

Info minister to hold discussions with IOC over Kuwait sports



Thousands rally as Turkey mourns worst ever attack



Djokovic humbles Nadal to extend Beijing dynasty



Hamilton wins dramatic Russian Grand Prix



MPs QUESTION ANTI-TERROR TREATY SIGNED BY KUWAIT

SANE: KUWAIT NOT COMPELLED TO EXTRADITE CITIZENS • JALLAL REJECTS ANY TAXES



Min 28°
Max 39°
High Tide 11:46
Low Tide 05:48 & 18:10

KUWAIT VOWS NO SLOWDOWN IN OIL PROJECTS

KUWAIT: Kuwait will not slow the development of its oil industry projects in response to the fall of crude prices, Oil Minister Ali Al-Omair told an industry conference yesterday. The chief executive of state energy giant Kuwait Petroleum Corp, Nizar Al-Adsani, told the conference that his company had spent KD 4 billion (\$13.2 billion) in the 2014/15 fiscal year and KD 2 billion so far in the current fiscal year on strategic oil projects. He said KPC was now studying several investment opportunities, including petrochemicals, in Asia and North America. He did not elaborate.

Omair, also Minister of State for National Assembly Affairs and Chairman of KPC, said the oil and gas industry around the globe was kept on absorbing impact of declining oil prices, especially with the emergence of other lucrative energy resources. KPC, said Omair, has launched initiatives aimed at supporting partnerships to back the national economy coupled with boosting private sector's role in development.

These initiatives, he added, encourage transfer of knowledge, modern technology and services, in addition to offering training for national manpower towards the establishment of manufacturing industries in Kuwait. Omair said low oil prices would not undermine Kuwait's plans to develop strategically-important oil projects, which included oil and gas exploration, refining and distribution of crude oil. "These projects will improve the environment and safety performance in our refineries, as well as providing new jobs and supporting economic growth in the country," he said.

Continued on Page 13



KUWAIT: (From left) Defense Minister Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah, Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Sabah, HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Sabah attend a conference during the Kuwait Oil and Gas show (KOGS 2015) yesterday. (Inset) Oil Minister Ali Al-Omair delivers a speech during the conference. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: At least two lawmakers yesterday objected to Kuwait's signing of a new Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) anti-terror pact, which allegedly stipulates extraditing citizens to other GCC states. But Justice Minister Yaqoub Al-Sane said the agreement was only accepted in principle by GCC justice ministers who met a few days ago, adding that the pact does not restrict public freedoms. He also said that a committee was set up to review the agreement so ministers can sign it at an Oct 29 meeting.

In remarks published by the Kuwaiti daily Al-Jarida yesterday, Sane indicated that he was surprised at criticisms of the proposed treaty signed by the GCC officials during a recent meeting in Doha, affirming Kuwait's keenness on its citizens' interests. "The government will not under any circumstances breach provisions of the constitution and will not adopt any accord that may violate constitutional articles," he affirmed. According to the proposed accord, Kuwait is obliged to extradite a citizen of another GCC country wanted by the latter. This is applicable to the case of a Kuwaiti present in another member country of the GCC.

Meanwhile in the Qatari capital, the daily Al-Sharq also published an interview with the Kuwaiti minister, who said that the GCC anti-terrorism law would not breach freedoms in GCC states. "We assure everybody that the law will not infringe on freedoms which we consider as a red line, and I am absolutely sure that the GCC states advocate freedom in their societies," Sane told the Qatari newspaper.

But MP Saleh Ashour criticized the agreement, which he claimed stipulates the handing over of Kuwaiti suspects in violation of article 70 of the constitution. Ashour wondered how could the government sign an agreement that breach the constitutions, like the GCC anti-terror pact. The lawmaker urged other MPs to vote against the agreement because it violates the constitution and suppresses public freedoms.

Continued on Page 13



This undated picture shows the launch of an Emad missile during tests at an undisclosed location in Iran. — AFP

IRAN TESTS NEW MISSILE

DUBAI: Iran has successfully tested a new precision-guided ballistic missile, its defense minister said yesterday, signaling an apparent advance in Iranian attempts to improve the accuracy of its missile arsenal. The Islamic Republic has one of the largest missile programs in the Middle East, despite a United Nations arms embargo, but its potential effectiveness has been limited by poor accuracy. State television showed what appeared to be a successful launch of the new missile, named Emad (pillar in Farsi), which will be Iran's first precision-guided weapon with the range to strike its regional arch-enemy Israel.

"The Emad missile is able to strike targets with a high level of precision and completely destroy them...This greatly increases Iran's strategic deterrence capability," Defense Minister Hossein Dehghan said at a televised news conference. "Our leadership and armed forces are determined to increase our power and this is to promote peace and stability in the region. There is no intention of aggression or threats in this action," he added.

The Islamic Republic is wary of a potential pre-emptive strike on its nuclear sites by Israel. In turn, Israel fears that a nuclear agreement Iran sealed with world powers in July may be insufficient to stop Tehran developing an atomic bomb. The accord curbs proliferation-prone aspects of Iran's nuclear energy program in exchange for crippling sanctions being lifted. Iran says its nuclear activity is wholly peaceful. Israel is widely

presumed to have the Middle East's only nuclear weapons.

Anthony Cordesman, a researcher at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, wrote in January that the Emad would have a range of 1,700 km, 500 m accuracy and a 750 kg payload. It is a variant of the liquid-fuelled Shahab-3 missile, which has been in service since 2003 and has a similar range but is accurate only to within 2,000 m. "The Emad represents a major leap in terms of accuracy. It has an advanced guidance and control system in its nose cone," Israeli missile expert Uzi Rubin said.

In August, Iran unveiled a new short-range missile named Fateh-313 it said also offered improved precision over its predecessor, as part of an apparent drive to boost the accuracy of its missile arsenal. The Fateh-313 has solid fuel, allowing it to be set up and launched faster than liquid-fuelled missiles, and a range of 500 km - enough to hit targets in Gulf Arab powers locked in a regional cold war with the Islamic Republic, but not Israel. Improvements in accuracy could let Iran use its missiles in a wider variety of roles, for example by targeting military bases or economic assets rather than population centres.

The International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS), a British-based think tank, noted in 2010 that poor accuracy meant Iran could use its missiles only as a "political weapon" to target enemy cities since their military utility was "severely limited". — Agencies

ISRAELI STRIKE KILLS MOTHER AND CHILD

SOVEREIGN FUND MAY SELL ASSETS TO COVER DEFICIT

KUWAIT: Kuwait's sovereign wealth fund, one of the world's largest, is considering selling assets to cover a state budget deficit caused by low oil prices, the Al-Anbaa newspaper reported yesterday, quoting unnamed sources. The Kuwait Investment Authority (KIA), which is estimated to have more than \$500 billion of assets, is studying whether to liquidate assets that generate annual returns of below 9 percent, the newspaper said.

The KIA's money is invested across the world, from the United States to Europe to China, in various asset classes including bonds, equities and real estate. The newspaper did not specify which asset classes might be sold. It said the size of the sales was expected to be about KD 9 billion (\$30 billion), as officials believed selling assets with returns of below 9 percent would be a relatively cheap method of covering the budget deficit and financing big infrastructure projects that are being planned.

The KIA did not respond to calls and an email seeking comment yesterday. Some other Gulf states, principally Saudi Arabia, have already begun liquidating assets to cover their deficits in an era of cheap oil. Although Kuwait is one of the wealthiest oil exporters in the Gulf and is in no financial danger, state revenues have been hit hard this year by low oil prices.

The government ran a deficit of KD 1.094 billion in the first five months of the fiscal year which started in April, after a deduction for the Future Generations Fund, which is part of its sovereign fund. Finance minister Anas Al-Saleh said last month that the government also planned to sell local currency bonds by the end of this year to help cover its deficit. — Reuters



GAZA: Palestinian father Yehya Hasan mourns while holding the body of his daughter, Rahaf, during a funeral for the toddler and her pregnant mother yesterday at the Nusairat refugee camp in central Gaza Strip. — AFP

GAZA CITY: An Israeli air strike in Gaza killed a pregnant Palestinian woman and her toddler, drawing a warning yesterday from Islamist movement Hamas, as unrest spun further towards a full-scale uprising. After days of unrest in the West Bank and Israel, Gaza has been drawn into the violence since Friday, with clashes along the border leaving nine

Palestinians dead from Israeli fire. Israel's military said it targeted "two Hamas weapon manufacturing facilities" overnight after Gaza militants fired two rockets and following Palestinian attempts to infiltrate southern Israel. One rocket hit an open field in southern Israel and the other was intercepted.

Continued on Page 13

IRAQ CLAIMS IS CHIEF BAGHDADI HIT IN RAID

BAGHDAD: Iraq claimed yesterday to have struck a convoy carrying Islamic State group leader Abu Bakr Al-Baghdadi in an air raid near the Syrian border but said his fate was unknown. In Syria, meanwhile, regime troops backed by Russian air strikes made progress on two fronts but were battling other rebel groups. And Syria's opposition National Coalition said it will boycott UN-proposed peace talks, citing the Russian air strikes among a list of grievances.

Iraqi aircraft hit Baghdadi's convoy as it was "moving towards Karabla to attend a meeting of the Daesh (IS) ter-

rorist leaders," an Iraqi security statement said. Karabla is on the Euphrates barely five kilometres (three miles) from the Syrian border in western Anbar, a vast Iraqi province which has long been a Sunni insurgent stronghold. The statement issued by Iraq's "war media cell" said Baghdadi was "transported in a vehicle" after the strike but added that "his health status was unknown".

The meeting place was also struck in the operation and several IS leaders already gathered there were killed or wounded, it said.

Continued on Page 13



Abu Bakr Al-Baghdadi



AMIR, CROWN PRINCE RECEIVE TOP OFFICIALS

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah at Bayan Palace yesterday. His Highness also received Speaker of the National Assembly Marzouq Al-Ghanim, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Al-

Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah met National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanim at Seif Palace yesterday. His Highness the Crown Prince then met His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister and Interior

Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. He also received Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and Acting Minister of Electricity and Water Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah, and Minister of Oil and Minister of State for National Assembly Affairs Dr Ali Saleh Al-Omar. —KUNA

CRIMINAL COURT TO TRY CLERIC AL-MAATOUQ ON OCT 18

KUWAIT METRO PROJECT PLAN SUBMITTED TO MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: The criminal court set Oct 18 to try Shiite cleric Hussein Al-Maatouq, who is facing charges of violating the national unity law, spreading rumors and making false accusations against the interior ministry during a sermon he delivered at Al-Hussein Mosque, where he claimed that the Abdaly cell members were only detained and prosecuted for being Shiites.

Fake contracts

Residency detectives arrested a manpower authority employee working at the government contracts department for passing some fake contracts to bring more laborers into Kuwait. Case papers indicate that detectives had been tipped off concerning the employee's activity and on tracking him, detectives found that he had used fake contracts for MoE, MoH and the awqaf ministry, which were used to bring in 700 employees.

Retirement list

The Ports Authority started preparing lists of 170 employees due to be referred for retirement after 30 years in service, including 75 who had voluntarily retired over the past months.

Mahboula schools

The Education Ministry has approved a request filed by a private educational facility to open a kindergarten and primary bilingual school in Mahboula, said informed sources, noting that the private education director Abdullah Al-Basri asked the municipality to examine the school building and its suitability for the educational purpose it applied for.

School land

MoE Undersecretary Dr Haitham Al-Athari formed a special committee to set the regulations for allocating land plots for private schools. The committee will be responsible for studying the needs of each area as well as studying investors' applications.

Evening clubs

MoE also announced that 31 evening clubs would be open this year in all six governorates, said informed sources, explaining that two clubs for boys and two for girls would be opened in each governorate in addition to one club for private school boys and one for private school girls, two bowling clubs in Mubarak Al-Kabeer and the Capital and a robotics club.

Metro project

PPP Director Adel Al-Roumi stressed that a proposal on proposed Kuwait metro project has been submitted to the Municipal Council for approval. Roumi also expected listing the first company to produce electricity at KSE within 18 months.

Mosque data

Minister of Awqaf Yaaqoub Al-Sane has asked for a list of the total number of mosques in Kuwait pending installation of fingerprint machines for imams and muzzenns by the end of the month.

Credit Bank bonds

Kuwait Credit Bank is currently planning to issue bonds in Kuwaiti dinars through local banks or governmental investment bodies to fund its needs to cover housing requests.

Husband fined

A civil court yesterday sentenced a citizen to pay his wife the sum of KD 30,500, pay the case expenses and KD 100 as lawyers' fees. Case papers indicate that the couple had jointly owned a property they sold for KD 130,000, but the husband refused to pay her share.

Hajri appointment

The administrative court yesterday annulled a decision made by the Minister of Education demanding cancellation of appointing the Higher Institute of Theatrical Arts' dean Dr Fahd Mansour Al-Hajri and stressed that Hajri's appointment had been legally made by a committee that interviewed three applicants, Nermeen Al-Houti, Hajri and Suleiman Arti.

SADEQ MOSQUE TO REMAIN AS 'TESTIMONY TO TERRORIST ACT'

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: Al-Sadeq mosque administration decided to postpone repairing the damage it sustained in the suicide bomb explosion in order to allow more visitors to see it so that it could remain as a standing testimony to the terrorist act and pain Kuwait suffered from the heinous attack. The mosque's supervisor added that photos documenting the blast would be displayed around the mosque. Meanwhile, the Ministry of Education announced its intention to organize school trips to the mosque with the aim of enhancing social consolidation and rejecting hatred and violence amongst students.

