep Mike Pompeo, who serves on the House Intelligence Committee and was careful not to confirm a classified program. "They are bombing in locations that are not connected to the Islamic State" group. Other US officials interviewed spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the matter publicly.

The CIA began a covert operation in 2013 to arm, fund and train a moderate opposition to Assad. Over that time, the CIA has trained an estimated 10,000 fighters, although its current size isn't clear. The effort was separate from the one run by the military, which trained militants willing to promise to take on IS exclusively. That program was widely considered a failure, and on Friday, the Defense Department announced it was abandoning the goal of a US-trained Syrian force, instead opting to equip established groups to fight IS.

For years, the CIA effort had floundered - so much so that over the summer, some in Congress proposed cutting its budget. Some CIA-supported rebels had been captured; others had defected to extremist groups. The secret CIA program is the only way the US is taking on Assad militarily. In public, the United States has focused its efforts on fighting IS and urging Assad to leave office voluntarily. "Probably 60 to 80 percent of the arms that America shoveled in have gone to Al-Qaeda and its affiliates," said Joshua Landis, a

Syria expert at the University of Oklahoma.

But in recent months, CIA-backed groups, fighting alongside more extremist factions, began to make progress in Syria's south and northwest, American officials say. In July and August, US-supported rebels seized territory on the Al-Ghab plain, in northwest Syria's Idlib and Hama governorates. The plain is a natural barrier between areas controlled by Sunni Muslims and the Alawite sect to which Assad and his loyalists belong. The capture of the Al-Ghab plain was seen as a breakthrough toward weakening the Alawites. Those and other gains put Damascus, the capital, at risk, officials say.

But in recent days, Russian airstrikes have hit groups in the area, according to the Institute for the Study of War, a Washington think tank that closely tracks the situation. Russian bombs and missiles have hit specific buildings associated with the moderate Syrian opposition, according to a US official briefed on the intelligence. Russian officials have insisted they are bombing Islamic State militants and other terrorists. US intelligence officials see many factors motivating Russia's intervention: Moscow's reasserting its primacy as a great power, propping up Assad and wanting to deal a blow to the United States, which has insisted that Assad must go to end Syria's civil war.

Russia is also interested in containing IS, an organization that includes thousands of Chechen fighters who may pose a threat to Russia, officials say. But in the short term, "my

conclusion is that the timing of their intervention was driven by Assad really going critical," said Rep Jim Himes, also a House Intelligence Committee member.

The administration is scrambling to come up with a response to Russia's moves, but few believe the US can protect its secret rebel allies. The administration has all but ruled out providing CIA-backed groups with surface-to-air missiles that can down aircraft, fearing such weapons would end up in the wrong hands, officials say. Rep Adam Schiff, the top Democrat on the committee, says the US should consider establishing a no-fly zone that allows rebels a safe place from which to operate, and shooting down Syrian helicopters that are bombing civilians. He said the US should also provide arms to the Ukrainian government fighting Russian-backed separatists.

A no-fly zone would require the US military to be ready to engage in air battles with the Syrian government, something it is not prepared to do. The administration "is debating the merits of taking further action or whether they are better off letting Putin hang himself," he said, referring to Russian President Vladimir Putin. "Our options are much narrower than they were two weeks ago," said Sen. Angus King, I-Maine, who serves on the Intelligence and Armed Services committees. "I don't think there is any simple answer... Further air involvement has become very problematic because of the Russian engagement." —AP



MOREK, Syria: In this photo taken on Oct 7, 2015, Syrian army rocket launchers fire near this village. —AP

EGYPT, FRANCE SIGN WARSHIPS DEAL AS PM STARTS ARAB TOUR

VALLS SAYS BOTH COUNTRIES HAVE COMMON ENEMY IN IS

CAIRO: Egypt signed a deal with France yesterday to buy two Mistral warships originally ordered by Russia as French Prime Minister Manuel Valls began an Arab tour. Valls arrived in Cairo at the start of visits to three Arab nations aimed at boosting economic ties and holding talks on regional conflicts, and met with President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi. He told a press conference: "Egypt is a central partner for dealing with all the crises affecting the region - Syria, the peace process between Israel and Palestine, tensions in Libya or in Yemen." He added that France believes that the world needs a "strong and stable Egypt", concluding that "we all have a common enemy - Daesh", an Arabic acronym for the Islamic State group.

On Sept 23, French President Francois Hollande announced he had agreed the sale of the warships with Sisi. After Valls and Sisi met, a member of the French premier's delegation told AFP the deal had now been

signed. France originally built the Mistral for Russia before scrapping their sale over the Ukraine crisis. The vessels, which can each carry 16 helicopters, four landing craft and 13 tanks, were ordered by Russia in 2011 in a €1.2-billion (\$1.4 billion) deal.

However, France found itself in an awkward situation in 2014 as ties between Russia and the West deteriorated over Moscow's annexation of Crimea and support for separatists in eastern Ukraine. Paris decided to cancel the delivery in an expensive decision, as it had to foot a bill of more than one billion euros for the ships' upkeep and the cost of training 400 Russian sailors to crew them. After months of intense talks, Paris and Moscow agreed on the reimbursement of the original deal in August, with Paris returning 949.7 million euros that Russia had already paid.

According to French government sources, Egypt is to pay €950 million for the warships, with "significant" financing from Saudi Arabia.

In February, Egypt became the first foreign buyer of France's Rafale fighters, in a 5.2-billion-euro deal for 24 of the multi-role combat jets and a frigate.

'Egypt's Essential Role'

The Mistral will be delivered in early March, and the contract provides for four months training in France for some 400 Egyptian sailors, the defence ministry in Paris said in September. The contract illustrates the rapprochement Paris has had with the regime of former army chief Sisi, who ousted elected Islamist president Mohamed Morsi in 2013 and has since cracked down on his supporters and on all opposition. Hollande has invoked what he called Cairo's essential role in the fight against extremism in the Middle East, particularly against the Islamic State group, whose local branch has staged many deadly attacks in Egypt since 2013.

Apart from arms deals, Egypt has also expressed interest in extending the Cairo metro, which was largely built by French companies, and in satellite communications deals. The conflict in Syria and Russia's dramatic military intervention, as well as escalating Israeli-Palestinian violence, are also set to figure high in Valls' talks in Egypt, Jordan and Saudi Arabia. Today, the French premier is due to meet Sheikh Ahmad Al-Tayeb, the grand imam of Cairo's Al-Azhar University, the most prestigious institution in Sunni Islam.

Travelling on to Jordan, where France has deployed fighter bombers used to strike IS targets in Iraq and Syria, Valls will meet Iraqi Christian refugees in the country, which has taken in 650,000 Syrians fleeing war. Accompanied by Defence Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian and a high-ranking business delegation, he flies to Saudi Arabia late tomorrow. On Tuesday he is due to have talks with King Salman, in a meeting during which Valls' office said he will request "a gesture of pardon, humanity and clemency" for a young Shiite, Ali Al-Nimr, sentenced to death for taking part in 2012 demonstrations. He will also attend a Franco-Saudi business forum in Riyadh in which 200 companies are taking part. —AFP



CAIRO: French Prime Minister Manuel Valls (left) gestures next to Egyptian president Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi during a ceremony to sign military contracts at the presidential palace yesterday in the Egyptian capital. —AFP

2 KILLED AS IRAQI KURD PROTESTS TURN VIOLENT

SULAIMANIYAH, Iraq: Four people have been killed in two days of demonstrations in Iraqi Kurdistan, where discontent over unpaid salaries grew into protests demanding the regional president's ouster. Guards shot dead two demonstrators in Kalar yesterday as protesters tried to storm the local headquarters of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), a hospital official said. "Two protesters have died of bullet wounds. One was 19 and the other 40," the official told AFP, adding that 19 people were wounded.

Witnesses and a security official said the protesters eventually set fire to the local KDP office in Kalar, a town in the southernmost part of Iraq's Kurdistan region. Thousands of people demonstrated in the main southern Kurdish city of Sulaimaniyah, in Kalar and in several other towns Saturday, demanding that acting regional president Massud Barzani step down. Two protesters were shot dead in similar circumstances on Friday in Qala Diza, further north.

The demonstrations were initially protests against the non-payment of salaries to civil servants by the Kurdish Regional Government, which faces a dire

budget crisis. They have evolved into a mobilisation against Barzani in areas of Iraqi Kurdistan where opposition to the KDP is traditionally strong. "Our demands are not only focused on corruption and salaries but they now include Barzani's removal," said Nazar Mohammed, a civil society activist and one of the organisers of the protest in Sulaimaniyah. The protests come against the tense backdrop of a political crisis that started in August, when Barzani's presiden-

tial mandate expired and no deal was reached for his succession.

Political Crisis

Mohammed argued that the political class's inability to solve the crisis showed disregard for regular citizens. "The main parties don't care about the people. All they worry about is the presidency, all this at the detriment of the people who are in a bad economic situation," he said. Some protesters tried to storm the Sulaimaniyah office of the Kurdish

TV station Rudaw, which is owned by the Barzani family. Minar Mohammed, the head of the local hospital, said 25 people were lightly injured in scuffles during the Sulaimaniyah protest. Security forces responded to stone-throwing from protesters by firing in the air, witnesses said. No such protests have yet taken place in northern and western regions traditionally more loyal to the KDP.

Barzani yesterday morning appealed for calm across the region. The 69-year-old has headed the KDP, one of the two historical Iraqi Kurdish parties, since 1979 and been president of the autonomous region since 2005. His son is the Kurdistan region's intelligence chief and his nephew the prime minister. Barzani has been accused by critics of amassing huge wealth for his family instead of serving the population. He served two terms and the two-year extension Kurdish parties agreed to in 2013 expired on Aug 19, leaving the region in an institutional vacuum. Barzani wants to stay on, arguing that his leadership is required to steer the region as its peshmerga forces play a leading role in battling the Islamic State group. —AFP



SULAIMANIYAH, Iraq: Protesters gesture towards security forces during clashes in Iraq's Kurdistan region yesterday. —AFP



YELLOWKNIFE, Canada: Canada's Liberal leader Justin Trudeau poses for a picture with a supporter during a rally Friday in the Northwest Territories. —AP

CANADA PARTIES SPLIT ON SECURITY, ANTI-IS STRIKES

MONTREAL: Canada could curb its counterterrorism efforts, including airstrikes against the Islamic State group in Syria and Iraq, if Prime Minister Stephen Harper's Tories are defeated in Oct 19 elections. The New Democrats said they would end the military mission, while the Liberals said they would withdraw Canadian war planes, but continue training forces in Iraq. The two parties also vowed to repeal or modify, respectively, a bitterly-opposed anti-terror law that dramatically expanded the powers and reach of Canada's spy agency, if elected. Both are neck and neck with the Tories with just over a week before voting.

The ballot is scheduled just days before the nation commemorates the deaths of two soldiers in the first terror attacks on Canadian soil a year ago, when a soldier was run over in rural Quebec and a gunman killed a ceremonial guard and stormed parliament. In the aftermath of the killings, the Conservatives rushed through new national security measures in the biggest overhaul of Canada's counterterrorism legislation since 2001 following the attacks in the United States.

Only Thomas Mulcair's New Democrats opposed the bill in the House. The Liberals, led by Justin Trudeau, voted for it, despite concerns that it lacked oversight and was overly broad. "The Conservative government brought a strong response to this threat," which a majority of Canadians support, said politics professor Justin Massie at the University of Quebec in Montreal (UQAM). "It's unusual that foreign policies and national security would be election issues in Canada," he noted. But if they are now, it is because a vocal opposition viewed the government's response as heavy-handed and an unprecedented assault on civil rights.

'Politics of Fear'

Throughout the campaign, Harper has defended the measures, which criminalized the promotion of terrorism and made it easier for police to arrest and detain individuals without charge, while expanding the Canadian Security Intelligence Service's mandate from intelligence-collection to actively thwarting terror plots and spying outside Canada. For Mulcair, Bill C-51 is a "disaster," and has "more to do with the politics of fear and division than any-

thing to do with security." He vowed to repeal the act, saying it represents a "real threat to our rights and liberties." The Liberals, according to Jonathan Paquin, a professor at Laval University in Quebec, have "one foot in each camp."

Trudeau said during a recent leaders debate that "Canadians expect their government to do two things: protect our security and defend our rights and freedoms." He accused Harper of sowing fear, saying the Tory leader "wants us to be afraid that there is a terrorist hiding behind every leaf and rock... (so) he can say he is there to protect us." Trudeau vowed to increase oversight of Canada's spy agency to ensure the protection of civil liberties, but would not go as far as the New Democrats, while also blasting Harper for passing legislation in May to revoke to the citizenship of persons convicted of terrorism.

"A Canadian is a Canadian is a Canadian," said Trudeau. "You devalue the citizenship of every Canadian... when you make it conditional for anyone," he said. "And we should be worried that any prime minister has the ability to revoke (the) citizenship of people. It's a slippery slope." Harper retorted that his country has long had a policy of revoking the citizenship of war criminals, why not also terrorists.

Responding to his political rivals' scorn over Canada's participation in the US-led coalition against the Islamic State group, the prime minister as he seeks a fourth mandate said he would continue the military mission until at least April 2016. His aim, he said, was to keep up pressure on IS to prevent them "using Iraq or Syria as a base to launch terrorist attacks in Canada."

Once again, the Liberals took a neutral or arguably "a more balanced" position on this file, said Jonathan Paquin by focusing on training others in Iraq and Syria to take on IS, while keeping Canadians off the battlefield and out of direct harm's way. Mulcair said Canada should focus on blocking the flow of funds and fighters to IS, while completely withdrawing its forces from the conflict zone. "At this point," Massie commented, "it's unrealistic to expect Canada will withdraw from the conflict because none of the parties are likely to form a majority government, and so whomever wins will have to compromise." —AFP

TRUMP, BRASH NEW YORKER, PICKS UP SOUTHERN CAMPAIGN

ATLANTA: Donald Trump is a brash New Yorker who knows the path to the Republican presidential nomination runs through a swath of Southern states where residents pride themselves on graciousness and gentility. He leads many state polls in the region just as he does nationally. In the last few weeks he's hired staff members in Alabama, Georgia, Florida, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia to go along with staff in South Carolina, which hosts the South's first primary. "It's almost like we're running a campaign for president of the United States," quipped Trump campaign manager Corey Lewandowski when asked about the expansion.

Lewandowski said the hires and Trump's schedule - he'll be in metro Atlanta on Saturday - are proof that Trump is in the race for good. Trump and his aides are pushing back on suggestions - fueled by his own comments - that he is plotting an exit in case his poll numbers continue to slide, as they have recently. Lewandowski declined to talk about advertising plans and side-stepped questions on whether any firms have been hired to help with ballot access work. But he and political players in the South say Trump shouldn't be tak-

en lightly in the region, even if it may not seem like a natural fit.

"Look, the idea that only Southerners appeal to Southerners and Northerners appeal to Northerners is overdone," said David Mowery, an Alabama-based consultant who has worked for both Republicans and Democrats in multiple states. "He may not sound like us, but he's saying the things that people in the Republican base - and even disaffected, frustrated voters outside that base - want to hear."

South Carolina is accustomed to its place immediately after Iowa and New Hampshire. But the rest of the South is enjoying a newfound prominence in the nominating process, driven by Georgia and others moving up for a March 1 Super Tuesday dubbed the "the SEC primary" after the college athletics league. Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Oklahoma, Tennessee and Virginia will have 471 delegates at stake that day. Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina and Florida follow in the next two weeks with a combined 301 delegates.

With the earlier votes, the candidates have followed. Trump was expected to draw thousands to a campaign rally yesterday in Norcross, Georgia. In August,

he set the high mark for Republicans this campaign when he drew about 30,000 to a rally in Mobile, Alabama. Among the Southern states voting in March, only Florida is winner-take-all, with the rest using varying proportional distributions



LAS VEGAS: In this Oct 8, 2015 photo, Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump speaks at a rally. —AP

of delegates. That means the region won't put any single candidate on the cusp of the necessary 1,236 delegates necessary for nomination. But it will winnow the field.

Conservative

If anything, Trump's anti-establishment rants may resonate more strongly in the region that has long been the nation's most conservative and most distrustful of the central government. "He comes in and plays smash-mouth football, and it fires people up," says Henry Barbour, a Mississippian and influential member of the Republican National Committee. Barbour said Trump would be well-served to add more policy specifics to his personality and style-driven pitch, but he said it's obvious Trump's initial approach has worked, animating a wing of Southern Republicans who look at the establishment and say "not only no, but hell no."

Barbour, who is neutral in the primary, initially backed Rick Perry, a former Texas governor who was at ease with Southerners but dropped out. Former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee, an ordained Southern Baptist preacher who also fits the Southern politician prototype, previously called the SEC primary "manna from heaven" and won several primaries in the region in 2008. But he's found a tougher path this year. So, too, have Louisiana Gov Bobby Jindal and South Carolina Sen Lindsey Graham.

For his part, Huckabee, without directly addressing Trump, has boasted of his grassroots organization in South Carolina and neighboring states as more important than Trump's standing months from voting. And, indeed, candidates like Huckabee, Jindal and Graham appear to devote much more energy than Trump to the meet-and-greet affairs that occur away from the big rallies. If any candidate has managed to produce both large crowds like Trump and build a nuts-and-bolts organization in the region, it's Texas Sen. Ted Cruz, another conservative who appeals to the region's anti-Washington bent.

Barbour said Trump should try for the same balance if he hopes to sustain momentum. But Roger Villere, Louisiana's longtime Republican Party chairman and vice chairman of the national GOP, said it may not matter in 2016. With so many states bunched close together, he said, it may be a campaign won largely on television and sweeping visits - just the race for a bombastic billionaire. "Sure, you need some help on the ground," Villere said, "but I'm sure Mr. Trump or any of the rest of them who are doing well coming out of South Carolina will find everything they need." —AP

TOP NH REPUBLICANS TELL CHRISTIE TO KEEP GOING

EAST HAMPSTEAD, New Hampshire: Despite his single-digit poll numbers and the dominance of another tough-talking candidate, Chris Christie is hearing a clear message from influential Republicans in the early voting states of New Hampshire and Iowa: Keep going. What he's not hearing are enough commitments. With Donald Trump still commanding the field and several other rivals apparently rising, the New Jersey governor has been quietly chugging along, holding nearly 30 town hall meetings in New Hampshire, for example.

"Maybe he's the tortoise in this race," said Donna Sytek, a former speaker of the New Hampshire House whose support Christie is courting heavily. "He's authentic," she said. "He's not scripted. He'll tell you a story from his own experience that illustrates these serious issues." After he visited her hometown of Salem, Sytek told Christie he is in her 'top three.' She received a text back from Christie saying he'd prefer to be her No. 1.

Still, Sytek hasn't committed. She's received phone calls from Jeb Bush, attended several events with Carly Fiorina and likes Marco Rubio and John Kasich. This is Christie's conundrum. Many top Republicans in early states are urging him to stick with it, but few are willing right now to give him endorsements that could bring credibility and momentum to his campaign. Christie's supporters say his poll numbers, low as they are, give them reason to hope he can catch on in early states. In a September CNN/WMUR New Hampshire Primary Poll, for example, half of likely GOP primary voters said they had a favorable opinion of the governor, up from 31 percent in June. Christie adviser Mike DuHaime says that shows the campaign's long-haul strategy is making headway in a chaotic, quickly evolving race. Christie has repeatedly dismissed his placement in the horse race, with so much time left before voting. "People in New Hampshire know that they don't have to decide right now," Christie said after a campaign event at a lumberyard during a recent three-day campaign swing. "We're going to continue to work to gain their trust and to gain their support and that's what campaigns are all about."

Buoyed by a well-reviewed second debate performance and in response to voters' desire for an outsider candidate, Christie has subtly tweaked his message. He's changed the slogan of his town hall meetings from "Tell it like

it is" to "Our Country, Our Presidency." And he has increasingly distanced himself from Washington, saying that he is the consummate outsider by virtue of being a Republican in Democrat-heavy New Jersey. He's also signaled plans to spend more time in Iowa.

Last month, six influential Republicans in Iowa announced their support for Christie. In New Hampshire, his campaign is steadily rolling out lists of support from activists. The lists often lack big names, but several Republican leaders are behind him, such as Merrimack County Sheriff Scott Hilliard and Wayne McDonald, a former state party chairman. Hilliard, who joined Christie in July, said he's lobbying other law enforcement members to get behind Christie. Over lunch recently, he handed Christie a list of names and numbers and Christie began calling them. "The governor's ready to work for it," Hilliard said.

Positive Reviews

Beverly Bruce, Mitt Romney's 2012 finance director in the state, held a house party for Christie in late August. She's not signing on with anyone yet but said that crowd gave him positive reviews. "Very influential people were very impressed with the thoughtfulness and thoroughness from the answers of the questions that were asked," she said. "People came up to him and to me and said, 'He's got my support.'"

Jeb Bradley, the state Senate majority Leader, is another Republican receiving the full-court press from Christie and his team, which means personal phone calls and lunches. Bradley, who could run for governor next year, says Christie is working "exceptionally hard." "I haven't endorsed anybody, but he's certainly one of the top candidates that I'd want to see," Bradley said. GOP strategist Mike Dennehy, who led John McCain's 2000 primary victory here, said Christie is running one of the best campaigns in the state. "I would be one of those people to say 'Do not get out of the race,' if he has enough money to continue running," Dennehy said.

Christie's campaign is one of the few that has yet to release fundraising details for the third quarter. His finance chairman, Ray Washburne, said last month that fundraising was going well, especially after Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker left the race. Christie said: "I'm traveling, we're advertising, I'm paying bills. We're doing fine." —AP



WASHINGTON: Rep Paul Ryan arrives for a meeting on Capitol Hill on Oct 8, 2015, where Republicans were to nominate candidates to replace outgoing House Speaker John Boehner. — AP

LEADING REPUBLICAN RYAN RECONSIDERS SPEAKER RUN

VOTE DELAYED AFTER FRONTRUNNER DROPS OUT

WASHINGTON: A leading Republican congressman with allies on the right wing of the party, Paul Ryan, is weighing a bid to replace retiring US House of Representatives Speaker John Boehner, fellow lawmakers said on Friday as they sought to defuse a leadership battle. Numerous House Republicans and even 2012 presidential candidate Mitt Romney have asked Ryan to run for speaker after the frontrunner, House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy, abruptly dropped out on Thursday.

But with Congress embarking on a week-long recess, there was no sign of any move from Ryan, who was Romney's vice presidential running mate, or of any other development that could bring order to the Republican Party's disarray in the lower chamber of Congress. Representative Ryan of Wisconsin is chairman of the tax-writing House Ways and Means Committee and negotiated a bipartisan budget deal in 2013. "Although he's ruled himself out, it's very clear he's reconsidering," Representative Darrell Issa of California said of Ryan as he left a closed-door meeting of House Republicans. "The fact is, his time is now."

Former Massachusetts governor Romney called Ryan to ask him to run for speaker, a source familiar with the situation said. "I wouldn't presume to tell Paul what to do, but I do know that he is a man of ideas who is driven to see them applied for the public good. Every politician tries to convince people that they are that kind of leader; almost none are - Paul is," Romney said in an emailed comment. Ryan's spokesman Brendan

Buck noted, however, that Ryan had repeatedly said he is not seeking the speaker's job. "Chairman Ryan appreciates the support he's getting from his colleagues but is still not running for speaker," Buck said. Finding a replacement for Boehner has consumed Republicans as Congress faces a series of pressing decisions, from raising the government's borrowing authority to funding federal agencies through September. Boehner announced Sept 25 that he would leave the post on Oct 30. House Appropriations Committee Chairman Hal Rogers, who wants Ryan to run, said after speaking to Ryan as Ryan was preparing to catch a plane home: "He needs to talk with his family first. But I'm optimistic."

Plea for Party Unity

Boehner made a plea for unity at a closed-door meeting of House Republicans, urging members to "truly listen to each other and have an open mind about how we can come together," according to a source in the room. "It's not helpful for one group of members to say they will only vote for this candidate on the floor," Boehner said, in apparent reference to the conservative Freedom Caucus, which has about 40 members and is aligned with the small-government Tea Party movement.

Earlier this week, the Freedom Caucus endorsed Representative Daniel Webster of Florida for speaker, raising doubts Californian McCarthy could get enough votes to win on the House floor. Admitting he was shocked by

McCarthy's sudden pullout, Boehner told Republicans he intended the speaker's election to happen before the end of October. Among items immediately facing Congress is something Republicans generally are reluctant to do: raise the debt ceiling. The Treasury Department says the government will need to increase its borrowing limit by Nov 5.

"The most recent development in the speaker's race plus the compressed time frame to come to a resolution increases the chances of a policy mistake around the debt ceiling," said Libby Cantrill, an analyst for Pacific Investment Management Co. McCarthy's departure left Webster and Oversight committee chairman Jason Chaffetz of Utah in the race. But Chaffetz said on Friday that he, too, backed Ryan and would drop out if Ryan changed his mind.

Hours before McCarthy withdrew from the race Thursday, some Republicans received emails accusing McCarthy of an affair with Republican Representative Renee Ellmers of North Carolina, two lawmakers told Reuters. McCarthy has denied that any personal misdeeds were behind his decision to quit the race. Ellmers condemned "false accusations" in a statement released Friday. "As someone who has been targeted by completely false accusations and innuendo, I have been moved by the outpouring of support and prayers from my colleagues, constituents and friends. Now I will be praying for those who find it acceptable to bear false witness," Ellmers' statement said. —Reuters



EAST HAMPSTEAD, New Hampshire: In this Oct 7, 2015 photo, Republican presidential candidate Gov Chris Christie, talks with employees during a campaign stop at East Coast Lumber. — AP

STUDENT KILLS ONE, WOUNDS THREE AT ARIZONA UNIVERSITY

PHOENIX: An 18-year-old student killed a classmate and wounded three other students when he opened fire during a confrontation on the campus of Northern Arizona University early on Friday, in the latest shooting to hit a US school, authorities said. The suspected gunman, Steven Jones, a freshman at the state university in northern Arizona, was taken into custody following the shooting, campus Police Chief Gregory Fowler said. Jones was charged with first-degree murder and three counts of aggravated assault and was ordered held on \$2 million bond at a brief court appearance.

Fowler said Jones pulled the handgun in a confrontation with several students. The university iden-

tified the student who was killed as Colin Brough. Brough was from Annapolis, Maryland, according to an online article by the Capital Gazette newspaper in Annapolis. The three injured students, identified as Nicholas Prato, Kyle Zientek and Nicholas Piring, suffered multiple gunshot wounds and were being treated at Flagstaff Medical Center, Fowler said. Their conditions were not disclosed.

The shooting occurred just hours before President Barack Obama was scheduled to visit Roseburg, Oregon, to meet privately with families of the nine people killed in a mass shooting at a community college there last week. Northern Arizona University, with a student body of about 20,000, is

located in the mountain city of Flagstaff, about 140 miles north of Phoenix, and about 80 miles south of the Grand Canyon. A university spokeswoman said Friday's incident occurred in a parking lot next to a residence hall for Greek organizations - fraternities and sororities - around 1:20 am. "We don't know the facts yet about what brought them together, or what caused the confrontation," Fowler said.

Delta Chi International Fraternity executive director Justin Sherman said the four victims were members of the fraternity but the alleged gunman was not. Jones, who did not try to flee, was arrested by university police and was cooperating with authorities, Fowler said. —Reuters



FLAGSTAFF, Arizona: People participate in a candlelight vigil in support of the Northern Arizona University shooting victims on Friday on the university campus. —AP



LESBOS: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Antonio Guterres, center, sits between migrants and refugees at the Moria camp on the eastern Aegean island of Lesbos yesterday. — AP

GREECE VOWS FIRST MIGRANT 'HOTSPOT' WITHIN 10 DAYS

LESBOS TO HOST CENTER TO DEAL WITH MASSIVE INFLUX OF REFUGEES

ATHENS: Greece pledged yesterday during talks with its EU partners to open its first so-called hotspot reception centre on the island of Lesbos within 10 days under EU efforts to better deal with the massive influx of migrants.

"We are going to keep to our commitments," Yiannis Mouzalas, Greece's junior interior minister for migration, told reporters, adding Athens had also begun talks with Turkey on trying to better control the flow of refugees and migrants. The reception centre on Lesbos will be among five eventual hotspots on Greek islands that provide the first point of arrival for migrants fleeing to Europe after leaving the Turkish coast.

EU nations endorsed a dedicated program this week to send back those they described as economic migrants—who are largely from poor African nations—and not refugees from conflict zones.

After months of tensions over the more than 600,000 people who have flooded into Europe

this year, Brussels is now taking a tougher stance by focusing on tightening border controls and reducing the incentive for people to come to the continent.

The hotspots in Greece and Italy, agreed by EU leaders at a summit last month, are aimed at separating the new arrivals between bona fide refugees and economic migrants at their first entry point into the bloc.

Winter 'disaster' looms

Those deemed to warrant refugee status can then be relocated to other EU countries to ease the burden on Greece and Italy and to prevent the migrants from continuing northwards in an uncontrolled manner. Greece's pledge on the Lesbos reception centre was made during talks with Europe's migration commissioner Dimitris Avramopoulos and Luxembourg Foreign Minister Jean Asselborn, whose country holds the EU presidency.

Asselborn stressed that the EU was ready to provide financial and logistical aid to Athens to help get the centres up and running. The first, he said, would open "within 10 days" on Lesbos, in the eastern Aegean Sea.

He also announced he and Avramopoulos would visit Lesbos again Friday to provide support. UN refugee agency chief Antonio Guterres meanwhile began a three-day visit to Greece Saturday with a trip to Lesbos where he met the island's mayor and was due to go to two reception centres for new arrivals.

A day earlier Guterres warned of a humanitarian disaster this winter unless Greece is given much more help to house the new arrivals.

Mouzalas, who said he was due to meet his Turkish counterpart for talks in Istanbul Wednesday, also said he had urged the EU officials to reconsider excluding Afghans from the list of refugees to be relocated. The list currently only includes Syrians, Eritreans and Iraqis. — AFP

GERMAN POPULIST FAR-RIGHT GAINS AMID REFUGEE WAVE

BERLIN: Almost declared dead only months ago, Germany's populist far-right is seeking a comeback amid a record wave of asylum-seekers, hoping to anchor itself in mainstream politics.

As Chancellor Angela Merkel has opened the doors to unprecedented numbers of refugees, she initially earned popular support but also quickly faced xenophobic hecklers who angrily branded her a "traitor" and worse. Anti-foreigner fury has flared most visibly at rallies of the resurgent PEGIDA movement, short for "Patriotic Europeans Against the Islamisation of the Occident".

"Merkel is guilty, commits ethnocide against the German people," read a banner at last week's protest

in Dresden, Saxony state, in the former communist East where PEGIDA emerged one year ago next week. Waving flags, the agitated crowd of about 9,000 cheered co-founder Lutz Bachmann, 42, who was charged recently with inciting racial hatred by labelling migrants "animals", "trash" and "filthy rabble" on social media.

Bachmann had drawn up to 25,000 people onto the streets in January before his inflammatory Facebook postings caught up with him, along with a "selfie" picture that showed him sporting a Hitler moustache and hair-do.

The resulting uproar led to a leadership split before PEGIDA disappeared from the streets and the newspa-

per headlines. Also hoping for a revival is the populist-nationalist Alternative for Germany (AfD), once a mainly anti-euro fringe party that has shifted to the right after an internal split.

Its current leader Frauke Petry, from Saxony, called Friday for an "immediate stop" to the flow of asylum-seekers into the country while her party announced it would file a criminal complaint of "human trafficking" against Merkel.

'Right-wing formula'

Unlike France with its National Front, Britain with the UK Independence Party, or Austria with its Freedom Party, Germany—given its sensitivity over the Nazi era and Holocaust—so far does not have an anti-immigrant party represented in its national parliament.

For most citizens, haunted by the country's dark past, the far-right is still "taboo," said Nele Wissmann of the Committee for Franco-German Relations in a paper last month. But the refugee issues is emboldening the extremists. According to two recent polls, 51 percent of Germans "fear" the magnitude of the migrant influx. As Merkel's poll ratings have been dented by her open-border policy, the AfD has risen to seven percent above the five percent needed to enter national parliament. It achieved its best result, 12 percent, in the former East—a region which a quarter-century after the fall of the Berlin Wall still lags behind the rest of the nation in terms of jobs and wealth.

And it scored nine percent in southern Bavaria, Germany's main gateway for migrants whose numbers are expected to reach one million this year.

The AfD is now "a textbook example of right-wing populism," including in its resistance to multiculturalism, said Timo Lochocki of think-tank the German Marshall Fund of the United States.

"The party combines simplistic anti-elite rhetoric with neo-nationalist positions under the classic right-wing formula that can be summed up as 'for the imagined glorified past of the nation, against the political establishment.'" — AFP



PARIS: A woman waves a Palestinian flag as she takes part in a pro-Palestinian demonstration yesterday in Paris, to protest against Israeli colonization of the West Bank and spiraling violence between Israelis and Palestinians. — AFP

UKRAINE REBELS SAY ONE KILLED IN DONETSK DESPITE TRUCE

DONETSK: Ukrainian army fire killed one person and wounded another in the pro-Moscow rebel bastion of Donetsk in the east yesterday, despite a truce that had held for several weeks, the separatists said. "According to initial reports, the (casualties) are civilians," the rebels' news agency said, citing their "defence ministry". Earlier, the ministry was cited by Russian news agency Interfax as saying it was actually a rebel fighter who died.

It was unclear what weapons had been fired, with the rebels first claiming Ukrainian forces had used tank fire, and then saying there were mortar rounds. The Ukrainian army condemned what it described as a "provocation aimed at destabilising the situation in the east," spokesman Vladislav Seleznev told AFP. "Under no circumstance would we ever fire against civilians," he said.

The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), whose observers are deployed in eastern Ukraine, could not immediately comment on the incident.

Russian Finance Minister Anton Siluanov and his Ukrainian counterpart, Natalia Yaresko, failed to reach a deal at their meeting on Friday on restructuring Kiev's \$3 billion debt to Moscow, but agreed to continue talking. Ukraine has agreed a debt restructuring deal with a group of its largest creditors in order to plug a \$15 billion funding gap under an International Monetary Fund-led \$40

billion bailout program, but major creditors still need to approve the plan.

"We stated our position on the need to repay the debt to the Russian Federation," Siluanov said after his talks with Yaresko that took place on the sidelines of the IMF and the World Bank semi-annual meeting. It was the first meeting between the countries' finance ministers since January, when Ukraine announced its plans to restructure its foreign debt.

"(Yaresko) provided details on the debt restructuring agreement reached with Ukraine's Ad Hoc Committee of creditors and called Russia to participate in that agreement," the Ukrainian side said in a statement.

Russia has said numerous times that Ukraine must repay the debt in December, when it falls due.

Ukraine has included the \$3 billion Eurobond among the sovereign and sovereign-guaranteed bonds to be restructured, but Siluanov reiterated that Russia does not see the debt as commercial. Moscow bought the bonds from Kiev before the pro-Russian president Viktor Yanukovich was ousted early last year, opening a rift which widened with the annexation of Crimea and the outbreak of the pro-Russian rebellion in eastern Ukraine. "Colleagues from the Ukrainian Ministry of Finance said that they had no such money in the budget and invited us to participate in the restructuring, together with commercial lenders," Siluanov said. — Agencies



HONG KONG: Former British Foreign Secretary Geoffrey Howe (5-R) speaks with people during a visit to a Vietnamese refugee camp in Hong Kong. — AFP file photo

FORMER UK TREASURY CHIEF HOWE DIES AT 88

LONDON: Former British Treasury chief Geoffrey Howe, a prominent figure in Margaret Thatcher's government who helped bring about her downfall after they parted ways over policy toward Europe, has died at 88.

Howe died suddenly of a suspected heart attack late Friday at his home in Warwickshire, north of London, after returning from a jazz concert with his wife Elspeth, his family said yesterday.

Prime Minister David Cameron, also a Conservative, called Howe "the quiet hero of the first Thatcher government" who had shown "huge courage and resolve" in helping save the floundering British economy.

Howe took the helm at Treasury when Thatcher came to power in 1979 and helped implement the free-market policies favored by the new prime minister. Income tax rates were lowered and currency exchange controls were lifted. Public spending was cut and other unpopular measures, including a rise in gasoline tax, were implemented during his tenure.

Howe moved on to become foreign secretary in 1983. He played a key role in the negotiations with the Chinese government over the future of Hong Kong, and eventually became deputy prime minister, but his relations with Thatcher had deteriorated while he ran the Foreign Office, primarily because of disagreements over policy toward Europe. They also seemed to have tired of each other's style after a long period

of harmony that had served both well.

Howe played an important role in Thatcher's fall from power. He resigned in November 1990, and used his departure speech to challenge her fitness to continue serving as party leader. He called on Conservatives to reconsider their backing for Thatcher, who was seen as increasingly imperious after being in power for more than a decade.

He used a famous cricket comparison that has since become part of Britain's political lexicon to describe Thatcher's tactics. "It is rather like sending your opening batsmen to the crease, only for them to find, as the first balls are being bowled, that their bats have been broken before the game by the team captain," he declared.

Thatcher resigned three weeks later after losing the Conservatives' backing. Howe's stunning public rebuke was seen as a turning point in her bid to remain in office.

Cameron, who today follows many of the same economic policies brought in by Thatcher, said Howe played a vital role by reducing borrowing, cutting tax rates, and taming inflation.

"Lifting exchange controls may seem obvious now, but it was revolutionary back then," the prime minister. Howe was a successful lawyer whose first two campaigns for a seat in Parliament ended in defeat. He received a knighthood in 1970 and was a member of the House of Lords. — AP

GERMANY, EU DENY REPORT ON EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY TAX

BERLIN/BRUSSELS: German and EU officials yesterday denied a media report that Berlin and Brussels were in informal talks about a type of European solidarity tax to help cover the costs of stemming a record-breaking influx of asylum seekers.

"The fact remains: we don't want tax increases in Germany or to introduce an EU tax," government spokesman Steffen Seibert said in a statement.

A spokesman for the European Commission also dismissed the report. "There is no such proposal currently on the table or under preparation," he said, adding the Commission never comments on rumours in the press.

Earlier, the Sueddeutsche Zeitung had reported the German government and European Commission were mulling a levy that could be raised through a surcharge on petroleum tax or by increasing Value Added Tax (VAT).

The Munich paper said additional funds from a solidarity tax would be used to help EU member states, such as Spain, Italy, Greece and Bulgaria, secure their borders, as well as to help improve living condition in the home countries of asylum seekers to encourage their citizens to remain there.

The Sueddeutsche's report cited no sources, and was datelined Lima, Peru, where Finance Minister Wolfgang

Schauble was attending an International Monetary Fund meeting.

Last month, German Chancellor Angela Merkel said the country which is Europe's biggest recipient of asylum seekers—could handle the surge in new arrivals without raising taxes or jeopardising its balanced budget. But worries about the influx have cut into the popularity of her conservatives.

More than half a million people fleeing war and poverty in the Middle East and Africa have poured into the European Union this year, prompting bitter disputes over how to react and share out responsibility and costs. The European Commission has said EU states, whose budgets risk being

stretched by the crisis, might get budget relief.