Contempt of court

Informed sources said that the judiciary filed a complaint against former MP, Khalid Al-Sultan accusing him of slandering the judiciary and questioning its decisions in a statement he recently made about the Abdaly cell.

Pakistani found dead

A 45-year-old Pakistani was recently found dead at his residence in Jleeb Al-Shoyukh, said security sources noting that the body was referred to forensic medicine pending further investigations.

GULF BANK ANNOUNCES 'PINK...BECAUSE WE CARE' ANNUAL BREAST CANCER AWARENESS CAMPAIGN IN OCTOBER

KUWAIT: Gulf Bank announces its sponsorship of and participation in several activities during the month of October to mark the worldwide Breast Cancer Awareness month. This is the third consecutive year Gulf Bank has carried out its "PINK...Because We Care" campaign to raise awareness about the seriousness of breast cancer, the importance of testing, and the benefits of early detection.

There are four components to this year's annual campaign: special pricing for breast cancer related tests offered in partnership with Royale Hayat Hospital; sponsorship of the "Pink Walkathon organized by Fatma Clinic; sponsorship of the "Fight Like A Girl" awareness campaign in partnership with the US Embassy and the American Women's League of Kuwait; and the bank-wide "Wear it Pink" day to raise money for research. Additionally, throughout the month, Gulf Bank's social media will be involved with and support the awareness campaign by posting information and medical tips to increase education about and awareness of breast cancer.

In order to encourage women to seek testing, Gulf Bank has partnered with Royale Hayat Hospital to offer special discounts on breast cancer related tests for its customers. This discount offer is available to female Gulf

Bank customers over the age of 40. The pricing for a mammogram is only KD30 instead of KD45 and should the woman need further testing, ultrasound tests are offered at the reduced rate of KD15. This offer is valid until 31 October 2015.

Gulf Bank will be a gold sponsor, for the third year, of the annual breast cancer awareness walkathon that is organized by Fatma Clinic. This walkathon supports those who have survived breast cancer, as well as those who have lost family or friends to the disease. The walkathon will take place on Friday, 24 October and will start next to the Scientific Center in Salmiya. Tickets will be available in the following locations: American University of Kuwait (AUK) on its campus in Salmiya; Gulf University of Science and Technology (GUST) on its campus in Mubarak Al-Abdullah-West Mishref; Al-Hamra Mall in Sharq; and Fatma Clinic in Salmiya. All proceeds and funds raised at the event will be donated to Al-Sidra Association for Psychological Care of Cancer Patients and their Families.

The Bank is also happy to be the gold sponsor for the awareness event, "Fight Like A Girl" on Monday, 26 October at the Regency Hotel. This event is dedicated to raising awareness about the disease and is being

held under the patronage of the US Embassy in Kuwait in partnership with the American Women's League. Several renowned Kuwaiti doctors will be speaking during the event on issues related to the detection, treatment, and prevention of breast cancer.

The Bank will also be aligned with 'Wear it Pink', an international charity that encourages thousands of people all around the world to join with a collective of scientists, supporters, and people affected by breast cancer. 'Wear it Pink' is working towards the goal that no one will die of breast cancer by the year 2050. Every year, 'Wear it Pink' raises funds by asking people in schools, workplaces, homes and social venues to wear something pink and to make a donation. The donated money goes to fund world-class research, by the brightest scientific minds. Gulf Bank staff in all 58 branches and the Head Office will wear a pink item to work in support of the campaign.

This campaign is part of Gulf Bank's corporate social responsibility strategy, as the Bank is committed to raising awareness of health issues. For more information on Gulf Bank's corporate social responsibility initiatives and activities, please visit our website at <http://www.e-gulfbank.com> or our social media channels.

In my view

BEING ARAB



By Bader Al-Dihani

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You cannot visit the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, without feeling overwhelmed by the Orient - the smell, music, colour, and diversity of this vast and fascinating part of the world. In fact that one, particular place, SOAS, is where I spent the last three years reading and where I happened to be at a number of days ago when I skimmed through "Being Arab" by the French-Lebanese writer Samir Kassir. Who are the Arabs and what makes one Arab an Arab? Is language the major factor in determining who is and who is not an Arab? Maybe ethnicity or origin plays the leading roles? Where does the border of Arabism lie? I will tell you now that this article will not attempt to answer the questions above; the article will, however, ask you to question.

There are multiple attempts throughout history to define what ingredients are used to build the 'Arab identity' and how they, the Arabs as one organic, homogeneous identity, interact. Napoleon Bonaparte in 1798 sent an entire expedition to Egypt to study how that particular part of the Orient mechanically operated; an attempt to study Egyptian culture, language, politics, economics, arts and such. The expeditions and scholarly studies, I would argue, have failed in defining who the Arab peoples are. Being an Arab is not wearing certain clothes or talking in a certain way or writing in some scribbling form, it is an identity - to say the least. Since one could consider it as an identity, would an American, or Chinese or French, living in some Arab state and communicating in Arabic with Arabs be considered as an Arab? Would a Syrian, or Kuwaiti or Moroccan, living in Spain and communicating in Spanish with Spaniards be considered as an Arab? Those are very interesting questions that I hope you would take a chance to discuss.

"Orientalism" by the late Palestinian-American academic Edward Said of Columbia University who passed away in 2003 and who wrote his masterpiece in 1978 has reshaped Oriental Studies. In it, Edward Said argues that the West, or Occident or non-Orient, has deliberately been intellectually misrepresenting the East through a particular lens: inferior, uneducated and unenlightened, sexually-driven, uncivilized. The titling of the book would perhaps connote a study of the entire Orient, from India to China to the Middle East, for it implies so; Edward Said is criticized for singling out the other regions. Fred Halliday of the London School of Economics, who criticized Orientalism on several points but who has also spent time studying and reflecting on the 1978 masterpiece, not to mention a colleague and friend of Edward Said, defines the discipline as follows: "External authority and internal nationalism collude to create a timeless, and particularist, discourse." Edward Said's "Orientalism" will undoubtedly better your understanding of what constitutes the Arab identity. The Arabs belong to a certain civilizational space and time - like, say, the Chinese or English. One could not define an entire people through concrete traits or ingredients for there are numerous factors that should be taken into great consideration and analysis. History, culture, arts and politics - to name some elements - all add to the fruitful understanding of what makes a people the way they are. Unless you, the nationalist, disagree, Arabs are indifferent. What ingredients constitute your own identity?

KUWAIT DIVE TEAM AWARDED INT'L ENERGY PRIZE IN AUSTRIA

KUWAIT: Kuwait Dive Team (KDT), affiliated with the Environmental Voluntary Foundation (EVF), won the Energy Globe Award offered and organized by the International Energy Foundation (IEF) based in Austria.

Head of the team Waleed Al-Fadel said that this success is dedicated to Kuwait and His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah for His Highness' continuous support to the programs and activities of the team, besides his remarkable encouragement to the Kuwaiti youth.

The award's Jury consisting of international experts in the environmental field described the teams' projects as boundless initiatives, he said. The projects conducted by the Kuwaiti Dive Team includes lifting drowned boats, vessels, fishing nets and harmful waste away from corals reefs and waterways, besides rehabilitating and reforming the maritime environment through planting coral reefs and sea creatures, he added.

KDT expressed its deepest thanks and appreciation to the governmental and public institutions that actively supported the team's leading environmental projects, he said. The Energy Globe Award is expected to give a great momentum to the local and international civil society institutions in their efforts to contribute to serving the society and offer fruitful social initiatives, he said.

It will allow KDT to communicate with its international partners in protecting the maritime environment, and contributes in presenting a bright civilized image of Kuwait as a sponsor of serious environmental work, besides promoting for voluntary work, he added. The International Energy Foundation (IEF) is a non-profit group of scientists, researchers, engineers and others from various parts of the world working together. —KUNA





KUWAIT: Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah met yesterday with General Director of Lebanon's General Security Major-General Ibrahim Abbas. They discussed common vital issues and bilateral cooperation in the military field between the two brotherly countries. —KUNA

SPEAKER CALLS FOR EMERGENCY AP MEETING ON ISRAELI ATTACKS

KUWAIT: National Assembly Speaker and President of the Arab Parliament (AP) Marzouq Al-Ghanim called here yesterday for an emergency AP meeting on October 17 in Geneva to discuss Israeli aggressions against Palestinians.

The emergency meeting, which is to be held on the sidelines of 133th Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), will also consider necessary action to end Israeli attacks on Palestinians. Ali Al-Ghanim met yesterday with visiting Secretary General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Martin Chungong. The meeting dealt with ways to enhance cooperation and vital issues to be discussed by the 133rd Assembly of

the Inter-Parliamentary Union due in Geneva between October 17-21.

The meeting was attended by a number of Kuwaiti MPs. Meanwhile, Al-Ghanim met with visiting Deputy Chairman of the Arab Parliament Samiya Ahmed. During the meeting, they discussed cooperation and a number of common issues. The meeting was attended by Kuwaiti and Arab MP Faisal Al-Kandari.

Nobel prize

Al-Ghanim said yesterday that the Tunisian National Dialogue Quartet was really worthy of winning the 2015 Nobel peace prize. Al-Ghanim in a cable sent to Tunisian Parliament Speaker

Mohammad Al-Nasser said that the Tunisian National Dialogue Quartet's efforts over years reflected the aspirations of the Tunisian people towards peace and democracy.

The speaker hailed Tunisia as a model of the Arab Spring for maintaining security and stability and safeguarding its people's dignity away from infighting, armed conflicts and chaos.

The Speaker sent yesterday a cable of condolences to the Speaker of the UAE Federal National Council in which he expressed his sorrow on the martyrdom of a UAE soldier in Yemen while on duty within the framework of the Saudi-led coalition forces. —KUNA

PREMIER RECEIVES PACA OFFICIALS

KUWAIT: His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received yesterday at Bayan Palace chief of the Public Anti-Corruption Authority Abdulrahman Saleh Al-Namash and the authority's Board of Trustees. During the meeting, His Highness the Prime Minister submitted his financial disclosure report to Al-Namash and received the financial disclosures of Al-Namash and all members in accordance with the Decree No 24 (2012).

His Highness the Premier stressed the government's support for the authority to help it achieve its mission in line with the decree, expressing his appreciation to efforts exerted by the authority's staff efficiently. His Highness the Prime Minister urged all officials to swiftly submit their financial disclosures in implementation of the law.

"We, from the very beginning, have stressed the necessity of transparency and combating corruption and worked on enacting required legislations in collaboration with law-makers. We have established the authority to be an executive tool," said the Premier.

"Although combating corruption takes a long time, we are insisting on confronting it by using all measures and means," he added. The meeting was attended by Assistant Undersecretary for Local Affairs at the Diwan of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Khaled Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Sabah. — KUNA



KUWAIT: The Ambassador of the Republic of Albania Kujtim Morina (left) and the new Ambassador of Sri Lanka to Kuwait Kandeepan Bala visited Kuwait Times yesterday and discussed matters of mutual concern with Editor-in-Chief Abd Al-Rahman Al-Alyan. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat



EGYPTIAN DUO HELD FOR FORGING GOVT CONTRACT

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Residency detectives arrested two Egyptian expats for providing a forged government contract. The arrest was under the supervision of Director General of Residency Affairs Detectives Brig Saud Al-Khader. Information was received about the two who provided a Ministry of Awqaf contract to the government contracts department on behalf of a contracting company, enabling it to get 220 workers. Both were sent to concerned authorities.

Weapons inspection

Weapons detectives carried out a campaign in Abdullah Al-Mubarak, part of the interior ministry's strategy to complete the collection of weapons to safeguard citizens' lives.

Drugs seized

Abdaly customs officers discovered 15 kg of hashish and one kilo of shabu hidden in an ice box with an expat.

Bedoon killed

An elderly bedoon was killed in a collision near Jahra polyclinic. The 60-year-old died while being given first aid at the clinic.

Bedoon robbed

A 26-year-old bedoon told police his car was broken into and KD 3,800 was stolen from it.

Police arrested a citizen and a bedoon with a loaded pistol in Naeem. Both were taken to the police station for further action.

Asian drug pusher held

An Asian was arrested by airport customs officers with nearly one kilogram of heroin inside paper joints hidden in dried shrimps.

Drug dealer held

An American expat was arrested with 1,200 envelopes of "chemical" ready for sale, besides KD 13,000. He was sent to concerned authorities.



KUWAIT: The envelopes of 'chemical' ready for sale, KD 13,000 and guns seized from an expat.

News

In brief

Arab Media Forum to honor media figures

KUWAIT: A host of Kuwaiti and Arab media figures that served Kuwaiti media for more than 20 years will be honored in an annual ceremony starting today, Secretary General of the Arab Media Forum Madi Khamis announced yesterday. In a press statement, Khamis pointed out that the ceremony will be held under the patronage of Minister of Information and Minister of Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud Al-Sabah. The event is organized by Ministry of Information and Kuwaiti Society for Media and Communication. Khamis appreciated all efforts that have been made to improve Kuwaiti media at all levels by creating a positive and encouraging environment for it to nurture and develop. This improvement helped Kuwaiti media to leave its mark on other media outlets in the Arab world. He lauded Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud for playing a major role in eliminating all obstacles that are facing local media. Today's ceremony is an annual event that honors a group of media figures that have influence on Kuwaiti media and helped on its progress.