Nuke funds

Operators of German nuclear power plants have set aside enough funds to pay for decommissioning the country's reactors, the Economy Ministry said yesterday, even though stress tests showed the potential cost could far exceed their provisions.

Germany's four nuclear companies whose shares have tumbled on uncertainty around the size of provisions made for their reactors' afterlife, said the report showed they were fully able to shoulder the cost of the nuclear exit. E.ON, RWE, EnBW and

Vattenfall are due to switch off their nuclear plants by a 2022 deadline set by Chancellor Angela Merkel's government after the Fukushima disaster in Japan in 2011.

The ministry appointed auditing firm Warth & Klein Grant Thornton to subject their balance sheets to a stress test to ensure that the 38.3 billion euros (\$44 billion) they have set aside in provisions to cover the decommissioning of reactors and the disposal of waste was adequate. The auditing firm assessed the potential bill according to six scenarios assuming future interest rates and cost growth and came up with a range of 25 to 77 billion euros. — Agencies

PAKISTAN PM PUSHES NEW PEACE TALKS WITH TALEBAN

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif yesterday said he is trying to revive peace talks with the Taliban after the latest round was derailed by untimely news of the death of leader Mullah Omar. Islamabad organized the first set of direct peace talks between the Taliban and the Afghan government in July, but another round was abandoned after the announcement of the cleric's death.

Since then the insurgents have unleashed a wave of violence, including seizing the northern

Afghan provincial capital Kunduz in their most spectacular victory since being toppled from power in 2001. "We are now trying to resume the (peace) process and pray to God to crown our efforts with success," Sharif said in televised remarks to the media from the eastern city of Lahore.

"The news of Mullah Omar should not have been broken just before the start of the second round of talks," Pakistan has historically supported the Taliban insurgents and many Afghans accuse it

of nurturing militant sanctuaries on its soil in the hope of maintaining influence in Afghanistan.

Afghanistan's deputy army chief this week said Pakistan's military had helped the Taliban to capture Kunduz and Pakistani generals had escaped the city wearing burqas—a claim they denied.

News of Mullah Omar's death created a rift among the Islamist insurgents, after they admitted that the death of the talismanic one-eyed group founder had been kept secret for two years.

Mullah Akhtar Mansour has now become the

new head of the insurgent movement, but several members of its top leadership including his predecessor's family initially rejected him.

The rumours of Mullah Omar's ill-health and even demise had regularly surfaced in the past, but Sharif questioned the timing of the announcement in July so close to talks aimed at brokering a ceasefire. "I don't know who broke this news and why it was done so just two days before the start of the second round, is still a mystery," he said. — AFP

GHANI APPOINTS PANEL TO PROBE KUNDUZ AIRSTRIKE

KABUL: Afghanistan's President Ashraf Ghani has appointed a commission to investigate a US airstrike in northern Kunduz city that destroyed a hospital and killed at least 22 people, his spokesman said yesterday. The five-man team would leave soon for Kunduz to look into the cause of the Oct. 3 airstrike on a trauma center run by the international charity Doctors Without Borders, Ghani's deputy spokesman Zafar Hashemi said.

The team would be led by the former head of the national intelligence agency Amrullah Saleh, he said, and would report to the president. The airstrike was requested by Afghan ground forces, according to the commander of US forces in Afghanistan, Gen. John F. Campbell, but mistakenly hit the hospital.

The bombing continued for about an hour and destroyed the hospital's main building. President Barack Obama apologized and the US military is investigating. The hospital has been abandoned.

Doctors Without Borders said that 12 staff members and 10 patients, all of them Afghans, were killed. Many more are still missing though all internationals have been accounted for.

Ghani met with representatives of Doctors Without Borders on Friday, his office said.

He told the group's general director Christopher Stokes and Afghanistan representative Guilhem Molinie that he had ordered Afghan security forces to ensure the protection of humanitarian organizations, a statement said. It made no mention of a call by Doctors Without Borders for an independent probe of the incident, specifically by the Swiss-based International Humanitarian Fact-Finding Commission - which is made up of diplomats, legal experts, doctors and some former military

officials from nine European countries, including Britain and Russia. It was created after the Gulf War in 1991, and has never deployed a fact-finding mission.

Stokes said earlier that Doctors Without Borders - a Nobel Peace Prize-winning organization that provides medical aid in conflict zones - is awaiting responses to letters sent Tuesday to 76 countries that signed the additional protocol to the Geneva Conventions, asking to mobilize the 15-member commission. For the IHFFC to be mobilized, a single country would have to call for the fact-finding mission, and the US and Afghanistan - which are not signatories - must also give their consent.

Meanwhile, the situation in Kunduz remains tenuous, as government troops continue to battle to clear remnants of the Taliban from pockets within the city and its outskirts.

Sarwar Hussaini, spokesman for the provincial police chief, said three areas of the city had been retaken overnight, though a gas station in Seh Darak had been hit by a rocket and destroyed. Hussaini said he did not know which side was responsible.

Kunduz resident Abdullah, who gave only one name, said that people were still leaving the city for safety. He said he had seen grocers emptying their shops of food to take home, fearing ongoing scarcities. The World Food Program said it was feeding thousands of people in camps in other cities in the north, and that "additional wheat is being milled in anticipation of increased needs in the coming days."

Food and water are still not getting through in adequate quantities, and the city remained without electricity, residents said. "The whole city is empty of people," Abdullah said. "Residents are still not feeling safe." — AP



JAMMU: Protestors shout slogans during a shutdown in Jammu yesterday. Life in Jammu was affected by a protest shutdown called against cow slaughter and against an independent state lawmaker for hosting a party where he served beef. — AP

INDIAN POLICE ARREST 21 AFTER COW 'SLAUGHTER' VIOLENCE

MODI'S REFORM PUSH FACES CRUNCH TEST IN BIHAR VOTE

NEW DELHI: Indian police have arrested 21 men after a mob thrashed two Muslims suspected of slaughtering a cow and set fire to some dozen shops, officials and reports said yesterday.

The incident was reported from northern Uttar Pradesh state, where a mob recently murdered a 50-year-old Muslim man for supposedly eating beef—a taboo imposed by Hindu hardliners in certain pockets of the country.

"A rumor spread (on Friday) that a cow has been slaughtered, after which some people beat up the men and resorted to arson," Chandrapal Singh, a senior administrative officer of Mainpuri district, told AFP. Singh said a post-mortem of the cow showed it had been dead for a while owing to some ailment and the men were only removing its skin when they were attacked by the mob.

The incident adds to a raging row over what is seen as rising intolerance towards Muslims and other religious minorities since Hindu nationalist Narendra Modi stormed to power last year.

On Thursday, Modi appealed for religious unity, saying the nation would only prosper "when Hindus and Muslims unite and fight" against poverty, instead of against each other.

The Times of India yesterday said some 500 people armed with bamboo sticks and iron rods had set fire to shops belonging to Muslims before police dispersed the mob using tear gas. The two men who were beaten up by the mob had sustained serious injuries and were recuperating in a hospital, the daily said. Cows are considered sacred by most Hindus in officially secular India, although millions of Muslims and other minorities do eat beef. Religious minorities have recently spoken of their fear of erosion of rights in the world's biggest democracy and called on Modi to rein in Hindu hardliners.

Crucial test

Prime Minister Narendra Modi faces a crucial test tomorrow when Bihar, one of India's largest and poorest states, begins voting in polls that could have major consequences for his troubled reform drive. Modi has mounted a no-holds

barred campaign, promising Biharis billions of dollars for development in a state where many of its 104 million people still vote along caste lines.

He is up against an unlikely alliance of two powerful local leaders, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and his predecessor Lalu Prasad Yadav, who has served time in prison for corruption.

Their rivalry goes back decades, but both men who command widespread support among the lower castes have put their differences aside to thwart Modi, highlighting the premier's polarizing nature.

Voting begins on October 12 and runs in five phases, with the results due on November 8. Modi himself has been at the forefront of his party's campaign, addressing a host of rallies, including one on Friday near the town of Aurangabad attended by about 10,000 people.

This 21st century election will show where Bihar stands not only on the map of India, but also on the map of the world," Modi told the crowds.

He accused the opposition of failing to better the state's fortunes in their combined six decades in power, citing high youth employment and poor power infrastructure. Two-thirds of Biharis lack access to electricity, according to the World Bank. "I'm supporting Modi because he wants to develop Bihar," said Sonu Jaiswal, 37, as she watched Modi in a giant field.

"We're 100 percent sure the Modi government will win." But analysts say the outcome is too close to call. And as criticism mounts that Modi's pledge to transform the economy is running out of steam, observers say a defeat for his right-wing Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) will heighten the sense of declining momentum.

'Huge rivalry'

Sanjay Kumar, of the Delhi-based Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, said there was a widespread fear within the party that defeat could signal "the beginning of an end of the BJP government," even though the next general election is not until 2019.



HERAT: Afghan women sell secondhand clothes on the roadside in Herat yesterday. — AFP

THE DALAI LAMA SAYS BUDDHIST CULTURE MOST IMPORTANT TO HIM

DHARMSALA, India: The Dalai Lama said yesterday he considered it most important to preserve the Buddhist culture that has helped the Tibetan people live together even in exile. "Our values have helped us Tibetans live together as a people," the 80-year-old spiritual leader said at his first public event after returning last week from a medical check-up in the US. "So after coming into exile, I have considered it most important to preserve this rich and profound culture that we have."

Many Tibetans fear that their culture may not endure for long and may weaken after the Dalai Lama is gone. Carrying white silk scarves, dozens of school children in traditional Tibetan costumes welcomed the Dalai Lama to the event, the 10th anniversary of the opening of a Tibetan school in Dharmasala, the Tibetan government-in-exile's headquarters in northern India.

He also said he regretted that some people were using religion to harm others and said he advocated education of secular values.

Last week, the Dalai Lama said he had had a thorough medical checkup at the renowned Mayo Clinic in Minnesota, USA, and was in "excellent condition." Though advised rest by doctors, the Dalai Lama got out of his car and walked nearly 100 meters (yards) to the school.

His followers lined the path with incense sticks and flowers. The Dalai Lama sat on a chair on a raised platform while others settled on cushions on the floor in a show of respect to him. The Dalai Lama fled across the Himalayas into India after a failed uprising in Tibet in 1959. Beijing accuses him of seeking to separate Tibet from China. But the Dalai Lama says he simply wants a high degree of autonomy under Chinese rule. — AP



DHARMSALA: Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama greets children gathered to welcome him upon arrival at a Tibetan school, his first public function after his return last week from Minnesota in the United States where he had a thorough medical checkup, in Dharmasala, yesterday. — AP

SON OF CHINESE RIGHTS LAWYER DETAINED IN MYANMAR

BEIJING: The teenage son of a prominent human rights lawyer being held in China has been detained in Myanmar, a family friend said yesterday, adding that Chinese police were responsible.

Men who appeared to be police took 16-year-old Bao Zhuoxuan away from a guesthouse in a town close to the border on Tuesday as he was trying to escape China, family friend Zhou Fengsuo said. "The (Chinese) government is using him as a hostage," Zhou said, adding he did not know the whereabouts of the teen and two men who had been looking after him.

Chinese security agents "are kidnapping their own citizen basically, the only reason is to use him against his parents, which is just so shameful," he added. Police in Inner Mongolia, where Bao was reportedly staying with family before his escape attempt, said they "had not heard" of his alleged detention. Chinese officials confiscated Bao's passport in July, when both his parents were detained in a sweeping crackdown on lawyers who had taken on cases the government deemed subversive.

Beijing does not tolerate organized dissent

and often denies passports to political activists, as well as members of ethnic minorities. But some still manage to escape via China's relatively porous borders with Southeast Asia. Mong La, the town where Bao was taken, is in the north of Myanmar where rebel groups have for years been in conflict with the government.

Two men helping the teenager, Tang Zhishun and Xing Qingxian, were also detained in the town, Zhou said, citing the owner of the guesthouse where they had stayed.

Tang and Xing's homes in China were later searched, suggesting that "Chinese police apparently have synchronised actions with the police in Burma," Zhou added.

Zhou lives in San Francisco and said he had planned to meet Bao in Thailand before bringing him to the US to seek asylum. Chinese police detained Bao's mother Wang Yu, an outspoken human rights lawyer, in July and later accused her of "subverting state power," according to her attorneys.

His father Bao Longjun has also been held for months along with around a dozen other



HONG KONG: Wang Yu, the lawyer of late Chinese human rights activist Cao Shunli, posing during an interview in Hong Kong. — AFP

activists labelled as a "criminal gang" by state media.

Chinese security officials sometimes punish the family of dissidents it says have broken the law. Liu Xia, wife of jailed writer Liu Xiaobo, was kept under house arrest for years after her husband was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2010. — AFP

CHINA VOWS TO CONTINUE BUILDING ON DISPUTED ISLES

BEIJING: China yesterday vowed to continue building in disputed reefs of the South China Sea, as state media said construction had finished on two lighthouses on reefs claimed by other countries.

Beijing has been bolstering its claim to almost all the South China Sea by rapidly building large artificial structures resembling islands, straining ties with neighbors.

The lighthouses on Cuateron Reef and Johnson South Reef in the Spratly islands have been officially opened, the state-run Xinhua news agency said late Friday. China established control of the Johnson South Reef after a skirmish with Vietnam in 1988. The Philippines claims both reefs as part of its territory. The lighthouses are 50 metres high, Xinhua said. State television gave prominence to

images of the white-structures standing above blue waters.

Chinese foreign ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said in an online statement that they would improve "safety of navigation" for ships. "Next, China will continue to build other civil facilities on occupied islands reefs in the Nansha Islands," she added using China's name for the Spratlys. China's building has

increased tensions with Washington, which has condemned the structures. Hua's statement came after reports said that the US would send navy ships close to the islands built by China, testing whether Beijing will defend them. Beijing claims sovereignty over almost the entire sea, including waters, islands, reefs, shoals and rocky outcrops nearer to other countries.

Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines and Vietnam—all members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) — claim parts of the sea, while Taiwan is a sixth claimant. Chinese President Xi Jinping has said China will not militarise its newly-built structures in the Sea, but satellite images show it has constructed runways capable of use by air force jets. — AFP



PYONGYANG: Military equipment is paraded in Pyongyang yesterday. North Korean leader Kim Jong Un (Inset) declared yesterday that his country was ready to stand up to any threat posed by the United States as he spoke at a lavish military parade to mark the 70th anniversary of the North's ruling party and trumpet his third-generation leadership. — AP

N KOREA READY FOR 'ANY' US WAR, LEADER TELLS PARADE

KIM PRESIDES OVER MILITARY PARADE ON 70TH ANNIVERSARY

PYONGYANG: North Korea's leader Kim Jong-un said yesterday his country could fight any war provoked by the United States, as he presided over a vast military parade to mark the 70th anniversary of the ruling Workers' Party. Thousands of troops marched through the capital followed by columns of tanks, armored vehicles and ballistic missiles, in what was tipped to be one of the largest ceremonial displays of military strength in North Korea's history.

Dressed in his customary dark Mao suit, Kim struck a more belligerent note than in previous public addresses, telling the assembled masses in Kim Il-Sung square that North Korea could fight any war begun by the US. "Our party dauntlessly declares that our revolutionary armed forces are capable of fighting any kind of war provoked by the US and we are ready to protect our people and the blue sky of our motherland," he said. His words were met with rapturous applause from tens of thousands of flag-waving spectators, while above the square, a large banner slung from a gas-filled balloon read: "Long live the invincible Workers' Party of Korea." Buildings surrounding the plaza, named after Kim's grandfather, the founding leader of North Korea, were festooned with red hammer-and-sickle party flags and the national colours of blue, white and red. Poor but nuclear-armed North Korea often threatens to destroy the US and South Korea, with which it technically remains at war after their 1950-53 conflict ended in a truce, not a treaty. The North remains deeply politically isolated on the world stage, and its closest ally China was the only country to send a diplomat to Saturday's event.

'Cutting-edge' weapons

As night fell after the parade—a tribute to the ruling party that has served at the whim of three generations of the Kim dynasty—the skies of Pyongyang were lit up with a fireworks display over the banks of the Taedong River. On the ground, roaring crowds held up their coloured squares to create huge images of Worker Party flags and spelling out the name of Kim Jong-un.

The scale of the event was already apparent from satellite images taken four days before which showed a sprawling training ground in Pyongyang featuring some 800 tents, 700 trucks and 200 armored vehicles. When announcing plans for the "grand-style" parade back in February, the ruling party's top decision-making body had stressed the importance of "cutting-edge" weaponry suitable for modern warfare. North Korea has conducted three nuclear tests and threatened a fourth as part of a nuclear weapons and missile program that it has pursued through a barrage of international sanctions. There is debate among experts as to how far it has come in developing those weapons, especially the ability to shrink nuclear warheads so that they can fit on a missile. An exhaustively researched report published this week by the US-based Institute for Science and International Security estimated that North Korea had between 10 and 16 nuclear weapons as of the end of 2014. The report argued it was likely the country could already build a warhead to fit atop a Nodong missile—with a range of less than 800 miles (1,300 kilometres) — but added that the reliability of such a weapon was open to question.

10-10

Months of planning and preparation have gone into yesterday's celebrations, involving a mass mobilization of state personnel and resources to ensure its success. The capital was given a comprehensive makeover—its streets lined and decorated with giant posters, red banners and national flags, many of them displaying the numerals "10-10" in reference to the ruling party's official October 10 birthday. The North excels at such choreographed displays of military muscle, which aim to boost pride and patriotism at home while sending a defiant message to an international community that has sought, without success, to pressure Pyongyang into abandoning its nuclear weapons ambitions.

But they also reflect North Korea's diplomatic isolation, and Chinese party politburo standing committee member Liu Yunshan was the only foreign dignitary of any significance attending Saturday's event. Kim and Liu met for talks on Friday, during which the Chinese official delivered a letter from President Xi Jinping, and voiced Beijing's willingness to work with Pyongyang on resuming multi-party talks on its nuclear program.

"The DPRK (North Korea) is willing to make efforts to improve relations between the North and the South and safeguard the stability of the peninsula", Xinhua reported the young leader as saying.

China remains North Korea's most important diplomatic ally and economic partner, even as Beijing has grown increasingly wary and impatient with Pyongyang's nuclear weapons ambitions. — AFP

JAPAN FUMES AS UNESCO ARCHIVES NANJING MASSACRE DOCUMENTS

TOKYO: Japan yesterday lashed out at UNESCO's decision to inscribe documents related to the Nanjing massacre in its Memory of the World register, describing it as "extremely regrettable" and calling for the process to be reformed. On Friday the UN's cultural and scientific body agreed to 47 new inscriptions, including a request by Beijing to mark documents recording the mass murder and rape committed by Japanese troops after the fall of the Chinese city of Nanjing in 1937.

The massacre, often referred to as the "Rape of Nanjing", is an exceptionally sensitive issue in the often-tense relations between Japan and China, with Beijing charging that Tokyo has failed to atone for the atrocity.

Japan had called for the Nanjing documents not to be included and accused UNESCO Saturday of being politicized. "It is extremely regrettable that a global organization that should be neutral and fair entered the documents in the Memory of the World register, despite the repeated pleas made by the Japanese government," Tokyo's foreign ministry said in a statement.

"As a responsible member of UNESCO, the Japanese government will seek a reform of this important

project, so that it will not be used politically," the statement added. The UNESCO decision came after a two-year process during a meeting of experts tasked with studying nominations from 40 countries. The new inscriptions were agreed at a meeting

that ran from Sunday to Tuesday and was held in the United Arab Emirates. Chinese state media hailed the decision on Saturday, citing researchers as saying that UNESCO's move was an act of "global recognition" for the massacre. "Inscription of the documents

will help us honor history, refute wrong claims and disseminate the truth," the official Xinhua news agency cited Zhu Chengshan, curator of the state-run Nanjing Massacre Memorial Hall as saying.

Killing, rape and destruction

The Japanese military invaded China in the 1930s and the two countries fought a full-scale war from 1937 until Japan's defeat in World War II in 1945. China says 300,000 people died in a six-week spree of killing, rape and destruction after the Japanese military entered Nanjing. Some respected foreign academics put the number lower but there is very little mainstream scholarship doubting that a massacre took place. In Japan, however, some conservatives and nationalists deny that atrocities were committed, a source of regular regional friction.

In February, a senior executive at Japan's publicly funded TV broadcaster NHK denied the massacre, reportedly dismissing accounts of it as "propaganda". Japan's official position is that "the killing of a large number of noncombatants, looting and other acts occurred" took place, but it adds "it is difficult to determine" the true number of victims. — AFP



NANJING: Visitors look at photos of survivors on display at the Nanjing Massacre Memorial Hall in Nanjing yesterday. Japan lashed out at UNESCO's decision to inscribe documents related to the Nanjing massacre in its Memory of the World register, describing it as "extremely regrettable" and calling for the process to be reformed. — AFP

HUNDREDS FACE OFF IN AUSTRALIAN TOWN IN ANTI-ISLAM PROTEST

SYDNEY: Hundreds of protesters faced off with left-wing opponents yesterday in a standoff over plans to build a mosque in a rural Australian town, witnesses said, the latest anti-Islam protest since a Muslim teenager killed a police officer this month. Farhad Khalil Mohammad Jabar, 15, was shot and killed by police after he opened fire on police accountant Curtis Cheng as Cheng left police headquarters in the Sydney suburb of Parramatta on Oct 2.

Right-wing activists from the United Patriots Front, which says that its aim is opposing the spread of Islam, faced off with members of a left-wing coalition promoting tolerance in the town of Bendigo in Victoria state. The dispute began over plans to build a mosque in the town and has been simmering for months.

Police said four arrests were made, but all were subsequently released. The two groups were generally well behaved, a police spokeswoman told Reuters. Witnesses said the two groups between them numbered in the hundreds. The right-wing protest was part of a coordinated worldwide series of anti-Islam protests organized by fringe extremist groups, with calls on social media for further protests in US cities and elsewhere later in the day. The Islamic Council of Victoria said it had met with police to ensure security of Muslims and had warned on its website that yesterday had been named "by certain fringe groups as a world anti-mosque protest day". Australia's political leaders, including Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull, have condemned threats against the Muslim community. — Reuters

CHINA SAYS US HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT BIASED

BEIJING: A US congressional commission's criticism of China's human rights record did not "accord with the facts", the Chinese government said on Friday, the latest friction over a long-running thorn in relations.

The US Congressional-Executive Commission on China said on Thursday that it saw in China "a disturbing deterioration in human rights and rule of law conditions that pose a direct challenge to US national interests and US-China relations".

The report comes weeks after Chinese President Xi Jinping's state visit to Washington, during which US President Barack Obama laid out concern over human rights. Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying told a regular briefing that US officials and the American public must be more objective. "This report has nothing new, embraces a persistent bias in order to make irresponsible remarks about China's domestic affairs, and makes criticisms that don't accord with the facts," Hua said.

"China's 1.3 billion people have the greatest authority to pass judgment," she said. The US commission said China was moving further away from a rule of law system and had increased pressure on civil society. It also criti-

cized the state of religious freedom and Beijing's treatment of ethnic minorities.

"President Xi has presided over an extraordinary assault on the rule of law and civil society", US Representative Chris Smith, the commission's chairman, said in an emailed statement. Florida senator and Republican presidential candidate Marco Rubio co-chairs the committee.

In a statement later on Friday, Smith took issue with China's criticism of the commission report and invited Beijing's ambassador to the United States to testify before the human rights panel. The report "gets the facts correct, we stand by the conclusion that this year saw a 'disturbing deterioration' of human rights", Smith said. Activists say that under Xi, China is conducting its most intense crackdown on human rights in two decades.

Nearly 1,000 rights activists were detained last year — almost as many as in the previous two years combined, according to Chinese Human Rights Defenders, a coalition of Chinese and international activist groups. China has long argued that it is unfairly singled out for criticism of its rights record and says other governments should examine their own records before making accusations. — Reuters



WUHU: People gather outside a restaurant after a gas explosion in Wuhu, in China's Anhui province yesterday. At least 17 people were killed after the explosion ripped through a restaurant in China causing a fire, state media said. — AFP

TAIWAN'S MA DEFENDS CHINA POLICY ON NATIONAL DAY

TAIPEI: Taiwan's embattled President Ma Ying-jeou defended his China-friendly policies yesterday in his last National Day speech, as thousands gathered in the capital Taipei. Relations between Taiwan and Beijing have warmed since Ma took power in 2008, promising that closer ties would bring economic prosperity. But public sentiment has turned against the ruling Kuomintang party (KMT) as fears grow of increased influence from Beijing and the island's economy stagnates.

Ma defended the rapprochement, saying it had turned the region from a "flashpoint" into an "avenue of peace". "Every year during my two terms in office, the cross-strait situation has become progressively more peaceful and more stable," he told crowds outside the presidential office in Taipei celebrating the 104th anniversary of the establishment of the Republic of China. It was his last National Day speech before he steps down next year after a maximum two terms. The KMT suffered a rout at local elections last November, partly due to its China policy. The Beijing-sceptic opposition Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) is expected to win the presidency in January.

Ma expressed "deepest concern" over the future, urging the next president to stick to the "1992 consensus" — a tacit agreement between

the KMT and Beijing which acknowledges there is "one China" but allows each side their own interpretation. "If we diverge from it, relations will deteriorate. And if we oppose it, there will be turmoil in the Taiwan Strait," Ma warned. Taiwan is self-ruled after a split with the mainland in 1949 following a civil war, but China still considers the island part of its territory waiting to be reunified by force if necessary.

There are questions over how the DPP will approach China policy should it come to power, having alienated Beijing in the past.

DPP presidential candidate Tsai Ing-wen has repeatedly pledged to maintain the "status quo", but has been criticised by the KMT for failing to give details of her policy.

Ma denied the island's sovereignty had been eroded under his leadership. He said: "The government's cross-strait policy is not biased towards mainland China while selling out Taiwan. Nor does it undermine our sovereignty." Tsai attended the National Day celebrations—the first DPP head to have done so. DPP legislator Tien Chiu-chin termed it as "a gesture of reconciliation" with the ruling party. Military fighter jets flew over the presidential office as part of the celebrations, leaving a trail of red, white and blue, while student groups and military bands paraded. — AFP



ANKARA: This video grab image taken from footage made available by local source 'Dokuz8 Haber' shows the moment an explosion ripped through a gathering ahead of a planned peace rally yesterday. — AFP

BLASTS KILL 95 AT KURDISH RALLY IN TURKISH...

Continued from Page 1

protest over the deaths of hundreds since conflict resumed between security forces and the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) in the mainly Kurdish southeast.

HH the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent yesterday a cable of condolences to Erdogan, expressing his heartfelt sympathy and sorrow after the twin bombings. The Amir affirmed Kuwait's strong condemnation of the two terrorist operations which targeted innocent civilians and the security and stability of the country. He wished in his cable speedy recovery for the injured in this terrible accident and solace for the families of those who lost their loved ones. HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent similar cables.

A senior Kuwaiti foreign ministry source told KUNA that Kuwait denounces the bombings and stands beside the sisterly Turkish Republic and supports all the measures it takes to maintain its security and stability. The source reiterated Kuwait's firm rejection of all forms of terrorism regardless of their source. Kuwait also extends condolences to the Turkish government, people and families of the victims, the source said, wishing quick recovery for the wounded.

"I heard one big explosion first and tried to cover myself as the windows broke. Right away there was the second one," said Serdar, 37, who was working at a newspaper stand in the train station. "There was shouting and crying and I stayed under the newspapers for a while. I could smell burnt flesh." There were no claims of responsibility for the attack, which comes as external threats mount for NATO member Turkey with increased fighting across its border with Syria and incursions by Russian warplanes on its air space over the last week.

But Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu, exposing a mosaic of domestic political perils, said Islamic State, Kurdish or far-leftist militants could have carried out the bombing. He said there were strong signs two suicide bombers were responsible. HDP leader Selahattin Demirtas blamed the government in blunt terms. He said the attack was part of the same campaign as the bombing of an HDP rally in the southeastern city of Diyarbakir on the eve of June elections and a suicide bombing blamed on Islamic State in Suruc near the Syrian border in July, which killed 33 mostly young pro-Kurdish activists.

"The government's right and chance to hum and haw has long expired. You are murderers. Your hand is bloody. Blood has splattered from your face, your mouth to your nails and all over you. You are the biggest supporters of terror," he told reporters in comments broadcast on the internet. The HDP argues that Erdogan seeks to undermine its support and increase backing for his AK Party in elections due on Nov. 1 by associating it with PKK violence and factional infighting, a link the party denies strongly.

Davutoglu accused Demirtas, whose party garnered

support from largely left-leaning voters beyond its Kurdish base to enter parliament in June, of "open provocation". Some activists saw the hand of the state in all three attacks on Kurdish interests, accusing Erdogan and the AK Party he founded of seeking to stir up nationalist sentiment, a charge Turkey's leaders have vehemently rejected. Labor unions which helped organize the rally hit by the bombs called a two-day strike for Oct 12-13, although such calls have not always been widely followed in the past.

The scale of casualties exceeded attacks in 2003, when two synagogues, the Istanbul HSBC Bank headquarters and the British consulate were hit with a total loss of 62 lives. Authorities said those incidents bore the hallmarks of Al-Qaeda. Turkey has been on alert since starting a "synchronized war on terror" in July, including air strikes against Islamic State fighters in Syria and PKK bases in northern Iraq. It has rounded up hundreds of suspected Kurdish and Islamist militants at home.

Hours after the bombing, the PKK as widely expected beforehand ordered its fighters to halt operations in Turkey unless they faced attack. It said it would avoid acts that could hinder a "fair and just election" on Nov 1. Renewed conflict in the southeast had raised questions over how Turkey can hold a credible election in violence-hit areas but the government has so far said the vote will go ahead. Davutoglu invited the leaders of the main opposition CHP and nationalist MHP to a meeting today to discuss the events, his office said. Nationalist leader Devlet Bahçeli declined.

Turkey's problems have been compounded over the last week by Russia's launching of air strikes in neighboring Syria that could further swell a refugee population of over two million on Turkish soil. Turkey has protested to Moscow over incursions into its air space by Russian warplanes. "This brutal terrorist attack on peaceful demonstrators is also an assault on the democratic process in Turkey which I vehemently condemn," German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier said.

The attacks come three weeks ahead of an election at which the AKP is trying to claw back its majority. In June polls, the party lost the overall majority it had held since 2002, partly because of the electoral success of the HDP, which Erdogan accuses of links to the PKK. The HDP denies the charge and says it seeks improved Kurdish minority rights by democratic means. Designated a terrorist group by Turkey, the United States and the European Union, the PKK launched a separatist insurgency in 1984 in which more than 40,000 people have been killed.

It has since reduced its demands to greater rights for the Kurdish minority; but Ankara fears a link-up between Kurdish militants in Turkey and Kurdish groups in Iraq and Syria that could lead to demands for a separate Kurdish state. The state launched peace talks with the PKK's jailed leader Abdullah Ocalan in 2012 and the latest in a series of ceasefires had been holding until the violence flared again in July. — Agencies

BLACK MEN CALL FOR CHANGE AT MILLION MAN...

Continued from Page 1

Deaths of unarmed black males at the hands of law enforcement officers have inspired protests under the "Black Lives Matter" moniker around the country.

The original march on Oct 16, 1995, brought hundreds of thousands to Washington to pledge to improve their lives, their families and their communities. Women, whites and other minorities were not invited to the original march, but organizers welcomed all yesterday, saying they expected hundreds of thousands of participants. The National Park Service estimated the attendance at the original march to be around 400,000, but subsequent counts by private organizations put the number at 800,000 or higher. The National Park Service has refused to give crowd estimates on Mall activities since.

President Barack Obama, who attended the first

Million Man March, was in California yesterday. Life has improved in some ways for African-American men since the original march, but not in others. For example:

*The unemployment rate for African-American men in October 1995 was 8.1 percent, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. In September 2015 it was 8.9 percent.

* In 1995, 73.4 percent of African-American men had high school degrees. In 2004, 84.3 percent did, according to the Census Bureau.

Law enforcement agencies made 3.5 million arrests of blacks in 1994, which was 30.9 percent of all arrests, the FBI said. (By comparison, they made 7.6 million arrests of whites that year, which was 66 percent of all arrests.) By 2013, the latest available data, African-American arrests had decreased to 2.5 million, 28 percent of all arrests. Anti-Muslim protesters planned to demonstrate at mosques around the nation on the same day. — AP

ISRAELI FORCES KILL 5 PALESTINIANS

Continued from Page 1

A Palestinian stabbed two police officers, seriously wounding one of them, near the Damascus Gate a few hours after a 16-year-old Palestinian stabbed and wounded two ultra-Orthodox Jewish men in the same area, Rosenfeld said. He said paramilitary police had also killed a Palestinian militant after he fired on them during late-night clashes at the Shuafat refugee camp in East Jerusalem. Hamas, the Islamist Palestinian militant group that controls the Gaza Strip, said in a statement that the Shuafat shooter was one of its members. "The hero martyr fought the Israeli occupation with language they understand," Hamas said.

In Gaza, Israeli soldiers shot dead the Palestinian boy and teenager as they were taking part in protests near Israel's border security fence, Palestinian medical officials said. An army spokeswoman said the protesters had been hurling burning tyres and stones towards the soldiers in a no-go border security zone declared by Israelis. She said the soldiers had fired warning shots in the air before shooting "at the main instigators". A military statement added that scores of Palestinians had managed to breach the fence and enter Israeli territory before being pushed back by the soldiers.

On Friday, the Israeli army said there had been repeated attempts to storm the border fence between Gaza and Israel and that 1,000 rioters had infiltrated the buffer zone, throwing a grenade, rocks and rolling burning tyres at troops. After warning shots, troops fired "towards main instigators in order to prevent their advance and disperse the riot", a statement said. Seven Palestinians were killed, including a 15-year-old, and 145 wounded, medics said.

In a bid to stop further escalation, US Secretary of State John Kerry spoke by phone with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Friday, Netanyahu's office said, and with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas yesterday, according to the official Palestinian news agency WAFA. Netanyahu and Abbas have called for calm and Palestinian police continue to coordinate with Israeli security forces to try to restore order, but there are few signs of the violence dying

down. The almost daily Palestinian knife attacks and clashes between Israeli soldiers and stone-throwing Palestinians are not at the levels of past Palestinian uprisings, but the escalation has prompted talk of a third "intifada". Palestinians see increasing visits over the past year by Jewish groups and right-wing lawmakers to the Al-Aqsa plaza, revered in Judaism as the site of two destroyed biblical temples, as eroding Muslim religious control of the compound.

Netanyahu has said repeatedly that he will not allow any change to the status quo under which Jews are allowed to visit the site but non-Muslim prayer is banned, but his assurances have done little to quell alarm among Muslims across the region. Ali Al-Qaradaghi, a prominent Muslim cleric, urged worshippers on Saturday to join what he described as an uprising. "Every Muslim should contribute to the intifada that started for the sake of al-Aqsa and Palestine," he tweeted. Al-Qaradaghi is a cleric at the Doha-based International Union of Muslim Scholars, headed by the spiritual leader of the Muslim Brotherhood, Sheikh Youssef Al-Qaradawi.

In 2000, a visit to the Al-Aqsa compound by Ariel Sharon, then Israel's opposition leader and later prime minister, enraged Palestinians and helped to trigger an uprising that continued for five years and left about 3,000 Palestinians and 1,000 Israelis dead. Clashes between Palestinians and Israeli troops broke out yesterday near the West Bank cities of Hebron and Ramallah and again at the Shuafat camp. Scores of Palestinians were injured, including 17 hit by live gunfire, according to the Palestinian Red Crescent.

Protests have also spread to several Arab towns in Israel, with demonstrators blocking roads and throwing stones and firecrackers at police. Netanyahu said in a statement he had ordered hundreds of paramilitary border police to be called up to boost security. A Channel Two Television poll found that 73 percent of Israelis were dissatisfied with his handling of the security situation. Palestinians want East Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza, lands that Israel captured in the 1967 Middle East war, for a future state. US-brokered peace talks broke down in April 2014. — Agencies



Refugees and migrants arrive by boat on the Greek island of Lesbos after crossing the Aegean sea from Turkey yesterday. — AFP

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Focus

BRAZIL LEADER
FIGHTS FOR HER
POLITICAL LIFE

By Sebastian Smith

President Dilma Rousseff claims to detect a glimmer at the end of the tunnel in Brazil's political crisis, but what she really may be seeing, analysts say, are the headlights of an oncoming train. Twin courtroom rulings this week left Rousseff's already shaky presidency tottering and now the former leftist guerrilla's hopes for survival depend on a hostile Congress where powerful forces want her impeached. Less than a year into her second term, Rousseff faces an economy in steep recession, a corruption scandal engulfing much of the elite, and personal popularity ratings of just 10 percent.

On Wednesday, she put on a brave face to announce that she saw "light at the end of the tunnel." But that same day the country's accounts court, or TCU, declared her government's budgeting practices illegal - and suddenly she was left fighting for her political life. According to the court's unanimous 8-0 ruling, Rousseff's government broke the law in 2014 by using creative accounting, including taking unauthorized loans from state-owned banks, to cover fiscal holes.

Just one day earlier a different court opened another damaging probe into Rousseff's 2014 election campaign funding, questioning whether among other alleged malpractices she had taken money linked to the Petrobras bribes and embezzlement scandal. As if that weren't enough for one week, Rousseff was also humiliated in Congress, twice failing to gather enough lawmakers to be able to vote on sustaining her vetoes on important laws - political battles underlining her ebbing control. "In about 24 hours, President Dilma Rousseff suffered a sequence of defeats in the judiciary and legislature that show, with unheard of eloquence, just how fragile she is," the Folha de Sao Paulo daily said Thursday.

Few Friends

The electoral court's probe into Rousseff's campaign funds could in a worst case scenario end in annulment of her 2014 re-election victory. However, that is a distant prospect. Wednesday's ruling by the accounts court presents a more immediate risk. Under Brazilian law, the court's opinion now goes to Congress for reviews and a series of votes in committees and then the floor. If the government is defeated at each step, impeachment proceedings could be launched. That could still take months. However, Brazil's Congress, seething with shifting loyalties, is not friendly territory for Rousseff.

Her biggest danger is the speaker of the lower house, Eduardo Cunha, an ostensible ally until July when he transformed himself as point man for a campaign to impeach Rousseff - a campaign she says amounts to a "coup plot." A weakness of the pro-impeachment lobby has been that it had little to go on, beyond popular dissatisfaction over Rousseff.

But now with the TCU ruling on government rule breaking - the first such condemnation since 1937 - the impeachment push has a burst of political momentum. "The opposition and those associated with them who want to go down the road to impeachment were waiting exactly for this," Michael Freitas Mohallem, a politics professor at the FGV Law School, said. "I imagine it will trigger a more intense effort to go forward with President Dilma's impeachment."

Can she survive? David Fleischer, a political science professor at University of Brasilia, said Rousseff has "destroyed her parliamentary base" and could find her few remaining friends in a weak ruling coalition melting away when it came to impeachment votes. But Gabriel Petrus, a political analyst at Barral M Jorge consultants, says that "she still has some leverage" because the long, winding procedures would give her multiple opportunities to strike deals. "In this gloomy situation there is a chance the government may still survive. It may survive because of inertia, because of the political contradictions when you transfer a technical decision (of the TCU) into a political decision," Petrus said.