KAFCO tests power saving system

KUWAIT: Kuwait Aviation Fueling Company (KAFCO) has finalized testing the low consumption energy plants at the power relay station of the company's warehouse south of Kuwait International Airport, said KAFCO's General Director Ahmad Suleiman Al-Mudhaf yesterday. Al-Mudhaf told KUNA this accomplishment is the first of its kind in the local oil sector and at the level of State ventures, noting the 3.3 kV system preserves energy during operation of the devices, such as fuel pumps and air-conditioning units, at the warehouse. Power will be saved by 15-20 percent, he said, affirming that the system will lessen the load on the relay and central power stations.

Kuwait-Japan risk management meeting

KUWAIT: The Kuwaiti-Japanese international risk management conference is set to kick off today, organized by the US corrosion society from 12-14 October, under the patronage of CEO of Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) Nizar Al-Adsani. The conference will discuss different topics including aging factories, choosing proper material and designs, maintenance, technology, safety and other risk management and corrosion-related issues, the US corrosion society said yesterday. The society added that KPC, Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR), Japan Petroleum Cooperation Center, Japan Society of Corrosion and other international experts will take part in the event.

Khurainej condemns Turkey explosions

KUWAIT: Deputy speaker of Kuwait's parliament, Mubarak Benya Al-Khurainej yesterday condemned the terrorist blast that took place in Turkey claiming the lives of scores of innocent Turkish citizens. He described the attack as a 'cowardly act of terrorism' that indicates serious regional threats to the Middle East. Speaking at a press release, Al-Khurainej urged all countries, especially regional countries to combine and coordinate efforts to determine the causes of terrorism, find out who funds and supports it in order to reach proper solutions and get rid of terrorists.



KUWAIT: Weapons detectives carrying out a campaign in Abdullah Al-Mubarak.

Photo

of the day



KUWAIT: The House of late artist Khalifa Al-Qattan and Lydia Al-Qattan. The house is built without windows and inlaid with glass and ceramics. The house is an artistic masterpiece. —KUNA

EARLY DETECTION KEY TO TREATING BREAST CANCER

MOH LAUNCHES AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

KUWAIT: The Ministry of Health launched yesterday an awareness campaign on the breast cancer prevention as part of a national program which coincides with the Breast Cancer Awareness Month, an annual campaign that

falls on October to increase awareness of the disease.

Speaking at a press conference, Chairperson of Early Detection of Breast Diseases Project Dr Hanaa Al-Khawari underlined the importance of

the early detection of the disease as this will help in treatment. The campaign is part of various activities of the program during this month represented in coordination with the primary care centers to launch the several-day awareness campaign, she said.

The campaign will include press statements, publications, interviews, brochures that will be distributed at malls, hospitals and universities, she noted. It was coordinated with Kuwait International Airport and Kuwait Airways to broadcast an awareness film on breast cancer on their screens, and signboards and brochures at supermarkets in collaboration with the Union of Consumer Cooperative Societies, she said.

A consultant of obstetrics and gynecology and an expert of breast cancer awareness will come from Saudi Arabia on October 25-29 to hold discussions on the disease in Kuwait, she added.

A special competition is to also be launched on social networking sites yesterday and runs until the end of the month aiming to urge citizens and residents to contribute to raising awareness on the early detection of the disease, she made clear. At the end of the campaign, a festival would be organized by the end of October at Marina Crescent Hotel, she concluded. —KUNA



KUWAIT: Chairperson of Early Detection of Breast Diseases Project Dr Hanaa Al-Khawari speaks during the launch of the breast cancer awareness campaign yesterday. —KUNA



KUWAIT: Kuwaiti Ambassador to Mexico Johar Hayat was awarded an honorary PHD certificate by Mexico International University. —KUNA

AMBASSADOR HAYAT RECEIVES HONORARY PHD IN MEXICO

KUWAIT: Kuwaiti Ambassador to Mexico Johar Hayat was awarded an honorary PhD certificate by Mexico International University in appreciation of his role in developing bilateral relations between the two countries on all lev-

els. According to a statement by Kuwait Embassy yesterday, this is the eighth governmental academic award that Hayat has received from top universities since he assumed his position in 2011.

The ambassador has previously received an honorary PhD in law from the Pedregal University along with other high honorary degrees and awards, the embassy added. —KUNA

KHALED AL-ZAID'S LEGACY LIVES ON

Kuwait's book lovers pay tribute to great writer on his 14th death anniversary

KUWAIT: Lovers of poetry and literature paid rich tribute to the well-known Kuwaiti man of letters and poet Khaled Saud Al-Zaid on the 14th anniversary of his death who left a rich and immortal legacy.

The name of Al-Zaid (1937-2001) remains in the vivid memory of the country for his contributions to the advancement of the literary movement which started to flourish during the reign of Sheikh Mubarak Al-Sabah-Mubarak the Great who ruled the country between 1896 and 1915. Al-Mubarakia School and Al-Jam'iyah Al-Khairiya (charity) were founded to play a pioneering role in the scientific and cultural advancement in Kuwait side by side with Al-Ahmadia School, Al-Ahliya (national) Library and the Literary Club which were established during the reign of Sheikh Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Mubarak (1885-1950).

The icons of the literary movement in the pre-independence era include Khaled Mohammad Al-Faraj, Hejji bin Qasim, Suleiman Al-Adsani, Youssef bin Issa Al-Qena'ie, Abdulaziz Al-Rashid and Issa Al-Qutami. Kuwait's literary movement is traditionally classified according to major local and global political incidents; it falls into three stages that preceded utilization of the country's huge oil resources.

Evolution of literature

The first and longest stage spanned between the emergence of Kuwait as a State and breakout of WWI (World War I); its literature is deemed apathetic and dull due to the then high rate of illiteracy. The second stage was featured with growing numbers of literary symposiums, clubs, libraries - whether public or private, and visit exchanges between Kuwaiti men of letters and their peers from other Arab countries. The third stage was marked by the growth of scientific clubs and the emergence of Arabic newspapers and magazines.

Al-Zaid, born on January 27, 1937, started his education at Qibiyah School in 1942 and then joined Al-Mubarakia School in 1951; during this period his poetic talent started to crystallize. He left school and started working in 1957 and retired in 1986.

Al-Zaid left a rich legacy of contributions to the humanity, including history, biographies and poetry, and authored 23 books which had profound impact on the local and Arab literary movement. He is a pioneer biographer on the local and regional level as shown in his first and most important book "Kuwait's men of letters in two centuries." The book was first published in 1967 and republished four times later on; a second volume of the book was published in 1982.

In 1990, he co-authored "contents of original Arabic manuscripts at Khaled Saud Al-Zaid's library" with Abbas Al-Haddad.

Al-Zaid compiled the local sayings in a book titled "slang proverbs" in 1961, and played a leading role in documenting texts of the local poetry which were liable to disappearance. He also immortalized local tales written by anonymous authors in his book "orphan stories in Kuwaiti magazines," published in 1982. The book served as a main reference for succeeding Kuwaiti anthropologists of short stories such as Dr Hayfaa Al-Asousi, Dr Suleiman Al-Shatti; the latter authored a book on short stories based on Al-Zaid's works.

'Gulf Guide'

He was the first to extract and correct the Kuwait-related material from "the Gulf Guide," written by the British politician and historian David Lockhart Robertson Lorimer (1876-1962). He published two volumes of a book titled "Kuwait in the Gulf guide - historical book" and "Kuwait in the Gulf guide - geographical book" in 1962; the book provides the reader with exact historical and geographical information on the country.

Al-Zaid authored biographies on Khaled Al-Faraj, a notable poet and writer who lived between 1898 and 1954 and Fahad Al-Dowery, the godfather of story writing in Kuwait.

His first collection of poems "prayers at deserted temple" was published in 1970. Al-Zaid also published two poetic collections titled "words of boards" in 1985 and "between your valley and the villages" in 1992.

He was the first to hold a gallery of the Kuwaiti and Arab manuscripts in 1990, showcasing 300 exhibits; he also published two contents of the rare manuscripts on display. The two books, presented later to the late Amir His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah formed the nucleus of the national library of Kuwait. The manuscripts at the gallery were totally robbed during the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

Al-Zaid contributed to the intellectual and cultural drive against the Iraqi occupation (1990-1991), and documented the malpractices and atrocities committed by the Iraqi soldiers.

He served as head of the Information Ministry's committee on songs between 1977 and 1982, head of the committee on authoring at the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL) in 1991, editing secretary and editor-in-chief of Al-Bayan magazine and Secretary-General of Kuwait Writers Association. Al-Zaid was the first laureate of Kuwait literary award in appreciation for his contributions to humanity; he also won the award of the ninth Kuwait Arab Book Fair for the third volume of "Kuwait's men of letters in two centuries." He was also awarded the state incentive order by Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS) in 1990 and the State Order of Merit in 1999. —KUNA

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TURKEY MOURNS DEADLIEST TERROR ATTACK

ANKARA: Thousands of people took to the streets of Ankara yesterday to denounce the government of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan after 95 people were killed in twin suspected suicide bombings on a peace rally, Turkey's worst ever terror attack. Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu declared three days of national mourning, with flags flying at half mast across the country, as questions grew over who could have ordered the Ankara bombings.

Turkey's pro-Kurdish Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP), one of the groups that called the peace rally, issued a statement claiming the actual toll was far higher at 128, giving the names of 120 victims. Saturday's attacks intensified tensions in Turkey ahead of snap elections on November 1 as the military wages an offensive against Islamic State (IS) jihadists and Kurdish militants.

Thousands of demonstrators filled Sıhhiye Square in central Ankara, close to the site of the blasts by Ankara's main train station, with some shouting anti-government slogans. Several demonstrators blamed Erdogan over the bombings, shouting "Erdogan murderer", "government resign!" and "the state will give account".

"I am a mother, I'm worried about my grandchildren, I am marching for our children, for our future. Each time, there are people dead, I also die a little," said demonstrator Zahide, who like many others carried a pink carnation flower to commemorate the victims. "May God punish Tayyip (Erdogan)!"

Erdogan condemned the "heinous" attack in a statement and cancelled a visit to Turkmenistan, but has yet to speak in public after the bombings. The premier's office said 95 people were killed when the bombs exploded just after 10:00 am as leftist and pro-Kurdish activists gathered for the rally outside Ankara's train station. It said that 508 people were wounded, with 160 still in hospital and 65 in intensive care in 19 hospitals. An AFP correspondent said the scene of the blast was littered with ball bearings, indicating the explosions were intended to cause the maximum damage.

modern Turkish Republic by Mustafa Kemal Atatürk. "This could well be Turkey's 9/11," said Soner Cagaptay, director of the Turkish Research Programme at The Washington Institute, referring to the September 11, 2001 terror attacks by Al-Qaeda in the United States.

IS linked?

Davutoglu said groups including Islamic State (IS) jihadists, the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) and the far-left Revolutionary People's Liberation Party-Front (DHKP-C) were capable of carrying out such an attack. NTV television said initial investigations were focusing on a possible connection to IS but this has not been confirmed by Turkish officials. The attack came just under three months after a suicide bombing blamed on IS, also against peace activists, in the border town of Suruc on the Syrian border killed 33 people.

NTV said that the Suruc and Ankara attacks were similar both in style and the type of bombs used. The same forensic experts sent to Suruc are now working in Ankara. The Hurriyet and Haberturk dailies reported that the elder brother of Abdurrahman Alagoz, who carried out the Suruc suicide bombing, could have been implicated in the Ankara blasts.

The Suruc bombing caused one of the most serious flare-ups in Turkey in recent times as the PKK accused the government of collaborating with IS and resumed attacks on the security forces after an over two-year truce. The military hit back against the Kurdish militants, launching a "war on terror" and bombing targets in southeast Turkey and northern Iraq. With striking timing, the PKK Saturday announced it would suspend all attacks-except in self defense-ahead of the polls. However the military in the last two days launched new air raids on southeast Turkey and northern Iraq, killing 49 suspected militants, the official Anatolia news agency reported. Two Turkish soldiers were also killed in clashes with the PKK in the eastern Erzurum region, reports said. — AFP



ISTANBUL: Relatives mourn near the coffin of a victim of the twin bombings in Ankara, during the funeral. — AFP

'Topple the dictator'

In an emotional address at the Ankara rally, the HDP's leader Selahattin Demirtas said that rather than seeking revenge people should aim to end Erdogan's rule, starting with the November 1 legislative elections.

"We are not going to act out of revenge and hatred. But we are going to ask for (people to be held to) account," he added, saying the elections would be part of a process to "topple the dictator." Even before the attacks, the president was under immense political pressure after his Justice and Development Party (AKP) lost its overall majority in June 7 polls for the first time since it came to power in 2002.

Coalition talks failed and Erdogan has called new elections on November 1. But to the disappointment of the AKP, opinion polls show the outcome may be little different to the previous ballot. This weekend's death toll surpassed that of May 2013 twin bombings in Reyhanli on the Syrian border that killed over 50 people, making the attack the deadliest in the history of the Turkish Republic.