Leadership Vacuum

A major variable is Cunha himself. Rousseff's scourge has been implicated in the Petrobras scandal and accused of stashing millions of dollars in Switzerland. He refuses to resign his speaker's post and says he has done nothing wrong. Given Cunha's problems, he may be ready to cut compromises with Rousseff and "negotiate his future," Petrus said. The real question, analysts say, is how Rousseff, regularly accused of lacking leadership qualities, will react. Will she come out swinging - or give up? "Some people think she might simply resign, but she is a very firm woman, very resolute and thinks she does everything right, so stepping down is not in her modus operandi," Fleischer said. With an economy badly in need of reform and the Petrobras scandal exposing a culture of high-level theft, the political games add to Brazil's sense of dangerous drift. "It's a black hole," Petrus said. "It's really sad we're suffering this, that we have no alternatives." —AFP

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Washington Watch

RESPONDING TO CHALLENGE OF RUSSIA IN SYRIA

By Dr James J Zogby

No one should have been surprised that Russia committed their military to the task of saving their ally in Syria from defeat. And no one should now be surprised if Saudi Arabia steps up its support for the Syrian opposition; or if the opposition attacks Russian forces in Syria. From the very beginning, the tragedy of Syria has been a multi-layered drama. There was the internal conflict with its undercurrents of class and sect tensions. There was also a regional aspect with proxies for Iran and the Arab Gulf States squared off against each other. And then there was the Russia/NATO dimension with Moscow determined not to lose another strategic partner at the hands of the West.

All of this should have been evident from the very start of the conflict, and yet the combatants and their supporters have consistently failed to factor this complexity into their calculations thereby insuring that the war in Syria would grow into the horror it has become. To recap: drought and failed economic policies by a corrupt state system wreaked havoc on millions of Syrians driving them from their land in search of the means of survival. Their demands for economic justice and greater rights were brutally put down by the government. Repression, mass imprisonment, torture, and the wanton killing of civilians didn't silence the demonstrators; instead it led many to adopt violent means, as well.

The armed opposition to the regime was never a simple phenomenon. There were elements who left the Syrian Army and turned against the regime they had once served. There were groups, some motivated by religious beliefs seeking to impose their ideology on the state while others simply sought revenge for the brutal excesses of the regime. There were even armed gangs of smugglers who simply took advantage of the opportunity created by the growing conflict. There were also unarmed

oppositionists, some who were organizing outside of the country, and others who worked, under great duress, in an effort to promote change inside Syria.

Arrayed against all of these forces was a regime with its political, military, and security apparatus - all of which were well-practiced in the use of violence and political repression. If this were the whole story of Syria, the drama might have played out very differently. But there was more. First there were millions of Syrians who, when push came to shove, proved to be more afraid of the opposition than they were of the regime. They were a mix of religious minorities, secular urban elites, and others who were just trying to live their lives. Many had experienced repression at the hands of the state, but they dreaded the disruption of daily life they saw accompanying the civil war and they recoiled in the face of the ideologies espoused by elements of the armed opposition.

Compromise

The fact that both the state and the opposition had real bases of support should have given everyone pause. It established, early on, that unless there was pressure on all sides to negotiate a compromise solution, this conflict would not end easily or quickly.

But there was still more. With their ally threatened, Iran stepped in to offer support. Some Arab Gulf States still reeling from Iran's recently secured foothold in Iraq and Islamic Republic's meddlesome involvement in other parts of the region, simultaneously increased their support for both the armed and unarmed opposition. Each step taken by one side was matched by the other.

In reaction to the mounting death toll and reports of horrifying atrocities, the US hesitantly entered the fray, publicly offering non-lethal support to the opposition while covertly providing training and arms, as well. As the conflict worsened

and the brutality of the regime intensified, the US increased its political posture stating that the regime had "lost its legitimacy" and that its leader "must go." This served to embolden the opposition justifying their rejection of any form of compromise with the regime, while at the same time hardening the Russian position. Russia had seen the US having its way with Serbia, Iraq, and Libya, and was not about to surrender its strategic asset in Syria. Early efforts by the US and Russia to create a framework that might have led to negotiations stalemated.

All of these layers and rivalries are present in Syria. And yet players in the conflict ignore them with devastatingly deadly consequences. They act as if the conflict were simple mathematics, and not the complex calculus that it is; as if the actions they take will stand alone and not impact and cause reactions on all the other layers of the conflict.

Because all of the parties on each layer have their interests to protect, they feel that defeat is not an option. What this should have led to is the recognition that this is a conflict that no one will win and everyone will lose. The tragedy is that this has not yet taken hold and so everyone keeps pouring more gasoline on the fire only to be shocked when it burns more brightly.

Politicians who are now calling for a more forceful US military response are, in effect, asking that we too join the bucket-brigade of gasoline pourers. This is clearly not smart since it will only exacerbate an already intolerable situation for Syrians and for the region. What we ought to do, instead, is design a strategy utilizing all of the diplomatic and economic levers that are available to us and our NATO and Arab allies to pressure the Russians and the Iranians back to the Geneva negotiating process.

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

'TSAR PUTIN': AS SECURE AS HE SEEMS?

By Guy Faulconbridge and Stephen Grey

Vladimir Putin turned 63 last week with his now traditional display of sporting prowess, and an announcement that Russian naval vessels had launched a wave of missiles against Islamic State in Syria. The Russian leader has never appeared more confident and his grip on power never more secure. In the past two years he has outmanoeuvred the West in Crimea, eastern Ukraine and Syria. Western sanctions have apparently failed to blunt his ambition. But some of Putin's former allies, those who have fallen from grace during his 15 years in power, paint a different picture: Putin's position as the Russian leader may be far less assured, they say.

"Putin is a hostage of his entourage," Sergei Pugachev, who once counted the Kremlin chief as a close family friend, told Reuters in an interview in Paris. The animosity between Pugachev and the Russian government is well documented. Pugachev says his \$15 billion business empire spanning shipbuilding, coal and real estate was expropriated by Kremlin rivals. He is suing Russia for \$12 billion. Russia, meanwhile, is seeking Pugachev's arrest for embezzlement and misappropriation of assets, charges Pugachev denies.

Given the secrecy of Putin's Kremlin, it was impossible to confirm Pugachev's account. But interviews with other Russian businessmen and foreign diplomats painted a similar picture, albeit a partial one. The descriptions may offer rare first-hand views of Putin's court and some clues about a question that has preoccupied oligarchs, Western governments and even Putin's advisers: How long will Putin remain as Russia's paramount leader?

For Pugachev, the keys to the puzzle are Putin's perceptions of his own personal safety, finding a successor and the clan battles over the spoils of a former superpower. "Until he finds a path to an arrangement which secures his safety, he will remain in power," Pugachev said. "He no longer has confidence in his closest circle and if I were

in his place I would not trust them either: What they say to his face and what they say when he is not there is completely different." When asked about Pugachev's comments, Putin's spokesman Dmitry Peskov said: "We see them as the words of a citizen who is on a wanted list."

Tsar Putin?

Since Putin was appointed acting president by Boris Yeltsin on Dec 31, 1999, he has been cast, variously, as Tsar, reformer, secret policeman and Russia's richest man. In diplomatic cables published by WikiLeaks in 2010, US diplomats depicted Putin as Russia's "alpha-dog" autocrat who ruled by allowing corrupt officials and spies to steal. The Kremlin called that idea ridiculous. Friends and enemies have cast Putin as a leader attempting to unite modern Russia with its Soviet superpower past and the mystical traditions of pre-revolutionary Orthodox Tsars.

The Kremlin has shown Putin grappling with a Siberian tiger while supporters this year unveiled a bust in his home town showing him as a modern Caesar. The New York Review of Books has written of "The Emperor Vladimir". But Pugachev's description of a less secure leader chimes with the views of Mikhail Khodorkovsky, once Russia's richest man, who was arrested in 2003 before his YUKOS business empire was ripped apart and its main production units taken over by Gazprom and Rosneft.

"No matter what the PR machine and propaganda of the Kremlin might say, President Putin is no superman," Khodorkovsky, who was freed in 2013 after a decade in Russian jails, told an audience in London in February. "The Russian business and ruling elite is becoming increasingly anxious in response to Putin's political course; even those who are loyal to him. It is obvious that autumn has arrived for Putin."

Moscow Rules

For Pugachev, the cruder interpretations of Putin's power miss the underlying instability of post-Soviet Russia: Putin must navigate the chaotic clan battle for wealth with care. "These people, it is the way they are, will serve anyone who defends their venal interests," Pugachev, 52, said of the clans around Putin. "These people are hostages to their crimes - basically the whole establishment - and they need someone who will at minimum represent their interests. If the situation changes and they consider Putin is not sufficiently defending their interests then I think anything could happen." Behind the patriotic swagger of wealthy Muscovites, according to this analysis, there lies a dan-

ger for Putin: The fall in the oil price and Western sanctions for his war in Ukraine have reduced the profits of this moneyed class. A Western diplomatic source said Putin was poorly informed and it was unclear how long he would remain in power given Russia's economic problems. The rouble has halved in value against the US dollar since 2012, the year Putin was elected for a third term. "In these situations, you see nothing and then all of a sudden it goes," the diplomat said. An influential Russian businessman, speaking on condition of anonymity because of a Russian taboo on discussing Putin's future, said: "The economy is very bad." "These situations are impossible to predict but they can change very fast. When it happens it goes very fast," the Russian said. He used the Russian word for 'brittle' to describe the current economic and political situation.

Leader for Life?

Pugachev said Putin's shift towards confrontation with the West over Ukraine flowed from his reliance on the guidance of hardliners inside the Kremlin. "He trusted the hawks and he has had a lack of success. He is not a leader of the hawks himself but over the 15 years he has migrated between the different circles," he said. Another Russian businessman with knowledge of the Kremlin cast Putin as an isolated leader who understood he could never leave power. "No one tells him the truth," said the Russian who spoke on condition of anonymity. "He cannot leave. He knows that. He believes in plots."

One Russian emigre, however, cautioned against overestimating internal opposition. "Yes, Vladimir Putin has to take into account interests of various stakeholders," said Sergei Guriev, an economist who fled Russia in 2013 for France. "However, in the current system - certainly, since the Yukos affair - nobody within the Russian elite could come even close to him in terms of power and authority. If he personally decides to do X, no clans or elite groups will be able to stop it." So will Putin stay in power for life? "It is difficult for me to say how it all ends," Pugachev said. "I think that stagnation is probably here to stay for a long time." —Reuters



LORENZO ON JAPAN POLE, DE ANGELIS IN HOSPITAL

JAPAN: San Marino rider Alex de Angelis was airlifted to hospital after a heavy crash during final practice at the Japanese MotoGP yesterday before a dramatic qualifying session saw Jorge Lorenzo grab pole from title rival Valentino Rossi.

The 31-year-old de Angelis was conscious and breathing before being taken to hospital, with his Ioda Racing ART Team Aprilia later issuing a statement saying the rider had fractured five vertebrae and three ribs. "Alex De Angelis, who does not remember because of the head injury dynamics of his accident, will be transferred to Italy during the next week," the team said after the rider had undergone a CAT scan.

Ioda added de Angelis had not suffered any spinal cord injury. The rider crashed midway through FP4 leading to the session being red-flagged at the Motegi circuit and was taken by helicopter to the Dokkyo Hospital in Mibu.

No television footage of the incident was shown, with de Angelis riding one of the least competitive bikes on the grid and having only scored two points this year following a spate of retirements. The incident led to a delay in a breathless qualifying session where Lorenzo edged Yamaha team mate Rossi to take pole position by just 0.081 seconds.

Lorenzo trails Rossi by 14 points in the championship with only four races to go this season but looks set to cut that deficit on a track he has shown his fondness for by coming out top in all the sessions this week.

The Spaniard used a two-stop strategy, after some front end issues on his first run, to record a best time of 1 min 43.790 seconds to deny the Italian, who had gone top moments before with his best lap.

It was Lorenzo's fourth pole of the year and Yamaha's first one-two qualifying performance of the season. "I made the maximum and it is a good lap time," double MotoGP champion Lorenzo told reporters. Rossi, bidding for his seventh MotoGP world title, was optimistic he could better Lorenzo come race day.

"I was confident for the qualifying. I did a good strategy (and) I was in the right place. I am very positive looking forward for tomorrow. I can be competitive with Jorge," he said. Defending champion Marc Marquez was third for Honda in 1:44.216 to round out the front row.

The Ducati duo of Andrea Dovizioso and Andrea Iannone finished fourth and fifth for Sunday's race with Marquez's Honda team mate Dani Pedrosa completing the second row.—Reuters



NEWCASTLE: New Zealand's captain Kieran Read wins the ball in a line out Rugby World Cup Pool C match between New Zealand and Tonga at St James' Park.—AP

ALL BLACKS WIN AHEAD OF BUSY WEEKEND TO DECIDE Q-FINALS

LONDON: New Zealand centre Ma'a Nonu scored a late try against Tonga on Friday in his 100th test, helping his team to a thumping victory and top spot in Pool C ahead of a hectic weekend when the Rugby World Cup quarter-finals will be determined.

The 47-9 win in Newcastle ended any faint hopes the gritty Pacific islanders had of making it out of their group, although there was never any real threat to the holders.

As in previous wins over Namibia and Georgia, the New Zealanders veered at times between carelessness and brilliance, especially in the first half.

"They put us under a lot of pressure," captain Kieran Read said after the game. "Our work up front needs to probably improve. We'll regroup, but we're glad to be where we are."

The win also guarantees Argentina progress to the quarter-finals even before they play Namibia today. In the quarter-finals, New Zealand will meet either France or Ireland, who face each other today in a key Pool D encounter.

Although both have qualified for the knockout stages, they will be desperate to prevail and avoid the mighty All Blacks in eight days' time.

For Ireland coach Joe Schmidt, the prospect of an extra day's break is the real prize at stake in the physical slog of a Rugby World Cup, even more than avoiding the tournament favourites.

"The greatest reason is to get another day before we have to play again to be honest. It just allows a little bit more breathing space to be slightly better prepared and slightly better recovered," he told reporters on Friday.

"That would be the major reason, because I don't think anyone, based on their performances so far, could underestimate the Argentinian team, and not just the personnel they've got but the collective they've demonstrated on the pitch."

Pool B looks even more tense, with Scotland having to beat a dangerous Samoa side on Saturday to ensure a place against either Wales or Australia.

"For a lot of us this is going to be the biggest match of our careers," Scotland number eight David Denton said as the team welcome back flyhalf Finn Russell.

Were Samoa to win, Japan would be well placed to go through if they beat the United States on Sunday, in what would be their first

appearance in the knockout phase of a Rugby World Cup four years before they host the event.

It would be a timely boost for the Brave Blossoms, whose stunning defeat of rugby powerhouse South Africa has been one of the highlights of this year's competition so far.

"We've got to go out there and play our best rugby, play with physical and mental intensity," Japan coach Eddie Jones said after victory over Samoa.

Australia against Wales at Twickenham on Saturday will decide which team top Pool A and avoid twice champions South Africa in the last eight as well as a potential semi-final against the All Blacks.

"We aren't having to desperately win the game to reach the quarter-finals. But win this group and potentially the route through to the quarters, semis and finals is easier than the other side," Wales coach Warren Gatland said.

For eliminated hosts England, the tortuous build-up to Saturday's dead rubber against Uruguay drew to a close as coach Stuart Lancaster was forced to play down a training ground bust-up between his assistant Mike Catt and flyhalf Danny Cipriani.—Reuters



TOKYO: Spain's Jorge Lorenzo steers his Yamaha during a free practice session for the MotoGP Japanese Motorcycle Grand Prix.—AP

SPIETH ON FIRE, US STAY AHEAD IN PRESIDENTS CUP

INCHEON: It was a day of great escapes and blown opportunities for the Internationals on day three of the Presidents Cup, while Jordan Spieth delivered a birdie blitz to help keep the United States a point in front with just today's singles matches to come.

The International team looked set to get their noses in front at the biennial event for the first time in a decade but squandered several solid leads and split the eight points on offer to end Saturday trailing 9.5 to 8.5.

They will have their work cut out to get the seven points they need from Sunday's 12 singles to win the Presidents Cup for the first time since 1998. No team has ever won the Cup after going into the singles matches trailing.

History is not the only obstacle they will have to overcome world number one Spieth has finally caught fire. After partnering Dustin Johnson to a narrow morning win over Jason Day and Charl Schwartzel, Spieth returned in the afternoon with Patrick Reed to defeat the same International pair in the four-balls, sealing the match 3&2 in near darkness.

"I would call it unplayable," said Spieth, who holed eight birdies in the 16 holes played. "If it was a tied match, we would not have played the 16th hole. It was too dark. Phil Mickelson, who sat out the morning action, teamed up with trusted partner Zach Johnson in the afternoon to defeat Adam Scott and Anirban Lahiri 3&2.

"The entire Presidents Cup is going to come down to tomorrow's singles matches," said Mickelson, who needed a captain's pick to make the team but has claimed 2.5 points from his three matches.

BELLY RUB

The US players had been rubbing Mickelson's belly for luck during the early foursomes but Bubba Watson should perhaps have rubbed a bit harder.

After snapping his driver on the practice range and needing a replacement rushed

to him out on the course, the left-hander muffed a five-foot putt on 18 that would have sealed a foursomes win with partner JB Holmes over Scott and Marc Leishman.

The US pair then became the fourth straight victims of Louis Oosthuizen and Branden Grace, who continue to complement each other on and off the course.

"Whenever someone made a mistake, the other one was there," said Oosthuizen. "I wasn't sharp this afternoon. I had a few good shots but Branden was unbelievable."

Australian Scott, in his seventh Presidents Cup, endured another woeful day on the greens, finding precious little encouragement after switching from a cross-handed to a 'claw' grip with the conventional putter.

Scott has had to abandon his preferred broomstick-style putter with a ban on 'anchoring' coming into effect in January.

South Korean Bae Sang-moon, meanwhile, put on a putting masterclass as he and Hideki Matsuyama halved their foursomes match with Bill Haas and Matt Kuchar before hammering Jimmy Walker and Chris Kirk 6&5 in the afternoon.

Bae holed three birdie putts in a row at one point from a combined distance of 50 feet as the Asian duo went nine under through their 13 holes.

Such was their dominance that Walker and Kirk thought the match was over at 12, taking off their hats and offering handshakes of congratulations, much to the bewilderment of the opposition. Their stay of execution was short-lived, however, as they ran out of holes with a halve at 13.

The International team are chasing just their second win at the biennial event while the United States are going for their ninth victory in 11 editions of the Cup, which is being played in Asia for the first time this year.

PGA Tour Commissioner Tim Finchem announced earlier on Saturday that the 2019 Presidents Cup would be returning to Melbourne, where it was staged in 1998 and 2011.—Reuters

KORDA FIRES TO THE FRONT

KUALA LUMPUR: American Jessica Korda shrugged off her woeful recent form to fire an impressive six-under-par 65 and take a two-shot lead after a humid third round of the high-calibre \$2 million LPGA Malaysia yesterday.

The 22-year-old daughter of former Australian Open tennis champion Petr Korda fired a bogey-free round at the Kuala Lumpur Golf and Country Club to sit two clear of compatriot and world number three Stacy Lewis, who also struck a blemish-free 65.

Overnight leader Jang Ha-na of South Korea was in a tie for the lead with Korda but a costly double bogey five on the 14th, following some putting trouble, halted her momentum as she settled for a level par 71 to sit at 10-under.

World number two Lydia Ko was a shot back on nine-under after a topsy-turvy afternoon playing with Korda. The New Zealander fired three birdies and an eagle in her 68 but said she "hadn't been hitting the ball that solidly" of late.

Her form had been far better than Korda's, though, with the American making just one cut in six events prior to Malaysia and recording only one top 10 this year.

But after three good rounds in an overcast but strenuously humid Kuala Lumpur she will go in search of her fourth LPGA title on Sunday.

"It's been a tough year this year but to put at least three good rounds together has been super nice and super refreshing," Korda said.

Korda will still have her work cut out to take the title with Ko among a high profile chasing pack that includes world number seven and defending champion Feng Shanshan of China, who struck a second straight 69 to also finish on nine-under.

Former world number one Yani Tseng of Taiwan was back on eight-under, alongside the current top ranked women's golfer Park In-bee of South Korea after both shot 71s.—Reuters



KUALA LUMPUR: Jessica Korda of the United States reacts after her shot on the ninth hole during the third round of the LPGA Malaysia golf tournament.—AP



INCHEON: United States' Jordan Spieth plays a shot during the Presidents Cup golf tournament at the Jack Nicklaus Golf Club Korea.—AP

PAIRE UPSETS NISHIKORI

TOKYO: Unseeded Frenchman Benoit Paire will take on Stan Wawrinka in the Japan Open final after storming back from a set down to upset home favorite Kei Nishikori in the semi-finals yesterday.

Paire, competing in his first ATP Tour 500 semi-final, looked out of sorts in the opening set but found his range following a medical timeout in the second to re-tape his ankle.

The bearded 26-year-old Frenchman grew in confidence with some strong returns and big serves to secure a 1-6 6-4 6-2 win over the double defending champion, who became more tentative as the match wore on. Paire won his first ATP Tour title on the clay at Bastad in July and will go in search of his second against French

Open champion Wawrinka, who served strongly in taking out Gilles Muller of Luxembourg. The Swiss top seed coming through 6-4 7-6(5) to reach his fourth final of the year.

The opening set went with serve before Wawrinka broke in the seventh game and went on to close it out, dropping just four points on serve in the set.

Muller, who will break back in to the top 40 after his strong run in Japan, found a way to pressure Wawrinka in the second set by rushing the Swiss and breaking serve but failed to capitalise as he lost his own. The set went to a tiebreak with Muller putting a backhand volley wide to hand Wawrinka the win on his first match point.—Reuters

DJOKOVIC DESTROYS FERRER TO SET UP NADAL FINAL CLASH

BEIJING: Novak Djokovic brushed off David Ferrer 6-2, 6-3 yesterday to reach the China Open final, where old rival Rafael Nadal stands between the Serb and a sixth title in Beijing.

Top-ranked Djokovic suffered the inconvenience of having his service broken for the first time at this year's tournament but he still raced to his 28th win at an event where he is yet to be beaten.

In the women's semis, established names fell to rising stars as Garbine Muguruza beat Agnieszka Radwanska 4-6, 6-3, 6-4 and Timea Bacsinszky knocked out Ana Ivanovic 5-7, 6-4, 6-1. And on a cold day in Beijing, Nadal stared down his nemesis Fabio Fognini 7-5, 6-3 to reach his first hardcourt final this year as he searches to recover the form which brought him 14 Grand Slam titles.

Eighth-ranked Nadal, stopped at his beloved French Open by Djokovic this year, self-effacingly said the world number one was now a class apart despite his winning record of 23-21 in their head-to-head.

"I know today Novak is not in my league, it's a different level from me this year," Nadal said. "So for me to be in the final is a great news and tomorrow is a match to try to enjoy and try to play the way that I want to play, and we'll see." But Djokovic, who is now into his 12th straight final this year, dismissed Nadal's assessment and said he was expecting a high-quality title match today.

"I always expect a battle with (Nadal)," he said. "I always prepare myself for the battle, no question about it. He's the player I played the most against in my life. There are no secrets."

Ten-time major-winner Djokovic had been irresistible in his run to the semi-finals, dropping only nine games thus far and he soon had Ferrer gasping with two breaks of serve to go 4-1 ahead in the first set.

Ferrer, who won his 25th career title last

week in Kuala Lumpur, conjured a break of his own but the stung Djokovic broke straight back and finished the set impressively in the next game.

Two more breaks in the second set put Djokovic on his way and despite a mini-implosion, when he double-faulted twice and was broken as he served for the match, a sixth break of the Ferrer serve earned him victory.

Nadal's path to the final was much less smooth but he grittily outpunched Fognini, who has beaten him three times this season and with whom he had a furious on-court row in the Hamburg final in August.

Nadal denied an extra edge to the match in Beijing, but his lukewarm handshake at the net and apparent exchanges between his coach and uncle, Toni Nadal, and Fognini told a different story.

Nadal won the bad-tempered Hamburg final but Fognini stunned the Spaniard in last month's US Open third round, becoming only the fourth player to beat him three times in the same season.

"No rivalry at all. No, no, no. I don't know what's going on, seriously," Nadal insisted. "We had the issue that we had in Hamburg, and that's it. No problems."

Fognini also said the Hamburg row was in the past but he indicated ill-feeling may remain against Nadal's team and in particular his coach and uncle, Toni, who was seen angrily gesticulating courtside. "What happened in Hamburg is past, for sure. But I have nothing to say (to Nadal). I have all respect with him outside and inside the court," said the Italian.

"I was telling another time, the history (argument) was not against him, but against his team, especially the uncle. But is something that is really far away. "If I have to do something, I do it in the moment. If I do it wrong, I say, 'Sorry'. If I'm right, I'm right, and that's it."—AFP



SOCHI: Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton of Britain steers his car during the second free practice session at the 'Sochi Autodrom' Formula One track.—AP

ROSBERG AGAIN DENIES HAMILTON HIS 50TH POLE

SOCHI: Nico Rosberg seized pole position for the Russian Formula One Grand Prix yesterday with world champion Lewis Hamilton joining his team mate on the front row in a perfect qualifying for Mercedes. The pole was Rosberg's third of the season with championship leader Hamilton, who is 48 points clear of the German with five races remaining, denied his 50th for the third race in succession.

Hamilton, who had hoped for his 12th pole in 15 races, aborted his second and final lap of the final phase after making a mistake on a clear afternoon in the Olympic Park.

The front row lockout was still just what Mercedes had ordered, with the team needing to score three points more than Ferrari to clinch their second successive constructors' title this weekend. Finland's Valtteri Bottas qualified third for Mercedes-powered Williams with Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel and Kimi Raikkonen fourth and fifth. Hamilton won last year's inaugural race in Russia from pole, with Rosberg runner-up after also starting on the front row,

but he could not get close to Rosberg's time of one minute 37.113 seconds.

"We didn't get much practice but qualifying worked out really well and a good balance on the car," said the German after his second pole in a row. "We had to guess a little bit...it all worked out well, I felt comfortable."

"Of course the constructors' championship is a really important target for us this weekend, it would be amazing to clinch it for a second time so early on in the season, and so we are out to do that. "At the same time of course I'm out here to reduce the gap to Lewis in terms of points."

Yesterday's final practice was halted after just 35 minutes when Toro Rosso's Spaniard Carlos Sainz, who remained in hospital during qualifying and is doubtful for the race despite escaping serious injury, crashed heavily.

Friday's two sessions, on a track that skirts around the 2014 Winter Olympic venues, were also limited due to a diesel spillage in the morning and rain through the afternoon.

"A difficult weekend I think for everyone but I think I did a great job with this lap," said Hamilton. "I'm perfectly happy with the balance that I had."

"I think it's great for the team. As you saw last year, this is actually not such a bad race from P2 (second on the grid)."

Rosberg got alongside Hamilton at the start last year but made a mistake that sent him back to 20th place. The German then did 52 laps on one set of tyres and fought back to finish second. Bottas set the fastest lap in that race and said it was good to be right behind the Mercedes pair, even if Brazilian team mate Felipe Massa qualified only 15th. Behind the Ferraris, Force India's Nico Hulkenberg and Sergio Perez qualified sixth and seventh with Romain Grosjean eighth for Lotus and Sainz's team mate Max Verstappen ninth. There was disappointment for Russian fans with the only home-grown driver, Red Bull's Daniil Kvyat, set to start in 11th place with Australian team mate Daniel Ricciardo 10th.—Reuters



BEIJING: Novak Djokovic of Serbia hits a return shot while playing against David Ferrer of Spain during their men's singles semifinal match in the China Open tennis tournament.—AP

PRESSURE ON DHONI AS SA GEAR FOR INDIA ODIs

KANPUR: South Africa hope to build on their Twenty20 success in India by winning the one-day series starting today as rival skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni prepared to douse the fire around him.

The Proteas made a solid start to their 10-week Indian tour by winning both the first two T20 internationals before Thursday's final match at the Eden Gardens in Kolkata was washed out.

With four Tests looming in the last leg of the arduous tour, South Africa will be seeking to continue the momentum in the one-day series which opens at the Green Park in Kanpur. The tourists will have a new captain for the five internationals, with AB de Villiers taking over from T20 skipper Faf du Plessis. De Villiers will then make way for Hashim Amla in the Tests.

South Africa will be strengthened by the return of pace spearheads Dale Steyn and Morne Morkel, who were rested for the T20s to keep them fresh for the sterner tests ahead. However, Proteas coach Russell Domingo was not looking too far ahead, saying his team will not take victory for granted despite the T20 success.

"India are pretty good in all three formats so we are very pleased with the results so far," Domingo said of the team that defeated his boys in the World Cup earlier this year.

"But we have only played two days of cricket on the tour and there are 25 days of cricket still left. We have to focus all our energy on Kanpur." India's Dhoni, meanwhile, needs to bounce back in the one-dayers to silence critics after the T20 loss which followed a stunning 2-1 one-day defeat at the hands of Bangladesh in June.

Under Dhoni, India have won the 50-over World Cup, the World Twenty20 and the Champions Trophy, but his poor batting form of late has been slammed by the unforgiving local media.

"Is finisher Dhoni getting closer to finish line?" screamed a headline in the Times of India recently. "Time seems to be running out for the man once considered indispensable in limited-overs formats," the paper wrote.

With young Test captain Virat Kohli waiting in the wings, Dhoni may not be guaranteed the leadership role in the World T20 which India hosts next year if the one-day series too is lost. Team director Ravi Shastri said the

endeavour was to get Dhoni back to his best batting form, adding he was confident India will perform better in the upcoming series. "We know what he can do when he starts striking," Shastri said of the captain. "The world knows. I don't have to say anything."

"In one-dayers, we understand our game better. We are a much better side in one-dayers and Tests than in T20s and I expect a very, very good contest." The Kanpur match will be played during the day, while the remaining four games in Indore (October 14), Rajkot (Oct 18), Chennai (Oct 22) and Mumbai (Oct 25) will be day-night affairs.

India (from) - Mahendra Singh Dhoni (capt), Ravichandran Ashwin, Stuart Binny, Shikhar Dhawan, Virat Kohli, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Axar Patel, Ajinkya Rahane, Suresh Raina, Ambati Rayudu, Mohit Sharma, Rohit Sharma, Umesh Yadav, Gurkeerat Singh, Amit Mishra.

South Africa (from) - AB de Villiers (capt), Kyle Abbott, Hashim Amla, Farhaan Behardien, Quinton de Kock, JP Duminy, Faf du Plessis, Imran Tahir, David Miller, Morne Morkel, Chris Morris, Aaron Phangiso, Kagiso Rabada, Khaya Zondo, Dale Steyn.—AFP

ROOT BRACED FOR SPIN AND SUN

ABU DHABI: England batsman Joe Root insisted yesterday that his side can cope with the twin challenge of Pakistan spin and the searing heat of the Gulf in their three-Test series.

As underdogs, England regained the Ashes at home two months ago but now face a daunting threat from Pakistan who wrapped up a 3-0 series win on the last occasion the two teams met in the Middle East. "As a team, to beat Pakistan here it's going to be a big effort but we've proven over the last six months that we're capable of doing things that maybe looked a bit too much for us," said Root ahead of the first Test which starts Tuesday in Abu Dhabi.

"We're very confident going into this series and looking for some really good results." When England last played Pakistan in the Gulf, off-spinner Saeed Ajmal took 24 wickets and left-arm Abdul Rehman finished with 19.

This time around Pakistan will attack through in-form leg-spinner Yasir Shah and left-arm Zulfikar Babar, a challenge Root said England are preparing to counter.

"The volume of spin we might face, we might also face more left-arm seam than we're

used to so you make sure you cover all those bases at practice," said Root. Pakistan also have three left-arm seamers in Wahab Riaz, Rahat Ali and Junaid Khan in the squad of 16. Root admitted the heat, with temperatures in the high 30s, could have an effect.

"Again the heat and not expecting to score at the rate we'd like to or have become accustomed to over the last six months, they are all little factors," said Root, who hoped to carry his batting form, which earned him the player of the Ashes award, into the contest.

"I want to make some big contributions in this series and I am going to have to play extremely well to do that." Root hopes tours of South Asia with England Lions have put him in good stead to face the spinners. "I was lucky enough to spend a few Lions tours out in India and then out in Bangladesh and Sri Lanka which helped develop my game," he said. "But it's more volume of facing a lot of spin and finding different ways to cope and finding what works for me personally." The remaining Tests will be played in Dubai (October 22-26) and Sharjah (November 1-5) followed by four one-day and three Twenty20 internationals.—AFP



KANPUR: Indian cricket captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni bats during a practice session in Kanpur, yesterday. India will play South Africa in the first of their five one-day match series today.—AP

SLOVENIA CLOSE TO PLAYOFFS

LJUBLJANA: Slovenia edged closer to a Euro 2016 playoff berth after a 1-1 home draw with Lithuania after two penalties in a Group E match held up for several minutes in the second-half by partial flood-light failure on Friday.

The result, with Slovenia captain Valter Birsa and Lithuania's Arvydas Novikovas each scoring from the spot, left the Slovenians third in the section on 13 points from nine games, three ahead of Estonia and Lithuania. If all three sides are level on points after Monday's final round of games, Slovenia will finish highest with the best head-to-head record.

If Slovenia and Estonia finish tied on 13 points, the race will go down to overall goal difference in the group as both sides have beaten each other 1-0 at home. Apart from being strong favourites to get a result away to San Marino, the Slovenians also have a vastly superior goal difference of plus five to Estonia's minus four in the group.

Estonia entertain Switzerland in their final match while Lithuania are at home to England. The draw in Ljubljana's

Stozice stadium also meant that the Swiss, 7-0 winners over San Marino, joined England, who beat Estonia 2-0, in next year's tournament in France.

Slovenia dominated the opening period and, having missed several chances, they took the lead on the stroke of half-time when Birsa converted a penalty.

Dutch referee Bjorn Kuipers awarded the spot kick after a vicious Jasmin Kurtic shot struck Marius Zaliukas on the arm and Birsa made no mistake, sending Emilijus Zubas the wrong way.

The Slovenians came close to doubling their advantage three times before some of the floodlights went out and seemingly turned around the two teams' fortunes.

Kuipers decided the match should continue and Lithuania capitalised after Slovenia defender Branko Ilic clumsily handled a teasing cross from the right in the closing stages.

Novikovas drilled the penalty into the top right corner and the Lithuanians then held off a fierce Slovenian onslaught in a frantic finish to claim a point. — Reuters

Preview

GERMANY SEEK GEORGIA WIN TO SEAL EURO BERTH

LEIPZIG: Under-fire Germany want to finish their qualifying campaign with a win over Georgia today to secure qualification to Euro 2016 and bounce back from their shock defeat to Ireland.

The world champions remain top of Group D despite suffering a 1-0 defeat to the Irish on Dublin, which kept Martin O'Neill's side in contention to qualify directly.

Germany need only a draw at home to minnows Georgia to ensure their ticket to France next year and even if they lost, only a draw between Poland and Ireland in Warsaw would condemn them to a play-off spot. A draw in Dublin would have been enough for Joachim Loew's side but substitute Shane Long made sure Irish eyes were smiling with the winning second-half goal after outpacing Mats Hummels and Jerome Boateng before beating Manuel Neuer in the Germany goal on Thursday.

The top two sides go through from the group, but Germany, on 19 points are just one ahead of Poland and Ireland. Finishing third in the group could put Germany in the unthinkable position of needing to win a two-legged play-off to reach Euro 2016.

But Loew is more concerned with simply bouncing back from a rare and surprising defeat by returning to winning ways. "The situation is clear, but we have things in our own hands and we want to win against Georgia to qualify directly," said Loew.

Loew will also have to do without a couple of key components from his World Cup winning team as forward Mario Goetze is definitely out with a hamstring tear while captain Bastian Schweinsteiger is doubtful after injuring a hamstring in the warm-up in Dublin.

"Mario will not be there for sure. We'll have to wait to see how Schweinsteiger is, but his chances are very small," said Loew. Georgia are second from bottom with just

three wins in their nine matches and Germany have won all four meetings between the teams.

Germany have not lost in 21 home qualifiers since a 3-0 defeat by the Czech Republic in October 2007, including 17 wins and four draws.

In contrast, Georgia have won just one of their last 23 competitive away matches and their single victory was a 3-0 win against minnows Gibraltar.

Georgia, coached by former Eintracht Frankfurt player Kakhaber Tskhadadze, will be without injured playmaker Giorgi Chanturia, who plays for Duisburg in Germany's second division, but the visitors will be looking to follow Ireland's example.

"There is no bigger stage for our boys than a game against the world champions," said former Hertha Berlin defender Levan Kobashvili, who is now president of the Georgian FA. "This is a dream."

But a third defeat in their Euro qualifying campaign would be a nightmare for Germany, having already lost to Poland and now the Irish, on their rocky road to the European championships in France.

Loew described the Dublin defeat as "unexpected" and "unnecessary." "We were superior, we were dominant, but we didn't do anything with it. It was one of the most unnecessary defeats we have suffered in recent years," he said.

This is not the first time Germany have failed to hit the target in front of goal since winning the World Cup and Loew says they will fix that against Georgia.

"The final passes were not arriving in the penalty area against Ireland and that is something which we must improve," said Loew. "We lacked some decent finishing, then we made one mistake, opened the door for them and Ireland took their chance. "But in terms of fighting spirit, I can't fault my team." — AFP



LOGRONO: Spain's David Silva (left) is tackled Luxembourg's Lars Gerson, during their Euro 2016 qualifying soccer match Group C between Spain and Luxembourg. —AFP

SPAIN STILL STRUGGLING TO REVIVE GOLDEN ERA

BARCELONA: Although reigning champions Spain have qualified for Euro 2016 there still remains plenty of work to be done if they are to match the heights they attained in their golden spell before their failure at the Brazil World Cup.

A routine 4-0 victory over Luxembourg on Friday rubber-stamped their passage to France next year having won eight of their nine qualifying matches in Group C.

Still they have been made to work hard and have not been able to ease to victory against inferior sides on paper. Against Luxembourg again they got the goals in the end but it was a long way from the dominant 'tiki-taka' football when they swept aside opponents with quick passing.

Tellingly, they have struggled in friendlies against stronger sides and have lost to France,

Germany and the Netherlands since the World Cup. "We have picked up a lot of points (in qualifying) but it has not been easy," coach Vicente Del Bosque told reporters. "We have had some difficult moments."

They will go to the tournament having won the European Championship in 2008 and 2012, along with the 2010 World Cup, but Del Bosque has had to rebuild the side following the poor display in Brazil.

Their inability to get out of the group stage led to several of the older faces like Xavi and Xabi Alonso making way for new blood.

While they are spoilt for choice in midfield, they lack options in attack where they have never been able to replace the goals from David Villa and Fernando Torres in their pomp.

Fernando Llorente, Alvaro Negredo and Roberto Soldado are among players who have

been tried out, and Diego Costa has also had only moderate success. The favorites now to lead the line appear to be Alvaro Morata and Paco Alcacer.

Morata's strong form for Juventus pushed him ahead of Alcacer and he looked lively against an albeit weak Luxembourg defence but went off injured after half an hour. It opened the door for Alcacer, who has not had a regular place in the Valencia team this season, and he took full advantage with two goals.

Defensively also Spain have little cover for regular centre halves Sergio Ramos and Gerard Pique. Inigo Martinez's star has been on the wane at Real Sociedad and the inexperienced Marc Bartra of Barcelona and Real Madrid's Nacho Fernandez are the other options. — Reuters



SKOPJE: Ukraine's Andriy Yarmolenko (right) is challenged by Macedonia's Kire Risteovski during their Group C Euro 2016 qualifying soccer match at the Philip II stadium. —AP

UKRAINE KEEP EURO HOPES ALIVE

SKOPJE: Ukraine kept alive their hopes of qualifying for Euro 2016 with a 2-0 victory in Macedonia on Friday that moved them level on points with second place Slovakia in Group C and facing a nerve-jangling finale. Yevhen Seleznyov broke the deadlock from the penalty spot in the second half and substitute Artem Kravets secured a crucial victory when he doubled the lead in the 87th minute to move Ukraine up to 19 points from nine games.

The odds on them finishing above Slovakia and claiming one of the two automatic qualification spots, however, will be stacked against them.

Ukraine host group winners and European champions Spain in their final encounter on Monday, needing to better Slovakia's result away in Luxembourg to finish in the top two.

Ukraine dominated possession but created little going forward before Romanian referee Ovidiu Hategan awarded the visitors a penalty for a handball when Macedonia defender Leonard Zhuta tried to block Andriy Yarmolenko's header at the far post.

Seleznyov fired home from the spot to

open the scoring, before Sevilla winger Yevhen Konoplyanka failed to beat the keeper with a clear-cut chance in the 80th minute.

Kravets came off the bench in the second half to wrap up victory, bursting into the penalty area from the left and slotting the ball into the net between the keeper's legs.

"I am sure we would have broken the deadlock later in the second half even if I had missed the penalty," Seleznyov told broadcasters. "I hope we can achieve a praiseworthy result with Spain." Ukraine will have to do without centre back Yevhen Khacheridi and defensive midfielder Serhiy Sydorchuk for the game against Spain as both players were booked in the first half and will now serve a one-game suspension.

"These are very serious and unwanted losses," Ukraine coach Mykhaylo Fomenko told a news conference. "We tried to explain that emotions should help, not destroy but failed put this idea into their mind. "Both of them knew about a possible suspension before the match so now the players who step in against Spain have an opportunity to prove their worthiness." — Reuters



Matches on TV
(Local Timings)

EURO QUALIFIERS 2016

Finland v Northern Ireland	19:00
Abu Dhabi Sport	
Armenia v Albania	19:00
Abu Dhabi Sport	
Serbia v Portugal	19:00
Abu Dhabi Sport	
Faroe Islands v Romania	19:00
Abu Dhabi Sport	
Greece v Hungary	19:00
Abu Dhabi Sport	
Poland v Ireland	21:45
Abu Dhabi Sport	
Germany v Georgia	21:45
Abu Dhabi Sport	
Gibraltar v Scotland	21:45
Abu Dhabi Sport	



SWITZERLAND: Swiss Gokhan Inler (right) fights for the ball with San Marino's Mattia Stefanelli during the Euro 2016 qualifying Group E soccer match. —AP

Sports

Djokovic destroys
Ferrer to set up
Nadal final clash



Spain still
struggling to
revive golden era



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2015

PLATINI GETS SOUTH AMERICAN SUPPORT AFTER FIFA BAN

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BAKU: Italy's Antonio Candreva (right) passes the ball to teammate Stephan El Shaarawy (not in picture) for Italy's second goal as Azerbaijan's Kamra Agayev tries in vain to reach the ball during the Euro 2016 Group H qualifying soccer match. — AP

ITALY BOOK EURO 2016 SPOT

NORWAY ON THE BRINK

PARIS: Italy qualified for the Euro 2016 finals yesterday with a 3-1 win over Azerbaijan, while in the same group Norway's 2-0 win over Malta leaves them on the brink.

Italy's hard-fought win in Group H was assured with goals from Eder, Stephan El Shaarawy and Matteo Darmian, but Antonio Conte's side had a nervy time in Baku.

After Marco Verratti's defence splitting pass put Eder in for the first, Azerbaijan took full advantage of a terrible defensive slip up from Giorgio Chiellini and Leonardo Bonucci. Dmitri Nazarov pounced on a loose ball to beat a seething Gigi Buffon from the edge of the area.

But El Shaarawy settled their nerves just before half time after the Italians beat an offside trap, and Darmian's clincher allowed the Italians to then sit on their lead.

Norway are second in the group and if third placed Croatia fail to win in their match at home to Bulgaria on Saturday night, the Scandinavians would qualify too, ahead of a tricky last game in Italy next Tuesday. Norway coach Per-Mathias Hogmo watched his charges win a third straight qualifier as Alexander Tettey got a 19th minute opener by bundling home a loose ball after his initial effort was blocked by the 'keeper Andrew Hogg.

Alexander Soderlund's 52nd minute shot then sealed the win as he also bundled home a loose ball. In Group A, 2014 World Cup semi-finalists the Netherlands kept their hopes of a third placed finish alive with a 2-1 win in Kazakhstan.

Iceland and the Czech Republic are already through from Group A, leaving Turkey and Netherlands to fight for

a third-place play-off berth.

Dutch handler Danny Blind took his charges to Group A bottom side Kazakhstan on a wing and a prayer, knowing four points from two games for Turkey would leave the Netherlands eliminated.

But their hopes are still alive as Georginio Wijnaldum put the Dutch ahead in the 33rd minute, while Wesley Sneijder added a second on 50 minutes to keep them on track despite Islambek Kuvat grabbing a consolation goal deep into added time.

Former Arsenal and Manchester United striker Robin Van Persie came on as a late substitute to earn his 100th cap for the Netherlands.

The Dutch are now hoping already qualified Czech Republic can beat Turkey, ahead of Tuesday's crunch

clashes when the Netherlands take on the Czech Republic and Turkey play Iceland.

Also in Group A, Iceland, already qualified for their first ever major finals, drew 2-2 with Latvia. Late yesterday Real Madrid star Gareth Bale is hoping to help end Wales's 57-year wait to qualify for a major tournament by sealing a point in their Group B tie against Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Wales, who have never appeared at the European Championships, will be able to start planning their trip to France for next year's finals if they beat or draw with Bosnia and they could even make it with a defeat, if third placed Israel lose or draw against Cyprus. Belgium can also qualify from Group B should they grab a win at Andorra. — AFP

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LONE GOAL GIVES CHAD SHOCK WORLD CUP WIN

JOHANNESBURG: Chad scored just after half-time to shock Sierra Leone 1-0 yesterday as 2018 World Cup qualifying continued in Africa.

Central African Republic, forced to play a home game against Madagascar in Antananarivo because of violence in Bangui, suffered a predictable 3-0 loss. Making a rare international appearance, Eritrea fell 2-0 at home against far higher ranked Botswana as the 13 first-leg schedule was completed.

There will be three second legs today and a further 10 Tuesday with the overall winners joining the 27 top-ranked African teams in a second round of home-and-away eliminators during November.

Winger Leger Djimrangar struck on 47 minutes to bring the Chadians success in N'Djamena over opponents 54 places higher on the world rankings.

The home team had gone into the game under a cloud after a 5-1 drubbing by Egypt at the same ground last month in the Africa Cup of Nations.

Sierra Leone travelled to the heart of Central Africa in a confident mood after holding reigning African champions Ivory Coast during September in another Cup of Nations qualifier.

That morale-boosting result was achieved in Nigerian city Port Harcourt and that is where the Leone Stars will host the return match against Chad.

Ebola epidemic fears prevent Sierra Leone hosting international fixtures in Freetown and, until Nigeria intervened, they were forced to play home games at opponents' grounds. Central African Republic are a match for most teams in Bangui as they proved last month with an impressive Cup of Nations triumph over highly-rated neighbours the Democratic Republic of Congo. However, having to play improving Madagascar twice in Antananarivo had a demoralising effect on the team and a three-goal 'home' defeat at Stade Mahamasina leaves them on the brink of elimination. — AFP

BALE VOWS TO LEAD WALES TO EURO FINALS

ZENICA: Gareth Bale says he is fit and raring to go as Wales look to end their 57-year wait to qualify for a major tournament by booking a place at Euro 2016.

Chris Coleman's side head into their last two Group B qualifiers against Bosnia-Herzegovina late yesterday and at home to Andorra on October 13 knowing they need just one point to guarantee their berth at an elite event for the first time since the 1958 World Cup.

Wales, who have never appeared at the European Championships, will be able to start planning their trip to France for next year's finals if they beat or draw with Bosnia and they could even make it with a defeat, if third placed Israel lose or draw against Cyprus.

After the frustration of failing to seal qualification in a nervous draw against Israel last month, Coleman's unbeaten group leaders have a second chance to make history when they head to the Stadion Bilino Polje in Zenica.

And crucially for Wales' hopes, Real Madrid forward Bale is back to full fitness after suffering a calf injury last month that kept him out for three weeks. The former Tottenham star, who was voted Welsh player of the year for a record fifth time on Monday, has been the key figure in his country's surprise push to reach Euro 2016, scoring six of Wales' nine goals and setting up two.

Now he wants to finish the job against Bosnia. "We have been working hard for many years to be in this position," Bale said. "We have all been playing with each other for six to eight years. The manager has come in and been amazing. I have prepared well for the last couple of weeks with my rehab. We are all on board, ready to go. The calf is okay. It was a nice 20 minutes to open it up and get the legs going ready for the next two games."

Although they have never beaten Bosnia in their three meetings, including a goalless draw in Cardiff earlier in the current qualifying campaign, Bale's confidence reflects a belief in the Wales camp that their time has come at last.

Welsh legends like Ryan Giggs, Ian Rush and Mark Hughes never made it to a major international tournament and the last time the nation even came close to qualifying was in 2004 when they were beaten by Russia in a European Championship play-off.

Wales defender Chris Gunter can't wait to savour the feeling of making history for his country. "We're not the biggest nation but we probably should have done better than we have, certainly the teams I've been involved in, and for Welsh fans it's been real hard times over the years," he said. — AFP

Kuwait Times BUSINESS

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2015

Kuwait real estate sales slow, but prices holding

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KSE stocks drop under selling pressure

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Obama jabs at China as he defends TPP trade deal

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NBK AWARDED 'BEST AFFLUENT PROGRAM FOR MIDEAST, AFRICA 2015'

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KUWAIT: People gather at the Ooredoo Kuwait headquarters during the launch of the Apple iPhone 6s and iPhone 6s Plus at midnight. (Inset) International BASE jumper Julian Depledge after jumping from the top of Ooredoo's HQ, parachuting down to officially deliver the brand new phones. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat. (See Page 25)

IMF'S 'CREDIBILITY' AT STAKE: LAGARDE

PERU PROTESTERS TELL IMF 'IMPERIALISTS' TO GO HOME

LIMA: Washington's use of its de facto veto at the International Monetary Fund to block reforms giving emerging countries a greater say is jeopardizing the IMF's credibility, its leader said Friday.

The IMF has been caught up in a protracted, politically charged battle over reforms intended to reflect the changing global economy by giving emerging giants such as China more weight at the Fund.

"It is an issue for the credibility and the representativeness of the institution, particularly vis-a-vis the under-represented countries," IMF Managing Director Christine Lagarde said at the Fund's annual meeting in Lima, Peru.

The reforms—a doubling of IMF funding and a reallocation of voting power to boost China and other up-and-coming economic powers—were originally propelled by Washington, and President Barack Obama's White House has repeatedly endorsed them. But the US Congress has refused for three years to sign off on the deal, with some legislators not wanting to contribute more money to the IMF and others concerned about eroding US dominance of the Fund.

As the rules stand now, China, the world's second-largest economy, has less than four percent of the voting power at the IMF—barely more than Italy, an economy one fifth its size.

"I... very much hope that (reforms) will be taken seriously and that the US authorities will actually appreciate the need to reinforce an institution that they participated very actively in creating," Lagarde said. US Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew repeated the administration's support for the reforms, adopted back in 2010. "The consequences for the United States and the international financial community are very significant if quota reform is not done," he said.

Protests

Activists marched through the Peruvian capital Friday to protest what they called the anti-poor policies of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank, which are holding their annual meetings here.

Around 2,000 demonstrators joined the march, carrying signs with angry slogans and



LIMA: (L-R) Chief Economics Commentator, Financial Times and moderator Martin Wolf; IMF Managing Director Christine Lagarde; World Bank President Jim Yong Kim; Executive Secretary of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change Management Christiana Figueres and Patel Professor of Economics and Government, LSE, and President of the British Academy Nicholas Stern participate in a panel discussion at the National Theater. —AFP

at one point burning the flag of the United States, where the IMF and World Bank are based. "Imperialists go home," said one sign decorated with swastikas. "World Bank, universal terror," said another. Police in riot gear carrying shields and tear gas bombs accompanied the protesters on the three-hour march, but ultimately no clashes broke out. When the march reached the meeting venues—which have been surrounded by a heavy security presence all week—a small group of protesters was allowed to go inside to hand a petition over to officials.

"Stop cutting payrolls to get out of the crisis," it said. The demonstrators, some of whom wore traditional Andean indigenous garb, threatened to call a national strike if the Peruvian government continued to "blindly" implement IMF policy prescriptions.

The march was called by Peru's largest labor union, the Workers' General

Confederation of Peru (CGTP). "The economic growth the International Monetary Fund talks about in Peru in recent years hasn't been felt in the working class. It's gone to businessmen," said CGTP leader Domingo Cabrera.

The IMF and World Bank have long had thorny relations with Latin America, where they have faced accusations of forcing governments to cut programs for the poor in exchange for access to loans.

This is the first time the institutions have held their annual meetings in the region since 1967.

IMF chief Christine Lagarde sought to downplay criticisms Thursday as she kicked off the meetings in a region long resentful of being seen as America's back yard. "The world has changed... The IMF has changed," she said. "It's not the old Latin America. It's not the old IMF either. The relationship is one of cooperation and partnership." —AFP

CHINA CONCERNS LEAVE CBS IN DIFFICULT SPOT

LONDON: The coming week will provide clues on whether the global economy is escaping from its lackluster growth rut, amid growing concerns of another downturn which central banks have few tools left to fight. China has become the focal point for economists as they fear a hard landing there could send countries that have only just escaped from the doldrums reeling back into recession.

Beijing will publish September trade data on Tuesday and inflation on Wednesday and any significant deviation from expectations could set the tone for the week.

The deluge of data from China in coming weeks is likely to point to further weakness, reinforcing expectations Beijing will roll out more stimulus measures to ward off a sharper slowdown.

"After the past few turbulent weeks and continued concerns with regard to the world's second largest economy, the data will also attract great attention in view of GDP figures due out on October 19," said economists at DZ Bank.

In the euro zone, final inflation numbers for some member countries will be published during the week with the bloc's reading on Friday expected to confirm prices fell 0.1 percent annually last month.

Since March the European Central Bank has been pumping 60 billion euros a month into the economy as part of its battle to drive up inflationary pressures but the programme has so far failed to spark price rises. Expectations are that it will eventually have to be extended beyond its planned completion date.

"We think additional ECB easing is in the pipeline," said Martina von Terzi at UniCredit.

"New stimulus is likely to reflect the ECB's heightened risk aversion, increasing awareness by the Governing Council that the bank's inflation projections are too optimistic, and the need to counter upward pressure on the euro."

But with the ECB's next rate meeting fast approaching, most bets have already been made and the hawks seem to be winning, so there may not be any extension or expansion of quantitative easing for now. Next week some of the ECB's biggest guns are speaking so if their thinking is shifting, it will be the time to send fresh signals before the Oct. 22 gathering of rate setters in Malta.

In contrast, other major central banks long ago set the printing presses running to flood their economies with newly created money, spending around \$7 trillion to defend themselves during the global financial crisis. Indeed, markets are now focusing on when the US Federal Reserve pulls the trigger and tightens policy for the first time in nearly a decade after it took a pass last month.

The minutes of that meeting showed the Fed thought the economy was close to warranting a rate hike, but policymakers wanted firmer evidence the global economic slowdown was not knocking America off course. Subsequent economic data has shown a sharp slowdown in hiring by US employers. Retail sales numbers on Wednesday ahead of industrial production and Michigan consumer sentiment on Friday will indicate if there is still a chance of a rise this year.

Inflation data is due on Thursday and four voting members of the Federal Open Market Committee also speak next week. The International Monetary Fund has urged the Fed and Japanese and European central banks to wait for more signs of recovery before tightening. IMF Chief Christine Lagarde on Thursday repeated her plea to Fed Chair Janet Yellen to stay her hand. The Bank of England left borrowing costs at a record low 0.5 percent this week, saying the outlook for British inflation in coming months looked weaker than it previously thought. Official figures on Tuesday will likely say it remained at zero last month. — Reuters

A BILLION DOLLAR INNOVATION

BANGKOK: "From the time the first Automatic Teller Machine, known world-wide simply as an ATM, was installed over 46 years ago," says Kanngard, "the technology has been controlling us, the user. We have given the name and number of the card we use as well as a PIN code we are using. In fact, there are ATMs today even taking pictures of us, as users. So, in effect, they have all our data and know everything about us, the users, but we as users, have no way to check or know if the machine, to which we are freely giving all our personal data, is fake or the real thing. Even some shops and otherwise, credible looking stores, can have fake machines. If we are foreigners abroad, how do we know the personable chap or sweet young girl behind the counter isn't there simply to steal our personal information for the criminals?"

"Over five years ago, I suddenly asked myself, 'Why can technology only check us as users? Why can't we check them?'," says Kanngard. "Any time we use an ATM the first request, before we can ask for anything, is 'Please Enter Your Pin Code.' Once we have done that or given our fingerprint, if the machine or card terminal is a fake, they have everything they need to take our money and charge our account for anything they please! Even if I have instructed my bank to give me an accounting of all

charges, if the card is used for small amounts, many times, we may never know until our bank statement arrives. It's now too late to close the barn door... the horse has been stolen!"

Kanngard goes on, in his charming and credible manner: "If I, as a card user, have asked my bank to send me an SMS message to my telephone, I would know if someone else used the card, but that message may have a limit and if the card is being used just for a small amount, but many times, I may not even see that a transaction was made before I got the statement from my bank."

A SIMPLE SOLUTION TO A BIG PROBLEM

According to Kanngard, the whole problem is simply solved with their patented new software innovation "Terminal Authenticity Verification" now known as VIA

TAV. Kanngard explains: "The solution is simple: When you get your card, or update your chip based card, credit card, debit card, ATM card, prepaid cash card, any type of card, you will get or set your PIN code and you then select 3 graphical images, which you will remember."

Or you may submit a picture of your pet, your child or any other picture, which is then prepared and encrypted into your card.

Next time when you use an ATM or any other device such as a credit card acceptance device, you will insert your card, as normal and the first thing you will see is the graphical images you have selected when you got your card or the picture you have submitted. "If you do not see the image or the symbols you selected, the machine is not safe. Go find one that is!"

Kanngard goes on to explain that the very good thing about this innovation is that any factories of any

ATM machines or any other devices such as a card acceptance device (POS/EDC) or any other device using any kind of access code can use this innovation and can easily implement it in their own software. The innovation does not require any new systems or new servers, easy to implement and ViAwill allow anyone in the world to be licensed to implement the VIA TAV security solution into their own technology.

"It should also be said, that this innovation works on any other types of devices. RFID stickers or gadgets such as a key-ring, ring, watch or any other medium can use the same solution," says Lars Olof Kanngard, and continues, "This innovation is a creation of both me and my co-innovator, Mats Engstrom, also from Sweden. We have developed solutions within the IT and Telecommunication sector for now more than 30 years as a team."



Swedish innovator Lars Olof Kanngard

Swedish innovator Lars Olof Kanngard explains how he has solved one of the big problems with fake ATM machines and fake credit card terminals by an innovative patent along with his co-inventor Mats Engstrom that has recently been approved.

AFTER 75 WINNERS, NOBEL ECONOMICS PRIZE STILL CONTENTIOUS

STOCKHOLM: For economists, who often disagree with one another and get their forecasts wrong, the idea of a Nobel Prize for economics remains controversial after 75 years.

This year's winner of the "Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel" will be announced yesterday at 1:00 pm (1100 GMT) at a ceremony in Stockholm that wraps up the 2015 Nobel season. But is it a "real" Nobel prize, or merely an event seeking to profit from the venerable Swedish brand?

Each year, critics note that Alfred Nobel, the Swedish philanthropist and scientist who founded the other awards, never had the idea to reward economists. The economics prize was created in 1968 to celebrate the 300th anniversary of the Swedish central bank, and the first laureate was named a year later. Unlike the medicine, physics, and chemistry prizes announced the week before, "economics is not an experimental science," Peter Englund, the former head of the Economic Sciences Prize Committee, wrote on the Nobel Foundation's website.

Others say economics can indeed be experimental. In 2002 the prize went to Vernon Smith of the United States, who got his students to set up small markets for establishing "laboratory experiments as a tool in empirical economic analysis." This year the jury may choose to honor someone who has combined a research career with the harsh reality of the financial crisis: France's Olivier Blanchard, who stepped down as chief economist of the International Monetary Fund this month, or Ben Bernanke, the former chairman of the US Federal Reserve.

Still, the favorites are a host of decidedly more

low-key professors at US universities such as Indian-born Avinash Dixit of Princeton, American economist Robert Barro of Harvard and Finland's Bengt Holmstrom at MIT.

Diverse views

The diversity of the potential candidates reflects profound differences within the field. Economics largely lacks the universal "laws" other disciplines are built on. For example, the notion that consumers are rational—which is the basis of a lot of research—was dismissed by 2013 laureate Robert Shiller. For Sheila Dow, an economics professor at the University of Stirling in Scotland, the diversity is an asset. "It is better to have a range of approaches to draw on... to address new economic problems," she said. Saying she appreciated the "plurality," she emphasized that "economics can be a mature social science and yet not aspire to establish universal laws or general agreement."

The very same thing however is criticised by some of her peers. They say honouring the best researchers puts too much emphasis on abstract, intellectual models that are far removed from the daily workings of the economy. "The trouble with the Nobel award is not so much its choice of man... but its designation of economics as a scientific field worthy of receiving a Nobel prize," Michael Hudson, an American economics professor, wrote in 1970. The concept was "still as bad" 45 years later, he claimed. "It is basically public relations for Chicago-type free market theory," Hudson told AFP, referring to the school of thought that originated at the University of Chicago in the 1940s and which has often been honoured by the Nobel committee. —AFP



BERLIN: A wooden horse inscribed with the words "TTIP, a Trojan horse?" is paraded during a rally against the proposed US-EU free trade pact or Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership in Berlin yesterday. —AFP

OBAMA JABS AT CHINA AS HE DEFENDS TPP TRADE DEAL

THOUSANDS PROTEST IN BERLIN AGAINST EU-US TRADE DEAL

WASHINGTON: US President Barack Obama took a dig at China yesterday as he defended the new TPP Pacific Rim free-trade deal, which excludes Beijing. In his weekly address to the nation, Obama said the 12-country accord concluded this week after five years of negotiations features the strongest labor and environmental standards in history, which he said will level the field in international trade. Once approved by all the signatories, the TPP could be the largest regional trade pact ever. "Without this agreement, competitors that don't share our values, like China, will write the rules of the global economy," Obama said.

"They'll keep selling into our markets and try to lure companies over there, meanwhile they're going to keep their markets closed to us," the president added. Spanning about two-fifths of the global economy, the TPP aims to set the rules for 21st century trade and marks one of Obama's key diplomatic and

economic achievements. He hopes it will encourage investment and press China to shape its behavior in commerce, investment and business regulation to TPP standards. But the deal has faced opposition from activists, who argue it favors big business over consumers and governments, and US congressional leaders have already expressed reservations even before the details have been released.

Hillary Clinton, who as secretary of state under Obama promoted the negotiations aimed at sealing the TPP and is now the Democratic frontrunner in the race for the 2016 presidential election, has come out against it. Clinton said Wednesday that given what she knows about the deal it falls short of her "high bar" for creating American jobs, raising wages and advancing US national security. Under the deal, 98 percent of tariffs will be eliminated on everything from beef, dairy products, wine, sugar, rice, horticulture and seafood through to manufactured products,

resources and energy. Countries involved are the US, Canada, Japan, Australia, Brunei, Chile, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore and Vietnam.

Protests

Thousands of people rallied yesterday in the German capital against the massive free-trade accord being negotiated by the European Union and the United States. Responding to a call by a group of political parties, trade unions and environmental and anti-globalization groups, the demonstrators gathered at Berlin's main train station for a march through the city. Organizers said up to 100,000 people were expected to take part in the day of protest against the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) under negotiation between Washington and Brussels, as well as a similar deal with Canada. Several trains and more than 600 buses had been chartered to transport protesters to the capital. —AFP



BASRA: Workers unload a cargo ship yesterday at the Iraqi port of Umm Qasr near the southern city of Basra. —AFP

MOST FRENCH 'UNDERSTAND' IRATE AIR FRANCE WORKERS: POLL

PARIS: A majority of French people "understand" the behavior of striking Air France workers who attacked two of the airline's managers this week, ripping their clothes, a poll to be published Sunday showed.

Images of human resources manager Xavier Broseta clambering shirtless over a fence Monday to escape irate workers after announcing plans to cut 2,900 jobs made front pages around the world.

Another executive, Pierre Plissonnier, head of the airline's long-haul flight division, also had his shirt and jacket ripped in the protest, which left seven people hurt.

In an Ifop poll of 1,000 people to be published Sunday in the Sud Ouest Dimanche newspaper, 54 percent said that they "understood" the workers' anger but did not approve their actions.

A minority of respondents — 38 percent — condemned the violence outright, while eight percent lauded the workers' deeds.

The results contrasted with a poll published by i-Tele channel late Friday, in which 67 percent said the attacks on the executives were "inexcusable".

Only 32 percent of respondents in that survey expressed "understanding" of the workers' frustration over the planned job cuts. The events at Air France's headquarters at Charles de Gaulle airport outside Paris came as the ailing airline was unveiling a plan to dramatically reduce costs.

Condemning the violence, President Francois Hollande warned it could "have consequences for the image and attractiveness" of the country among investors. Air France, once a proud symbol of French elegance and technical know-how, is struggling to compete in the face of intense competition from global rivals, including Germany's Lufthansa and the combined forces of British Airways and Iberia in Europe. —AFP

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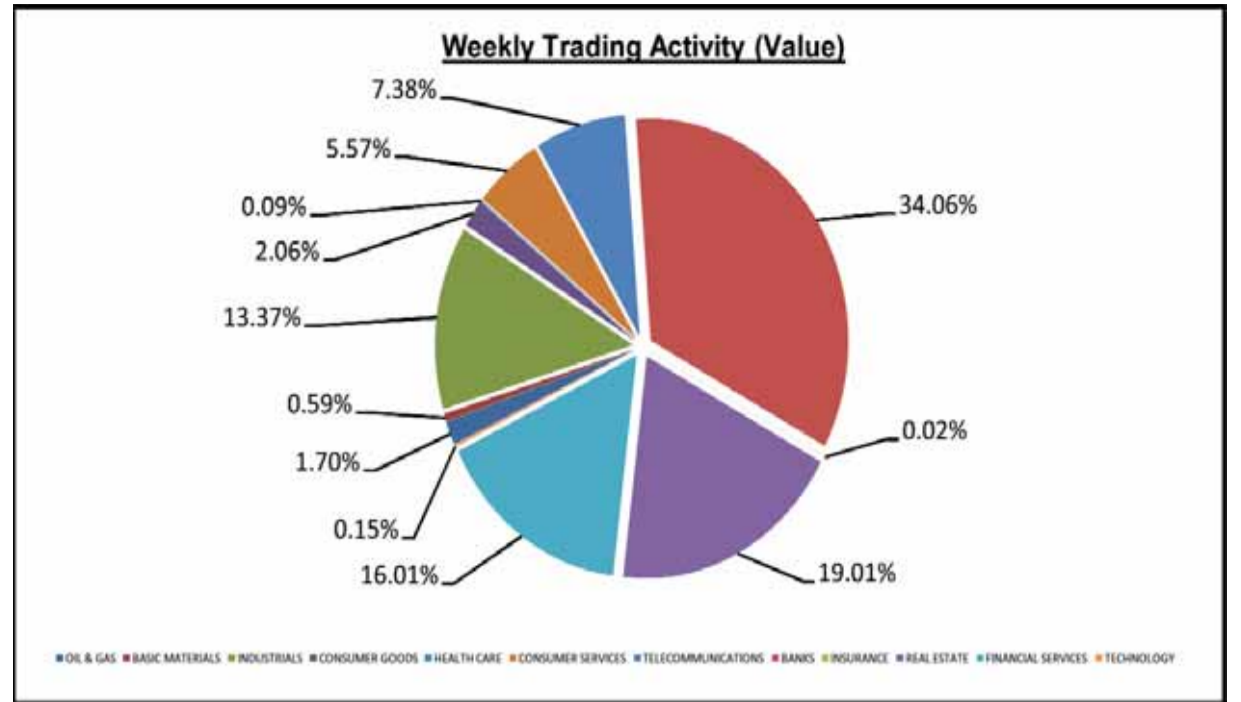
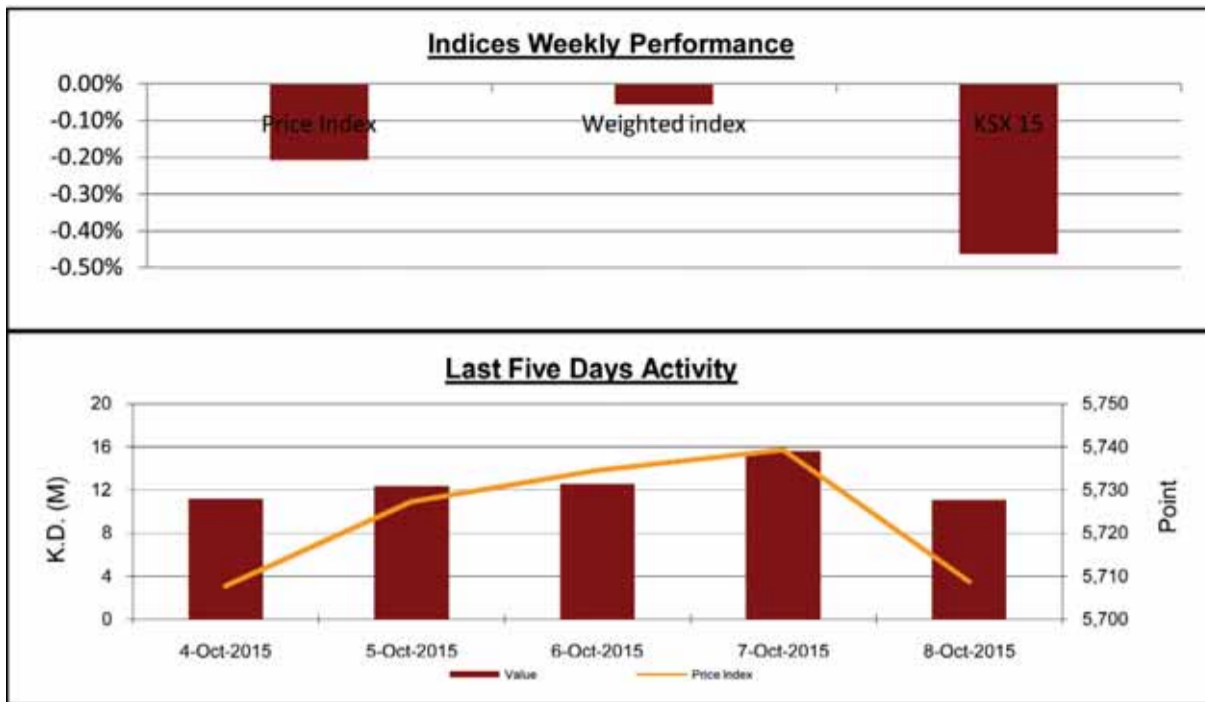
- Additional equipments available - Monitor, Foam Tubes, 3-Point Hydraulic Forklift, Carrier Box, Air Ducting System "Lutte", Additional Ventilator, Trailer, Cable Winch, Mini Crane, Rail Kit, Rail-Drive System, Floodwater Pump

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KSE STOCKS DROP UNDER SELLING PRESSURE

BAYAN WEEKLY MARKET REPORT

KUWAIT: Kuwait Stock Exchange (KSE) ended last week in the red zone. The Price Index closed at 5,708.75 points, down by 0.21 percent from the week before closing, the Weighted Index decreased by 0.06 percent after closing at 386.41 points, whereas the KSX-15 Index closed at 925.54 points down by 0.46 percent. Furthermore, last week's average daily turnover decreased by 7.35 percent, compared to the preceding week, reaching KD 12.55 million, whereas trading volume average was 157.40 million shares, recording a growth of 11.04 percent.

Kuwait Stock Exchange ended last week's trading activity with varied losses to its three indicators, as a result to the continued control of the speculative activity over the market trading behavior, among a concentration on the small-cap stocks in particular. Also, the stock market initiated the first session of the week with losses to

the three indicators, whereas the Price Index lost 12.88 point, affected by the speculative operations executed on the small-cap stocks and the selective selling operations on some operational and leading stocks, to end the session in the red zone, with an increase in the trading volume by 25.12 percent.

On the second trading session of the week, the market was able to realize a grouped increases to all its indices after a series of declines, among an active purchasing activity that included many small-cap stocks and collection operations executed on the leading stocks especially in the Banks Sector, which pushed the liquidity levels to increase by 10.17 percent or KD 1.14 million. Moreover, the market continued its gains for the three indices on Tuesday's session, supported by the purchasing activity on the large-cap stocks, with a limited

increase in the cash liquidity. Furthermore, the stock market recorded different closings in the pre-final trading session of the week, as the Weighted and KSX-15 indices could not realize gains, and returned to the red zone due to the profit collection operations executed on the large-cap stocks, whilst the Price Index succeeded in continuing its positive performance to close at 5,739.32 point, among a noticeable increase in the trading value by 24.24 percent.

The market ended the last session of the week in the red zone on Thursday's session, affected by the selling operations that were executed on most of the previously traded stocks during the week, whereas the Price Index decreased by 30.57 point, among a declined liquidity levels that reached around 28.86 percent compared to the previous session.

On the other hand, the market cap for KSE reached by the end of last week KD 25.64 billion, down by 0.06 percent from its level in a week earlier, which was around KD 25.66 billion. However on an annual level, the market cap for KSE listed companies recoded a decline of 8.35 percent compared to its level in 2014, where it reached then KD 27.98 billion.

As far as KSE annual performance, the Price Index ended last week recording 12.65 percent annual loss compared to its closing in 2014, while the Weighted Index decreased by 11.96 percent, and the KSX-15 contracted by 12.68 percent.

Sectors' Indices

Six of KSE's sectors ended last week in the green zone, and six recorded declines. Last week's highest gainer was the Banks sector, achieving 1.23

percent growth rate as its index closed at 933.27 points. Whereas, in the second place, the Basic Materials sector's index closed at 985.28 points recording 0.94 percent increase. The Telecommunication sector came in third as its index achieved 0.93 percent growth, ending the week at 564.92 points.

On the other hand, the Insurance sector headed the losers list as its index declined by 2.80 percent to end the week's activity at 1,082.49 points. The Technology sector was second on the losers' list, which index declined by 2.22 percent, closing at 897.32 points, followed by the Consumer Services sector, as its index closed at 1,000.47 points at a loss of 1.87 percent. The Consumer Goods sector was the least declined during last week, as its index recorded a weekly loss of 0.01 percent, closing at 1,072.40 point.

Sectors' Activity

The Real Estate sector dominated a total trade volume of around 302.96 million shares changing hands during last week, representing 38.50 percent of the total market trading volume. The Financial Services sector was second in terms of trading volume as the sector's traded shares were 230.04 percent of last week's total trading volume, with a total of around 181.30 million shares.

On the other hand, the Banks sector's stocks were the highest traded in terms of value; with a turnover of around KD 21.37 million or 34.06 percent of last week's total market trading value. The Real Estate sector took the second place as the sector's last week turnover was approx. KD 11.92 million representing 19.01 percent of the total market trading value. — Prepared by the Studies & Research Department, Bayan Investment Co.

SECTORS' WEEKLY TRADING ACTIVITY				
Sector	Volume	To Market %	Value	To Market %
OIL & GAS	37,838,284	4.81%	1,069,386	1.70%
BASIC MATERIALS	1,339,654	0.17%	367,213	0.59%
INDUSTRIALS	84,790,074	10.77%	8,385,055	13.37%
CONSUMER GOODS	3,490,512	0.44%	1,289,274	2.06%
HEALTH CARE	365,463	0.05%	55,288	0.09%
CONSUMER SERVICES	35,266,024	4.48%	3,494,503	5.57%
TELECOMMUNICATIONS	25,285,419	3.21%	4,627,636	7.38%
BANKS	112,873,368	14.34%	21,367,653	34.06%
INSURANCE	110,537	0.01%	9,636	0.02%
REAL ESTATE	302,959,713	38.50%	11,924,612	19.01%
FINANCIAL SERVICES	181,304,294	23.04%	10,043,324	16.01%
TECHNOLOGY	1,381,432	0.18%	95,427	0.15%

SECTORS INDICES PERFORMANCE					
Sector	Last Week Closing	Previous Week Closing	Weekly Ch. %	Annual Ch. %	
OIL & GAS	795.42	797.59	-0.27%	-25.17%	
BASIC MATERIALS	985.28	976.10	0.94%	-12.91%	
INDUSTRIALS	1,069.73	1,067.96	0.17%	-0.06%	
CONSUMER GOODS	1,072.40	1,072.46	-0.01%	-12.52%	
HEALTH CARE	947.11	940.11	0.74%	0.73%	
CONSUMER SERVICES	1,000.47	1,019.57	-1.87%	-7.50%	
TELECOMMUNICATIONS	564.92	559.74	0.93%	-0.97%	
BANKS	933.27	921.94	1.23%	-7.15%	
INSURANCE	1,082.49	1,113.70	-2.80%	-8.06%	
REAL ESTATE	930.49	928.01	0.27%	-17.65%	
FINANCIAL SERVICES	642.68	644.84	-0.33%	-22.77%	
TECHNOLOGY	897.32	917.65	-2.22%	-2.07%	

MARKET ACTIVITY			
	Last Week	Previous Week	Ch. %
Volume	787,004,774	567,004,439	38.80%
Value (K.D)	62,729,007	54,162,021	15.82%
Deals	17,137	12,991	31.91%

MARKET CAPITALISATION (K.D.)			
Last Week	Previous Week	Weekly Ch. %	Annual Ch. %
25,644,039,498	25,660,627,765	-0.06%	-8.35%

TOP GAINERS OF THE WEEK				
Company	Last Week Closing	Previous Week Closing	Ch. (fils)	Ch. %
REMAL	42.00	38.00	4.0	10.53%
ITHMR	51.00	47.00	4.0	8.51%
MRC	65.00	60.00	5.0	8.33%
SANAM	40.00	37.00	3.0	8.11%
MTCC	47.50	44.00	3.5	7.95%

TOP LOSERS OF THE WEEK				
Company	Last Week Closing	Previous Week Closing	Ch. (fils)	Ch. %
ABAR	90.00	108.00	-18.0	-16.67%
SENERGY	14.00	15.50	-1.5	-9.68%
SULTAN	77.00	85.00	-8.0	-9.41%
MUNTAZAH	98.00	108.00	-10.0	-9.26%
MARKAZ	100.00	108.00	-8.0	-7.41%

KSE INDICES				
	Price Index	Weighted index	KSX 15	
Weekly	Last week	5,708.75	386.41	925.54
	Previous week	5,720.65	386.63	929.84
	Change (Point)	-11.90	-0.22	-4.30
	Change (%)	-0.21%	-0.06%	-0.46%
Annual	Last year	6,535.72	438.88	1,059.95
	Change (Point)	-826.97	-52.47	-134.41
	Change (%)	-12.65%	-11.96%	-12.68%

US STOCKS RISE, OVERLOOKING GROWTH, EARNINGS FEARS

WALL STREET WEEKLY REPORT

NEW YORK: US stocks enjoyed one of their best weeks of the year as investors grew more confident that dovish monetary policy would persist, overlooking concerns about earnings and slower economic growth. The broad-based S&P 500 gained 63.53 points (3.26 percent) at 2,014.89, notching the biggest weekly gain since December 2014. The Dow Jones Industrial Average advanced 612.12 (3.72 percent) to 17,084.49, its best gain since February, while the tech-rich Nasdaq Composite Index rose 122.69 (2.61 percent) to 4,830.47.