With international concern growing over instability in the key NATO member, US President Barack Obama offered his condolences to Erdogan and solidarity "in the fight against terrorism", the White House said. The attacks drove a knife through the heart of normally placid Ankara, which became the capital following the founding of the

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FAMILIES BRACE FOR FINAL MH17 AIR CRASH REPORT

THE HAGUE: International investigators will tomorrow release their final report into the shooting down of Malaysia Airlines flight MH17 over war-torn Ukraine, but the burning question of who was to blame will remain unresolved. The Dutch Safety Board (DSB), leading a team of international investigators since the Boeing 777 went down last year, will release the report at 1115 GMT at the Gilze-Rijen air force base in southern Netherlands.

All 298 people on board—most of them Dutch—including the 15 crew members died when the routine flight between Amsterdam and Kuala Lumpur was brought down, possibly by a missile, during heavy fighting between Ukrainian forces and pro-Russian separatists. Tomorrow's report — 15 months after the July 17, 2014 crash—will focus on four subjects, the Dutch board said in a statement. "The cause of the crash; the issue of flying

over conflict areas; the question why Dutch... relatives of victims had to wait two to four days before receiving confirmation from the Dutch authorities that their loved ones were on board; and lastly, the question as to what extent the occupants of flight MH17 were conscious of the crash." But as the board has pointed out many times, it will not assign blame nor say who pulled the trigger. "It is the purpose of the criminal investigation to answer those (questions)," it said.

Blame game

Kiev and the West however have pointed the finger at the separatists, charging they may have used a BUK surface-to-air missile supplied by Russia to blow the plane from the sky. The Russian maker of the BUK missile said it too will hold a press conference in Moscow tomorrow to explain the "real rea-

sions" for the disaster after holding an "experiment" that entailed detonating a missile next to a plane.

Fragments of a Russian-made BUK were found at the crash site earlier this year. But Moscow denies involvement and instead has accused Ukraine's military of being behind the tragedy. The downing of MH17 further strained relations between Russia and the West, already at their lowest ebb since the Cold War due to the conflict in eastern Ukraine.

The United Nations estimates some 8,000 people have been killed and 18,000 others have been wounded since clashes erupted there in April 2014. The report's release also comes amid heightened concern over Moscow's role in Syria, where it has launched air strikes which it says are aimed at routing jihadists.

'New answers'

Relatives of the victims, who in July marked the first anniversary of the crash with an emotional gathering attended by over 2,000 people, said they believed the final report will at least answer some questions. They will also for the first time be confronted with the harrowing sight of a partial reconstruction of the doomed plane made from pieces of wreckage brought back from the crash site.

"The report will throw new light onto the case as we know it at the moment," said Dennis Schouten, chairman of the MH17 Air Disaster Foundation. Relatives understand that the criminal probe has not yet been completed to answer who was behind the probable firing of the missile, he told AFP.

"That must come from the criminal

probe and has to be proved properly," said Schouten. But with the release tomorrow's report "the net is certainly drawing a little closer," he added. "Is there more than one guilty party? The airlines and their flight routes? So many questions remain."

Both the Russian and Ukrainian militaries have BUK missiles in their arsenal, and the system's Russian manufacturer said in June that based on publicly available photographs of the wreckage the plane was likely shot down by one of its projectiles. But Russia in July vetoed a bid at the UN Security Council to set up an international tribunal to try those behind the downing of the aircraft. Countries involved in that bid are now looking at other means to carry out a prosecution, although no suspects have yet been publicly identified. — AFP

CONDO OWNERS IN PANAMA TELLS TRUMP: YOU'RE FIRED!

ALLEGATIONS OF MISMANAGEMENT AND OVERSPENDING

PANAMA CITY: The directors of a massive Trump-branded luxury condominium development in Panama City Trump Ocean Club, offers a glimpse into the workings of the Republican presidential frontrunner's business empire - and the style of management that might be expected from a Trump White House.

Transparency and close attention to expenses are not strengths. Squeezing the most from contractual language is. Whether wheeling and dealing with Wall

"I am proud to develop this extraordinary high rise," Trump said in one 2007 promotional brochure, promising to build a "landmark in Latin America and the Caribbean." It turns out Trump wasn't a developer on the project. He merely licensed his brand, though even that imprimatur came at a high price. A 2007 bond prospectus for the project estimated his cumulative licensing payout would total \$75.4 million, roughly two-thirds the amount raised.

Burdened by cost overruns and the global recession, the actual developer stopped making debt payments within a few months of the ribbon cutting in 2011. Trump earned an estimated \$20 million of con-

nothing I could do because my money was committed."

Some owners feared that Trump's management might be disproportionately spending the building's budget in ways that benefited the hotel instead of the building's other components. But despite repeated requests, Trump's managers never provided a detailed breakdown of the costs generated by each of part of the building, and never established the separate bank accounts stipulated in their management contract. A senior Trump executive in New York told one owner in 2012 that maintaining five bank accounts would be too expensive.

Trump's top employees in Panama also awarded themselves hundreds of thousands of dollars in bonuses without seeking the authorization of unit owners, according to members of the board. Eric Trump said such payments were appropriately disclosed - though board members say they still don't know the amounts of the bonuses.

Transparency concerns took on a heightened urgency given the Trumps' failure to stay within its owner-approved budget. "We made the budget, other than extraordinary things we can't control," said Eric Trump. He cited rising local costs and a broken water main as culprits for \$1 million deficits in 2013 and 2014. "We had an unbelievable team, and we managed to an internationally renowned set of standards."

'Civility was lost'

At a December meeting, restive unit owners disagreed. "Civility was lost," said Duncan McGowan, a real estate agent and property manager on the building's board. After the meeting, McGowan and other dissidents lobbied fellow owners to revoke proxy voting rights granted to Trump. With the help of votes controlled by representatives of both the casino and the developer, the dissidents defeated a Trump-backed special assessment at a building-wide meeting in May.

Two senior Trump administrators resigned their jobs and board positions following the rebuke, leaving the dissidents in charge. After negotiating with Trump Organization executives in New York for several months, on July 28, the board fired Trump.

Trump attorney Alan Garten responded days later, calling the termination "a complete sham" and refusing to accept it. He accused the board of ingratitude and criminal trespassing. Garten declared that Trump's company was quitting - and demanded a \$5 million termination fee. When the directors took possession of the administration offices, Trump's people disconnected the phone and Internet service and repossessed the copying machine. — AP



GEORGIA: Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump reacts to his introduction during a campaign rally held at the North Atlanta Trade Center. — AP

Street bankers, debating Republican presidential rivals or running a condo association, Trump has forwarded his interests by leveraging his outsized reputation, caniness and aggression.

In an interview, Trump's son Eric dismissed the allegations of mismanagement as an orchestrated attempt to sully the Trumps' reputation. He called the project "an amazing icon and, frankly, a great testament to America." Built in the shape of an arcing, wind-filled sail, the development is recognized as among the finest building in Panama. Visitors can sip drinks next to a 65th-floor, edgeless pool that seems to float above the ocean.

Street bankers, debating Republican presidential rivals or running a condo association, Trump has forwarded his interests by leveraging his outsized reputation, caniness and aggression.

Street bankers, debating Republican presidential rivals or running a condo association, Trump has forwarded his interests by leveraging his outsized reputation, caniness and aggression.

In a subsequent bankruptcy deal, and he is probably the only participant in the original deal to come out ahead.

Along with his branding and hotel management deals, Trump held a third contract to manage the overall building. A patchwork of contractual language gave Trump's company the right to vote at owners meetings on behalf of hundreds of hotel and condo units. Buyers learned they were abdicating their voting rights only if they read the fine print of their sales agreements, said Al Monstavicius, a retired Nevada doctor who bought a penthouse condo. "I shouldn't have signed that," Monstavicius said. "But there was



SYDNEY: Demonstrators hold up photos of Russian President Vladimir Putin to protest Russia's involvement in the Syrian civil war and in support of refugees and asylum seekers. — AFP

DUTCH PM SLAMS 'COWARDLY' ATTACK ON REFUGEE SHELTER

THE HAGUE: Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte has sharply condemned a "cowardly" attack on a refugee shelter, vowing to deal harshly with a group of men who sprayed the building with fireworks and eggs. Rutte visited the sports hall in the central city of Woerden on Saturday where some 150 refugees, including 51 children, are being temporarily housed, just hours after it was attacked late Friday by about 20 youths.

No one was hurt in the incident, but Dutch police were yesterday still questioning 11 men aged between 19 and 30 who were detained after the attack. The men, all dressed in black and wearing balaclavas, had allegedly unsuccessfully tried to storm into the building.

"This cowardly action is totally unacceptable," Rutte said on his Facebook page, after visiting the group who he said had been very "shocked" by the incident. It comes amid rising tensions in The Netherlands over the thousands of refugees due to be given shelter in the country under an EU scheme.

Over the next two years, it will take in more than 7,000 people as EU nations share out the migrants flooding into the continent, mainly from Syria and Iraq, in

Europe's worst refugee crisis since World War II. Last week, an angry crowd in the tiny village of Oranje tried to block the car of Deputy Justice Minister Klaas Dijkhoff after he tried to explain why the small hamlet had to house some 1,200 refugees, twice the number initially planned.

A woman was injured and hospitalized after she threw herself against Dijkhoff's car. Rutte, who on Friday had already called for calm over the refugee situation, vowed after his visit to Woerden that those behind the attack would be severely dealt with. Some local mayors have reacted angrily at the government plans for temporarily housing refugees in their villages, saying they were being "overruled" by the ministers based in The Hague.

A poll published yesterday in the De Telegraf showed that the Freedom Party (PVV) of firebrand far-right Dutch lawmaker Geert Wilders appears to be shooting up the polls amid the refugee crisis. His party won 15 seats in the last elections in 2012. But according to the daily De Telegraaf, if elections were held today his party could snatch as many as 35 seats in the 150-seat lower house. — AFP

AUSTRIAN FAR-RIGHT PARTY SEEKING ELECTION UPSET

VIENNA: Europe's migrants crisis was expected yesterday to help give a major boost—and possibly even a shock victory—to Austria's far-right Freedom Party in elections in the city state of Vienna. Fifteen years after the FPÖ under the late Joerg Haider stunned Europe by entering the federal government, polls put the party almost level with the centre-left Social Democrats (SPÖ) in Vienna.

"We will succeed, I can feel it," the FPÖ's charismatic leader Heinz-Christian Strache, 46, told a rally on Thursday, calling the vote a "historic chance." Unease about the arrival of hundreds of thousands of migrants into Europe this year has boosted national-

ists across the continent, and victory in the Austrian capital would be a major success.

Even though Strache would likely find it impossible to form a coalition, his party coming first would be nothing short of an earthquake in Austrian politics. The SPÖs have run this city of 1.8 million people uninterrupted since 1945, and the party's jolly but wily Michael Haeupl, 66, has been mayor for 21 years. Coming second in this SPÖe fiefdom-dubbed "red Vienna" would therefore put not only Haeupl under severe pressure, but also the head of the party, Chancellor Werner Faymann.

The next general election is not scheduled until

2018, but the FPÖe leads national opinion polls with more than 30-percent support, well above the SPÖe and Faymann's federal coalition partners, the centre-right People's Party (ÖVP).

Help 'our poor'

Austria has seen more than 200,000 migrants enter the country since the beginning of September, most of whom travel onwards to Germany or Scandinavia. But the government still expects some 85,000 asylum claims this year, making the Alpine country of 8.5 million people one of the highest recipients in Europe on a per-capita basis.

Strache, a former dental technician, has called for Austria to copy Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban and put fences up on the borders-something rejected by Faymann. "Every property owner does this with his house, putting a fence around his garden and not leaving the doors and windows open, so unwelcome guests don't come," Strache said earlier this year.

But emulating Marine Le Pen, the head of France's National Front, Strache has also toned down the anti-immigration rhetoric seen in earlier campaigns in his 10 years as FPÖe head. Gone are the slogans vilifying Islam. Now the posters all over Vienna are more subtle: "Help for our poor," they declare, adding in smaller letters "Instead of open doors for economic migrants."

"Security for our people," reads another, below a grinning Strache. "Instead of open borders for criminals". At the same time, Strache has campaigned on traditional SPÖe issues like alleviating poverty and more affordable rents, while even encroaching on liberal topics like slashing bureaucracy. "He has shifted his political discourse," political analyst Anton Pelinka told AFP. "The xenophobic root was still there, but in a more latent form."

"This... is a choice between hate, rejection and ostracizing the poor on one side, and character, decency and humanity on the other," Haeupl told a rally on Friday. Exit polls were expected soon after voting ends at 1500 GMT, followed by projections at 1600 GMT and the first results at 1630 GMT. — AFP



VIENNA: The head of Austria's far-right Freedom Party (FPÖe) Heinz-Christian Strache casts his vote at a polling station during the local elections. — AFP

GUINEANS VOTE FOR PRESIDENT DESPITE VIOLENCE, FRAUD FEARS

CONAKRY: Guineans flocked to the polls yesterday to choose their president, shrugging off deadly pre-election violence though the opposition vowed to dispute the outcome. Incumbent President Alpha Conde, who is tipped to win a second term, led appeals for calm after a dozen people were killed in deadly clashes between rival camps on Thursday and Friday.

Speaking after voting in Kaloum, the administrative district of the capital Conakry, Conde said: "I ask all Guineans, whatever their party, to fulfill their civic duty peacefully and calmly." Former prime minister Cellou Dalein Diallo, leading the pack of seven challengers to the incumbent, said after casting his ballot in a Conakry suburb: "We must hope there will not be (violence) after the elections and that the people of Guinea show maturity."