Stocks kept their momentum from last Friday, when markets rallied after a poor US jobs report was seen as dimming the prospects for a speedy Federal Reserve interest rate hike.

"What's happening is people are comfortable moving back into stocks because they see the Fed as out of the picture for the time being," said Chris Low, chief economist at FTN Financial.

That view was only strengthened by Thursday's minutes from the Fed September 16-17 monetary policy meeting, when the central bank voted to delay a rate hike, citing worries about slowing global growth and its impact on the US economy. "Recent global and financial market developments might restrain economic activity somewhat as a result of the higher level of the dollar and possible effects of slower economic growth in China and in a number of emerging-market and commodity-producing economies," the minutes said.

On Tuesday, the International Monetary Fund, warning of increasing risks from the slowdown in China, cut its global growth

forecast to just 3.1 percent this year and 3.6 percent next year, each 0.2 percentage point lower than its July forecast.

Early earnings are lackluster

Also of concern were early signs that

third-quarter earnings will disappoint. Analysts are expecting that earnings for S&P 500 companies will be 5.12 percent lower than in the year-ago period, according to S&P Capital IQ. Alcoa, traditionally an early reporter, said third-quarter profit fell 70.4

percent to \$44 million as the company trimmed its outlook for key Chinese businesses. Agricultural seed giant Monsanto reported a quarterly loss of \$495 million and announced plans to cut 2,600 jobs, while

fast-food company Yum Brands, parent of KFC and Taco Bell chains, lowered its earnings forecast due to sluggish sales in China.

Some analysts caution that the momentum that lifted the market this week could erode.

"The big concern remains on China and the emerging-market economies," said Tom Cahill, portfolio strategist at Ventura Wealth Management.

"To the extent the Fed is out of the way for now, these markets can stabilize, but there's still a lot of concerns out there." Prominent activist investors drove other major announcements this week. Mining company Freeport-McMoRan rallied on news that it reached a deal with Carl Icahn to appoint two Icahn associates to the board and is considering spinning off its oil and gas business.

General Electric got a boost when activist investor Nelson Peltz's Trian Fund Management took a one percent stake in the industrial conglomerate. Peltz also figured into the surprise announcement that DuPont chief executive Ellen Kuhlman would resign, only months after turning back a Peltz campaign to win four board seats in the 213-year-old chemical company.

In other executive news, Twitter gained momentum after announcing that interim chief and co-founder Jack Dorsey would stay on as chief executive.

Earnings season picks up considerably next week with reports from General Electric, Netflix and JPMorgan Chase and other large banks. Key economic reports include September US retail sales and the Fed's Beige Book report of economic conditions. —AFP



NEW YORK: The facade of the New York Stock Exchange, in New York. —AP



KUWAIT: International BASE jumper Julian Deplidge, Ooredoo Kuwait's COO Hani El-Kukhun, Mijbil Alayoub, Director of Corporate Communications at Ooredoo Kuwait and social celebrity and event host Nouha Nabil during the launch of iPhone 6 and 6S Plus at Ooredoo Tower. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat



OOREDOO MIDNIGHT PARACHUTE DELIVERS APPLE IPHONE 6S AND 6S PLUS INTO KUWAIT

APPLE'S LATEST MOBILE LAUNCHED IN MASSIVE MULTIMEDIA CELEBRATION AT OOREDOO TOWER

KUWAIT: The brand new Apple iPhone 6s and iPhone 6s Plus was launched in Kuwait at midnight as the climax of a high energy and entertaining celebration organized by Ooredoo Kuwait, part of Ooredoo International Group.

Sales of the new phone officially started at 12.00AM yesterday. On the stroke of midnight, international BASE jumper, Julian Deplidge, jumped from the top of Ooredoo's HQ, parachuting down to officially deliver the first phones to Ooredoo Kuwait's COO, Hani El-Kukhun and social celebrity and event host Nouha Nabil. The first thirty-five people to preorder their phones were then ushered into Ooredoo Tower to receive their iPhone 6 or 6S Plus.

Commenting on the event, Mijbil Alayoub, Director of Corporate Communications at Ooredoo Kuwait said: "The launch of the iPhone 6s and iPhone 6s Plus is one of the highlights of 2015. Our celebration this evening is both an acknowledgement of the work that Apple has invested in developing these advanced devices, and a token of our appreciation for our loyal customers. Needless

to say, Ooredoo is deeply grateful to the people of Kuwait, Apple and everyone who has been involved in making our official launch event such a success".

During the evening leading up to the official launch, hundreds of local people enjoyed live entertainment featuring illusionists, dancing, acrobats, fire shows, multimedia shows, and competitions and prizes. Many of those present also took the opportunity to register their interest in the new phone in special booths set up outside the Ooredoo Tower for the occasion.

Dozens of happy Ooredoo customers who purchased a new phone were also offered a special surprise, being given the chance to win Apple Watches and other accessories, as well as Ooredoo branded gifts from a lucky-dip tom-bola.

Commenting on the festivities surrounding the launch, Nouha Nabil said: "This was such an amazing evening. The atmosphere was electric and so was the entertainment! Everyone had such a great time and I am so pleased and very honoured to have been invited to host Ooredoo's official launch of

Apple's latest devices!"

Julian Deplidge, the professional daredevil BASE jumper who delivered the first of the latest generation of iPhones said: "I've jumped from many of the world's most iconic buildings and structures, but this event will be particularly memorable. Jumping from the Ooredoo Tower, the silhouette of Kuwait's skyline was one of the best and provided a superb backdrop for the introduction of the new iPhone. I could hear the crowd right from the top of the tower, and I am so grateful to everyone who cheered me on!"

Ooredoo is offering the iPhone 6s and iPhone 6s Plus for both pre-paid and post-paid customers. Its Shamel post-paid package provides the most accessible option, spreading the cost of the phone over several months and bundling a number of high-value services, including mobile Internet, calling minutes and SMS messages. For more information or to purchase your official Ooredoo iPhone device, please visit an Ooredoo outlet or retailer, or order online via <https://shop.ooredoo.com.kw/en/>.



(From left) Nazem Al-Gabrah, Fatima Dashti, Kuwait Times Marketing Director Taleb Kanjo and Mijbil Alayoub, Director of Corporate Communications at Ooredoo Kuwait during the launch ceremony.



The first thirty-five people to preorder their phones with their new iPhones.



International BASE jumper Julian Deplidge after jumping from the top of Ooredoo's HQ, parachuting down to officially deliver the first phones.



The crowd at Ooredoo Kuwait's HQ during the launch ceremony.



AL-MAZAYA HOLDING ACQUIRES TOWER IN RIYADH FOR SR130M

AL-MAZAYA'S TOTAL ASSETS REACH KD274.6 MILLION

KUWAIT: Al-Mazaya Holding Group has purchased a new tower servicing the office and commercial sector and occupying an area of 2,160m² in Al-Olaya district, Riyadh, KSA, for SR 130m through one of its subsidiaries in Saudi Arabia.

The contract was signed in Riyadh by Engineer Ibrahim Al-Soqabi, Group CEO of Al-Mazaya Holding Company, and Abdul Mohsin bin Abdouaziz Al-Ajlan.

Engineer Al-Soqabi said: "Riyadh is one of the most important and promising real estate markets in the Gulf region, providing investors with a fixed cash flow and strong margins in a period of financial market uncertainty. The purchase of the new tower reflects increased demand for fully serviced, leaseable real estate in Riyadh. The new asset has a promising annual investment yield of up to 9 per cent."

Al-Soqabi added the tower is distinguished by its strategic location on General Olaya Road, parallel to King Fahd Road, in one of the busiest areas of Riyadh, two kilometres from Cairo Square. The tower is close to a range of vital commercial centers and sites, including Al-Faisaliah Tower and Riyadh Gallery Complex.

He added that the built area of the tower is fourteen thousand square meters in size. It consists of a ground floor, which includes three trading stores, and seven other floors that include 55 business offices and contains a health club and a prayer room for personnel, as well as a car parking lot that accommodates some 55 cars.

Also the new tower is the second investment for Al-Mazaya in Saudi Arabia, following Al-Madhar Towers that comprises of three towers serving the office and commercial sector.

Engineer Al-Soqabi said that the acquisition of the new tower will add a good asset to Al-Mazaya income generating assets with a strong return, this action will result in an increase in Al-Mazaya total assets reaching 274.6 by the fourth quarter of 2015.

Engineer Al-Soqabi applauded the support received by Al-Mazaya during the purchase process from Saudi government agencies, including the Ministry of Commerce and the Court of Justice, whom he praised for helping Al-Mazaya to negotiate bureaucracy. Al-Soqabi said it was evident Saudi Arabia was serious in its efforts to attract foreign investment.



Mohammed Al-Othman, NBK's Deputy General Manager, Consumer Banking Group receiving the award from MasterCard.

NBK AWARDED 'BEST AFFLUENT PROGRAM FOR MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICA 2015' BY MASTERCARD

KUWAIT: National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) has been awarded the "Best Affluent Program for Middle East and Africa 2015" in Middle East and Africa by MasterCard. The award was presented to NBK at the MasterCard Innovation Forum 2015 which was held recently in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

NBK was the only bank from Kuwait to win an award at this event. The prestigious event was attended by financial and payments industry thought leaders from Asia Pacific, Middle East and Africa region where they explored the future of the payment industry and the importance of innovation.

The award was presented to NBK in recognition for the NBK Miles Card Program. This unique program allows cardholders to accumulate NBK Miles Points for every transaction done on the card which can then be redeemed at over 800 airlines including budget airlines, over 150,000 hotels and top car rental companies. Cardholders can avail these points without needing to worry about travel restrictions, points

expiry and destination. Commenting on the occasion, Mohammed Al-Othman, NBK's Deputy General Manager, Consumer Banking Group, said "This award marks a new recognition of NBK's unique and best in class product offering locally and regionally. This distinction underpins the excellence of NBK services and its pioneering position in offering specialized and innovative banking services available in the world today."

"NBK is committed to providing its customers with the best banking experience ever through dedicated professionals and by building on the long-time relationships with world leading partners and brands such as MasterCard" Al Othman added. Raghav Prasad, General Manager - Gulf Countries, MasterCard commented: "We are delighted to present this award to NBK in recognition of their commitment to rewarding our customers with priceless experiences. We have a longstanding relationship with NBK and continue to work together to provide safe, simple and secure payments."

LUFTHANSA GROUP OPENS UP NEW WINTER HOLIDAY DESTINATIONS

FRANKFURT: The Lufthansa Group Airlines - Austrian Airlines, Brussels Airlines, Germanwings, Eurowings, Lufthansa and SWISS - will become even more attractive for leisure travellers this winter, as the airlines are adding more destinations that appeal to tourists and leisure travelers to their schedules. As always, passengers can trust in the first-rate service, the quality and the reliability of the Lufthansa Group.

With the introduction of the new winter schedule on 25 October 2015, the Lufthansa Group Airlines will offer their customers one of the densest route networks worldwide, featuring more than 20,380 flights per week. This winter, via their hubs in Frankfurt, Munich, Zurich, Vienna and Brussels, as well as via many point-to-point routes, the Lufthansa Group Airlines will serve 261 destinations in 101 countries (previous year: 260 destinations in 100 countries). Furthermore, in cooperation with 30 partner airlines, more than 18,000 codeshare flights will round off the respective flight offering, giving passengers access to an almost global network. The winter schedules of the individual Group airlines will apply from Sunday 25 October 2015 until Saturday 27 March 2016.

From today, the new price concept on domestic German and European routes will also apply to Austrian Airlines and Lufthansa. In Economy Class, travellers can individually choose between the three graded fare options "Light", "Classic" and "Flex". These options vary mainly with regard to the possibility of making advance seat reservations, re-booking or cancelling flights, and permitted free luggage allowances. Since tickets went on sale last July, the new low-priced "Light" fare option has proved popular with customers. For all options, the Lufthansa Group Airlines as a premier airline still permits one free item of hand baggage. Passengers are also offered free snacks and drinks on board, fixed seat allocation at the check-in counter as well as bonuses for "award miles", "status miles" and "select miles".

The most important news from the Lufthansa Group Airlines:

Lufthansa

This winter, Lufthansa will serve 197 destinations and operate a total of 9,900 flights per week. With the introduction of the winter schedule, Lufthansa is expanding its new intercontinental flight offering, which is tailored to the needs of leisure travelers. Tampa (Florida), a new destination since 25 September, is the first of several new holiday destinations due to be added to the Lufthansa route network from Frankfurt in the coming months.

From the end of October, Nairobi (Kenya) will be included in the Lufthansa flight schedule, and at the beginning of December, Cancun (Mexico),



served mainly by charter flights, Male (Maldives) and Mauritius will follow, with Panama City rounding off the new timetable in March 2016.

Good news for all Airbus A380 fans: this winter, for the first time, Lufthansa will operate its flagship on the Frankfurt-Hong Kong route. Services from Luxembourg will also be expanded, and with 28 weekly flights from Frankfurt and 24 flights from Munich, the Benelux countries will be served much more frequently than before.

The new winter timetable will offer passengers an hourly connection from Munich to Dusseldorf and Berlin-Tegel. The easy-to-remember flight times, which already apply to connections from Munich to Frankfurt and Hamburg, will now be extended to Dusseldorf and Berlin. Lufthansa flights from Munich to Berlin will take off on the hour, and to Dusseldorf at half past the hour.

This winter, Cape Town will once again be connected with the Munich hub. From 25 October, the Airbus A340-600 in a four-class configuration will take off daily for South Africa. Lufthansa customers can also escape the cold winter weather and fly to new destinations in the Canary Islands. On 25 October, the new connection between Munich and Fuerteventura will be launched; on 31 October Tenerife will follow. Travelers in search of a new, cooler winter destination will also be able to fly non-stop from Munich to Finland's largest and most famous winter sports center. From 19 December 2015, Lufthansa will take off every Saturday to Kittilä, 170 kilometers north of the Arctic Circle. The nearby skiing resort of Levi is the largest winter sports center in Lapland.

Germanwings and Eurowings

In the 2015/2016 winter timetable, Germanwings and Eurowings will offer a wide range of flights to 100 destinations in 36 countries, including intercontinental destinations. Germanwings flights to Berlin-Schönefeld will complement the carrier's existing services to Berlin. A

total of 35 flights per week will take off from Cologne/Bonn and Stuttgart to Berlin-Schönefeld Airport. Germanwings will thus be the only airline flying from Cologne/Bonn and Stuttgart to Berlin-Tegel and Schönefeld airports.

This winter, for the first time, the new Eurowings will take off from its new Austrian base in Vienna, from where it will operate non-stop services to Barcelona, Palma de Mallorca and London. In November 2015, the airline will launch long-haul flights from Cologne/Bonn Airport with the Airbus A330-200 aircraft. The first of six intercontinental destinations will be Varadero in Cuba. Further destinations will be Phuket and Bangkok in Thailand, Dubai as well as Puerto Plata and Punta Cana in the Dominican Republic.

SWISS

This winter, the new SWISS flagship, the Boeing 777-300ER, will enter scheduled service on routes from Zurich. From January 2016, the new long-haul aircraft will be deployed on the Zurich-New York route. With the introduction of the winter timetable, SWISS will boost frequencies on its routes to Sao Paulo (Brazil) and Miami (Florida), and will also expand its services from Geneva to destinations in Russia and Portugal in order to meet seasonal demand. In total, SWISS will thus fly to 105 destinations in 49 countries this winter.

Austrian Airlines

In the 2015/2016 winter season, Austrian Airlines will offer its passengers a wide range of flights to as many as 130 destinations in 59 countries. The airline will focus on tourist destinations such as Miami (Florida), which will be served five times a week. From October, it will also offer flights to Mauritius and Colombo (Sri Lanka), and from November, to Marrakesh (Morocco). In response to seasonal demand, Austrian Airlines will thus offer its passengers an attractive range of sunny destinations in the winter as well as in summer.

GULF BANK ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF AL-DANAH DAILY DRAWS

KUWAIT: Gulf Bank held its Al-Danah daily draws on 4 October 2015 announcing the names of its winners for the week of 28 September-1 October 2015. The Al-Danah daily draws include draws each and every working day for two prizes of KD1,000 per winner.

The winners are:

(Monday 28/9): Talal Khaled Ahmad Al-Mesfer, Meshal Fahad Ghazi Al-Dhafaeri (Tuesday 29/9): Zahrah Ali Saleh Al-Qattan, Eliana Qadreen Essa Dallal (Wednesday 30/9): Eidah Fhid Naser Al-Azmi, Faisal Abdullah Jaber Fayez Al-Shumeri (Thursday 1/10): Misheal Salman Aqel Misheal, Saad Hansh Mussa Khlaif

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

Five reasons why the Al-Danah account is the Best:

- 1) Kuwait's single biggest yearly cash prize of KD 1 million
- 2) Kuwait's biggest quarterly cash prizes, up to KD500,000

- 3) Two winners of KD1,000 every working day
- 4) The most opportunities to win (64 draws a year, and up to 532 winners)
- 5) Only Bank that transfers your chances to win from year to year

Open an account and Deposit now to Win Big, Live Big, with Al-Danah 2015. Al-Danah also offers a number of unique services including: the Al-Danah Deposit Only ATM card which helps account holders deposit their money at their convenience; as well as the Al-Danah calculator to help customers calculate their chances of becoming an Al-Danah winner.

Gulf Bank's Al-Danah account is open to Kuwaitis and all residents of Kuwait. Customers who open an account and/or deposit more will enter the draw within two days. To take part in the Al-Danah 2015 upcoming yearly draw, customers must have an Al-Danah account containing at least KD 200. To be part of the Al-Danah draws, customers can visit one of Gulf Bank's 58 branches, transfer on line, or call the Customer Contact Center on 1805805 for assistance and guidance. Customers can also log on to www.e-gulfbank.com/aldanahwinners, to find out more about Al-Danah and its winners.

AUB PROVIDES PROFIT-FREE FINANCE UP TO KD 8,000

KUWAIT: Ahli United Bank provides recently Qard Hassan (profit-free finance) for its clients, and other banks' clients, when they transfer their salaries to the Bank. In doing so, they will be eligible for a QARD Hassan (profit-free finance) up to an amount of KD 8,000 to be repaid within 36 months, with 0% profit. This offer is in line with the Bank's desire to continue to offer the best banking services and products to meet its clients' needs. The QARD Hassan has easy terms in addition to many other advantages associated with banking at Ahli United Bank.

Commenting on this Qard Hassan (profit-free finance), Moataz El-Rafie - Senior Deputy Chief Executive Officer Banking Group - at Ahli United Bank, said: "Ahli United Bank's management is keen to assist clients manage their financial affairs with the Qard Hassan (profit-free finance). The benefit provided exceeds all expectations due to its privileges to the borrowers who obtain the largest amount of interest-free finance available in the local market. Clients will also enjoy the longest pay-

ment period as an extra facilitation in addition to a number of other advantages including the easy and quick transaction procedures to get the QARD Hassan.

El-Rafie added: "This Qard Hassan (profit-free finance) is like crowning the Salary-Transfer Campaign. The client will have the option either to apply for a Qard Hassan (profit-free finance) or to be awarded a cash gift worth KD 100/- when he/she transfers their salary to Ahli United Bank and to obtain an immediate Bank ATM card in addition to his/her right to have a free credit card in the first year.

El-Rafie expressed his delight at the considerable response achieved by the salary-transfer Campaign provided by Ahli United Bank. He emphasized that there are several means to inquire about this Qard Hassan for example, through the Ahli United Bank web site, or to contact the Hayakum Service, or visit any of the 37 branches in the country. Additionally, clients may communicate through the Bank's electronic channels which operate on a 24/7 basis.

ETIHAD AIRWAYS ENGINEERING EXPANDS CAPABILITY WITH NEW PAINT HANGAR

ABU DHABI: Etihad Airways Engineering, the Middle East's leading aviation maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) provider, has expanded its existing capability for painting aircraft at premises adjacent to Abu Dhabi International Airport with the conversion of Hangar 5 into a state-of-the-art paint hangar.

The newly converted paint hangar has additional chillers installed for enhanced air conditioning and temperature control, improved thermal insulation, and an efficient drainage system to suit stripping and painting requirements. The hangar has

also been equipped with an advanced aircraft docking system which can be customized to serve different types of aircraft.

The addition of the new hangar effectively increases the area dedicated to painting facilities at Etihad Airways Engineering by 150 per cent, from 4,000 sqm to 10,000 sqm.

The paint hangar also incorporates a large-format decal production facility which will be used to repaint and rebrand Etihad Airways' entire fleet of 120 aircraft with its 'Facets of Abu Dhabi' livery and branding over the coming months. Aircraft belong-

ing to Etihad Airways' partners and other airline customers also undergo repainting and maintenance operations at the Etihad Airways Engineering facility.

Jeff Wilkinson, Senior Vice President Technical, Etihad Airways, said: "We have significantly increased our aircraft painting capacity with the introduction of a new paint hangar as we continue to expand our MRO capability on new aircraft platforms."

"The team at Etihad Airways Engineering has the experience, expertise and equipment to undertake all kinds of heavy maintenance and aircraft painting for Etihad Airways, its equity partners and third party customers."

Etihad Airways Engineering is the largest commercial aircraft maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) services provider in the Middle East.

Etihad Airways Engineering enjoys a rich legacy of MRO experience and expertise, having served more than 100 airlines and aviation operators from around the world over the last 25 years.

As a subsidiary of the Etihad Aviation Group, the company offers line, light and heavy maintenance services around the clock, including design, advanced composite repair, cabin refurbishment and component services, from its state-of-the-art facility adjacent to Abu Dhabi International Airport.



LEARNING BEYOND THE CLASSROOM: CONNECTED EDUCATION THROUGH TECH

By Usama Nouri

Encouraging my six-year-old daughter to choose traditional entertainment over my smartphone is an ongoing battle. She was born into a world in which technology is a ubiquitous component of our lives. Schools are succumbing to the push to include technology in the classroom, and in particular Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) schemes are becoming more common. This is happening, but it doesn't mean that it doesn't create a whole new set of challenges for educational administrators to overcome if they are to take full advantage of the technology revolution.

According to a survey conducted in April 2015 by the University Of Phoenix College Of Education, 93 percent of teachers believe that personal devices connect students to real-world learning. There is no doubt that connected devices enable students to explore a much wider world, and much more instantly, than we ever could in our school days; there is considerably more interaction and richer content to be had through the Internet than through a traditional text book. In fact, having a device such as a tablet eliminates the need for text books entirely. Students of the not-so-distant future will likely not know what it's like to carry a backpack laden down with heavy books. There'll be no more excuses of forgotten textbooks, no more marginalia, and no more need to highlight real books, as everything will be carried around in one convenient, portable digital form.

This is just scratching the surface of the benefits of technology in classrooms. Despite the unquestionable boons, though, it is expensive for educators to provide every teacher and student with a tablet of their own. Therefore, BYOD schemes are the way to go, with the

costs of technology investments and maintenance placed on the students, or their parents rather! However, despite the financial advantages that BYOD offers, school administrators face another set of challenges that could far outweigh the savings that come from the scheme. Here's a look at the top six challenges that will make educators think twice before incorporating BYOD into their education system:

1. Network Burden

Students will bring their laptops, smartphones, tablets, game consoles, smart wearables, e-readers, video and smart cameras, MP3 players and more wirelessly connected devices to school. Now, imagine the unprecedented burden this will place on the wireless network. A study conducted by Sophos revealed that on average a person carries 2.9 devices, and research by GfK predicts this number will reach 5.2 by 2017! Designing wireless infrastructure has never been more challenging and school CIOs must take this activity seriously.

2. BYOD = BYSND

The natural reaction of a CIO could be that by allowing network access to uncontrolled devices operated by teenagers is not BYOD - it's Bring Your School Network Down by inviting security breaches. Protecting the school network, IT applications, and the privacy of both staff and students is the highest concern. Security issues, whether deliberate through hacking attempts or unintentional through malwares and viruses, can cause damage to the learning process and can be financially compromising, too. A proper identity management system and AAA (Authentication, Authorization and Accounting) alongside associated processes must be in place and built into

the BYOD strategy to mitigate this security challenge. Additionally, security measures must be built into the infrastructure equipment itself, not just the firewalls. A bonus outcome from applying such controls is the ability to monitor and restrict access to certain online resources, in keeping with the education context.

3. IT service desk's nightmare

With thousands of students come tens of thousands of devices, and all of their problems come along with them, including a disparate blend of hardware, operating systems, and applications. Imagine a day in the life of a helpdesk engineer, running between classes struggling to resolve incompatibilities with school networks and applications. This not only wastes precious class time, but also causes inconveniences for the teachers and students, disconnecting them from the learning activities. The education CIO must ensure that all infrastructure and school applications are built based on open standards, and also consistently keep an eye on the current and future trends in technology adoptions in order to adapt the school's technologies accordingly.

4. The Starvation Theory

When things are not controlled in a school environment, the law of the jungle prevails. BYOD entitles sharing of school resources between legitimate usage patterns and non-education related activities. Imagine a teacher trying to play a YouTube video during a class, only to be faced with the endless spinning pinwheel, while students' devices hog the entire bandwidth downloading hefty OS updates. Quality of Service controls must be applied to allow differentiated access and eliminate the perpetual denial of necessary resources. School CIOs should insure these features are available



in the infrastructure, that they are well-suited to the multi-tenancy school environment, and that configurations are current and up-to-date at all times.

5. Non-monetized investments

For the education sector, it is unethical to monetize services accessed by students, and most school fees are regulated even in the private education sector. Technology investments did not exist a few years back at this scale, and their introduction now affects the CFO's P&L dramatically. Capital expenditure can be transferred into assets, but the bigger issue lies in the running cost for licenses, support, and talented IT operations staff. The school administration must analyse the return on investment differently, with the focus on the school reputation and academic values, rather than pure corporate financial analysis. Efficiencies in the IT systems of choice and their operations must be the key evaluation factor for the CIO when making decisions on certain technologies. Sponsored and managed outsourced IT services could be an option that might appeal to

some schools, but care must be taken as the privacy of the school and its students must be managed well in this case.

6. Imbalanced equality

An unavoidable, and rather less technical challenge of adopting a BYOD strategy in the school system is the potential issue of learning equality. A fundamental principle in the education system is making learning opportunities available equitably to all learners. If BYOD strategies are not monitored closely, the less fortunate students will not have access to the same learning resources as the fortunate ones. The school administration must always have the facility of providing school-owned devices for students to use in class and at home. This should either be considered as part of the school's social responsibility, or via a subsidy system that can be paid throughout the academic year. It all starts with a solid and well-conceived School Digital Strategy, which includes BYOD policies and tactics and so much more. A partnership with a technology provider, who can be considered a trusted advisor, is the strongest first step that school administration can take. This will nurture the learning experience, and guarantee efficient current and future school readiness.

When children are so accustomed to the gratifications of using technology, it's no surprise that my daughter considers colored pencils and paper to be 'boring' in comparison to the practically limitless possibilities a smartphone can offer. Schools and parents alike should prepare for the inevitable growth in devices that will shape every aspect of our lives from the classroom to the home to the office, by ensuring they optimize networks and apply the necessary security precautions that are needed for our constantly connected life.

TWITTER PLANS LAYOFFS NEXT WEEK — RE/CODE

SAN FRANCISCO: Twitter Inc is planning company-wide layoffs next week, technology news website Re/code reported on Friday, citing sources. The news comes after Jack Dorsey was appointed permanent chief executive on Monday. It is unclear how many of Twitter's staff will be laid off, but it is likely it will affect most departments, Re/code said, citing company insiders. (<http://on.recode.net/1OqNsev>) The company employs about 4,100 people in more than 35 offices around the world, according to its website. Twitter shares fell 3.1 percent to \$29.90 in extended trading on Friday.

The company is working to rekindle growth after its latest quarterly results in July revealed the slowest rise in monthly average users since it went public in 2013 - a performance that Dorsey at the time called "unacceptable." Twitter's layoffs come at the same time as it restructures its engineering organization to make it more efficient, Re/code reported. It is likely that many of the people impacted by the layoffs will be engineers, the report said. "We're not commenting on rumor and speculation," a Twitter spokeswoman told Reuters. Up to Friday's close, Twitter's shares had fallen about 14 percent this year. — Reuters

GREEK TOWN GLIMPSES TRANSIT FUTURE: DRIVERLESS BUSES

TRIKALA: There'll be no arguing with the driver on this bus: the rides are free and there's no driver anyway. Trikala, a rural town in northern Greece, has been chosen to test a driverless bus in real traffic conditions for the first time, part of a European project to revolutionize mass transport and wean its cities off oil dependency over the next 30 years.

Trials of the French-built CityMobil2 buses started last week and will last through late February.

Over the past year, CityMobil2 has been tried out near its base in La Rochelle in western France, on a campus in Lausanne, Switzerland, and near Helsinki, Finland, all in controlled conditions that produced no accidents. But in Greece, a country of narrow, winding, hilly streets, stray dogs, bicycle riders and impatient drivers, the buses are up against real traffic. The Greek government had to amend its laws to allow the testing and the city had to build a dedicated bus lane that deprived residents of downtown parking spaces. The robot buses don't look like science fiction vehicles - more like golf cart meets ice-cream truck. Still, heads turn as the skinny, battery-powered buses hum through the streets. They seat only 10 people and are guided by GPS and supplementary sensors, including lasers and cameras, that send live data to a control center.

The buses go no faster than 20 kph (12 1/2 mph), but the trials in Trikala (pronounced TREE-kah-lah) potentially represent a major advance for automated transport.

"There were cities bidding for this project all over Europe. They offered relatively restricted urban areas. But we said we could make it happen in a downtown environment and we won," said Odiseas Raptis, who heads the city's digital project department, e-Trikala. "We have a 2.4-kilometer (1.5-mile) route, the bus route. It's mixed with traffic, with pedestrians, with bicycles, with cars ... That hasn't been done before."

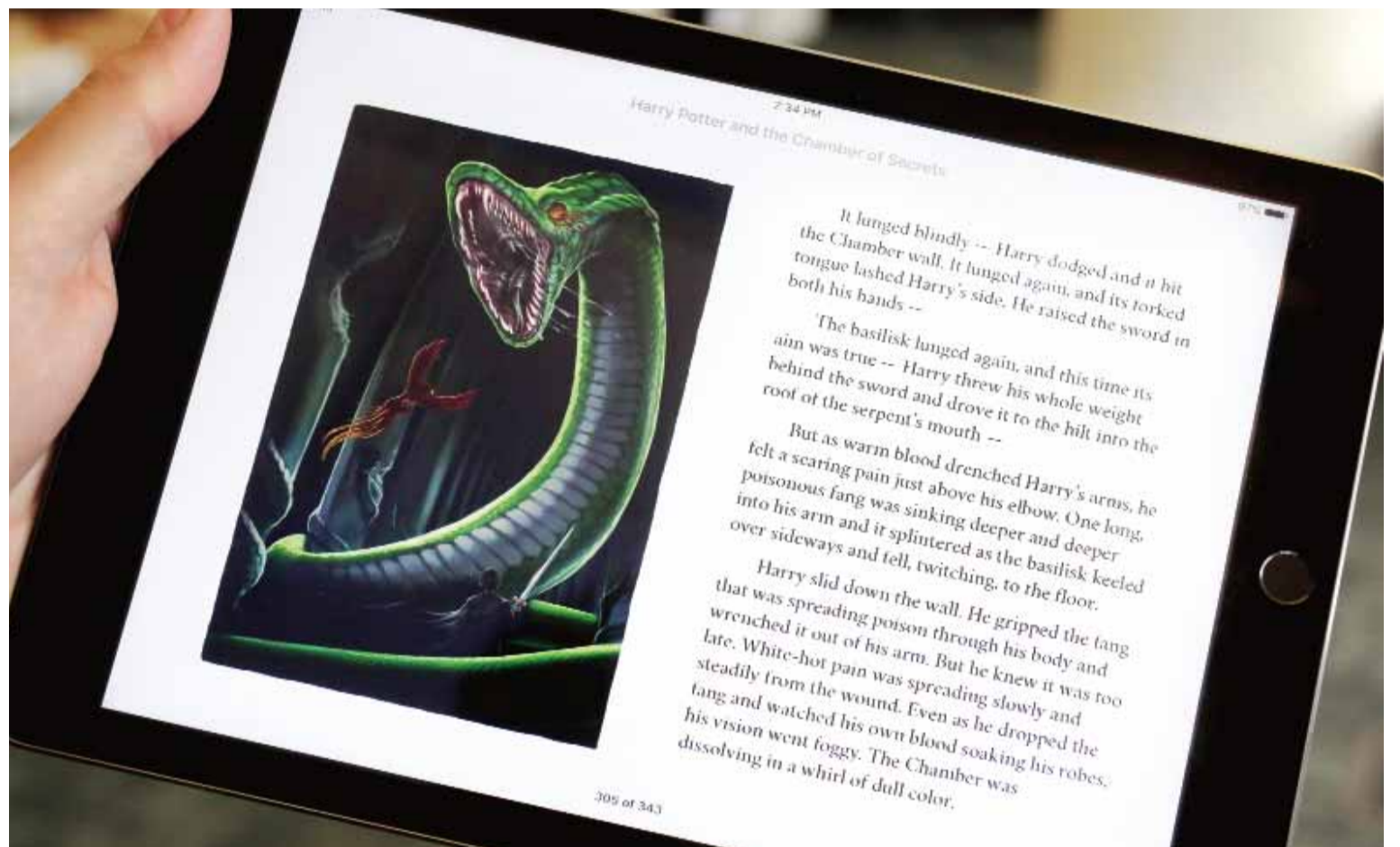
Vasilis Karavidas, chief technician for the project

in Greece, trained with Robosoft, the company that developed the bus, in the southwest French town of Bidart.

Although the driverless buses are fully automated with onboard navigation and obstacle detection systems, each vehicle will be monitored by a driver in the control center who can override the system, Karavidas said. "It's as if they are in here and they can stop the bus if they want to, if something goes wrong," he said.

The buses are currently running without passengers, with full testing to start later this month when a fiber-optic network allowing faster data transmission is completed. Six battery-powered vehicles will eventually be used in this farming town of 80,000 that has become hooked on high-tech. Trikala already has already tested EU-funded pilot medical programs, including schemes to relay heart test data from home to the doctor's office and use tracker devices for Alzheimer patients. In the center of the city, a "digital tree" with solar panels allows benches to carry phone-charging outlets.

The 28-nation European Union is targeting gasoline use for city transport as one area where it wants to reduce carbon emissions. With oil prices and city populations expected to rise in the coming decades, a major shift to battery power and more shared transport could blur the line between private and public vehicles. Senior transport analyst Philippe Crist at the International Transport Forum, an OECD think-tank based in Paris, says transport trends are hard to predict as the world moves more toward automation. "We too often look at technological changes in isolation," said Crist. "There is a good chance that these technologies will create entirely new uses that we can only poorly grasp today. The reality is that everything is changing around these technologies and it is plausible that society may lose interest in owning cars or using fixed-service public transport - especially if these technologies allow better alternatives to emerge." — AP



NEW YORK: Text and an illustration from "Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets" are displayed on an iPad in New York. The JK Rowling books are being released with animated or interactive illustrations, but only through Apple's iBooks Store and require the use of an Apple mobile device or a Mac computer. — AP

'HARRY POTTER' E-BOOKS COME TO LIFE IN NEW APPLE EDITION

NEW YORK: You don't need to be a wizard to see the "Harry Potter" books come to life. The seven books are getting a makeover with more than 200 new illustrations in enhanced e-books made for Apple devices. More than half of the illustrations are animated or interactive, with such touches as a golden snitch from Quidditch matches flying away as you tap it on the screen. Series creator J.K. Rowling also goes deeper into some of the characters and story lines with a handful of pop-up annotations. The editions, released Thursday, are exclusive to Apple's iBooks Store and require an Apple Inc. mobile device or a Mac computer to read. For other devices, including Amazon's Kindle, standard electronic editions are available through Rowling's Pottermore site.

The makeover offers readers young and old a new way to engage with the story. It also gives Rowling and her publishers an opportunity to resell these best-selling books, the last of which came out eight years ago. It's akin to Hollywood releasing the same movies in new formats and with bonus materials.

While the illustrations are new and exclusive to the enhanced editions, Rowling's annotations aren't necessarily so. Rowling has been regularly posting new essays on Pottermore. She has traced Harry's roots to a 12th-century wizard and has written about the origins of an invisibility cloak that appears throughout the series. Rowling has also penned supplemental books, including "The Tales of Beedle the Bard," a children's book that was referenced in the last "Harry Potter" book.

Until recently, the Pottermore site also had a game that took readers through the books chapter by chapter, with riddles and other discoveries along the way. That game incorporated clips from the "Harry Potter" movies. The new e-books do not. Instead, the new editions offer full-color illustra-

tions and animation from Pottermore artists.

In one animation, you see multiple letters fly in through the fireplace with news of Harry's acceptance to Hogwarts wizardry school. In another, an owl, a cat and the fog come to life on Platform 9 3/4, where a Hogwarts-bound train awaits. On the train, you see landscape moving by through a window.

In one scene of a feast, you can slide left and right to see the rest of a long table covered with food. It's not obvious which illustrations are interactive. The idea is to get readers to explore.

There's no sound, though. When Harry's friend, Ron, gets an angry audio letter from his mother, you see steam coming out, but you don't hear her screaming, as you do in the movie.

You can access Rowling's supple-

mental materials by tapping a quill icon embedded in the text. For instance, you learn how students arrived at Hogwarts before train service began: Some rode on broomsticks, but that was tough with trunks and pets to bring along.

There aren't many annotations, though. You get more backstory at the Pottermore site, but you need the e-books for the full text. — AP

NETFLIX RAISING US PRICE FOR MOST POPULAR VIDEO PLAN

SAN FRANCISCO: Netflix is raising the price of its Internet video service by \$1 for new customers in the US, Canada and some Latin America countries to help cover its escalating costs for shows such as "House of Cards" and other original programming.

The new price of \$10 per month for Netflix's standard plan - its most popular - marks the second time in 17 months that Los Gatos, California, company has boosted its US rates by \$1. The trend reflects the financial pressure that Netflix is facing as it competes against Amazon.com, HBO and other services for the rights to TV series and movies that will expand its audience.

Netflix's 42 million existing U.S. subscribers are being insulated from the price bump. That's a move CEO Reed Hastings is taking in an effort to avoid a repeat of the customer backlash that stung the company four years ago when it raised rates by as much as 60 percent for subscribers who wanted Internet video and DVD-by-mail rentals. The abrupt price increase in 2011 triggered an exodus that cost Netflix more than 800,000 subscribers and caused its stock to lose 80 percent of its value in a tumultuous 13-month period.

The experience taught Netflix to reward its existing subscribers as higher prices are phased in on new customers. Subscribers who have been with Netflix since May 2014 will still pay \$8 per month under a two-year rate freeze adopted when the company last raised its US prices by \$1. Customers who signed up since the last price increase will pay \$9 per month until October 2016.

Netflix's audience continued to expand after last year's price increase, a pattern that investors appear confident that will be occur again with the latest uptick in rates. Netflix's stock surged \$6.83, or 6.8 percent, to \$114.93 Thursday. Wall

Street has been hoping Netflix would increase its prices because its profit margins have been shrinking as the company's expenses climb for programming and an aggressive international expansion. Netflix Inc's programming costs are expected to rise from \$3 billion this year to \$5 billion next year. The research firm Ampere Analysis predicts Netflix will be paying \$6 billion annually for its line-up by 2018.

Some of that money is being spent on previously released TV series and movies, but Netflix is pouring more money for shows that can only be found on its service - a formula that has been highly successful for HBO's pay-TV channel. The strategy has paid off for Netflix too as its U.S. customer base has swelled by about 70 percent from 25 million subscribers since the 2013 debut of "House of Cards," the service's first major splash in original programming. Netflix now features dozens of exclusive programs.

Netflix's higher price might help Amazon's rival Internet video service, which is sold with a bundle of other features that includes free shipping from Amazon's online store for \$99 annually, or \$8.25 per month. Some analysts, though, view Netflix's biggest competition as HBO, which sells an Internet-only version of its channel for \$15 per month.

HBO's price may give Netflix leeway to raise its prices even further, according to Per Sijofors, CEO of consulting firm Atenga. His analysis of customer sentiment concluded Netflix could charge as much as \$13 per month for its standard Internet plan without hurting its growth.

Netflix's standard plan allows subscribers to stream video on as many as two different devices simultaneously and watch programs in high definition. A basic plan available to new customers for \$8 per month limits watching to just one screen, with no high-definition option. — AP



GREECE: In this photo a worker checks a video on a screen of the tiny CityMobil2, driverless bus from the control center in town of Trikala. — AP

AFRICA BEING LEFT OUT OF CLIMATE AID

LIMA: The head of the African Development Bank says the continent is not getting enough of the billions of dollars in climate change funding, despite being the region that suffers most. With clutch climate talks approaching in December, world leaders are scrambling to come up with pledges toward the target of \$100 billion a year by 2020 to fight global warming—a make-or-break promise in the arduous negotiations to reach a comprehensive deal on cutting carbon emissions.

But the development bank's president, Akinwumi Adesina, said the world needs to rethink how it spends that money. "Africa today contributes just two percent of all

greenhouse gas emissions, but Africa is the one that suffers most from the impact of climate change," Adesina told AFP on the sidelines of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank annual meetings in Lima, Peru.

The talks marked the 55-year-old Nigerian's first major world event since taking up his post in September. "We need to look at how we're dividing up (climate funding) to make sure the financing levels are high enough," said Adesina, a former agriculture minister who was named Forbes magazine's "African of the Year" in 2013.

Africa, he said, is not getting its fair share of climate funds—which last year stood around

\$62 billion from governments, multilateral institutions and the private sector, according to a recent study. The problem, he said, is the way climate funding is allocated. The money, both loans and grants, goes to fund two kinds of projects: mitigation and adaptation.

Mitigation means cutting carbon emissions. Adaptation means preparing for the extreme weather events and natural disasters that will be caused by rising global temperatures. "What Africa needs is funds for adapting. We have hundreds of millions of people who have no way of adapting to climate change," said Adesina. "But unfortunately, on climate finance, today in the world... 76 per-

cent of financing is dedicated to mitigation. "This is an imbalance that needs to be addressed."

Smallest polluter, biggest victim

The world's poorest continent is also its lowest polluter, because it has relatively few of the industries, power plants and vehicles that contribute most to carbon emissions. But most climate funding "tends to favor Asian countries like India and China," said Adesina.

His own institution plans to triple investment in climate-related projects to more than \$5 billion a year by 2020, which will represent 40 percent of its total portfolio. That will put it

on par with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development for the title of greenest bank in the world.

French Finance Minister Michel Sapin, whose country will host the upcoming climate talks known as COP21, has called Adesina "very determined" on climate change. Adesina in turn had a message for Sapin as he races to reach the magic number of \$100 billion in climate funds. "COP21 needs to be a great success, but in order for it to be a great success it's very important to be able to access the needed financing for both adaptation and mitigation—but first of all adaptation," he said. — AFP



LIMA: Attendees are silhouetted against windows of the Lima Convention Center, the venue for the World Bank and International Monetary Fund annual meetings. — AP

DEVELOPMENT BANKS BOOST FUNDS TO FIGHT GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE

CERTAIN TO REACH \$100 BILLION COMMITMENT

LIMA: The world's top development banks pledged Friday to boost their funding to lessen climate change's impact, aiming for the goal of \$100 billion a year that rich countries have pledged to transfer to developing countries by 2020. The pledges were made as finance ministers met in Lima less than two months ahead of a climate conference in Paris considered pivotal if the brakes are to be put on global warming.

"This is a positive outcome and I think we can say with some certainty that we will reach the \$100 billion commitment" made at 2009 climate talks in Copenhagen, French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius told reporters. "It is the beginning of what you need, because if the international community doesn't roll up its sleeves and get to work this thing is just too big for us," said Rachel Kyte, the World Bank vice president for climate change.

For the World Bank alone, that will mean boosting climate financing by a third, potentially making \$29 billion a year in additional funding available by 2020. Pledging to essentially double their lending were the smaller Asian, European, African and European multilateral development banks, French finance officials said. The African Development Bank said it would triple its climate financing to nearly \$5 billion a year by 2020. Countries including Germany, France, Netherlands, United States, Sweden and Britain have recently announced increase climate finance.

A report issued this week by the 29-country Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development estimated \$62 billion was spent last year, up from \$52 billion the previous year. Multilateral development banks account for about 40 percent of the total. The charity Oxfam estimates that only about 16 percent of the total - or \$2 billion - is directly invested in helping poor countries hit hardest by global warming cope with extreme weather it is already causing.

'Short-changed'

"The poorest countries are still being short-changed," said Oxfam climate policy expert Isabel Kreiser. Most of the money is going to green energy investments for reducing the burning of fossil fuels that cause global warming. The finance ministers of 20 countries most vulnerable to climate change's impact held their inaugural meeting in Lima and called on developed countries to boost by 50 percent the financing for adaptation, which includes everything from building sea walls to more heat-resistant highways to relocating low-lying communities where sea levels are rising.

The countries include the Philippines, Bangladesh, Costa Rica and island nations and are home to nearly 700 million people. The V-20 ministers also proposed an international financial transaction tax to raise more money for fighting climate

change and said they would create a climate risk pooling mechanism to "improve recovery from climate-induced extreme weather events and disasters" through insurance.

"Climate finance is going to be a dealmaker or deal-breaker in Paris, so unless there is a credible roadmap on the table on how these imbalances are going to be addressed, we do see developing countries putting a Paris agreement potentially at risk," Kreiser said. "The \$100 billion is a very important political commitment that developed countries made in Copenhagen but it's really the tip of the iceberg," said Jennifer Morgan of the World Resources Institute. "The real question is about the shifting of the trillions."

The International Energy Agency has estimated an additional \$1.1 trillion will be needed annually through mid-century to keep the global temperature rise below 2 degrees Celsius, the goal of international climate negotiations of which Paris will be the 21st round. "The \$100 billion is a political number," Christiana Figueres, the executive secretary of the UN-run talks. "It was pulled out of a hat. But it must be respected." During the annual gathering of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund at which the finance ministers met, the heads of both lenders called for an end to subsidies on fossil fuels, which the IMF says amount to more than \$5 trillion a year. — AP

CANADIAN FIRM OPENS FACILITY TO CAPTURE CARBON FROM AIR

SQUAMISH: A company with global plans to pull carbon from thin air to make fuel, while tackling climate change, opened a pilot plant Friday in this remote western Canadian community. Carbon Engineering, backed by Bill Gates and other investors, unveiled a test facility able to extract carbon dioxide from the atmosphere using giant fans.

That carbon goes through a series of chemical processes and emerges as pellets, which can be used to make fuel-or simply be stored underground. The

company was founded in Calgary in 2009 by David Keith, a Harvard University climate scientist, with funding from private investors. Unlike existing machines that capture carbon from smokestacks like those of coal-fired power plants, the direct air capture plant deals "with emissions from sources you just can't otherwise capture," said company chief executive Adrian Corless.

"It's now possible to take CO2 out of the atmosphere, and use it as a feed stock, with hydrogen, to

produce net zero emission fuels." The benefit of those synthesized fuels, Corless told AFP, is they can be tailor-made for use in existing systems, from petrol pumps to automobiles and airplanes. "You don't have to re-tool the \$30 trillion in (global) infrastructure now used to deliver fossil fuels," Corless said.

While alternative energies, from wind to solar, are being developed, "there's not a lot of options to power airplanes and vehicles," said Corless. "For me, this is most exciting." "The economics are attractive," said scientist Hadi Dowlatabadi, of the University of British Columbia. This small town north of Vancouver welcomed the company moving into an unused industrial site, and the opening was blessed by members of the aboriginal Squamish Nation as a working example of traditional teachings to take care of the world.

'Have to adapt'

"We have to adapt to the modern world," said councillor Chris Lewis. Mark Jaccard, professor of sustainable energy at Simon Fraser University in Vancouver, said the technology holds promise to reduce greenhouse gases and climate change. "What humans really should be doing is really either not using fossil fuels or using fossil fuels and capturing the carbon so it doesn't go into the atmosphere," Jaccard said.

Other companies around the world are experimenting with air capture, but Corless said Carbon Engineering's design is unique because it can be quickly and affordably scaled up to industrial size. Corless said the pilot plant began operations in June and has already captured 10 tons of CO2.

The company says it plans to use the data from the pilot plant in Squamish to design its first commercial plant by 2017, which it says will cost no more than \$200 million. "We should be in a position to be selling synthetic fuels in 2018," said Corless. He said synthetic fuels, like fossil fuels, provide an energy source concentrated enough to power airplanes and long-haul ground transportation. — AFP



SQUAMISH: Jane Ritchie explains the carbon capture system at opening of a Canadian Carbon Engineering pilot plant. — AFP

INDIA RISKS BACKSLIDING ON SUCCESS AGAINST HIV

DELHI: New HIV infections in India could rise for the first time in more than a decade because states are mismanaging a prevention program by delaying payments to health workers, the United Nations envoy for AIDS in Asia and the Pacific said. India's efforts to fight HIV have for years centered around community-based programs run for people at high risk of contracting the virus, such as sex workers and injecting drug users. The results won praise globally - annual new infections fell consistently and, overall, were reduced by more than half between 2000 and 2011.

But Prime Minister Narendra Modi in February cut the federal AIDS budget by a fifth and asked states to fill the gap, even though their poorly-run bureaucracies were already slow in releasing funds to their AIDS prevention units. As a result, staff salaries have been delayed for months and prevention activities have slowed down.

The decision was part of a wider strategy to decentralize social spending and focus central government resources on building roads and railways to boost economic growth. In an interview with Reuters, the UN Secretary General's Special Envoy for AIDS in Asia-Pacific, JVR Prasada Rao, warned "primitive" management by states would "ruin the program." "When the new infections start rising, all the good work that has been done will be washed away," said Rao, who said he based his view on interactions with several federal and state AIDS officials in the last six months.

Health workers left unpaid

Reuters reported in March that government data and letters obtained under right to information legislation showed state treasuries were delaying payments and thousands of health workers had gone unpaid for months.

In letters seen by Reuters, some states have cited a lack of clarity about how much they need to contribute to the program under the new arrangement as a reason for delayed payments, and overall shortage of funds. Experts and state health officials also blame delays on

slow bureaucratic processes. An official at the federal AIDS control department, part of the health ministry that oversees the program, said delays in states disbursing funds were still widespread, with payments in some cases three months late. The AIDS control department official said there was a risk of a rise in new infections if the delays continue, but added such a scenario was at least a year away.

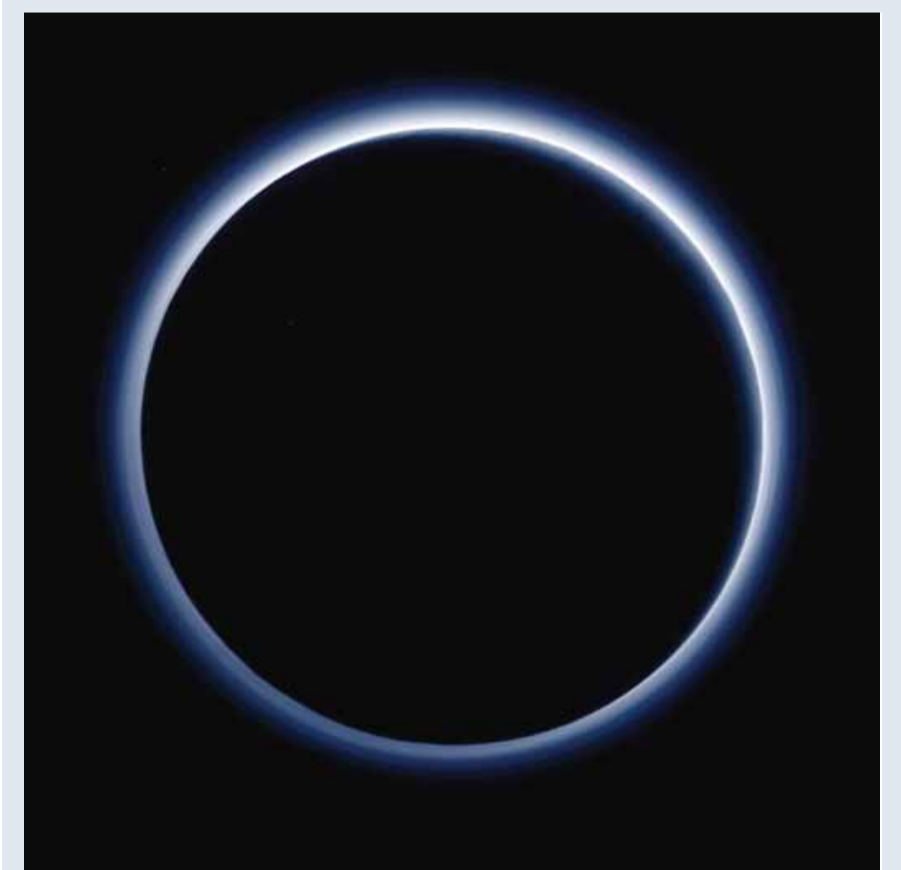
The health ministry did not respond to Reuters' requests for comment on Rao's remarks. Top officials in the ministry were concerned about the slowdown in releasing funds, according to letters seen in March and May.

Infections averted

India's free HIV/AIDS drugs program, launched more than two decades ago, has been highly successful. The World Bank estimates India's policy of targeting sex workers averted 3 million infections with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, between 1995 and 2015. Still, UNAIDS estimates India accounted for most of the 340,000 new infections in the Asia-Pacific region last year.

India's last nationwide AIDS estimates were released in 2012. Data for the next assessment is still being collected. Under the new funding arrangement, states are given a larger share of federal taxes but are no longer obliged to earmark funds for social schemes. Rao said the flow of funds has improved marginally in recent months after complaints from AIDS workers, but he urged states and politicians to do more.

"We are getting complacent to the success," he said. "If we have to achieve the new goal of ending AIDS by 2030, you have to commit more resources." In the western city of Mumbai, Manoj Jani, project director of an organization working with sex workers under the AIDS program, said his 23 staff were demoralized because they have not been paid for four months. AIDS tests have been curtailed. "Workers are not able to travel for testing activities due to funding issues," Jani said. "We never thought we would see such a day." — Reuters



This image released by NASA on Thursday, Oct 8, 2015, shows the blue color of Pluto's haze layer in this picture taken by the New Horizons spacecraft's Ralph/Multispectral Visible Imaging Camera (MVIC). The high-altitude haze is thought to be similar in nature to that seen at Saturn's moon Titan. This image was generated by software that combines information from blue, red and near-infrared images to replicate the color a human eye would perceive as closely as possible. — AP

BLUE SKY AND RED ICE DISCOVERED ON PLUTO

CAPE CANAVERAL: The sky over Pluto may not be sunny but it's undoubtedly blue. NASA's New Horizons spacecraft discovered Pluto's blue sky during the historic flyby of the icy dwarf planet in July. The images of Pluto's atmospheric haze were beamed down last week and released by NASA on Thursday.

The particles in the atmospheric haze are actually red and gray, according to scientists. But the way the particles scatter blue light is what has everyone excited about the dwarf planet orbiting on the far fringes of our solar system, a twilight zone known more formally as the Kuiper Belt. "Who would have expected a blue sky in the Kuiper Belt? It's gorgeous," Alan Stern, the principal scientist for New Horizons, said in a NASA release about the latest images.

The blue tint can help scientists understand the size and makeup of the haze particles surrounding Pluto, where twilight constantly reigns given the 3.6 billion-mile distance between it and the sun. Pluto's high-altitude haze seems to be comparable to that of Saturn's moon, Titan, according to NASA, and the result of interaction between molecules.

In another finding Thursday, scientists have uncovered numerous ice patches on Pluto's surface. The exposed water ice appears to be, mysteriously, red. Scientists said they are uncertain why the ice appears in certain places at Pluto and not others. Launched in 2006, New Horizons is now 63 million miles beyond Pluto. Johns Hopkins University in Maryland is operating the spacecraft for NASA. — AP

WISH TO PARTICIPATE AT THE 'EMPLOYEE HEALTH AND WELLBEING CONFERENCE'

DOHA: The World Innovation Summit for Health (WISH), a global initiative of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF), will participate as a panelist at the "Employee Health and Wellbeing Conference," which will be held in Doha from October 11 to 13, 2015. The conference will be held under the patronage of HE Abdullah Bin Khalid Al Qahtani, Minister of Public Health, and is officially supported by the Supreme Council of Health.

The conference will explore the assertion that fluctuating business climates, globalization and difficult work environments are

posing wider occupational health challenges to employers. With the aim of reducing the economic burdens of workplace injury and illness, the conference is designed to find the best ways of generating high quality health care for the workforce. As part of its commitment to healthcare by capturing and disseminating the best evidence-based ideas and practices this area is of particular importance to WISH as it continues to work towards QF's vision of cementing Qatar's pioneering role as an emerging centre for healthcare and innovation.

WISH CEO, Egbert Schillings, will speak at a session entitled Wellness Works and

Prevention Pays: Business Perspective, on the first day of the conference at 9 am. Mr Schillings will discuss the return on investment that wellness and prevention programs provide once a business invests in a health strategy.

Mr Schillings said: "A business's most important asset is its employees. And in a world with rising incidence of lifestyle related diseases, the health of a business depends increasingly on the health of its employees. At the same time 75 percent of all health care costs arise from these largely preventable conditions which the providers in the health care system alone cannot fix.

Employers therefore have an important role to play in helping their staff reduce health risk factors including weight, blood pressure, glucose and cholesterol. This conference is extremely timely and throws into stark relief both the challenges and the opportunities in employee health."

Other topics that will be addressed at the event include Corporate Health as a Key Determinant for Sustainable Development, Countering Air Industry Medical Challenges, Developing Healthy & Resilient Workforces and Pioneering Remote Healthcare. Featuring 30 plus speakers and a choice of over 20 topics, the conference promises to

offer a rich selection of industry-leading education and debate.

Embedding the theme of "Global Action Plan - Promote Worker Health & Let the Business Thrive", the conference will offer invaluable advice and best practice guidance through peer-led interactive sessions, thought provoking debates, real-life case studies, and practical activity-based workshops giving each participant a learning experience unique to their professional needs. WISH's participation in the conference hopes to translate what is discussed and learned into being implemented as part of local healthcare policy initiatives.



LONG BEACH: Animal rights activist Kirby Kotler, with his daughter Kirra, 12, from Malibu, Calif, holds up signs as opponents and supporters fill the room during a California Coastal Commission meeting. — AP

FACING BAN ON ORCA BREEDING, SEAWORLD PONDERERS NEXT MOVE

'IT'S TIME FOR THEM TO STOP FIGHTING AND EVOLVE'

SAN DIEGO: SeaWorld says denying orcas' their ability to breed is cruel, but it was unclear Friday whether the corporation will fight such a ban at its California park and risk further hurting attendance. Company officials said they were reviewing their options a day after the California Coastal Commission approved a \$100 million expansion of the tanks SeaWorld uses to hold killer whales in San Diego - but banned breeding of the captive orcas that would live in them.

The panel's decision raised an array of questions, including whether the company would proceed with the project or raise a legal challenge, possibly on whether the commission overstepped its authority. Deciding the next step could be tricky for SeaWorld. The company has been struggling with falling stock prices and park attendance numbers since the release of the 2013 documentary "Blackfish," which suggests SeaWorld's treatment of captive orcas provokes violent behavior.

Number of risks

If SeaWorld abandons its expansion for its orca facility to get around having a ban on its breeding program, then it risks giving the public the perception that it never intended to build bigger tanks to benefit the park's 11 killer whales but rather to simply breed

more in captivity, said Jennifer Fearing, a lobbyist for The Humane Society of the United States.

The ban on breeding, including through artificial insemination, would apply only to the California park and not SeaWorld facilities in other states. The commission also prohibited the sale, trade or transfer of captive orcas. The amendment does provide a potential exemption for certain whales caught in the wild.

Suing the state over the ruling could be costly and time-consuming. A ruling in its favor would mean the company must return to the commission again to get another permit for its "Blue World" project, set to open in 2018, which would triple the size of existing killer whale enclosures. SeaWorld should learn from Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey, Fearing said. That company announced in March that its three touring circuses would phase out elephant acts by 2018 because of a shift in public attitudes.

If SeaWorld moved forward with its plans under the commission's various conditions, it would win back many of its critics, Fearing said. "It's clear where public opinion is and the unanimous vote from the California Coastal Commission only added to the barage over the last couple years," she said. "The writing is on the wall and it's time for them to stop fighting and evolve."

'Slow extinction'

Animal rights activists praised the decision as marking the end of the ocean park's use of orcas. SeaWorld officials expressed concern: "A ban on breeding would sentence these animals to a slow extinction in our care," said John Reilly, president of SeaWorld San Diego, who rushed out of the building after the vote. The company declined to answer questions Friday on the ruling but sent a statement from Joel Manby, SeaWorld's president and chief executive, saying: "Depriving these social animals of the natural and fundamental right to reproduce is inhumane and we do not support this condition." During Thursday's heated meeting attended by hundreds, SeaWorld attorney David Watson told the panel "the state of California does not have jurisdiction to regulate the management and care of marine mammal collections."

"We believe that federal law expressly pre-empts all state regulation" of the orcas, he said. "All marine mammal exhibits are regulated exclusively by the federal government." The condition was among several set by the commission that regulates land and water use along the California coast, including that no new whales from the wild will be kept in the new tanks. SeaWorld says it hasn't captured wild orcas in more than 30 years. — AP

GOVERNOR OKS MEDICAL MARIJUANA REGULATIONS

SAN FRANCISCO: A trio of bills aimed at bringing order and oversight to California's medical marijuana industry nearly 20 years after the state led the nation in legalizing pot for medical use won Gov. Jerry Brown's signature, his office said Friday.

The first statewide licensing and operating rules for pot growers, manufacturers of cannabis-infused products and retail weed stores comes as multiple groups try to qualify voter initiatives in 2016 that would allow adults to use marijuana recreationally.

Even before Brown approved the package of new rules, initiative sponsors had started rewriting their proposed measures to incorporate many of its elements in hopes of not alienating the governor ahead of next year's election.

"My hope is this will be viewed as a starting point, a solid foundation on which to build from," Assemblyman Ron Bonta, D-Oakland, the lead author of one of the bills, said Friday. "Whatever happens with recreational use, there needs to be proper regulation. This is a very strong contribution from the Legislature about what those regulations should look like."

The Democratic governor's endorsement of the 70-page Medical Marijuana Regulation and Safety Act hammered out by lawmakers in the closing hours of the legislative session was expected because his office crafted many of the exhaustive details. "This new structure will make sure patients have access to medical marijuana, while ensuring a robust tracking system," Brown said in a signing statement. "This sends a clear signal to our federal counterparts that California is implementing

robust controls not only on paper, but in practice." The package seeks to manage medical marijuana by requiring individuals or companies engaged in any aspect of the industry to obtain at least one of 17 different licenses. It restricts the number of licenses one company could have. The legislation includes separate licenses for indoor and outdoor cultivation, transportation, product testing, distribution and dispensaries of different sizes. It also charges various state agencies to develop guidelines for packaging, potency, pesticide use and advertising.

"Today, the Wild West era of medical cannabis came to an end, and a new era of responsible regulation has begun," said United Food and Commercial Workers Western States Council Executive Director Jim Araby, whose union lobbied for employment standards in the bills.

In addition, the bills preserve the right of individuals to grow small amounts of medical marijuana for personal use and allows local governments to ban or tax marijuana-related businesses. Another provision commissions the University of California to study how marijuana affects driving and to recommend appropriate impaired-driver standards. "This package proves that, for the first time, Californians can work collaboratively to develop and produce comprehensive medical marijuana regulation," said California Police Chiefs Association President David Bejarano, whose organization opposed previous efforts to regulate medical marijuana at the state level on the theory that to do so would amount to an endorsement that pot has proven benefits.

GLUTTONOUS JAGUAR 'TOO OBESE TO MATE'

NEW DELHI: A 12-year-old jaguar brought to New Delhi zoo on a "breeding loan" is being sent back after he was found too fat to mate, officials said yesterday. The big cat, nicknamed Salman, was borrowed from a zoo in southern Kerala state last October but has since shown little interest in coying up to his partner, Delhi zoo curator Riaz Khan told AFP.

"The female jaguar has been trying to entice him but he is simply lazy and does not respond to her overtures," Khan said. "The fact is he is too fat to breed and we have decided to send him back to Kerala," he said, adding the jaguar polishes off some six kilos of buffalo meat daily.

Jaguars look like the leopard, the only difference being they have spots inside their rosettes. The jaguar is also a much stockier animal than its cousin, with short-

er legs and tail. Jaguars have no defined breeding season and will mate any time of the year. The International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources

(IUCN) lists the species as near threatened with hunting prohibited in India as well as various other countries. The International Species Information Service says there are only 292 jaguars worldwide. Delhi zoo officials have not weighed the big cat as yet although they say he is "much heavier" than the normal 100 kilos. The Indian Express daily said frustrated caretakers had given up hope of seeing Salman start a family. "He has a bigger appetite than the tigers," the English language newspaper quoted a caretaker as saying. "He is lazy, a glutton, just loves to eat and relax." — AFP

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ALGHANIM INDUSTRIES HOLDS CANCER AWARENESS SEMINAR



Alghanim Industries (AI), one of the largest privately owned companies in the region, held an information session at its head office location in Shuwaikh, to raise employee awareness about breast cancer. The seminar was conducted by Dr Sameh Aziz, Director of AI Medical Services, and Dr Mona AbouTaam, an OBGYN specialist from the Royal Hayat Hospital. The seminar was part of the company's annual campaign, organized by AI Medical Services, along with other AI businesses and departments.

Custom made cookies were donated by Mais Alghanim restaurant, as well as cupcakes decorated with a pink ribbon to show support of the campaign. The confectionaries were distributed to all employees during their lunch break at the company's restaurant. Furthermore, Costa Coffee launched a campaign, pledging to donate 10% of all proceeds of sales from their "pink products", the Strawberry PavlovaFrostino and Strawberry Lemonade. The donations will go to the Kuwait Red Crescent Society to help those affected by breast cancer and to raise more awareness about the disease.

Commenting on the campaign, Chief Human Resources Officer, George Lambros, said: "One of Alghanim Industries' core values is the belief that our employees are our most valuable asset, so it's natural that we place a high priority on the well-being of our employees. Throughout the year, we hold various seminars and events to promote employee wellness and encourage healthy habits. Each October, during Breast Cancer Awareness Month, we make a special effort to increase awareness and educate our employees regarding breast cancer and the importance of early detection. Under Dr Sameh's leadership, Alghanim Industries Medical Services has designed a wide range of activities this year that will engage our employees and draw attention to this important health issue."

Dr Sameh, also commenting on the campaign, said: "We organize the Breast Cancer Awareness campaign annually during the month of October because we know how widespread this disease is. One in eight women will develop breast cancer in their life time. This is why it is important for us to conduct these seminars in order to raise employee awareness about early detection methods and treatment. We hand out educational brochures and encourage them to wear pink on the day of the seminar to show their support for the cause. We wish all our employees and their families the best of health."



NAG EMPLOYEES DISTRIBUTE EID GIFTS TO STREET CLEANERS

National Agencies Group(NAG), the authorized distributor for KIA Motors in Kuwait and a subsidiary of Abdulaziz Al-Ali Al-Mutawa Group of Companies, put smiles on the faces of street cleaners working for Kuwait Municipality during Eid Al-Adha holidays, when its owners, employees and their children offered them gifts & money. The activity marks the second consecutive Eid gift distribution conducted by NAG, and falls under the company's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) program aiming to sup-

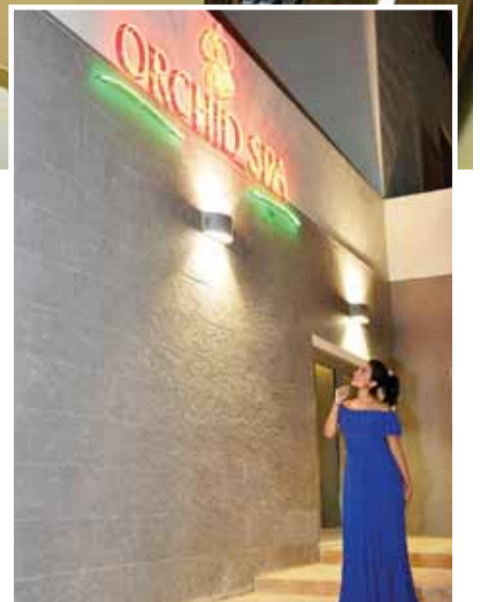
port the various segments of society. "The gift distribution initiative is a small token of gratitude from National Agencies Group to Kuwait's street cleaners, who undergo tough conditions everyday to keep our streets clean," explained Ahmad Al-Mutawa, Chairman & CEO of Al-Mutawa Group. NAG regularly conducts similar activities throughout the year, out of the company's desire to foster strong relationships with various segments of the community and to lend a helping hand to those less fortunate.

INDULGE YOURSELF AT THE BRAND-NEW ORCHID SPA

As promises Palms Beach Hotel clients to provide all that is new and unique and would improve the services provided to open this new avenues to recognize those who want to upgrade and excellence, back to you, Orchid Spa in suit new pregnant between the walls of a unique experience of its kind to include all that is new in the world relaxation and vitality. With all the Orchid SPA from high-tech equipment as well as human hands petition with expertise in the art of massage and body care and skin, as well as the rest of the team that always working hard for your combatable from the first moment

There is also a special list of treatments which includes more than forty-five specialist treatment program fits the needs of everyone, combining world-class technologies extracted products from sea weed for body care and beautification of the skin, by dint of water treatment programs for the recovery of blood circulation (Hydropath) and revitalize the skin.

In addition to massage and hot volcanic stones Massage hands and feet reflexive and also scented her bal treatment program and many other programs offered at the hands of the most skilled therapists are experts in this field and to ensure that the recovery self Spirit Orchid Spa can be for men and women that give their bodies' special care, as much to the enjoyment of the Moroccan bath and give him/her the body of freshness relaxed muscle debilitating burdens of daily life as well as clean and soften the skin and get rid of dead skin.



INDIA MP ATTENDS OICC ONAM-EID CELEBRATION



India's parliament member and former minister KC Venugopal attended Overseas Indian Cultural Congress (OICC-Kuwait)'s Onam and Eid celebrations on Friday at the Indian Community School (Senior) auditorium, Salmiya. The celebration started at 8 am with a floral carpet competition. Chief guests were received with thalappoli by ladies wing along with the entry of 'Mahabali', 'puliikkali' and 'Sinkarimelam'.

Former Indian minister KC Venugopal MP inaugurated the celebration by lighting the traditional lamp along with first lady, the wife of the Indian Ambassador Dr Gargi Jain, OICC Kuwait President Varghese Puthukulangara, General Convener OICC Vice-President Vijay Karayil, Global Committee Member M A Hiall, General Secretary B S Pillai, Program Convener Binu Chempalayam and other OICC National Committee officials and Vanitha chairperson on the dais. Puthukulangara chaired the meeting while General Secretary B S Pillai welcomed the audience.

In his presidential address Puthukulangara briefed about the socio-welfare activities OICC Kuwait has been carrying out for the betterment of the community. The latest one was involving 14 orphanages/old age homes in the 14 districts back in Kerala in the celebration, serving Ona Sadya, on the same day of OICC

Onam-Eid celebration day.

The Indian MP in his inaugural address appreciated OICC Kuwait for its unity in organizing such a wonderful event and its core socio-welfare services. Criticizing the India government at the centre for seeking to polarize the people over caste and religion, the MP said, India is passing through a critical phase with its secular principles being threatened. "It is unfortunate that a poor man was lynched to death in Uttar Pradesh because he reportedly consumed beef," he said. He also elaborated on the recent political developments in Kerala and its expected consequences, voicing his strong distress about bringing religion into politics.

Dr Gargi Jain also appreciated OICC for its efforts in serving the society and wished all success for its continued socio-welfare services. General Convener OICC Vice -President and Secretary of the Indian Community School Vijay Karayil and Global Committee Member M A Hiall felicitated the occasion. During the meeting, a number of medals/trophies/mementos were distributed for various activities. The first one was the farewell bid of OICC Global Committee Member M K Pothan, who will be leaving Kuwait for good, after leading an expat life of more than three decades. Chief Guest KC Venugopal honored him with a memento and a ponnada by Puthukulangara.



OICC Kuwait Alappuzha District President Christopher Daniel handed an amount of INR 25,000 to KC Venugopal, being the first installment of three lakh rupees of housing aid. This was followed by the prize distribution of 20/20 Cricket Tournament conducted by OICC Sports wing. The first place winner Spark XI and the second place winner Friday Court were honored with trophies and cash award by Venugopal.

Sport wing team members Dileep Bajju, Chandramohan, Deepak Krishnan, Shameer, Shiju Thankachan, Shibu Rajan and Anil Kallar

on behalf of Hareesh Thrippunithura, were also honored with medals by Puthukulangara, Vice-President Samuel Chacko and BS Pillai, sports wing officials Mathew Chennithala, Jose Chengannur, Nasser Chullikkara, OICC Global Committee Member Sherley Binu one after another, as a token of encouragement.

And as a token of appreciation for conducting such a wonderful cricket tournament, Sports wing officials Mathew Chennithala, Chairman, Jose Chengannur, General Convener and Cricket Tournament Convener Dileep Bajju were honored with mementos by

Venugopal on behalf of OICC Kuwait. Floral carpet winners first prize Kottayam District, second prize Kollam District and 3rd prize Kannur District were also honored with trophies and cash award by the chief guest. Consolation trophies were also given to all participated teams.

The most attractive part of the prize/memento distribution was honoring the chief guests. Chief Guest Venugopal was honored with a memento by President Puthukulangara and General Convener and OICC Vice-President Vijay Karayil jointly. Dr Gargi Jain was honored with a memento by General Secretary Pillai and program convener and OICC general secretary Binu Chempalayam jointly.

Program Committee Convener and OICC General Secretary Binu Chempalayam proposed vote of thanks. Binoy and Sradha Binu excellently compered the cultural meeting. Subsequently, the stage was filled with a variety of cultural programs such as Onappattu, Thiruvathira, Oppana, fusion dance, solo songs and group dances. Musical orchestra by Elanza troupe for the whole afternoon was quite extraordinary as each and every one present were totally enjoyed. In between, a sumptuous traditional onasadya was served to all attendees numbering around 1,500.



ETIHAD AIRWAYS HONOURS UAE NATIONAL GRADUATES

Etihad Airways, the national airline of the United Arab Emirates, has celebrated a record number of UAE national graduates from its award-winning Future Leaders program. The graduating class consisted of 280 UAE nationals including 86 cadet pilots; 82 technical engineers; 37 graduate managers; 13 airport operations managers; five sales managers; 53 Fursati Foundation Program graduates; and four graduates from the Sabre program. The star performer awards for 2015 were presented to Mohammad Ali (cadet pilot); Khalifa Al Hosani (cadet pilot - Abu Dhabi University); Jasim Al Hammadi (technical engineer); Al Shaimaa Al Ameri (graduate manager); and Ameena Al Marzuqi (Fursati). The graduation was attended by HE Hamad Al Shamsi, Vice Chairman of Etihad Airways Board; and Etihad Airways Board Members.

HE Hamad Al Shamsi and James Hogan, Etihad Airways' President and Chief Executive Officer delivered speeches at the ceremony in Abu Dhabi. HE Hamad Al Shamsi said: "The UAE, our esteemed President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, along with the support of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, and the Etihad Airways leadership, have together presented the graduates with a wonderful opportunity. "It is an opportunity for them to go out and become leaders - leaders of this business and leaders of our great country."

Hogan said: "We offer our congratulations to the record number of Emirati men and women who have today graduated from the Etihad Airways future leaders program. "The gradua-

tion ceremony marks a great moment in the graduates' careers, and as they celebrate with friends and family, they can each look forward to a fulfilling career with Etihad Airways. "Etihad Airways continues to invest in the training and development of UAE nationals and these Future Leaders will go on to play a key part in the supporting the long-term development of the airline."