Diallo, head of the Union of Democratic Forces of Guinea (UFDG) party, earlier reversed a call for the polls to be postponed over fears of fraud. Conde, referring to the Ebola outbreak that has ravaged the poor west African country, said: "After the Ebola epidemic, Guinea really needs to unite to get back to moving forward." The outbreak began in Guinea in December 2013 and spread to neighbouring Sierra Leone and Liberia before finally slowing early this year. Some 2,500 people have died in Guinea alone.

Conde, now 77, won the country's first democratic elections in 2010 after spending some 30 years in exile, but they were marred by violence and accusations of fraud, as were legislative polls in 2013. The incumbent, whose campaign slogan promises to deliver a "KO blow" to his opponents, is hoping to trade on his five-year record of reforms. Among his achievements he cites an overhaul of the army and judiciary, the completion of a hydroelectric dam and reforms to make mining contracts more transparent.

"Ask the people of Guinea if what we have done in five years, the others did in 50. Ask that on the streets," he said in an interview. Conde's rivals, who also include former prime ministers Sidya Toure and Lansana Kouyate, have

accused him of bad management, notably at the height of the Ebola crisis, and of fanning ethnic tensions, especially involving Diallo's Fulani people. The Fulani, Guinea's largest and wealthiest ethnic group, have never enjoyed political power in the country.

The opposition has accused Conde of using the Ebola crisis as an excuse to keep his cronies in power locally to help him rig yesterday's vote. His rivals have vowed to challenge the results of yesterday's vote, citing "anomalies and irregularities" and raising the spectre of further unrest in the poor but mineral-rich former French colony.

'Time for vigilance'

Diallo said yesterday: "It's a time to be vigilant, to ensure that Guineans' suffrage is respected... so that the best man wins." Nearly 19,000 police and other security personnel are on duty, with all of Guinea's borders closed for the day and only electoral observers, officials or those with special permits allowed to drive on the roads.

Polls were due to close at 1800 GMT, with results of the first round not expected until tomorrow. Conde is hoping to win at the first round, avoiding a run-off election with Diallo, his closest rival, but his opponents contend that he could not achieve this without rigging the ballot. Despite being rich in bauxite, the ore used to produce aluminium, Guinea is one of the world's poorest countries.

Half the people live below the UN poverty line, and according to the World Bank per capita annual income in 2014 was just \$470 (414 euros), with many lacking access to electricity or running water. Polls were due to close at 1800 GMT, with results of the first round not expected until at least Tuesday.

An African Union observer mission and a 72-member European Union delegation are in Guinea to monitor the ballot. "Generally it isn't the day of the vote that has problems, it's the moment when they announce the results," said Alpha Amadou Bano Barry, sociology professor at Sonfonia University in Conakry. — AFP

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 & Financial Services - Kuwait

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 Alyasra Fashion
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You will be responsible for assisting in the development and implementation of goals, policies, priorities, and procedures relating to financial management, budget, accounting, and payroll, supervising and participating in the preparation of various financial statements and reports, as well as, preparing the projected future cash flow reports.

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 ATS Middle East
 Kuwait

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Easy Buying Manager
 IKEA - Al Homaizi Limited
 Kuwait

You will be responsible for supporting a customer-focused culture throughout the department and ensuring an overall easy buying experience, ensuring a positive shopping experience and efficient and cost-effective execution of the IKEA exchanges and returns policy, as well as, a customer-friendly handling of complaints.

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QA/QC Manager
 Packaging Products Company
 KSA

You will be responsible for establishing and executing quality plans and product designs that efficiently address consumers', customers, and regulatory demands/requirements, monitoring high-level business processes to identify areas of quality deficiencies, as well as, coordinating with manufacturing to ensure regulatory compliance.

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After Sales Marketing
Manager - Abdul Latif Jameel
 Co. Ltd. - KSA

You will be responsible for sharing & implementing campaign strategy, promotions, communication, P R activities, branding & events for Toyota Service Centres & guests to maximize the service market share and CPUS, as well as, assisting in service campaigns launching - nation-wide, region-wide & localized.

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 Michael Page International
 (UAE) Limited - KSA

You will be responsible for putting in place HSE policies and defining best practices, following and maintaining organisation's SOPs and safe working practices, implementing and complying with any legal, environmental and safety, BRC requirements and/or checks, as well as, leading team in operating with a high level of efficiency, integrity & enthusiasm.

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 Akarem Group
 KSA

You will be responsible for obtaining profitable results through the sales team by developing the team through motivation, counselling, skills development and product knowledge development, managing the sales administration function, operational performance reporting and streamlining processes and systems wherever possible.

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CHC Regional Category
Manager META
 Boehringer Ingelheim - UAE

You will be responsible for creating successful wellbeing marketing plan (SMAR) for Africa with relevant marketing research completed and aligned to META vision, creating impactful marketing launch plans for Africa and executing on time and in budget, as well as, achieving positive market share development regionally, in line with de-averaging status.

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Development Manager
 Shaikh Holdings - UAE

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Manager - Jubaili Bros
 UAE

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 Focus Management
 International - UAE

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Project Manager -
Mechanical/Piping - Vrinda
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Senior Manager In-flight
Entertainment
 Qatar Airways - Qatar

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 M.H. Alshaya Co.
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AFGHANS DEMAND EQUAL TREATMENT AS REFUGEES

MYTILENE: In cloistered meetings miles away from the combat zone, European governments have determined that Syrians fleeing their country's civil war should be given precedence over other exiles seeking refugee protection. But on the dock of Mytilene, the port capital of Greece's Lesbos Island, 22-year-old Sajjad wants to tell them they are wrong, and demands equal treatment.

"Of course I am a refugee. Your governments should go to Afghanistan if they think people can live there," he says. Sajjad, who does not want to give his surname, left home in mid-September. "We heard that Europe had opened its borders," he said. When he later learned that Afghans are not included in the EU scheme to share out 160,000 asylum seekers, he didn't know whether to laugh or get angry.

According to the United Nations refugee agency (UNHCR), less than 64 percent of Afghans are granted asylum, compared to 75 percent for Syrians, Eritreans and Iraqis. The UN has called for an international effort to repatriate millions of Afghans who have fled the country, arguing that their return could help to stabilize it. Sajjad plans to head for Sweden. "But I'll see which country is prepared to take me in," he adds in broken English.

'We'll camp outside door'

"If they shut the door on us, we will camp outside the door," says Sajjad's nephew Bismillah. "We are numerous and this gives us strength," he adds. Bismillah is no stranger to exile. He may be young but he has already

experienced the life of a child refugee in Pakistan, where his family first fled after leaving Afghanistan.

After Syrians, Afghans are the chief nationality among the over 400,000 people who have landed on Greek shores from neighboring Turkey this year-a tenfold increase from 2014. Like other non-Syrians, they are fingerprinted and given a document ordering them to leave Greece in a month.

On Lesbos, this document earns them the right to buy a ticket off the island. They end up in Athens, frequently sleeping on the street until they can book passage to the border with Macedonia, hoping to pass themselves off as Syrian. Many including Bismillah lie about their age in an effort to win protection as unaccompanied minors. But the ploy

does not always work.

"Who are you trying to convince that you're 17 years old?" a Greek registration officer is heard shouting at a young Afghan in the migrant camp of Moria, where thousands of non-Syrian migrants are kept behind a double fence and barbed wire.

Screened out

During the summer, when larger numbers of Syrians and Afghans fought for space on Greek islands, there was frequent tension between the two groups. "Ideally you want to see a procedure to screen out those who are not refugees," UNHCR regional spokesman Ron Redmond told AFP. "And in a crisis like this, those screened out would ideally be assisted in going back to their home coun-

tries. You need to look at the specific situation of each family, each individual," he said. To become eligible for the EU relocation scheme, Greece must first satisfy its fellow member states that it can credibly sort out the refugees from the economic migrants. EU border agency Frontex has announced plans to send 600 officers to help staff registration centers on the islands of Lesbos, Samos, Leros, Kos and Chios.

The EU's aim is to have the centers ready by the end of November. But what is going to happen to thousands of non-Syrian migrants who will inevitably be sent back to Greece by other EU states is less clear. "We are not going to turn our country into a concentration camp for refugees," Yiannis Mouzalas, junior interior minister for migration, said last month. — AFP



NEW DELHI: In this Friday, Oct 9, 2015 photo, a Hindu temple priest Ram Mangal Das caresses a cow at his 'Gaushala' or shelter for cattle. "We should drink cow's milk, not its blood," Das said. "If someone attacks mother cow, or eats it, then this sort of reaction should happen," he said of the killing of a Muslim farmer who was rumored to have slaughtered cows, adding "It is justified." — AP

AS HINDU PARTY LEADS INDIA, BEEF GROWS MORE POLITICAL

'WE SHOULD DECIDE IF HINDUS WANT TO FIGHT MUSLIMS OR POVERTY'

NEW DELHI: The legislator was full of outrage when he arrived in the north Indian village days after the killing of a Muslim farmer who was rumored to have slaughtered cows. A Hindu mob had smashed through the heavy wooden door to the man's home, then beat him to death with his wife's sewing machine.

The legislator's anger, though, was not about the killing. Instead, Sangeet Som was furious that men had been arrested in the attack in the village, just 30 miles from New Delhi. Som, a member of India's ruling Bharatiya Janata Party, called the arrests "atrocities on innocent villagers." As for the family of the dead man, he dismissed them as "those cow killers."

A few days later, a half-dozen BJP politicians slapped around a legislator on the floor of a state legislature, angry that he had served beef at a party. In south India, six members of a leftist student political party were suspended after their attempt to serve beef curry on campus to protest the farmer's killing set off a melee. On Friday, violence swept another northern village amid rumors that a cow had been slaughtered, with a crowd, who had chased down two Muslim men they suspected of cow-killing, clashing with police and burning several cars. Some villagers and police were injured, but no major injuries were reported.

Political tool

Cows have long been sacred to Hindus, worshipped as a mother figure and associated since ancient times with the god Krishna. But increasingly,

cows are also political. They have become a tool of political parties, an electioneering code word and a rallying cry for both Hindu nationalists and their opponents.

On Thursday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi broke his silence on the late September mob killing of Mohammad Akhlaq, saying communalism threatened the country's economic growth. "We should decide if Hindus want to fight Muslims or poverty. Muslims must decide if they want to fight Hindus or poverty," Modi said at a campaign rally in Bihar state, where elections start next week. "It is unity, communal harmony, brotherhood and peace that will take the nation forward."

But Modi also rose to power as Hindu nationalist, and since his election last year hard-line Hindus have been demanding that India ban the sale of beef - a key industry within India's poor, minority Muslim community. In many Indian states, the slaughtering of cows and selling of beef are already either restricted or banned.

Distrustful of Muslims

In the past, Modi has spoken out angrily against India's beef industry. "Brothers and sisters, I don't know whether this saddens you, but my heart screams out" at the rise of Indian beef exports, Modi said in a 2012 speech. "I am unable to understand why you are silent, why you are taking this lying down." Since becoming prime minister, though, he has danced delicately between an intense desire to be seen as a tolerant international statesman - the

sort of man who is greeted warmly by presidents and jokes around with Facebook's Mark Zuckerberg - and the need to satisfy a political base that is deeply distrustful of Muslims and other minorities.

That dance has, his critics say, emboldened extremist Hindus and given rise to everything from a series of church vandalisms to the recent mob killing. Criticism of cow slaughter, some say, is often simply code for anti-Muslim sentiments. India, a country of 1.3 billion, is about 81 percent Hindu and 13 percent Muslim. "I am afraid the hotheads will get busier. They are greatly encouraged and their strength is rather strong," said Inder Malhotra, a political analyst and former editor of the Times of India newspaper. "One of the reasons this prime minister keeps quiet about it, is that he doesn't want to lose these Hindus, because they are a very strong proportion of his supporters."

He criticized Modi for not speaking more strongly against the recent mob attack, and for his silence about comments like Som's. "Modi has not said a word against those in his party who have been making the most obnoxious statements," Malhotra said. Authorities are still investigating after the arrests of eight villagers for Akhlaq's death, but announced Friday that the meat found in his home turned out to be mutton - not beef. Meanwhile Som, the Hindu firebrand and avowed strict vegetarian, has denied media reports that he once owned part of a major Indian meat export company. The company exports goat and buffalo meat, but apparently not beef. — AP

COMMUNIST HEAD OLI ELECTED AS NEPAL PM

KATHMANDU: Nepal's parliament yesterday chose communist leader KP Sharma Oli as prime minister, tasked with unifying the quake-hit country after a new constitution triggered deadly protests, a border blockade and a nationwide fuel shortage.

Oli, of the Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist Leninist), defeated by 338 votes to 249 former premier Sushil Koirala, who stepped down from the top job as required by the constitution adopted on September 20.

"I announce that respected member KP Sharma Oli has been elected to the post of Nepal's prime minister," Speaker Subash Chandra Nembang told parliament to loud cheers and applause as lawmakers raced to congratulate him. Oli is tasked with quelling protests over the new constitution and ending the blockade which has led to national fuel rationing, as well as pushing ahead with reconstruction after the earthquake in April killed thousands. He is known as a moderate within his party despite its communist leanings, and has vowed to work with other parties to develop the impoverished country. "My request is that all the parties must work together and move forward in consensus," Oli told lawmakers in an address before the vote. "There are groups that are dissatisfied with the constitution, we have to address their demands," said Oli.

"Our country has been devastated by the earthquake. I will accelerate the reconstruction process," the 63-year-old also said. The current government is accused of stalling on rebuilding after the quake killed nearly 8,900 people and left more than half a million homeless. The constitution is aimed at bolstering the Himalayan country's transformation to a peaceful democracy after decades of political instability and a civil war.

Enormous challenges

The main political parties were spurred into agreeing on the charter, after years of bickering, following the earthquake. But the constitution, the first to be drawn up by elected representa-

tives, triggered a blockade by protesters at a vital border checkpoint, cutting off fuel supplies from India and sparking a nationwide shortage. Protesters from Nepal's southern plains are incensed about the charter, which will divide the country into several federal provinces.

More than 40 people have been killed in clashes between police and the protesters representing ethnic minorities, who say the new federal structure will leave them under-represented in parliament. The historically marginalized groups include the Madhesi and Tharu minorities, who mainly inhabit the southern plains, along the border with India. The constitution is the final stage in a peace process that began when Maoist fighters laid down their arms in 2006 after a decade-long insurgency aimed at abolishing the monarchy and creating a more equal society.

During his speech to parliament, Koirala, from the main Nepali Congress party, pledged to work with Oli if he lost the vote. But Ameen Dhakal, editor in chief of online news portal Sepopati, said Oli still faced an uphill battle in coming months. "There are enormous challenges for the new prime minister. The public will also have high expectations. He will have to resolve the crisis the country is facing," Dhakal told AFP.

Oli will also have to mend ties with giant influential neighbor India which is worried about instability on the border and has expressed concerns over the constitution. Oli has accused India of being behind the blockade that started on September 24 to protest against the charter. As trucks remain stuck at the frontier, Nepal has been forced to ration supplies nationwide as long lines form at petrol stations. India, which supplies all fuel to landlocked Nepal, has denied involvement in the blockade and instead urged all parties to enter talks to resolve the crisis. Nepal's economy-already weak before the disaster-was hit hard by the quake. It is forecast to grow around three percent this fiscal year, the lowest level in eight years. — AFP



KATHMANDU: Nepal's newly-elected Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli (center) greets supporters as he leaves the parliament. — AFP

MYANMAR'S OPPN SIGHTS DIRTY TRICKS IN CAMPAIGN

YANGON: A sparsely populated cluster of Indian Ocean islands has become the unlikely focus of allegations that Myanmar's government is spiking the chances of democracy icon Aung San Suu Kyi's opposition party in next month's landmark general election. Both the ruling Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) and the Nobel peace laureate's National League for Democracy (NLD) have fielded candidates on the Coco Islands, an archipelago off Myanmar's west coast and the country's smallest parliamentary constituency. But NLD parliamentary nominee Win Min has been prevented from going to the Coco Islands, where the main installation is a naval base, making it almost impossible for him to canvas for votes in the Nov 8 poll.

The allegations undermine the semi-civilian government's insistence that the election will be Myanmar's first free and fair poll for 25 years, a milestone in its transition from military dictatorship to democracy that will be closely watched by the international community. "I believe if they let me go there, I will win," said Win Min during an interview in Yangon, where he has recently been racking up a large mobile phone bill making calls to voters on the islands about 300 km away. The Coco Islands are a restricted area and transport links are sparse. A military plane flies every two weeks from Yangon, while a navy ship and a state-owned boat also make occasional trips. Win Min said he made plans three times to visit the islands since the campaign started on Sept. 8, once by boat and twice by plane. His scheduled boat trip was abruptly canceled while he was waiting to board. He was told there was

no space on two subsequent flights to the island.

Win Min told Reuters that he rented a boat and had planned to set sail on his own yesterday to the islands, a 36-hour journey from Yangon, but the government withdrew permission for the trip. Win Min's USDP rival, Thet Swe, who until August served as commander-in-chief of the navy, has been able to campaign freely on the island.

Easy win

Although there are no reliable opinion polls, the USDP - which includes many members of Myanmar's former junta - is expected to be beaten in many parts of the country by the NLD. However, the Coco Islands seat is considered to be a relatively easy win for the ruling party because of the development projects it has rolled out there and because many of the voters are military personnel or government officials. Western diplomats say the party has used a variety of tactics to trip up NLD candidates, but most overtly in seats where it wants to ensure a victory for its prominent leaders. Three senior USDP officials at party headquarters in the capital, Naypyitaw, declined to comment on why only their candidate was allowed access to the Coco Islands. Thet Swe could not be reached for comment. The election commission says it has no say over whether the NLD candidate can visit the islands, and the decision is up to the Yangon regional government. Officials in the government of the country's main city could not be reached for comment. — Reuters

TALEBAN SUICIDE BOMB TARGETS NATO CONVOY

KABUL: A Taliban suicide car bomber struck a NATO convoy in central Kabul yesterday, triggering a powerful explosion in an attack that comes two weeks after the resurgent militant group overran a key northern city. The rush-hour bombing, which sent a plume of smoke into the sky, wounded at least three civilians including a child, as the Taliban

ramp up attacks on government and foreign targets.

The intensity of the blast sent an armored vehicle crashing into a sidewalk, its front end badly mangled, and left the area littered with charred pieces of twisted metal. "The incident took place while a suicide car bomber detonated an explosive-packed car in the Joy Shir

area... of Kabul city," the interior ministry said. "The target of the attacker were the foreign forces convoy." Security forces cordoned off the area as ambulances with wailing sirens rushed to the scene, but officials said the human toll of the blast was limited. "The ministry of interior condemns in the strongest terms the suicide attack which resulted in the wounding of three civilians," the ministry said. The Kabul police said the wounded included a woman and a child.

A NATO spokesman in Kabul confirmed that their convoy came under attack but said the international coalition was still gathering further information. The emboldened insurgents have stepped up attacks around Afghanistan since they launched their annual summer offensive in late April. The Taliban captured the northern city of Kunduz on September 28, their most spectacular victory in 14 years.

The seizure of the provincial capital for three days was a stinging blow to Western-trained Afghan forces, who have largely been fighting on their own since the end of NATO's combat mission in December. The Taliban said that yesterday's bombing was carried out to avenge the recent "barbaric bombardment" in Kunduz by foreign and govern-

ment forces. "A Toyota sedan packed with explosives was used in the attack. Two military tanks were destroyed and 12 foreigners were killed," the group's spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said in a statement. The Taliban, toppled from power in a 2001 US-led invasion of Afghanistan, are known to exaggerate battlefield claims.

Resurgent Taliban

The government claims to have wrested back control of Kunduz city but sporadic firefights continue with pockets of insurgents as Afghan soldiers, backed by NATO special forces, conduct clearance operations. As fighting spreads in neighboring Badakhshan, Takhar and Baghlan provinces, concerns are mounting that the seizure of Kunduz was merely the opening gambit in a new, bolder strategy to tighten the insurgency's grip across northern Afghanistan. Most NATO combat troops pulled out of Afghanistan last year but a small contingent focused on training and counter-terrorism operations remains, including roughly 10,000 American soldiers. NATO forces are themselves under fire after a US air strike on October 3 pummeled a hospital in Kunduz run by Doctors Without Borders (MSF), killing at least 12 staff and 10 patients. — AFP



KABUL: Afghan and foreign soldiers inspect the site of a bomb attack that targeted several armored vehicles belonging to forces attached to the NATO Resolute Support Mission. — AP

IRAN GENERAL DID 80 MISSIONS IN SYRIA

TEHRAN: An Iranian general killed in the Syrian city of Aleppo had taken part in 80 missions in the war-torn country, mourners were told at his funeral in Tehran yesterday. Hossein Hamedani of the Islamic Republic's Revolutionary Guards Corps became its highest-profile casualty of the effort to shore up Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad when he died Thursday. He had been involved for four years in Iran's operations in Syria, creating national defence forces for Assad, a fellow general and former chief commander of the Guards said in Tehran.

"Our security is not confined to our borders, it is related to the entire region. Hamedani was martyred in Syria so that insecurity does not reach Tehran," General Mohsen Rezaei, who recently came out of retirement to rejoin the military, said in tribute. Hamedani was killed by "Daesh terrorists" he added, using the Arabic acronym to refer to the jihadist Islamic State (IS) group that swept much of Syria and Iraq last year, since holding ground. Thousands attended

Hamedani's ceremony. He will be buried in Hamedan, his home city, today.

Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei praised Hamedani as "a sincere and diligent warrior" in a note of condolence to his family on Saturday. Ali Shamkhani, secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, described Hamedani's death as "a huge loss" in the fight against jihadist groups in Syria. Quoted by the IRNA news agency, he said the loss would be "avenged" and that this would lead to the "complete destruction" of these groups.

Shiite-dominated Iran is Assad's strongest regional ally and it has sent Guards as military advisers to help him against Sunni Muslim rebels seeking his overthrow. Lebanon's Shiite militia Hezbollah has done much of the fighting to prop up the Syrian army, though the commander of the Revolutionary Guards' foreign wing, Qassem Soleimani, is said to be heavily involved in guiding military strategy. — AFP



TEHRAN: Iranian men carry portraits of Iran's Revolutionary Guards Brigadier General Hossein Hamedani during his funeral yesterday. — AFP

IRAQ CLAIMS IS CHIEF BAGHDADI HIT IN RAID

Continued from Page 1

Interior ministry spokesman Saad Maan told AFP that "the strike was yesterday (Saturday) at noon". In Washington, a US military official said: "We've seen the Iraqi statement about Al-Baghdadi but have no info that confirms it."

Baghdadi's death would give the war against the most violent jihadist organization in modern history a much-needed boost, but such claims have been made in the past. Baghdadi's apparent survival following similar claims, including one in Nov 2014 of a strike in the same area, has only added to his mystique. The Iraqi jihadist chief is said to have been born in Samarra in 1971, but little is known about the man with a \$10 million US bounty on his head.

Baghdadi apparently joined the insurgency after the 2003 US-led invasion of Iraq, at one point spending time in an American military prison in the country's south. His whereabouts have been the subject of constant speculation since his only public appearance as IS chief last year, at a mosque in the Iraqi city of Mosul days after the proclamation of a cross-border "caliphate".

A coalition led by the United States, which occupied Iraq for eight years before withdrawing in 2011, began air strikes against IS in August last year. More than 7,000 strikes later, IS has conceded some of territory it took last year but has held

its ground in other areas and even made fresh conquests, such as the city of Ramadi in Iraq and Palmyra in Syria. Russia joined the fray on Sept 30, launching an air campaign it said would target IS, but most of its efforts seem focused on protecting Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad.

Syrian troops yesterday were gaining ground on two fronts: in central Hama province around the Damascus-Aleppo highway and in the northern part of regime stronghold Latakia province. In Hama, regime forces had taken three villages east of the highway and were seeking to secure control of an area to its west. "This offensive is intended to confront the rebels in the Sahl al-Ghab plain that is at the intersection of Hama, Latakia and Idlib provinces," said Rami Abdel Rahman, director of the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights monitor.

Alawites from the same sect as Assad live in the south and west of the strategic 1,000 sq km plain, while the north and east are mostly Sunni. Rebels have sought to capture parts of the area, advancing particularly from Idlib province which is held by the Army of Conquest alliance that includes Al-Qaeda affiliate Al-Nusra Front. In Moscow, Russia's defence ministry said its warplanes had hit 63 targets in Syria in the past 24 hours and intercepted radio traffic showing "growing panic" in IS. — AFP

ISRAELI STRIKE KILLS MOTHER AND CHILD

Continued from Page 1

Israel's retaliatory air strikes demolished a house in the northern Gaza area of Zeitun, killing Nour Hassan, 30, and her two-year-old daughter Rahaf, Gaza medics said. The Hamas chief in Gaza, Ismail Haniya, has branded the spiralling violence an "intifada" and called for further unrest. In fresh clashes on the border in central and northern Gaza, Israeli soldiers fired warning shots in the air to try to disperse hundreds of stone throwing Palestinians, a military spokeswoman said.

In response to the air strike, a Hamas spokesman said "this shows the occupation's desire to escalate." "We warn the occupation against continuing this foolishness," said Sami Abu Zuhri. Hamas, which rules Gaza, the enclave hit by three devastating wars with Israel since 2008, remains deeply at odds with president Mahmud Abbas's West Bank-based Palestinian Authority. It was unclear whether Hamas or another group fired the rockets on Saturday night. Salafists claiming links to the Islamic State jihadist group have said they were behind recent rocket fire from Gaza, but Israel holds Hamas responsible for all such acts as the main power in the territory.

Yesterday morning, Israeli security forces said they foiled a major attack when an explosion seriously wounded a Palestinian woman and lightly injured an Israeli policeman. The policeman had spotted a "suspicious" vehicle at a checkpoint between the Israeli settlement of Maale Adumim and Jerusalem and ordered the woman, identified as 31-year-old Israa Jaabis, to stop. Jaabis shouted "Allah Akbar" (God is greatest) before the explosion went off, according to the security forces.

The Shin Bet internal security agency said Jaabis had tried to ignite a gas cylinder and was carrying leaflets in support of Palestinians killed in clashes with Israeli forces. Explosives had not previously been used in violence since the start of the month during which a wave of stabbings has sparked fear among Israelis. Fourteen stabbing attacks have targeted Jews since October 3, when a Palestinian murdered two Israelis in east Jerusalem's Old City.