The five-year cadet pilot program consists of three and a half years academic studies in partnership with Abu Dhabi University and an eighteen months flight training at the Etihad Flight College in Al Ain. The Etihad Airways' technical engineering program includes a Bachelor Degree program from the Higher Colleges of Technology, the Abu Dhabi Polytechnic Institute, or a specialised aircraft maintenance institute, followed by two years of practical

training at Abu Dhabi Airport working on the most modern airplanes in the industry. To start working as engineers, the trainees have to obtain an approved engineer's license from the UAE's General Civil Aviation Authority (GCAA).

The Graduate Management Program is a workplace learning program based on specialised functions including finance, information technology, global sales, airport operation, audit, human resource, revenue management and network planning. The program is underpinned by internationally accredited qualifications and integrates classroom education with on-the-job training both in the UAE and across the network. Upon completion of the program, graduates are deployed in various departments across the business and the airline's global network. The 53 Fursati graduates join the airline in direct entry customer-facing ground service roles.

Fursati, operated in partnership with Abu Dhabi Tawteen Council, is looking to recruit more than 500 UAE nationals during the next two years for entry level positions within the airline. Etihad Airways offers 22 Development Programs all of which allow UAE national graduates to develop key skills and gain practical experience which results in fast-tracked careers at the airline. Etihad Airways employs more than 2,700 UAE nationals across its global business. Emiratis are the number one nationality group amongst the total employees based in the UAE, and amongst employees at manager level, executive level and within Etihad Airways' pilot community. Under plans to accelerate its employment of UAE nationals over the next five years, Etihad Airways is set to recruit more than 6,000 UAE nationals by 2020.



KUWAIT: Al-Sanabel Al-Thahabiya and Sebamed participated in the launching of the Pink Sedra Health Day at the Sidra Center, Kuwait Cancer Control Center which was opened on Wednesday in the presence of KCCC Director Dr Ahmad Al-Awadhi. The day marks the start of the month of October activities for awareness about breast cancer.



TURKISH KARAL AT MAIS ALGHANIM

The Mais Alghanim Restaurant Group has recently announced the unveiling of its most recent promotion; namely the Turkish Karal, which is set to offer a delectable and delicious selection of the finest Ottoman dishes. The venue for this Exquisite Turkish Taste will be at Mais Alghanim restaurant branches located in Sharq and Mahboula, giving customers the opportunity to embark on a unique and exciting culinary journey.

The promotion includes a selection of Turkish hot and cold appetizers and main dishes inspired by the rich and varied recipes of the Turkish cuisine, created to perfection by Mais Alghanim's experienced Chefs to suit every palate. Patrons are invited to savor the unique flavors of the Eggplant Salad, the mouth-watering Eggplant Meat Mousakand the traditional Turkish Ganoush Basha salad & Manti.

As for the list of main dishes set to be presented, this includes the delectable Urfa Kebap, Turkish Roll and the richly marinated Karmuze Taouk. Sea food lovers can also feast on the delicious Grilled Balik, which offers them a tender fillet of grouper fish that is seasoned and cooked to perfection. Those with a sweet tooth are also in for a treat, as they can satisfy their cravings by indulging in some of the finest Turkish desserts such as the infamous Fig Baklava prepared with figs and cream, as well as the velvety Turkish Pudding, served with coconut and almond.

Mais Alghanim Restaurant Group, renowned for being a pioneer in the hospitality industry, has always been keen on offering its customers the utmost quality at a very competitive price and an unforgettable taste. The Group has been consistently promoting a series of innovative and exciting offerings, the most recent of which is the Turkish Karal, brought to customers as part of the Group's legacy to satisfy every palate and exceed all expectations. Worth not-

ing is that this promotion is available at Mais Alghanim restaurants in Sharq - Arabian Gulf Street - and Mahboula - Spoons Commercial Complex - and is not offered through the home delivery service. For additional information please call 22251155 or visit www.maisalghanim.com.

KALA-KUWAIT TO HOLD DRAWING AND PAINTING COMPETITION

Kerala Art Lovers Association, KALA-Kuwait, the oldest among Indian Associations, is working constructively in the Indian Society, upholding the rich cultural heritage of the nation. KALA has verities of programs, covering different sections of the society. Art & Cultural promotions, Malayalam Education program, Seminars & Symposiums, literary programs, Award functions and charity for destitute. Now KALA-Kuwait is again putting here a milestone...with "Mazhavillu-2015" Drawing & Painting competitions for Indian School Children, to discover the true talents. The competitions are classified into four categories, as follows, with several prizes. Kindergarten (LKG & UKG), Sub-Junior (Class I-IV), Junior (Class V-VIII) & Senior (Class IX-XII) The competitions will start at 1.30 pm on 13th November 2015 at Indian Carmel School, Khaitan and results will be announced on 20th November 2015. The school with highest aggregate points will be awarded with the "Mazhavillu-2015 Trophy". The prize distribution schedule and venue shall be announced later. Online registrations are open at our websites www.kalakuwait.com Participants may please carry the filled form to be handed over in the venue while collecting chest numbers.

THE REGENCY HOTEL TO INAUGURATE 5-DAY FOOD FESTIVAL

In line with its continuous efforts to introduce extensive culinary offerings from around the globe, the Regency Hotel Kuwait is proudly inaugurating "From Korea to Kuwait" five days food promotion at Silk Road - the hotel's famous main restaurant in Kuwait on the 14th of October, 2015. The debut will be one day right after the Korean's national day celebration which will take place in the hotel as well and will continue for five consecutive days.

The promo will be featuring selective Korean food specialties and flavors introduced by Korean Chefs hosted from the renowned Seoul based restaurant "Congdu"; means Bean in English. Congdu's culinary team is led by Han Yoon Joo who is the owner of Congdu restaurant. Joo believes that the Korean food is changing and growing in conjunction with the Korean culture and modern life style. Joo enjoys showcasing the Korean modern food by integrating the past, present and future culture.

Special guest Chef Vivian Yoonjoo Han along with her talented five Korean Chefs, describe the Korean food as being traditional and simple, yet, prepared using new methods of cooking. It blends Korean, French and molecular techniques to introduce a traditional Korean cuisine but

with a twist. Commenting on this event, the General Manager of the Regency Hotel, Kuwait, Aurelio Giraud said "we are so excited about the debut of the Korean food festival in our Silk Road restaurant. It is another initiative that complements and sustains our positioning as number one and the leader of luxury in the market with all that we do and offer to our clients". Silk Road restaurant in the Regency Hotel, Kuwait is one of the finest restaurants, offering in addition to its finest selections of flavors and dishes, a panoramic view of the Arabian Sea and the hotel's outdoor leisure facilities.



BBC lifestyle

- 00:40 The Roux Legacy
01:50 The Good Cook
02:15 The Planners
03:05 Bill's Kitchen: Notting Hill

Discovery Channel HD

- 00:20 Deadly Dilemmas
00:45 Incredible Engineering
Blunders: Fixed
06:00 Ice Cold Gold

E

- 00:00 New Money
00:30 Fashion Bloggers
01:25 Stewarts And Hamiltons
02:20 EI News

ITV Choice

- 00:10 Who's Doing The Dishes?
02:35 Come Dine With Me Ireland
03:00 Coronation Street

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CHANNEL HD

- 00:10 Science Of Stupid
01:00 Danger Decoded
02:00 Building Wild
02:55 Cabin Fever

OSN FIRST HD COMEDY

- 00:30 About A Boy
01:00 The Nightly Show Global Edition
01:30 Saturday Night Live

- 10:30 Til Death
11:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
12:00 Men At Work

OSN MOVIES DRAMA

- 01:00 The Signal-PG15
03:00 A Thousand Times Good Night-PG15
05:00 Parkland-PG15

OSN FIRST HD

- 00:00 The Americans
01:00 Heroes Reborn
02:00 The Blacklist
03:00 The Player

OSN FIRST MORE

- 00:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
02:00 Good Morning America
03:00 Salem

OSN MOVIES ACTION

- 00:00 The Terminator
02:00 The Departed
04:30 Outpost: Rise Of The Spetsnaz

OSN MOVIES HD ACTION

- 00:00 The Departed-18
02:30 Outpost: Rise Of The Spetsnaz-PG15
04:15 Battle Of The Damned-PG15

OSN MOVIES HD COMEDY

- 00:00 The Right Kind Of Wrong
02:00 How To Lose A Guy In 10 Days

- 04:00 Moms' Night Out
06:00 Captain Ron
08:00 The Pretty One

OSN MOVIES HD FESTIVAL

- 01:30 Phantom
03:15 Seeking A Friend For The End Of The World
05:00 Against The Ropes

OSN MOVIES HD KIDS

- 01:15 Blackie And Kanuto
02:45 Asterix: The Mansions Of The Gods
04:15 Back To The Sea

OSN MOVIES HD PREMIERE

- 00:00 Everything Must Go-PG15
02:00 Escape Plan-PG15
04:00 Tactical Force-PG15

OSN MOVIES HD PREMIERE

- 00:00 Everything Must Go-PG15
02:00 Escape Plan-PG15
04:00 Tactical Force-PG15

- 13:45 Spy Kids 4
15:15 Nearing Grace
17:00 Hostel Part 2

OSN MOVIES HD

- 00:00 Switched At Birth
01:00 MasterChef Australia
02:00 The Walking Dead
03:00 The Walking Dead

HISTORY

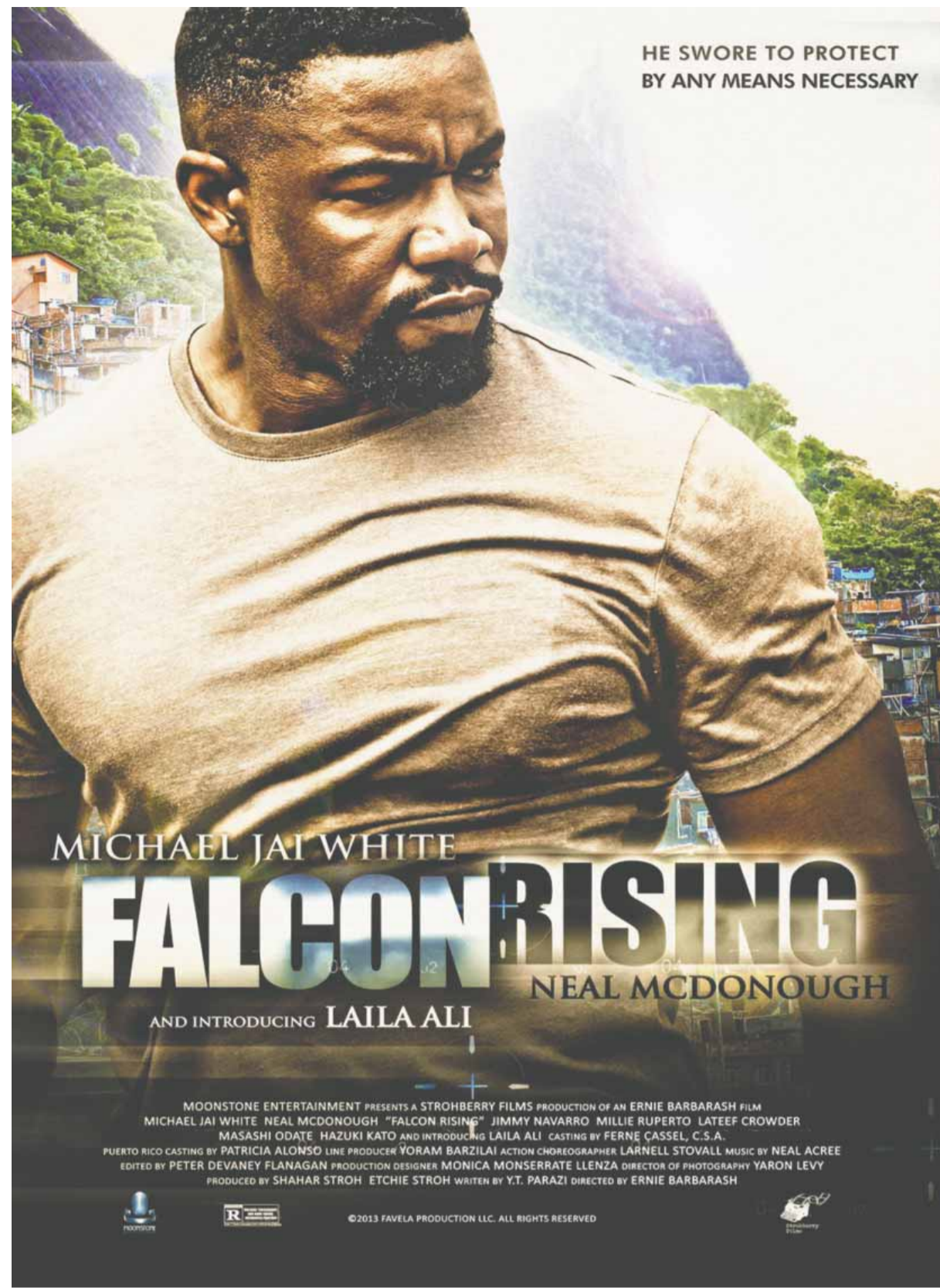
- 00:00 The World Wars
01:00 American Restoration
01:30 American Restoration

AMC

- 04:05 The Wild Angels
05:30 Molly
07:00 The Sharkfighters

ANIMAL PLANET HD

- 03:25 Monster Island
04:15 Tigerfish: Africa's Piranha
05:02 River Monsters (Best Of Series 1-5)



FALCON RISING ON OSN MOVIES HD

- 16:30 Widest Indochina
17:25 Lion Man: One World African Safari
22:00 Blood Lake: Attack Of The Killer Lampreys

BBC entertainment

- 03:25 Doctor Who
04:15 The Weakest Link
05:00 The Green Balloon Club

- Savant's Thumb
23:10 Doctor Who
00:00 Hotel Secrets With Richard E Grant

OSN CARTOON NETWORK

- 03:20 Grojband
04:05 Total Drama: Pahkitew Island
04:50 Teen Titans Go!

- Gumball
19:40 Adventure Time
20:25 Regular Show
20:50 Dreamworks Dragons:

ID. INVESTIGATION DISCOVERY

- 03:00 Deadly Sins
03:45 Devil In The Details
04:30 Deadly Affairs
05:20 The Will

SCIENCE DISCOVERY

- 03:29 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
04:16 Food Factory
10:23 How Do They Do It?

Disney JUNIOR

- 03:10 Henry Hugglemonster
03:20 Calimero
03:35 Zou



THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN 2 ON OSN MOVIES ACTION HD

- 03:10 Henry Hugglemonster
03:20 Calimero
03:35 Zou

CLASSIFIEDS



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

Table of television programmes including titles like THE WALK, THE MARTIAN, FANAR-4, and others, with their respective start and end times.

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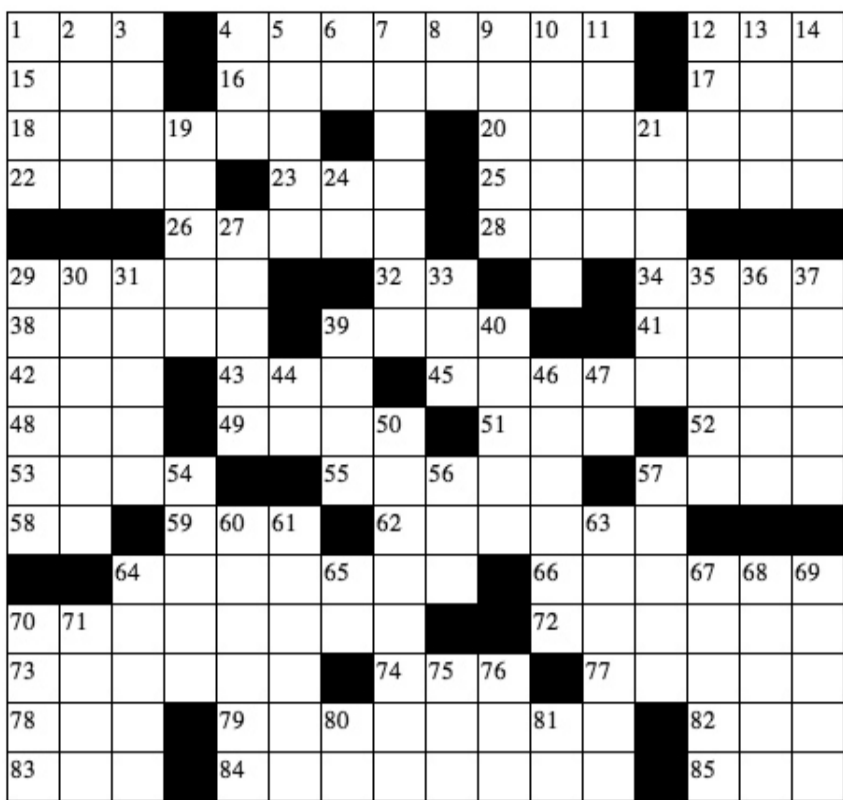
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CROSSWORD 1046



ACROSS

- 1. 36th President of the United States.
- 4. Relating to the abomasum (the fourth compartment of the stomach of ruminants).
- 12. A constellation in the southern hemisphere near Telescopium and Norma.
- 15. Fermented alcoholic beverage similar to but heavier than beer.
- 16. A quality of the voice that is produced by nasal resonators.
- 17. To what extent or amount or degree.
- 18. A high-kicking dance of French origin performed by a female chorus line.
- 20. A baroque musical composition (usually for a keyboard instrument) with full chords and rapid elaborate runs in a rhythmically free style.
- 22. Not only so, but.
- 23. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
- 25. In an affable manner.
- 26. The principal evil jinni in Islamic mythology.
- 28. The basic unit of money in Iran.
- 29. Provide what is desired or needed, esp. support, food or sustenance.
- 32. Being one more than one hundred.
- 34. A symptom of some physical hurt or disorder.
- 38. Lighted up by or as by fire or flame.
- 41. Projectiles to be fired from a gun.
- 42. A unit of length of thread or yarn.
- 43. (informal) Of the highest quality.
- 45. Thin flat or tubular green alga.
- 48. A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
- 49. God of death.
- 51. Light informal conversation for social occasions.
- 52. (informal) Of very poor quality.
- 53. (informal) Exceptionally good.
- 55. (Old Testament) The second patriarch.
- 58. A public promotion of some product or service.
- 59. A spacecraft that carries astronauts from the command module to the surface of the moon and back.
- 62. The whiteness that results from removing the color from something.
- 66. A member of the Wakashan people living on Vancouver Island and in the Cape Flattery region of northwestern Washington.
- 70. English portrait painter and first president of the Royal Academy (1723-1792).
- 72. A member of a nomadic Berber people of the Sahara.
- 73. Bristlelike process near the tip of the antenna of certain flies.
- 74. The starting place for each hole on a golf course.
- 77. Fleishy spore-bearing inner mass of e.g. a puffball or stinkhorn.
- 78. Strong liquor flavored with juniper berries.
- 79. An inability to sleep.
- 82. A member of a Mayan people of southwestern Guatemala.
- 83. A graphical record of electrical activity of the brain.
- 84. Having to do with a consul or his office or duties.
- 85. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.

- 4. (Irish) Mother of the ancient Irish gods.
- 5. Obvious and dull.
- 6. A mouth or mouthlike opening.
- 7. Small bitter fruit of the marasca cherry tree from whose juice maraschino liqueur is made.
- 8. A silvery ductile metallic element found primarily in bauxite.
- 9. A stringed instrument of India.
- 10. Of or relating to of comprising atoms.
- 11. An ancient region on the coast of southwest Asia Minor.
- 12. According to the Old Testament he was a pagan king of Israel and husband of Jezebel (9th century BC).
- 13. A unit of weight used in some Moslem countries near the Mediterranean.
- 14. Distant in either space or time.
- 19. A cry or shout of approval.
- 21. A high-crowned black cap (usually made of felt or sheepskin) worn by men in Turkey and Iran and the Caucasus.
- 24. Of or relating to the stomach and intestines.
- 27. Flesh of any of various freshwater fishes of the families Centrarchidae of North America or Cyprinidae of Europe.
- 30. Regional and archaic.
- 31. A crown-like jewelled headdress worn by women on formal occasions.
- 33. A hospital unit staffed and equipped to provide intensive care.
- 35. Naked freshwater or marine or parasitic protozoa that form temporary pseudopods for feeding and locomotion.
- 36. (Islam) The man who leads prayers in a mosque.
- 37. The mother-in-law of Ruth whose story is told in the Book of Ruth in the Old Testament.
- 39. A beautiful and graceful girl.
- 40. Primitive chlorophyll-containing mainly aquatic eukaryotic organisms lacking true stems and roots and leaves.
- 44. A white metallic element that burns with a brilliant light.
- 46. Void of thought or knowledge.
- 47. The blood group whose red cells carry both the A and B antigens.
- 50. A fibrous amphibole.
- 54. A small rounded gland-like structure.
- 56. A flat wing-shaped process or winglike part of an organism.
- 57. Full of submerged reefs or sandbanks or shoals.
- 60. Being or from or characteristic of another place or part of the world.
- 61. The capital of Lombardy in northern Italy.
- 63. Large American feline resembling a lion.
- 64. The act of tying things together.
- 65. A doctor's degree in religion.
- 67. An evergreen tree of the family Ulmaceae that grows in tropical America and Africa and Asia.
- 68. Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
- 69. Small terrestrial lizard of warm regions of the Old World.
- 71. A member of an Iroquoian people formerly living on the south shore of Lake Erie in northern Ohio and northwest Pennsylvania and western New York.
- 75. Any of various systems of units for measuring electricity and magnetism.
- 76. An inflammatory complication of leprosy that results in painful skin lesions on the arms and legs and face.
- 80. A silvery malleable metallic element that resists corrosion.
- 81. A state in midwestern United States.

DOWN

- 1. Made of or resembling lace.
- 2. (Scottish) Bluish-black or gray-blue.
- 3. The battle in 1806 in which Napoleon decisively defeated the Prussians.

Yesterday's Solution

L	E	M		C	E	T	A	C	E	A	N		D	M	D
A	G	A		H	O	A	R	S	E	L	Y		A	A	R
H	I	S	P	A	N	I	C					O	B	E	C
U	S	H	E	R		P		C	H	U	B		C	A	W
				H	A	I	R	E	D		M	A	L	T	A
F	L	A	G	S	H	I	P			T	E	A		B	A
R	A	D		M	U			T	N	T		I	B	R	D
A	Z		T	A	B	L	E		B	A	A		R	A	M
N	I	K	E		A	W	A	K	E		B	H	A	G	A
C	O	U	G	A	R		R			R	E	A	G	A	N
				R	U	M	B	A		N	E	E	D	Y	
A	N	A		I		N	I	C	A	D		D		K	B
S	A	K	H	A	R	O	V			P	A	N	G	E	A
S	I	K	A		O	M	I	C	R	O	N			A	B
A	R	A	K		T	I	E	P	O	L	O			L	A
M	A	N	E		C	E	D	R	E	L	A			A	B

STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

Today you might experience a bit of restlessness, perhaps because you feel there's something you ought to be doing but you aren't sure what. Your mind is sharp, intuitive, and logical, but too many options could be on the horizon. You might find it difficult to choose among them. Once you decide, you'll charge ahead and make a success of whatever you try.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

You might consider entering a business partnership of some kind with friends. This is a good time because your communication is especially good. Details of each person's role can be worked out clearly. Though it's admittedly going to take some effort, success is indicated for just about any goal.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Have you been working toward public acknowledgement of some sort? If so, you may receive it today. You've been working hard and produced results that aren't likely to go unnoticed. Expect some compliments, a lot of praise, and maybe even a moment of fame. Needless to say, this is going to give your self-confidence a boost.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

All should be going well for you - love, money, and career. Still, you seek other goals, and today you might be thinking of educational, intellectual, and spiritual matters that you've always wanted to pursue. Don't be surprised if you're preoccupied with trying to sort it all out. And don't feel you have to rush to make a decision. Give it some time.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

Today you might decide to do some intense research regarding economics, stocks, or land investments and see how it applies to your current financial situation. You've been doing well and should continue doing so. You'll want to find ways to make your money grow. Books, magazines, and newspapers can help your quest, as can consultations with professionals.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

A social event involving business associates and friends could bring fresh ideas your way, pointing you in a new direction. Your material and spiritual goals might come under discussion and open your eyes to previously unnoticed opportunities. Communication is clearer than usual. This may prove beneficial. Increased understanding brings you closer to others.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

You're likely feeling alert, strong, and full of energy and stamina. Your sense of adventure is high. You may be exploring the possibility of an interesting vacation - rafting, backpacking, or some other adventure. This is a good idea. This trend in your physical condition should continue for a while. Get some travel brochures and look into it!



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Intimate relationships gather steam as increased involvement in each other's life brings you closer. Relationships grow through enhanced communication and shared dreams, goals, and ideals - not to mention physical passion! You should feel strong and confident today, especially as your material success continues. Travel, a new car, and a few luxury items might be on your agenda.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Happiness reigns in the home as your household continues to experience success. Someone new may come to visit. Expect a lot of comings and goings, plus an impromptu party or two. Meditation and contemplation could provide inspiration for new projects, and you might spend some time writing down ideas and brainstorming ways to approach them.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

A lot of interesting letters and calls could come your way today. Or you might have business to transact, perhaps involving paperwork, and spend a lot of time out in the community running errands. Group activities could also take place in your neighborhood, bringing you and your friends closer together. The only caution is that you shouldn't try to do too much.



Aquarius (January 20-February 18)

You're likely to be doing so well financially that you might be a little complacent. With all the hard work you've been doing, you might feel that you deserve some rewards and decide to go shopping. Don't throw caution to the winds, however. You're doing well, but you don't want your house cluttered with items you don't want or need.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Your energy and enthusiasm are elevated as you approach yet a higher level of accomplishment. This could inspire you to channel most of your energy into more work and climb yet higher. You might even be thinking in terms of expanding all your horizons - professional, intellectual, and spiritual. Travel could also be in the offing. Consider your options carefully. There might be too many choices.

WORD SEARCH PUZZLE

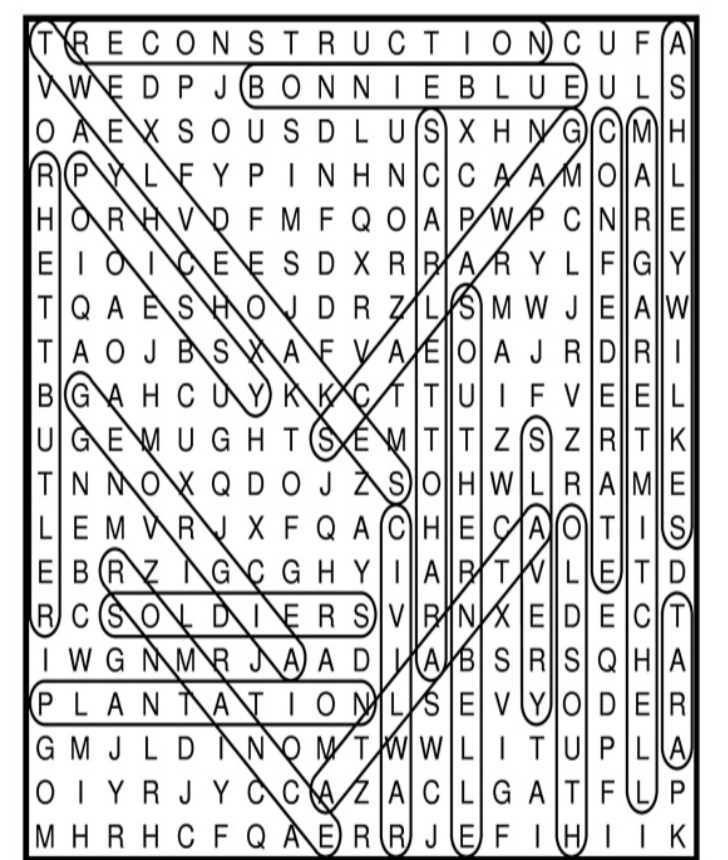
FEATHERED FRIENDS WORD SEARCH PUZZLE



- BALD EAGLE
- FALCON
- PARAKEET
- ROADRUNNER
- BARN OWL
- FINCH
- PARROT
- ROBIN
- CANADA GEESE
- FLAMINGO
- PENGUIN
- SANDPIPER
- CANARY
- OSPREY
- PUFFIN
- SEAGULL
- COCKATIEL
- OSTRICH
- RAVEN
- WOODPECKER

Yesterday's Solution

SOLUTION TO GONE WITH THE WIND PUZZLE



Daily SuDoku

			5	3				
5				4		6	9	
		1			7			
6	1			4				
8		2	9		5	1		6
				6			4	2
		5			6			
3	7		5					4
			8	2				

very hard

Yesterday's Solution

8	5	1	3	2	6	7	4	9
3	6	9	7	4	8	1	5	2
7	4	2	5	1	9	6	3	8
4	3	7	1	9	5	8	2	6
5	1	8	2	6	3	4	9	7
9	2	6	4	8	7	3	1	5
2	8	3	9	7	1	5	6	4
6	9	5	8	3	4	2	7	1
1	7	4	6	5	2	9	8	3

medium

Gossip

Refaeli wants to have kids



The 30-year-old beauty married businessman Adi Ezra last month and though they still feel they want to spend time alone before having a family, she thinks they'll always feel like that so would rather have kids in the near future. She said: "I would love to have kids soon. We keep feeling like we need some more time to ourselves but I think that feeling will never go away. So we will probably aim for children soon, I hope." Though Bar insists marriage shouldn't change her relationship with Adi, she admits she felt differently about him as soon as he became her husband. Asked how marriage will change their relationship, she said: "I don't think it should. I believe people choose to get married because they are happy with their lives together, so why would we change anything? "I didn't expect it - I always thought it would be the same as the day before the marriage - but you feel a spark of extra commitment when you call someone your 'husband.'" The Israeli model also opened up about her husband's "old-fashioned" marriage proposal. She recalled to HELLO! magazine: "Adi is an old-fashioned, romantic man, He went down on one knee in the middle of a romantic dinner in the Maldives and asked me to be his wife."

Mulligan would 'never' sing with husband

The 'Suffragette' actress - who has welcomed her first child with Marcus Mumford - doesn't want to join Mumford & Sons on stage and would rather watch people sing on TV than do it herself. Asked if she'd sing with the rocker, she said: "I've been asked that many times and my answer is the same; never. "Even when I was preparing to sing in some films, I didn't want to ask him to help me. I would rather watch other people sing on "The X Factor." The couple live on a farm because they enjoy the "peace and beauty" of the countryside, even though they are away from home a lot. She told LOOK magazine: "It's very relaxing to spend time in the countryside but we haven't spent that much time there lately because I'm often shooting in different places. "I do have a fondness for nature because half my family is Welsh and I spent a lot of time in the countryside as a young girl. "We have a farm but we're not farmers. It's just that we enjoy the peace and beauty of living in the countryside."



Levine is helping Joe Pesci record new music



The Maroon 5 frontman reportedly formed a bond with the 72-year-old Oscar-winning actor at a charity gold event several years ago and is mentoring the 'Goodfellas' star in the studio. A source close to 'The Voice' USA star said: "They hang out and play music. Joe is really focused on music now. He's really inspired. "They kicked around some songs and recorded some stuff together." While the pair have already recorded a number of tracks, they haven't decided whether to release them in the future. The insider told Us Weekly magazine: "It was just a thing they did while having fun." Adam's close pal Jonah Hill, whose brother Jordan Feldstein manages the 'Moves Like Jagger' hitmaker and his group, is also friends with Joe and previously claimed the legendary actor once put his fingers up his butt. He said: "I love Joe Pesci. I mean who doesn't? He's the best. 'Goodfellas' is my favorite film of all time and his performance is my favorite." But recalling their bizarre encounter at a 'Wolf of Wall Street' premiere, he said: "He goes, 'You're great in the movie, kid, I'm really proud of you.' And I'm like, 'Thank you, your acting means so much to me.' And he goes, 'Here's what I want you to do: I want you to go buy a helmet.' And I go, 'okay.' He goes, 'I want you to keep the helmet next to your bed and then every night, I want you to go in the bathroom and put the helmet on - every night.' And if ever the helmet doesn't fit, it's because too many people are going up here."

Kidman 'wasn't able to handle reality' after divorce

The Oscar winner, who is now happily married to country music singer Keith Urban, threw herself into her acting career following her split from the 'Mission Impossible' star in 2001 after 10 years of marriage to get over her broken heart. Recalling how she coped, the 48-year-old star said: "I was running from my life at that time. I wasn't able to handle the reality of my life and as an actor, you have this wonderful thing where you can go and get lost in somebody else's life and become somebody else for a period of time. And when I look back on it, I really see that. Out of that came work that sort of was applauded and so that was an interesting thing for me." The Australian star, who has adopted children Isabella, 22, and Connor, 20, with Tom, won the Best Actress Oscar for 'The Hours' two years later in 2003, but had an "epiphany" shortly afterwards. Speaking at the Women In the World Summit in London yesterday, she explained: "I was sitting in the Beverly Hills Hotel and it was all extraordinary and I was the loneliest I've ever been. And that was a very strange thing to have happened and it was a fantastic thing to have happened because I was jolted out of this I suppose need or desire to say, 'This is gonna heal me' and it didn't. And then I went, 'I need to really hone in on what I want as a woman and for my life.'" The 'Paddington' star married Keith, with whom she has daughters Sunday, seven, and Faith, four, in 2006, and insists she feels the same way about all four of her children. She said: "There's no difference, because you love...and the love is so profound and it's once you have that child and you go, 'Ah, I'm willing to die for this person.' And you see and you feel that, and that, that changes everything, doesn't it? I love children."



Barrymore won't hide troubled past from daughters

The 40-year-old actress, who battled cocaine and alcohol abuse when she was 14, believes she learned a lot from her "bad choices" and plans to discuss them with Olive, three, and Frankie, 18 months, in the future. She said: "I'm not going to pretend to my daughters that I'm pure as the driven snow. Making bad decisions doesn't make you a bad person. It is how you learn to make better choices." But the star doesn't want to embarrass her children because she's still mortified by her estranged mother Jaid's erotic book 'World Class Lovers,' which was released 20 years ago. She said: "[She] wrote a book on sex, and it was the most mortifying feeling in the world. So I know how a child feels when their parents put themselves out there too much, and I will never do that to my daughters. There are some things about your parents you just don't need to know." While Drew has found happiness with husband Will Kopelman, she isn't satisfied with her post-pregnancy figure. The Blended star told InStyle magazine: "I've beaten myself up about not being a certain thing. If someone says, 'Let's go to the beach today,' my first thought is, 'F**k, what am I going to wear?' I am who I am and I just don't have a bikini body. I don't even have a one-piece body anymore! But I am loving the long rash guard, board-shorts look."



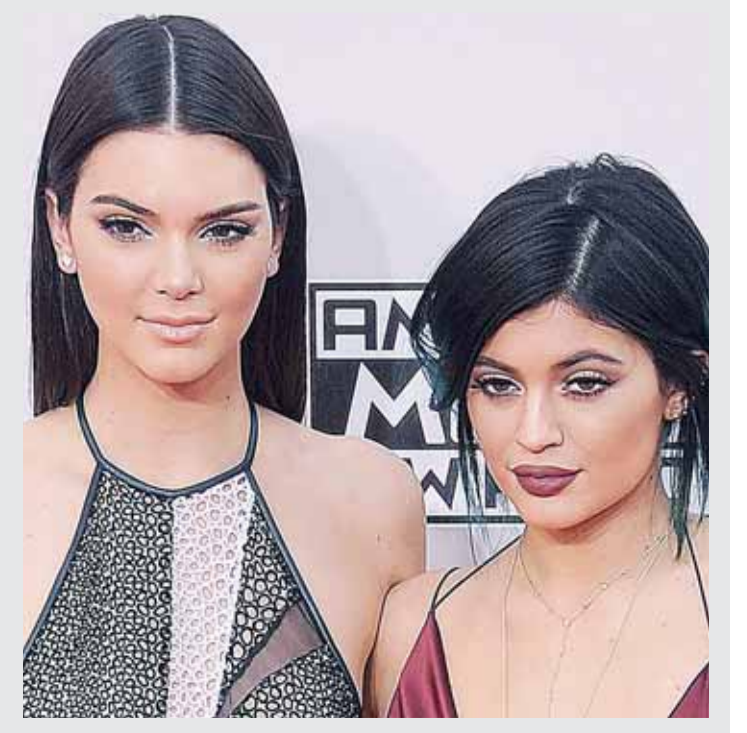
Gordon accused of injecting Bobbi Kristina Brown

The late aspiring actress' estate has filed new legal documents against her boyfriend, claiming he is trying to avoid their \$40 million wrongful death lawsuit even though he "has no problem giving an interview to Dr. Phil." Lawyers for the estate have requested that Gordon's recent request to delay the civil case, which he believes would force him to answer questions that could be used against him if criminal charges are filed in the future, be denied, according to Atlanta's Channel 2 Action News. The estate believes the 22-year-old star, who is the daughter of the late Whitney Houston and Bobby Brown, died after "a violent altercation with defendant after which he placed her in the bathtub unconscious, after he injected her with a toxic mixture" and have accused Gordon of trying to cover up the altercation by changing his clothes. They also allege Gordon received \$40,000 from a magazine for allowing them to take pictures of him at Bobbi Kristina's grave in August. Fulton County's District Attorney has decided not to release the late starlet's autopsy report because of a possible danger to witnesses. Bobbi Kristina was found unresponsive in a bathtub at her home in January and remained in a coma until her death at a hospice in July.



Kendall thinks it's 'natural' for Kylie to be jealous of her

The 19-year-old model has a very close bond with her 18-year-old sister, but admits when her catwalk career took off it initially "bothered" Kylie. She said: "She's a Leo so she loves attention, and at certain points when we were younger, it bothered her that I was getting attention in terms of my modelling. I think that's a natural younger sister thing - to be jealous. I was jealous of her sometimes too! But now she loves what I do and supports me. She's very into fashion and always texts me when I'm doing a big show like, 'That is the sickest thing ever! How were the clothes?' It's as much a part of her life as it is mine." Meanwhile, Kendall believes she and Kylie are "much braver than" their older half-sisters, Kourtney, Kim and Khloé Kardashian. Speaking in Cosmopolitan magazine's 50th anniversary issue - which features Kendall, Kylie, Kim, Khloé, Kourtney and their mother Kris Jenner on the cover - Kendall said: "Kylie and I are both pretty brave - much braver than the Kardashians. We have the Jenner in us." But she also says her father Bruce Jenner's decision to transition into a woman, now known as Caitlyn Jenner, has brought the entire family much closer together. Kendall also revealed she and Kylie knew their dad had an issue with his gender because of things they discovered when they were younger and experiences they shared with Bruce. She explained: "With our dad, my sisters and I, we all had our experiences with it, but for Kylie and me, being the closest in age, we had our intimate moments of catching him or finding things. Those moments were me and Kylie only, so we had a different connection with it. My dad is my dad, he's their dad too, but he's my blood. I was Daddy's girl and was so obsessed with her - same as Kylie - we spent every day with my dad, so it had a special effect on both of us." —Bangshowbiz





This file picture taken on July 13, 2013 shows lead singer Tom Smith of the British alternative rock band Editors performing at the Optimus Alive music festival at Alges, on the outskirts of Lisbon. —AFP

Elusive British band Editors go electro with 'In Dream'

With their fifth album "In Dream", British band Editors continue to defy categorization, having left behind the energetic guitar rock of their early releases with a journey to disco's darker side. "It's experimental and pop at the same time," singer Tom Smith said of the album, which was made in just over six weeks in an artist's small, isolated house in western Scotland.

Since their debut in 2002, the band have sought to forge a distinct identity, defined by powerful guitars, dark subject matter and Smith's deep voice that recalls Ian Curtis, singer of legendary 1980s Manchester band Joy Division. "We came out at a time with a new wave of British bands, such as Bloc Party, Maximo Park, and they all sounded similar," bassist Russell Leetch told AFP of the 10 tracks, a fusion of organic sounds and haunting strings.

"The majority of pop singers don't have a baritone voice, so it gets moodier, it gets heavier," said Leetch, who cites The Cure and Radiohead as his inspirations. After their first two albums—"The Back Room" (2005) and "An End Has a Start" (2007)—charted respectively at numbers two and one in the British charts, Editors looked set to claim their place at the head of the trans-Atlantic pop-rock scene. Instead, the group began to delve into the world of electronica, using synthesizers and a host of new instruments. Hints of the new sound can be heard on third album "In This Light and on This Evening" (2009), evolving six years later into "In Dream", which threatens a clean break with the past.

A 'happy accident'

It is a break partly caused by the departure of guitarist Chris Urbanowicz. The arrival of two new members and a return to a more classic approach culminated with the release of "The Weight of Love" in 2013. But the band were still keen to experiment, and decamped to the Scottish wilderness to hone their sound.

"It was a very secluded place, 35 minutes away from the nearest town, up in the mountains, very picturesque and always windy" said Leetch. "We didn't go up there to make a new record, we went up there for a writing session. It's a happy accident that it turned into a record," he added. As each new song is dissected and reinterpreted, the classic rock sound of guitar, bass and drums is gradually abandoned. Even Smith's distinctive dark voice swings between bass and treble. The arrival of a new vintage is reinforced by the presence of British singer Rachel Goswell, the first guest artist to appear on one of the band's albums. The next test is to recreate the ambience live during a tour that starts in Britain on October 9 before hitting Europe. "It's always a challenge," said Leetch of the live shows. "Sometimes we have to re-amplify certain songs." —AFP



Amandine Drouet, left, and Jodi Fleck put the finishing touches on Embodied Energy Studio's ArtPrize entry "Current Collections" at Calder Plaza in Grand Rapids.



Ann and Steven Loveless talk after being named the \$200,000 Public Grand Prize winner for "Northwood Awakening" during the ArtPrize Awards.



Kate Gilmore, left, pulls Paul Amenta to the podium to talk after Gilmore was named the \$200,000 Juried Grand Prize winner for "Higher Ground." —AP photos

Michigan, NY artists win grand prizes at ArtPrize

Artists from Michigan and New York each won \$200,000 grand prizes Friday at the seventh annual ArtPrize, a competition that brought 1,550 entries to western Michigan. Textile artist Ann Loveless and her husband, photographer Steven Loveless, won the public vote for "Northwood Awakening," a large photo print and quilt hybrid. It depicts a serene wood-

land panorama. Ann Loveless also won in 2013. The couple lives in Beulah, Michigan. "Once again, reverence for technical skill in two-dimensional work - this time in a stunning combination of large-scale photography and intricate textile - has captured the imagination of the voting public," said Christian Gaines, ArtPrize executive director. Gaines said he's "stunned and delighted"

to have a repeat winner. Separately, a jury of experts awarded a \$200,000 grand prize to Kate Gilmore of New York for "Higher Ground." She transformed a former Grand Rapids convent into performance art with women swinging on swings in open windows. "Kate Gilmore's piece is really kind of magical in a way that we've maybe lost sight of," said juror Dan Cameron of New Orleans.

The event's total purse was \$500,000. Other awards totaling \$100,000 were given to winners in certain categories. There were 1,550 eligible works at ArtPrize from 48 countries and 42 US states and territories. Public votes were cast using the ArtPrize mobile app, online and via text message to determine the grand prize given to Ann and Steven Loveless. —AP



Chloe Goins, a model who claims entertainer Bill Cosby drugged and sexually abused her at the Playboy Mansion in 2008. — AP

Judge refuses to throw out defamation suit against Cosby

A defamation lawsuit brought against Bill Cosby by three women who say he sexually abused them decades ago can move forward, a federal judge in Massachusetts ruled Friday, delivering a legal blow to the comedian as he attempts to defend himself against accusations of sexual assault by dozens of women.

The women claim in their lawsuit that Cosby's representatives damaged their reputations by denying their allegations in sometimes disparaging language. Cosby's lawyers had asked the judge to dismiss their suit, arguing that the remarks were personal opinions protected by the First Amendment and legal declarations made in his defense.

But in his ruling Friday, US District Court Judge Mark Mastroianni rejected Cosby's bid to dismiss the case before it ever goes to a jury. The women - Tamara Green, Therese Serignese and Linda Traitz - have accused Cosby of drugging them and then having unwanted sexual contact with them.

The comments they claim were defamatory range from statements dismissing their accusations as "ridiculous claims" and "absurd fabrication" to longer remarks that sought to discredit the accusers. "As the old saying goes, 'consider the source,'" ended one statement that touched on Traitz's criminal and prison record.

In his ruling, Mastroianni rejects Cosby's

argument that the statements were legal declarations made in self-defense. "The court recognizes that some jurisdictions do apply a version of the conditional self-defense privilege, which allows individuals, in certain circumstances, to publish defamatory responsive statements necessary to defend their reputation. However ... such a privilege does not permit a defendant to knowingly publish false statements of fact," the judge wrote in his 38-page ruling.

Telephone messages left for four attorneys who represent Cosby in the Massachusetts lawsuit were not immediately returned. Cosby has a house in Shelburne Falls, in western Massachusetts. "As we'd expected and hoped, the judge rejected every one of Mr. Cosby's attempts to throw the case out of court and allowed the case to proceed," said Joseph Cammarata, an attorney who represents the three women.

"We will take Mr. Cosby's deposition at the earliest possible moment. My clients look forward to moving the case forward and to restoring their good names and reputations." "Dateline NBC" is airing a special Friday night in which 29 Cosby accusers will be interviewed together about their allegations. Three separate lawsuits have been filed against him. Cosby has never been charged with a crime and he has denied the allegations. —AP

HAMILTON WATCHES EMBARK UPON AN EPIC JOURNEY WITH 'THE MARTIAN'

Hamilton Watches, known for their leading role in the worlds of aviation and cinema, as well as their innovative and precise timekeeping expertise, return to the big screen this fall, in 20th Century Fox's epic adventure, The Martian. During a manned mission to Mars, Astronaut Mark Watney (Matt Damon) is presumed dead after a fierce storm and left behind by his crew. But Watney has survived and finds himself stranded and alone on the hostile planet. With only meager supplies, Watney must draw upon his ingenuity, wit and spirit to subsist and find a way to signal to Earth that he is alive. Millions of miles away, NASA and a team of international scientists work tirelessly to bring the Martian home, while his crewmates concurrently plot a daring, if not impossible, rescue mission. As these stories of incredible bravery unfold, the world comes together to root for Watney's safe return. Based on a best-selling novel, and helmed by master director Ridley Scott, The Martian features a star-studded cast that includes Jessica Chastain, Kristen Wiig, Kate Mara, Michael Pena, Jeff Daniels, Chiwetel Ejiofor, and Donald Glover. The Martian opens in theaters starting October 8th, 2015.

Reliable timekeeping is crucial not only for Hamilton Watches but also for the leading character in the film, scientist Mark Watney. (Matt Damon). Every second counts and time means survival, so the obvious timepiece chosen to fit such a challenging role is the military-inspired Hamilton BeLOWZERO. This pitch black Hamilton timepiece is a helpful tool for Watney to pull off his mission in such extreme and dangerous circumstances. It features four octagonal bold screw tops around the watch case and a sporty black rubber strap with a double-holed buckle, ensuring a secure fit on the wrist. The Hamilton BeLOWZERO's rugged and robust high-tech design strike a perfect balance to Watney's pioneering spirit and need for precision.

The action adventure The Martian also features other signature Hamilton pieces worn by additional cast members: The X-Wind Limited Edition can be seen on the wrist of Rick Martinez (Michael PeOa) and the Pilot Pioneer Aluminum is worn by Commander Melissa Lewis (Jessica Chastain) and Beth Johanssen (Kate Mara). Inspired by Hamilton's earliest timepieces, the pocket watches which were originally designed to meet the needs of US railroad timekeeping in 1892, the Railroad Auto Chrono, is worn by Chris Beck (Sebastian Stan). As the crew plan their incredible mission to bring the Martian home while wearing the above-mentioned Hamilton timepieces, we recognize once again the spirit of precision and reliability, which are great attributes equally shared by Hamilton Watches!

This "starring" role in The Martian is the latest in over



450 movie placements for Hamilton. The first came more than 60 years ago when the brand's watches first appeared in The Frogmen. Since then, Hamilton has worked closely with costume designers and prop masters to supply watches to filmmakers. "Our work with The Martian underlines the essence of the brand - the American Spirit and Swiss Precision. Such attributes are so well reflected by the star-studded cast in their challenging roles, so our timepieces really are the perfect fit for this movie. Furthermore it exemplifies the ongoing relationship we have had with Hollywood over the past six decades and how we've collaborated with many talented behind-the-scenes professionals to help bring their characters to life" said Sylvain Dolla, CEO of Hamilton International Ltd.

Due to its continued involvement with Hollywood, Hamilton recognizes the wide spectrum of opportunities associated to the red carpet. With this in mind, the brand created the Hamilton Behind The Camera Awards, held in both Los Angeles and Shanghai. The awards pay tribute to the brilliant off-screen talent that contribute

to the quality of a motion picture and to the lasting impression it makes on its audience.





Scarface poses for a photo at the 2015 BET Hip Hop Awards at the Atlanta Civic Center. — AP photos



Rick Ross



Snoop Dogg

Scarface honored, Diddy performs at taped BET Hip-Hop Awards

Scarface was a man of few words after accepting his "I Am Hip Hop" award, directing the attention away from himself and toward the many that have supported the veteran rapper. Rapper Ludacris introduced Scarface, calling him one of "hip-hop's best storytellers" at the taped 10th annual BET Hip-Hop Awards on Friday night. The Houston-based Scarface said he learned from the best in rap and felt honored to receive the award before a packed audience at the Boisfeuillet Jones Atlanta Civic Center.

"It's definitely an honor," Scarface said before the show. "I've learned from the best. I've had the best teachers in the game." With Ludacris standing behind him on stage, Scarface kept his speech brief: "I'm not (expletive) without y'all," he said while raising the award in the air before walking off. He was given the award for his musical achievements.

Scarface initially gained fame in the late 1980s with the group Geto Boys through the song "Mind Playing Tricks on Me." One of the few Houston acts to win acclaim outside Texas before 2000, he became a respected influencer in hip-hop with his gritty lyrics and street wisdom.

'One of the best'

"He helped build a culture," Rick Ross said of Scarface. "I look up to him. I learned a lot from him." With 12 solo albums released, Scarface is known for songs such as "Smile," "My Block" and "I Seen a Man Die." He has collaborated with some of rap's greatest from 2 Pac to Jay Z. "He's in my top five rappers of all time," veteran rapper E-40 said. "He was one of the best. We go way back since 1992. He deserves it. He along with the Geto Boys made a movement like no other."

Previous "I Am Hip Hop" award recipients have included Doug E Fresh, MC Lyte, Rakim, LL Cool J, Salt-



The Westbrooks pose for a photo at the BET Hip Hop Awards.

N-Peep, Ice Cube, Russell Simmons, KRS-One and Grandmaster Flash. The show airs Oct 13 at 8 pm Eastern. Drake, who was the top nominee with 12, was not in attendance. Sean "Diddy" Combs took the stage with Lil Kim and Styles P. He followed his brief act with them and performed his new single "Workin'," which brought many in the audience to their feet.

Snoop Dogg returned for the third straight year as host. The charismatic rapper once again performed several skits through his YouTube network called GGN (Double G News). He got the most laughs out of one skit about his addiction to riding a hover board. There were several recorded freestyle sessions featur-

ing Eminem and Redman. But the beatbox session with Doug E. Fresh, Nicole Paris and Rahzel earned the most applause.

The awards also included a taped pre-show performance by rapper Future. He recorded his act Wednesday night before a crowd at Atlanta's Centennial Olympic Park, performing several of his hits from "March Madness" and "Where Ya At." Young Dro was joined by TI to perform hit street anthem "We In Da City." Other top performers included Travis Scott, Rich Homie Quan, and Dej Loaf. — AP

Dubai Design Week: The countdown begins

On the 26th of this month, Dubai lays its claim to being one of the great emerging design cities of the world, as the very first Dubai Design Week kicks off across the city.

Showcasing the best of contemporary design from both the Middle East and across the world, the inaugural Dubai Design Week aims to cement the city's reputation as the design capital of the region, attracting professionals, aficionados and design-curious visitors to the city for a six-day celebration of groundbreaking ideas across a raft of creative platforms, spanning public installations, architecture, product, industrial and graphic design.

Conceived and managed by the Art Dubai Group, Dubai Design Week is held in partnership with Dubai Design District (d3) and is supported by the Dubai Design & Fashion Council and the Dubai Culture & Arts Authority (Dubai Culture). d3's Chief Operating Officer, Mohammad Saeed Al Shehhi, says: "We are proud of our strategic partnerships with key local and global organisations across the design sector which collectively, aim to promote design in the region. d3, as a destination dedicated to design, is pleased to host the inaugural Dubai Design Week; it is our privilege to be able to share Dubai's vision for the design scene with its many visitors and participants - a vision embodied by d3. Together with our partners, we aspire to enable both new and well established designers, as well as artists locally and regionally, to thrive and succeed."

Enormous potential

The first Dubai Design Week will seek to reflect the city's enormous potential by offering a level field for designers and design programs from everywhere and all over the city; residents and visitors are invited to explore, discover and interact with a diverse and convention-puncturing programme of exhibitions, installations and events, with the newly developed creative hub d3 at the heart of it.

Cyril Zammit, Director of Design at Art Dubai Group says: "Thanks to Dubai's position as an international hub, the rich but under-acknowledged creative heritage of the emirate and the growing appreciation of the role of design in the modern city, Dubai Design Week has a unique opportunity to establish an inclusive landmark event that embraces and engages the imagination - in a way that the world's traditional design centres, with their established reputations and structures, often cannot." In addition, Dubai Design Week will



Cyril Zammit, Director of Design at Art Dubai Group

produce a program of talks and workshops giving UAE based designers unique access to insights from some of the leading players in the regional and global design industry, through a series of engaging talks, panels and workshops that will take place in d3.

Nez Gebreel, CEO of the Dubai Design and Fashion Council comments: "The inaugural edition of Dubai Design Week will give us the opportunity to educate and support local talent, while working towards our commitment to raise the profile of Dubai as a key player on the global design scene. Design is an essential building block of innovation and a catalyst for change, and we look forward to six inspirational days filled with great work from all around the world and opportunities for creative collaboration and cultural exchange."

Dubai Design Week centers on the third edition of Downtown Design to be held at d3, the region's fastest-growing design trade fair, which will bring more than 90 designers from 24 countries to present their pioneering innovations in furniture, lighting, bathrooms, kitchens, textiles and accessories. The fair has also partnered with six of the world's leading Design Weeks (Helsinki, Istanbul, San Francisco, Mexico, Beijing and Melbourne) to bring their emerging designers to Dubai, thereby helping make Dubai Design Week a place of global discovery. Accompanying the fair will be a packed calendar of public events and a host of cornerstone initiatives that offer insights into Dubai's own creative energy and shine a light on the most remarkable developments in design thinking worldwide. To find out more information on any of the Dubai Design Week programs, visitors should go to the Dubai Design Week website www.dubaidesignweek.ae



Cyril Zammit, Rana Salam, Rue Kothari and Rawan Kashkoush

Asia's largest film festival closes with record visitors

A typhoon and a government budget cut did not stop cinema lovers from flocking to Asia's most influential film festival. The annual Busan International Film Festival drew to a close on Saturday with a record number of visitors and many new Asian movies for the world to enjoy.

The start of the 20th edition seemed doomed by a cut in the South Korean government's budget for the event and typhoon-triggered strong winds that grounded red carpet guests. But the festival overcame those obstacles, as companies based in Busan, other corporate sponsors and South Korean film professionals stepped up to help fund the festival. Organizers also arranged bullet trains or drivers to whisk many of the A-list guests stranded at a Seoul airport, including German actress Nastassja Kinski, to Busan in time for the opening ceremony.

The event drew a record number of 227,000 visitors over 10 days, a slight increase from last year. Legendary filmmakers such as Hou Hsiao Hsien and Leos Carax, American actor Harvey Keitel, French actress Sophie Marceau and Korean heartthrob Yoo A-in were among the top stars who met audiences at a movie screening or at an open air talk on the beach.

The Asian film festival's closing film was Chinese director Larry Yang's "Mountain Cry," a romance drama set in a remote mountainous village. The festival showed 302 movies from 75 countries, including 125 world or international premieres after two movie screenings got cancelled. Other highlights from the festival included:

New faces of Asian cinema

One of the most feted works by a budding Asian filmmaker this year was "Immortal" by Iranian director Hadi Mohaghegh. It was honored with two of the biggest awards at the festival. The 37-year-old director won the New Currents award with a \$30,000 prize, given to two first- or second-time feature movie directors in Asia in the festival's only competition. Jurors, led by veteran Taiwanese actress and director Sylvia Chang, described it as "an extraordinary feat of visual storytelling" about "how to keep our dignity as human beings."

It was also the winner of the FIPRESCI award, selected by the International Federation of Film Critics for "its highly realistic and humane approach in depicting a family tragedy that echoes a universal theme through masterful use of film language."

The movie, shot against barren scenery in southwestern Iran, tells a story of an old man ridden with guilt and grief from losing one's family in an accident.

Mohaghegh said that he made the low-budget movie with money from his siblings and other family members because he thought no one would be interested in investing in such non-commercial movie. He had to change the main character to an old man from an old woman because it was not possible to film female nudity in the Islamic country.

Countries on the margin of the global cinema industry showed strong potential. Another winner of the New Currents section was a film from Kazakhstan, "Walnut Tree," by Yerlan Nurmukhambetov. Jurors said it showed "a way of life that's unfamiliar to most of us but proves how humor, kindness, and forgiveness connect us all."

Other movies that impressed jurors and audiences were honored with awards in Busan, including "Boys Run" by South Korean director Kang Seokpil, which showed alternatives to the South Korean educational system; "Look Love" by Chinese director Ye Yun about struggles of two kids for love and recognition; "Communication & Lies" by South Korean director Lee Seung-won; "Radio Set" by Indian director Hari Viswanath; "Eyelids" by South Korean director O Muel.

China looms big

China continued to be a notable force at the event, despite fears that Chinese attendance would be affected by the Middle East respiratory syndrome that hit South Korea in the early summer and a plunge in mainland Chinese stocks.

The festival showed that more big-budget Asian movies catering to the Chinese market will draw talents from outside China. South Korea's NEW, or Next Entertainment World, and China's Huace Media Group said during that they will establish a joint venture in Beijing for films made jointly by the two Asian countries.

The Asian Film Market, the 10-year-old market that is part of the festival, demonstrated its potential to become the go-to place for Asian film professionals to tap the fast-growing Chinese market. South Korea's Kirin Productions sold its web drama series "The Cravings" to China's Beijing Alpha Transmedia in the first intellectual property right contract.

Popular amphitheatre

One way to measure the popular appeal of a movie to Asian moviegoers is to see ticket sales and reactions at Busan Cinema Center's amphitheatre. The outdoor screen with 5,000 seats under the futuristic metal wing of the cinema center played a box office hit from India, "Bajrangi Bhaijaan," and Chinese box-office hit "Monster Hunt" as well as Japanese animation favorite "My Neighbor Totoro." Director Kabir Khan of "Bajrangi Bhaijaan" said on his Twitter that 5,000 tickets were sold out for the Tuesday screening and audiences gave a standing ovation for the drama. "Amazing energy here," he said on Twitter. — AP



People attend the closing ceremony of the Busan International Film Festival at Busan Cinema Center in Busan, South Korea. — AP



This photo provided by courtesy of Warner Bros. Pictures shows, Rooney Mara, left, as Tiger Lily, and Levi Miller as Peter, in a scene from the film, "Pan." — AP

'Peter Pan': For more than 100 years, he's been the boy who wouldn't go away

Warner Bros' "Pan," directed by Joe Wright and starring Hugh Jackman, which opens Friday, is a variation of the tale created by James M. Barrie. When the Scottish writer debuted his play "Peter Pan" in London in 1904, he subtitled it "The Boy Who Wouldn't Grow Up." Peter is also the Boy Who Wouldn't Go Away, as there have been five previous big-screen versions, several stage musicals, multiple TV appearances, a series of books, even a brand of peanut butter, a record label and a bus service using that name.

Barrie's play was an immediate hit when it opened in London on Dec. 27, 1904, starring Nina Boucicault. But when it transferred to New York on Nov 6, 1905, the critics panned it and at first, the show was regarded as "a cold flop," as Variety wrote. Word of mouth helped build it into a big hit, cementing the stardom of Maude Adams. From 1905 through 1913, she played other roles on stage but kept returning to Peter Pan, which helped make her rich. According to Variety, she was earning \$1 million a year-which was pretty hefty, considering the low cost of living and the absence of income tax.

The idea of a woman playing a male role dates back at least to the 18th century, when operas by Handel and others included "trouser roles," or a woman singing a male character. That tradition continued in British pant-

tomimes, or pantos, which for more than a century have been popular on the UK stage, especially during the holidays. They are usually based on a popular fairy tale and include such elements as a lead boy played by a woman, animals portrayed by costumed actors, and audience participation-all elements that Barrie borrowed for "Peter Pan." Adams was a Utah native named Maud Kiskadden (a Scottish name). She was hailed by Variety as the most famous actress of her time, and was said to be "almost synonymous" with the character of Peter in the public's eye. However, for the 1924 silent-film version, Barrie helped in the casting and the title role went to Betty Bronson. At that point, Adams was 52, so playing an ageless boy in closeups was a bit of a stretch.

Since that silent version, Peter Pan has shown up many times. Probably the best-known is the Disney animated version, which a 1953 ad trumpeted as "Disney's greatest achievement." Barrie purists complain that Disney cleaned up a lot of Barrie's dark musings in the original, in which children are heartless, Peter doesn't like to be touched, and he enthuses that death must be "an awfully big adventure." Disney's Peter Pan was a mischievous rascal. Warner Brothers' "Pan" is a London boy. But to many people in the 20th century, the character was actually a woman from Salt Lake City. — Reuters

Guillermo del Toro infuses haunted house movie with gothic style



Director Michael Mann and director Guillermo Del Toro attend 'In The Labyrinth: A Conversation with Guillermo Del Toro' at Samuel Goldwyn Theater. — AP

Haunted house movies are a Hollywood trope. But the latest about to hit our screens, by director Guillermo del Toro, promises a lush, more gothic fantasy than most, with a sentimental heart.

His "Crimson Peak", which rolls out around the world this month, borrows strongly from Del Toro's love of Edgar Allan Poe stories, especially "The Fall of the House of Usher", and the 1939 film version of "Wuthering Heights", with their complex reflections on human psychology. And, as fans of the Mexican director of "Hellboy" and "Pan's Labyrinth" have come to expect, the film boasts extraordinarily rich imagery.

"I love the visuals of horror, but I don't like the mechanics of horror," Del Toro, 51, explained to

AFP in an interview in Paris. "I refuse to use Judeo-Christian notions of evil... I don't make my ghosts evil, the ghosts are ultimately sad."

'An Anglo-Saxon tradition'

The director, who lives in Los Angeles and who has alternated between big-budget Hollywood popcorn fare such as "Pacific Rim" and more personal Spanish-language projects such as "Cronos" and 2006's triple Oscar-winning "Pan's Labyrinth", said his latest movie "is the first time I do a dark adult movie in English".

That was justified, he said, because gothic romance—which he describes "Crimson Peak" as being—"really belongs to an Anglo-Saxon tradition". Still, much like the house at the centre of

the movie, the screenplay took on a life of its own as production advanced, being rewritten and changed to adapt to new ideas and to casting changes for the lead characters of Edith and Thomas.

"Emma Stone was going to play the part of Edith and Benedict Cumberbatch the part of Thomas, so they were very different characters when they were going to play that," Del Toro said. In the end, an Australian actress, Mia Wasikowska, and British actor Tom Hiddleston, who played the villainous Loki in the "Thor" movies, took the starring roles. They had previously performed together two years ago in another dark romance, "Only Lovers Left Alive", about dissolute vampires.

A 'very Mexican' director

Wasikowska plays a young American woman who is seduced by and ends up marrying a mysterious stranger, Thomas, and goes to live with him and his sister (played by "Zero Dark Thirty" actress Jessica Chastain) in their family manor. The dilapidated estate, coated in snow and with doors that groan as they open, hits all the notes of gothic storytelling and haunted houses. But, heaving to a theme in many of Del Toro's films, "Crimson Peak" also focuses more on the female characters in an effort to make the well-worn genre "more modern and lively".

Although he is more widely seen through his Hollywood output, Del Toro—who, by the way, says he believes in ghosts—sees his work as "very Mexican". "The way I accept the extraordinary as something ordinary, and the melodrama you see in all my films, all that is extremely Mexican," he elaborated.

And the fusion of the occult and history that so fascinates him, and which won him such acclaim with "Pan's Labyrinth", is still a source of inspiration. He said he would now like to look at making a film noir or "something on the Second World War... but it has to be something strange". — AFP



Andrew Lincoln, from left, Chandler Riggs and Steven Yeun attend AMC's "The Walking Dead" season six premiere fan event at Madison Square Garden. — AP

'The Walking Dead' hosts huge premiere for fans

A premiere Friday for the sixth season of AMC's "The Walking Dead" at Madison Square Garden was so big and orchestrated, its stars attended a rehearsal that afternoon to prepare. The event, which awarded fans with tickets via giveaways and sweepstakes, screened the season premiere and then held a panel with 18 cast members.

"It's a giant arena with 18,000 seats and Led Zeppelin's played here, I think Muhammad Ali fought here, so it's really a special venue," actor Austin Nichols said. "I'm honored to be here." The red carpet itself was moved inside at the last minute due to rain and wind, but that didn't keep away the fans, many who dressed as zombies, or "walkers," as they're called on the series.

"The Walking Dead" is about people trying to survive in a zombie apocalypse. Over time, it's evolved from being about people trying to escape the undead to people trying to outlast others as civilization and order has crumbled around them. "It was always going to be about

how an environment changes people," star Andrew Lincoln said. "Some turn to the dark and some try and keep hope alive."

Lincoln said that in the sixth season, however, the zombies make a comeback: "The zombies are very much back in the foreground." "Emotionally, physically, everything is absolutely relentless," added actor Ross Marquand. "They're dealing with the threats from all these different tribal factions that are trying to kill them. We're dealing with more and more zombies than ever before. It's just incredible."

"The Walking Dead" is one of the most watched shows on television and has a global fan base. "I'm from Zimbabwe," actress Danai Gurira said. "People watch it there. I've been stopped on the streets of Zimbabwe for being Michonne so, it doesn't get more far away than that, you know? It's really exciting to see that my work in the United States is embraced by my other home that's so far away." The sixth season of "The Walking Dead" premieres Sunday at 9 pm Eastern. — AP

Why 'Spotlight' is the film that will make journalism look good again

It's been nearly 40 years since "All the President's Men" turned two young reporters into stars, inspired a generation of young people to become journalists and conferred on the Washington Post Editor Ben Bradlee a national renown. Now, the best journalism movie since Alan J Pakula's classic is coming to theaters and fans of early screenings are hoping "Spotlight", opening November 6 from Open Road Films, gives a similar boost to journalists and their profession. It could also cement Marty Baron as the 21st century reinvention of Bradlee.

"Spotlight" takes audiences inside the Boston Globe's 2002 investigation into how that city's Catholic hierarchy ignored and even enabled priests who sexually abused children. Audiences have been impressed and awards buzz is rising for the film, director Tom McCarthy and an ensemble cast that includes Mark Ruffalo and Michael Keaton.

Newspaper people

But nowhere is early excitement greater than in the hearts and minds of newspaper people, who see in "Spotlight" an authentic and uplifting movie about a business that has been battered by disappearing ad revenue and an epochal shift of readers to alternative platforms. True to the story of the real-life investigative team it profiles, "Spotlight" does not have a featured star. It captures a four-person reporting team (later joined by many colleagues) relentlessly chasing down the tale, not of individuals' sins, but a system that condoned the sinners. While there is not a star turn, the team's (and the film's) moral and ethical heart beats in its unwavering leader - the editor, Baron, as portrayed by Liev Schreiber.

Those who know Baron have been tickled by how uncannily Schreiber captures the real-life editor. Previously a master of coiled machismo (think the title role in Showtime's "Ray Donovan") Schreiber in "Spotlight" captures Baron's coiled intelligence and quiet resolve. When Baron came to the Boston Globe in 2001, he had already established a reputation as one of the profession's top leaders, after stints at the Miami Herald and Los Angeles Times. A day before he walked into the Boston newsroom for the first time, Baron recalls that he read a piece by a Globe columnist on a sexual predator priest whose case had been sealed by court order.

Baron asked his new underlings why the official records had been sealed and whether the Globe had ever gone to court to challenge the veil of secrecy. "He asked a simple question that kind of embarrassed everyone who had been there. That one question really got this project rolling," said Sacha Pfeiffer, a "Spotlight" team reporter, played by Rachel McAdams. "Then he continually pushed us not to write just about priests who abused children but to write about church officials who covered up for priests who abused children."

The Baron character is an unlikely hero. Soft-spoken and understated in the extreme, the journalist evidenced none of the swagger of the Post's Bradlee, a confidante of President Kennedy, who spoke loudly and profanely and who once stopped a job hire at the Washington Post, judging of the prospective hire: "Nothing clanks when he walks."

'It was freaky'

Baron, who left Boston to become executive editor of the Washington Post in 2013, still speaks in a semi-hush. Liev Schreiber reportedly told Baron he was having trouble trying to capture someone who doesn't emote. But said former Washington Post Publisher Katharine Weymouth, who hired Baron: "He did it perfectly. He just nailed Marty. It was freaky." In one scene, the Baron character is rallying

his stressed and exhausted reporters. He offers no clarion calls about freedom of information or the power of the Fourth Estate, telling the journalists, simply, that they should be proud that they are doing "good reporting." Reporter Pfeiffer laughed at the accuracy of that moment.

"Marty is very smart, very demanding," Pfeiffer said. "That can often make him scary but it also makes you want to work very hard for him. He doesn't have the swagger of a guy like Ben Bradlee, but he was a great boss. One review described him as a bad ass boss. I thought that was perfect." "Spotlight" ends with the fallout from the Globe series - priests jailed for abuse and Cardinal Bernard Law exposed for shuffling offenders from one parish to another, where the sexual abuse of young parishioners continued. Following the newspaper's expose, Law resigned as archbishop of Boston and took a post in the Vatican.

The Globe won the 2003 Pulitzer Prize for Public Service, considered the most prestigious of journalism's top awards. Three of the journalists depicted in "Spotlight" work at the Globe, while the fourth is at a journalism nonprofit in Boston. When Baron left the paper three years ago it saddened the staff, but signaled the launch of a renaissance at his new home, the Washington Post. Like a lot of other big-city dailies, the newspaper of Watergate had suffered massive advertising reductions, as new Internet rivals stepped forward. That led to staff reductions and lowered ambitions. But Baron's nearly three-year tenure and the subsequent purchase of the paper by Amazon billionaire Jeff Bezos - who bought the paper from the long-controlling



A screenshot from the film 'Spotlight'.

Graham family - have put the Post on an upward trajectory unmatched in American journalism.

Baron has been to three screenings of "Spotlight." The preternaturally-contained newsman concedes that he has "teared up" at each showing, always during a scene in which an elderly

Globe customer reads the first expose and must confront the truth about her church. The editor pronounces himself "thrilled" with the film. "I think it's a love letter to investigative journalism and to local journalism," Baron said. "It speaks to the impact we can have if we devote the energy and

the resources to difficult work. It's kind of a reminder of our highest and most important mission." Told that he, personally, doesn't come off so badly in the film, even perhaps a bit super-heroish, Baron laughs: "A Jewish superhero!" He chuckles again: "First one ever!" — Reuters

Alyasra Fashion announces the first fossil store in Kuwait

Alyasra Fashion announced the opening of the first Fossil franchise in Kuwait at The Avenues Mall, the country's largest shopping center. The Fossil store will occupy a privileged location in Avenues - Grand Avenues. The Fossil Group plans to open several stores in the Middle East market over the next few years. The newly opened store has a complete product offering showcasing the range of Fossil product categories including watches, leather goods, eye-wear for men and women.

Fossil is an American lifestyle brand, creatively rooted in authentic vintage and classic design. Since 1984, Fossil has been creating high-quality products that preserve the best of the past while updating it for today's consumer. Fossil has grown from a small watch business to an international lifestyle brand with a strong retail and e-commerce business featuring an eclectic assortment of accessory items that

includes watches, handbags, small leather goods, and jewelry. Fossil is proud to be a growing global company, serving customers in over 150 countries. Across the globe, fans frequent Fossil stores and engage with the brand through social media, identifying with the lifestyle and impeccable design that define Fossil.

Alyasra Fashion announced, "The setting up of Fossil concept in Kuwait reflects the company's ongoing commitment towards expansion and diversification. We have the full support of our stakeholders for maximizing our business potential for Fossil. The company's success lies in a deep under-

standing of customer needs & emerging market trends. Our team carefully selects the product portfolio from Fossil, to meet the varying demands of our customers. After all, our team is our most valuable asset and leading through quality is our primary objective."

By taking the best from Fossil's brand heritage and combining it with modern innovations, Fossil's refined brand position "For the Curious Set" speaks to the most distinctive ideals of its core brand DNA, while broadening the scope to engage like-minded kin. Fossil focuses its lens on core product icons, through the filters of design, color and culture. We're taking the heart and soul of the brand—who we've always been and what we strive to create—and sharing this passion with our growing global audience.





People admire a replica of the 2014 ArtPrize winner, Pakistani-American artist Anila Quayyum Agha's piece, "Intersections," at the kick-off for ArtPrize Seven 2015 at the ArtPrize Hub Headquarters in Grand Rapids. — AP (See more on Page 37)

ASIAN FILMMAKERS HAIL 'GLOBALIZATION' OF CINEMA

Two of Asia's leading filmmakers believe moviegoers are set to benefit from the "globalization" of cinema, which they say will boost the variety and quality of films the world is watching. Acclaimed Thai director Apichatpong Weerasethakul said he welcomed the fact there were now fewer "borders" in cinema.

"The more filmmakers from around the world work together, the more ideas we will share and the better the content we produce will be," said Apichatpong. Apichatpong, winner of the prestigious Palme d'Or at the Cannes film festival in 2010 for "Uncle Boonmee Who Can Recall His Past Lives", was speaking as the 20th Busan International Film Festival drew to a close.

"We shouldn't be looking at filmmaking like we do the Olympics, that films come from here or there," said the 45-year-old, known for his richly atmospheric films. "Cinema should be global," he said. The Thai director was one of four Asian directors to contribute to the "Color of Asia - Masters" collection of short films, which has made its world premiere at BIFF.

Chinese director Wang Xiaoshuai, who won the Silver Bear at Berlin for "Beijing Bicycle" (2001) and has been nominated for the top awards at Cannes and Venice, was another director to take part in the Masters project, alongside Japan's Naomi Kawase ("Still the Water") and South Korea's Im Sang-soo ("The Housemaid").

"By working together we can learn different ways to tell stories, we can reach a wider audience and we can explore cinema," he said. "This sharing of ideas has become more and more common and that is great for the future of our industry, and for audiences, especially in China." "Masters" has been produced via the support of the Youku Tudou group, China's largest online streaming service, which has an estimated viewing audience of around 530 million.



Chinese director Guo Ke in the documentary film "Twenty Two". The documentary by Chinese filmmaker Guo Ke sets out to tell the story of what were the last 22 surviving "comfort women" living in China. Three have died since filming finished in mid-2014. — AFP photos

Youku, through Heyi Pictures, has become a major player in the Chinese and Asian film industries, and in the past year has provided financial backing for blockbusters "Monster Hunt" - China's biggest-ever box office hit - and "The Taking of Tiger Mountain". "Cinema wants and needs the new platforms the likes of Youku provide," said Wang. "We need to find an audience for our films, and sometimes this is hard for independent filmmakers. But we are finding hope as these services reach a very large audience who want more and

more content."

Dramatic changes

Much of the talk over BIFF's 10-day run concerned developments in China, the world's second-largest film market and one that is expected to overtake North America by 2018. Last year, China collected an estimated \$4.82 billion to North America's \$10.3 billion, and mainland media projections are for a \$6.28 billion haul this year. News broke during BIFF that the central gov-



A still image from the documentary film "Twenty Two".

ernment in China had this past week created an official online service to track box office receipts after accusations of box office fraud had been leveled at the country from other film industries.

It appears there are developments in China in terms of content, too. Director Larry Yang, whose slow-burning rural drama "Mountain Cry" was making its world premiere Saturday night as BIFF's closing film, said a wider variety of films was now being demanded in China. "There's a dramatic change going on in the Chinese film market in terms of the type of films being made and the tastes of the audience," said Yang.

"People are more ready now to embrace this type of film than before." Youku's involvement in

BIFF reflects the growing trend globally for online streaming services to enter into film production - following similar moves by the likes of America's Netflix. Audiences are increasing going online to watch their entertainment, whether that be via traditional platforms or new technology such as smartphones or tablets.

In China alone, industry estimates claim around one third of China's more than 1.3 billion people use their smartphones for watching films, while globally it is estimated 15 percent of online movies are now watched on these devices. While directors such as Apichatpong and Wang were ready to embrace these developments, there was concern shown among other filmmakers gathered at BIFF that the rise of online platforms is affecting the impact of films, and even how they are being made.

"Movies should be part of the communal experience and how can you get that when you are watching a movie on your phone?" asked Indian director Hari Viswanath, whose debut production "Radio Set" was nominated for BIFF's main New Currents award, open to films from first or second-time Asian filmmakers.

South Korea's Lee Seung-Won, whose "Communication & Lies" was nominated for BIFF's major award, and picked up the festival's Network for the Promotion of Asian Cinema Award, said the worry was that younger filmmakers were more concerned with style than substance. Online platforms were partly to blame, he said, as they have created a market for shorter productions. "People are focusing more on the visual images than what the story is," said Lee. "They think film is all about how to shoot it in a cool style. I think the importance in filmmaking is in the story and the truthfulness in the story and that is something we must protect and encourage." — AFP



An undated handout photo released by the Busan International Film Festival (BIFF) on October 6, 2015 shows an image from the documentary "Twinsters". The documentary tracing the remarkable story of orphaned twin sisters, separated at birth, who only discover each other due to a chance encounter on social media, screened its international premiere in the Korean city where the girls were born.