Two days earlier in the West Bank, a Jewish settler couple was shot dead in front of their children, and violent protests have since shaken the occupied territory as well as annexed east Jerusalem. While Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Abbas have sought to avoid an escalation, frustrated Palestinian youths have defied efforts to restore calm.

Rioting has seen Palestinians throwing stones and firebombs at Israeli forces, who have responded with live fire, rubber bullets, tear gas and stun grenades. Yesterday, hundreds of Palestinians clashed with Israeli forces at Hawara checkpoint near the West Bank city of Nablus, and medics reported several Israelis in their cars lightly injured in stone throwing incidents across the territory. Netanyahu has ordered the emergency call-up of reserve border police companies to reinforce officers in east Jerusalem and throughout Israel.

Yesterday, the cabinet approved a four-year minimum prison term for people convicted of throwing stones at moving cars. With international concern mounting over the violence, French President Francois Hollande's office said: "Everything must be done to... end this cycle which has already caused too many victims". Both Abbas and Netanyahu have spoken with US Secretary of State John Kerry, each pinning the blame on the other side. Netanyahu said he told Kerry he expected the Palestinian Authority to stop its "wild and mendacious incitement, which is causing the current wave of terrorism". Abbas said he reiterated the need for Israeli authorities to stop giving cover to "settler provocations, carried out under the army's protection". — AFP

KUWAIT VOWS NO SLOWDOWN IN OIL PROJECTS

Continued from Page 1

Omar said the clean fuel project aims at developing and expanding the refineries in Mina Abdullah and Mina Ahmadi with the objective of transforming them into a refining complex, designed to honor oil market needs and boost the competitive nature of the Kuwaiti products. Omar said the Zour refinery project, which would produce 615,000 bpd, was on schedule and would ultimately provide low-sulfur fuel to power stations. He called for doubling efforts to provide sustainable energy for the future generations.

Kuwait currently produces about 3 million barrels per day of crude oil and by 2020 it will be able to produce 4 million bpd, Adsani said. He said KPC would build four gathering centers to boost natural gas and heavy oil production. Adsani said KPC has allocated KD 32 billion for development projects in the five-year plan. KPC, he added, was contributing to the development of private sector's role in development as well as diversifying income. Last week, International Energy Agency head Fatih Birol said the fall in global upstream oil investment in 2015 would be at least 20 percent versus 2014 and the biggest drop in history.

OPEC secretary general Abdullah El-Badri said OPEC is confident that the oil market will be "more balanced" next year as non-OPEC production has contracted and global demand is increasing. "OPEC is confident that it will see a more balanced market in 2016," Badri told the oil and gas conference. "In recent months, there has

been a contraction in production from non-OPEC producers and an increase in global demand," he said.

However, Badri also admitted that the "market remains oversupplied", and insisted that stability is paramount to the crude market which faced "extremely challenging times". The OPEC chief said market fundamentals did not support the sharp drop in oil prices which have fallen by almost 60 percent since June 2014. Badri said that global demand for oil is forecast to rise to 110 million barrels per day by 2040 from 93 million bpd now. "This requires investments of \$10 trillion between now and then," he said.

Earlier yesterday, Qatar's Energy Ministry Mohammed bin Saleh Al-Sada, who is acting OPEC president, said there were signs of an oil price rise next year, adding that the oil price has "bottomed out". He said world GDP growth in 2016 is slated to be 3.4 percent as against an expected 3.1 percent in 2015, and that this would result in an increase in global oil demand by 1.3 to 1.5 million bpd. Growth in supplies from non-OPEC producers over the past five years has substantially reduced in 2015 and is likely to show zero to negative growth in 2016, the statement said.

Venezuela - which has been trying hard to persuade oil producers to cut output to boost prices - said Thursday a technical meeting of OPEC and other crude-producing countries would take place on Oct 21. Badri yesterday confirmed the meeting would take place at an expert level and that OPEC and non-OPEC producers will attend. — Agencies

MPS QUESTION ANTI-TERROR TREATY SIGNED...

Continued from Page 1

MP Abdulhameed Dashti also said that he learned that the pact regulates extradition of suspects among the GCC states. In questions to the justice minister, Dashti asked if the justice ministry took into consideration constitutional issues before signing the pact and if the minister informed his GCC counterparts that the pact cannot be implemented in Kuwait before its ratification by the National Assembly. Dashti also demanded a copy of the agreement and asked if its signing came as part of implementing the GCC security pact signed several years ago.

In another development, MP Talal Al-Jallal rejected in a statement yesterday any plans by the government to impose new taxes or raise charges on public services for Kuwaiti citizens. Jallal said that the government should be looking for other measures to boost non-oil revenues by offering more investment opportunities in the coun-

try, raise the lease value of state properties and impose taxes on companies and other measures to increase public revenues.

The lawmaker said that in light of the sharp drop in oil prices, it is time now to change the policy of total reliance on oil as the only source of income and to restructure the state budget in order to deal with distortions and shortcomings. The finance ministry has repeatedly said that a study on raising charges on public services and commodities, especially electricity, water and petrol, will be handed to the government before the end of next month.

Meanwhile, MP Mohammad Tana sent a series of questions to Minister of Social Affairs and Labor Hind Al-Sabeeh about elections of trade unions and the participation of a senior official in a conference outside Kuwait. Tana has repeatedly said that he plans to file to grill to question the minister over alleged violations.

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Focus

RUSSIA TURNS TO
BACKWATER NAVY
FOR SYRIA STRIKES

By Jack Stubbs

The sailors of Russia's Caspian fleet have seen little action over the last 300 years but now the war raging in Syria has thrust them into the forefront of Russia's largest military operation abroad since the collapse of the Soviet Union. Better known for oil drilling and sturgeon smuggling than strategic naval importance, the Caspian Sea bordering Central Asia and the Middle East was an unexpected place for Russia to launch a battery of cruise missile attacks against Islamic State targets in Syria on Wednesday.

But the Caspian Flotilla, founded by Peter the Great in 1722 and headquartered in Astrakhan - a city on Russia's south coast celebrated for its watermelons and dried fish - was the only choice for Russian generals wanting to showcase their military reach in the Syrian conflict. Obtaining permission to fly missiles through the airspace of NATO-member Turkey was an unlikely prospect and a land-based attack was ruled out by the 1987 Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty which prohibits the use of ground-launched missiles with a range of 500 to 5,500 km. "It was simply the only option," said Ruslan Pukhov, director of the Moscow-based Centre for Analysis of Strategies and Technologies.

Russia's air campaign in Syria has caught the United States and its NATO allies off-guard and alarmed Turkey, which sits between the conflict and Russian naval forces on the Black Sea. Ankara says its air space has been repeatedly violated by Russian jets. A group of four Russian warships launched 26 Kalibr cruise missiles, known by the NATO codename Sizzler, from the Caspian Sea on Wednesday, the first time they had been fired in combat. The Russian Defence Ministry said the terrain-hugging missiles travelled some 1,500 km to strike their targets and denied US reports that four of the rockets crashed in Iran.

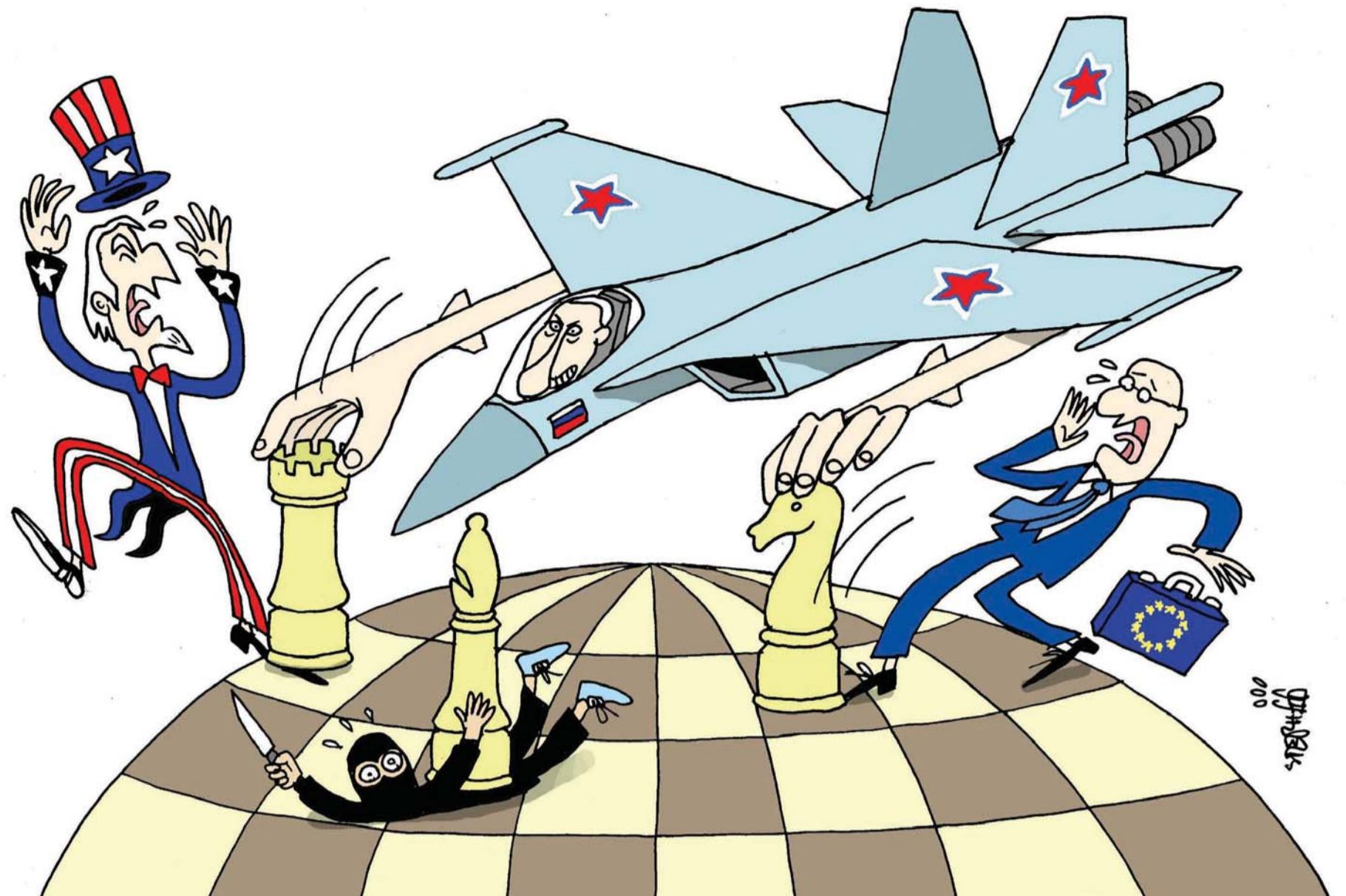
Superpower Status

Russia currently stations at least 20 warships armed with missiles, torpedoes and artillery cannons on the Caspian Sea, military observers say, a surprisingly large force given the absence of regional opponents or conflict around a landlocked body of water beloved of Iranian beachgoers. Pukhov said ships equipped with Kalibr cruise missiles had been operating in the region since 2012. The Russian Defence Ministry declined to comment on the number or type of vessels deployed. In an online statement it said the fleet was tasked with protecting Russia's regional interests and fighting terrorism.

Defence columnist Alexander Golts said Russia's missile strikes hinged on the Caspian Flotilla's unusual location, separated from Syria by Russian ally Iran and Iraq, which also receives military support from Moscow, as obtaining permission to fly through foreign airspace was one of the main obstacles to the operation. "It's very simple," said Golts, who is also deputy editor of online newspaper Yezhednevny Zhurnal. "They could quickly reach an agreement with Iraq and Iran but not with Turkey."

Moscow's decision to fire the missiles was motivated by a desire to underline its role as a global power on a par with the United States and NATO, said Igor Sutyagin, senior research fellow at the Royal United Services Institute for Defence and Security Studies. Missile strikes are typically used to weaken enemy forces ahead of large-scale battlefield assaults or to reach targets inaccessible by air. Russia has repeatedly said it has no plans to send ground troops to Syria and its air force has been flying sorties over the country for more than a week. "This was done to look like the Americans, to play the superpower status," Sutyagin said. "It says: take us seriously." —Reuters

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RUSSIA SEEKS VICTORY OVER THE WEST

By Gabrielle Tétrault-Farber

Cruise missiles fired from warships, the latest jets pounding far-off targets: Russian President Vladimir Putin's show of strength in Syria looks aimed at proving that a resurgent Moscow can rival the West, analysts said. Since late September Russia has flexed its muscles in a bombing campaign across the war-torn country that has put a US-led coalition in the shade and angered Washington and its allies. The dramatic military campaign is Moscow's first outside the former USSR since Soviet troops went into Afghanistan in 1979 and has led some to suggest that an emboldened Kremlin is aiming to reassert some of its lost super power status.

Using the latest Sukhoi jets and older Soviet aircraft, Russia has blasted command posts and training camps of what it says are radical "terrorists" as it has backed a ground offensive by the forces of its long-standing ally, Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad. The strikes also saw Russian warships in the Caspian Sea fire missiles at targets over 1,500 km away for the first time ever in battle - a highly symbolic show of strength that has been interpreted as a clear statement. "I cannot judge whether launching air strikes from the Caspian Sea made any sense militarily," political analyst Grigory Melamedov wrote. "We showed our strength. To whom? To the Islamists? No. First of all, to the Americans."

Victory Over the West

With the Syrian campaign, Putin has come back in the limelight of international politics after having been

snubbed by the West for the annexation of Crimea from Ukraine in March 2014. "He [Putin] wasn't planning on living in isolation, on leading an outcast state," said political analyst Alexander Baunov of the Carnegie Moscow Center. With more than 70 percent of the Russian population on board with the intervention, the West has questioned the true motives behind the campaign, accusing Moscow of bolstering Assad's beleaguered regime by targeting opposition-held areas.

But quashing the Islamic State and other extremist groups, the stated objective of Russia's campaign, is partly a broader attempt to compete with - and even intimidate - the West, analysts said. "Rather than being primarily about Syria, or primarily about ISIS, this dispute is about a global principle," Matthew Rojansky, the director of the Washington-based Kennan Institute, told AFP. "The dispute has gone beyond the level of diplomatic manoeuvring and economic pressure. It has now gotten to the point of using military assets to make a point."

But Russia's demonstration of military strength comes when the country is profoundly weakened by an economic crisis spurred by low oil prices and Western sanctions, with analysts warning that costly attempts at regaining international prestige could prove catastrophic. The Kremlin has kept the army high on its agenda in spite of economic woes, with a record-high 3.29 trillion rubles (\$53 billion at the current exchange rate) defense budget this year, a figure that corresponds to more than four percent of the country's GDP.

Analysts said a long Syrian campaign could cause more economic turmoil for Moscow, a risk authorities and

the population are ready to take - but only for a triumph on the international stage. "The [Russian] people will not tolerate economic hardship for the sake of a war against ISIS, but it will for a victory over the West," Melamedov wrote.

'Inevitable' Deterioration

Russia's attempts to reassert its status as a world super power has highlighted divisions in the Middle East, as many Arab countries have condemned Moscow's campaign. "Sunis want Russia to get out of there [Syria], but Shiites want Russia to stay," Baunov said, adding that Iran, Iraq, Lebanon and pro-government forces in Syria supported the Kremlin. Political analyst Vasily Kashin said that the "inevitable consequence" of Russia's Syrian campaign was the deterioration of its relations with Turkey, Saudi Arabia and Qatar, all part of a US-led coalition conducting a separate bombing campaign in Syria.

Russia and Turkey have exchanged barbs since Moscow launched the air strikes and twice violated Ankara's air space, with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan warning Moscow could lose a deal to build the country's first nuclear power plant and its status as his country's main gas supplier.

Analysts dismissed the possibility Russia's campaign in Syria would jeopardise its relations with the West's Middle Eastern allies in the long-term. "It's not zero-sum and it's not black and white," Rojansky said. "It's not that because of this, the Saudis will never talk to the Russians again. They have loads of common interests, similarly with Turkey." —AFP

EUROPE SEES RECORD SURGE OF CHILD REFUGEES

By Sylvia Hui

The bags are packed, the goodbye hugs done. The Afghan, Eritrean and Sudanese boys are on the move again, but this time it's a happy occasion: After months of hardship traversing continents, the teenage refugees are finally on the way to English homes where they can settle down for a long dreamed-of life in Europe. The dozens of boys are unaccompanied child refugees who have come to the end of a long, risky journey by boat, foot, truck and train. Upon reaching the shores of Dover they were brought to a reception center in Kent, southern England, where they were given temporary shelter. As the teenagers leave for more permanent social housing or foster homes, they are seen off by another group of boys who are eagerly awaiting their turn.

Europe's migrant crisis has seen a record surge of unaccompanied child asylum seekers fleeing civil war, conscription and poverty at home to countries including Britain and Sweden, which have scrambled to provide care for thousands of newly arrived minors. Most are boys aged between 14 to 18 hailing from Syria, Afghanistan, Eritrea and Sudan. "I'm happy to leave today," said Sadiq, a shy 17-year-old Sudanese, who said he wanted to become an engineer. Like all the refugees interviewed at the center, his full name cannot be reported because they are minors under government care.

Like the other youngsters, Sadiq had made it to Europe alone after leaving behind his family, and may never see his loved ones again. He lowered his head when asked about his homeland, where a year-long conflict has killed thousands and driven millions from their homes. "Since I left I have had no information, I don't know anything about my family. I'm very sad because of that, but what can I do?"

In Kent, the main English county receiving the children, arrivals jumped from 296 in Sept 2014 to almost 800 in the same period this year. Almost all land in Dover, a key port connected by rail and road to France. And in Sweden, which takes the largest number of refugees per capita in Europe, the Migration Agency says almost 1,300 minors sought asylum in a single week in September - a staggering increase from about 400 a week in June. The agency estimates that a total of

12,000 unaccompanied children would have sought asylum in the country this year.

Desperate Circumstances

"The municipalities have never been close to having a situation like this before, ever," said Kjell-Terje Torvik, an expert at the Swedish migration board who has worked with child refugees for over a decade. "Even though we knew the numbers were going to rise, this is far beyond our imagination." Social workers say many child refugees have to take off alone because of desperate circumstances: Some became separated from their families in war; others are alone because their family cannot afford to send more than one member abroad. Younger refugees also often have better chances of getting asylum in Europe.

Compared to adult asylum seekers, unaccompanied children are treated under a different set of rules in many European countries. Because they are more vulnerable, they are separated from other migrants and refugees on arrival at their destination country, and transferred to local reception centers like the one in Kent. There they stay for up to two months while authorities make further plans for them: Some will transfer to social housing with supervision by social

workers or a guardian - a "god man" in Swedish, meaning a "good person" - while others stay with local foster families. All have the right to accommodation and welfare benefits including education, health care, and money to buy food and clothes.

At the Kent reception center, which has been overflowing with young refugees since the summer, facilities are clean and resemble those at a student hostel. Newcomers are given a welcome pack of toiletries, pajamas, a copy of the Holy Quran or a Bible. The rooms are small, but each is fitted with bunk beds, a sink and a mirror in the corner. The scene is remarkable in its ordinariness: A big group of boys is playing games and watching a teen music TV show in the lounge, while others are relaxing and chatting in the courtyard. They go out to familiarize themselves with English life - they play football, go to the shops," said Sue Clifton, county manager overseeing the center. "They learn about the expectations of living in England."

Huge Change

It's a huge change of circumstances for the teenagers, many of whom had crossed the Mediterranean squeezed onto small boats with hundreds of other migrants. Some had seen their families killed. One said

he hung on under a truck from France for 10 hours before finally reaching Dover. Another was held at gunpoint in Libya. Still others endure worse during their trip. Lacking money for the whole journey, some are forced into prostitution, or try to earn enough by working in factories in Turkey or Iran, said Torvik. A journey from Afghanistan to Sweden could take months, sometimes years, he said.

"They have been showing tremendous strength," he said. "Even though they have been witnessing very hard things in their home country, the separation from their family is a trauma in itself. Sometimes (officials) encounter children crying out of control in the night ... it's a very hard situation in a foreign country, not knowing the language, without their families."

Authorities in Britain and Sweden say their resources have been strained hiring extra staff and trying to find new homes for the influx, which has not shown signs of slowing. Over the summer, Kent officials have had to put some children in taxis to other counties to find a suitable foster home because there was simply nowhere to house them. Officials estimate that each child refugee costs the county 30,000 pounds (\$45,500) a year.

In Malmo, the Swedish city receiving the bulk of the country's child refugees, social services have opened five new reception centers and hired some 70 extra staff to cope since August. Annelie Larsson, who heads the city's social services, said it receives an average of 80 children every day, with most arriving by bus, train or car from neighboring Denmark. Most are unlikely to reunite with their families, she said. Larsson and Torvik agree that Sweden, with its strong tradition of solidarity and children's rights, will continue to attract scores of refugees - and will keep on accommodating them. And in Kent, officials are also trying their best to secure more central government funding for their work.

For the children, that's a ticket to a dramatically improved future. "I want to continue my education here - back home I couldn't go to school. I miss (my family), but no, I wouldn't want to go back," said Simon, 16, who left his parents and seven siblings in Eritrea. Is Europe a dream come true? "I don't know. I'll wait to find out what the reality is." —AP



A young male refugee sits on a bed at a reception centre in the county of Kent in southeast England in early Sept 2015. —AP

MAJOR BLOW FOR ROSBERG

SOCHI: Nico Rosberg's fading Formula One title hopes suffered another massive blow yesterday when the German retired his Mercedes from the Russian Grand Prix after leading from pole position.

The German, who had started the race 48 points adrift of double world champion Lewis Hamilton with 100 points remaining to be won after Sochi, had complained of a broken throttle pedal.

Hamilton took over the race lead, knowing a ninth victory of the season would leave the Briton 73 points clear of his team mate and in line to secure his third crown in Texas in two weeks' time.

The retirement was also a setback for Mercedes, who had hoped to wrap up the constructors' title in Sochi for the second year in a row and had the '2015 world champions' T-shirts printed and ready.

Mercedes need to score three points more than Ferrari to clinch that title, but the Italian team had Sebastian Vettel and Kimi Raikkonen in third and fourth after Rosberg's retirement. "Your team mate has retired. Let us focus on this race," Hamilton, who passed Rosberg on the sixth lap, was told over the team radio after the German pulled into the pits and stepped out of the car at the end of lap seven.—Reuters



HORNETS STING CLIPPERS

CHINA: Jeremy Lin scored 16 points off the bench to help the Charlotte Hornets prevail 106-94 over the Los Angeles Clippers in the first of two pre-season games in China yesterday.

The first NBA player of Taiwanese descent, Lin was egged on by the sellout crowd in Shenzhen as the 27-year-old orchestrated the Hornets' attack in his first NBA appearance in China.

"We're very happy to play the first ever NBA Global Games in Shenzhen. Thank you for having us, fans," said Lin, sporting a stylish hairstyle.

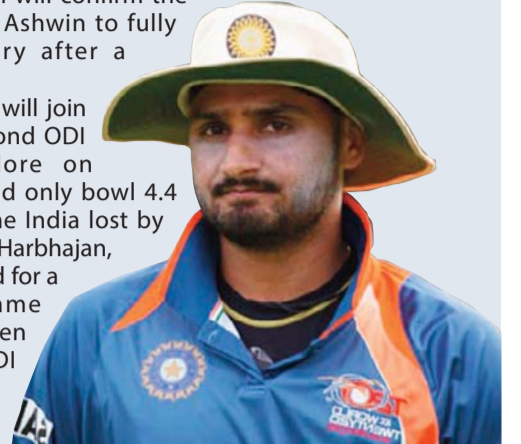
"I think I've been able to get a lot of really good shots. Fluidity and motion, as long as I keep working on it, will get even better," he added. Cody Zeller also scored 16 points, one of the seven Charlotte players to reach double digits in the match. Clippers point guard Chris Paul missed the match with a finger injury. J.J. Redick scored 21 of his 23 points in the first half to help the Clippers erase a 12-point deficit to trail 57-55 at halftime but the Hornets pulled away again in the third period. The two teams will meet again in Shanghai on Wednesday.—Reuters

BACKUP FOR ASHWIN

KANPUR: Experienced off-spinner Harbhajan Singh has been called into the India team as a backup for the injured Ravichandran Ashwin for an ongoing one-day series against South Africa.

The Board of Control for Cricket in India says in a statement Sunday that Ashwin sustained a left-side strain during the first ODI at Kanpur and that its medical team will confirm the time frame required for Ashwin to fully recover from the injury after a detailed assessment.

Meanwhile, Harbhajan will join the team before the second ODI to be played in Indore on Wednesday. Ashwin could only bowl 4.4 overs yesterday in a game India lost by five runs. The 35-year-old Harbhajan, who was part of the squad for a preceding three-game Twenty20 series, has taken 263 wickets from 232 ODI games.—AP



SENATORS DOWN LEAFS

TORONTO: Mike Hoffman had the decisive goal in the first shootout of the NHL season, sending the Ottawa Senators to a 5-4 victory over the Toronto Maple Leafs on Saturday night.

Kyle Turris, Alex Chiasson, Milan Michalek and Mark Stone scored in regulation for the Senators, and Craig Anderson finished with 37 saves. Reigning Norris Trophy winner Erik Karlsson had three assists.

The NHL moved to a 3-on-3 overtime for this season to cut back on shootouts, and the Senators and Maple Leafs played the first tiebreaker in the league's 19th game. Anderson had seven saves in OT.

Pierre-Alexandre Parenteau scored for Toronto in the first round of the shootout, but Tyler Bozak and Joffrey Lupul were unsuccessful. Bobby Ryan tied it at 1 in the second round before Hoffman lifted Ottawa to the win.

Lupul, Bozak, Peter Holland and Daniel Winnik scored in regulation for Toronto, which trailed 3-0 early in the second period. James Reimer made 29 saves.

After the Leafs dominated a scoreless first period, Turris put the Senators in front 46 seconds into the second. As four Toronto

penalty killers converged on the boards, Karlsson found a wide-open Turris in the slot for his third goal of the season in his 400th NHL game.

Ottawa quickly added two more power-play goals. Chiasson left the penalty box to score on a breakaway at 3:38 of the second, and Michalek corralled a rebound of a shot by Karlsson and beat Reimer in front at 4:56.

With Winnik pressuring, Ottawa defenseman Patrick Wiercioch turned the puck over right to Lupul at 7:05, and he scored the Leafs' first even-strength goal of the season.

Bozak trimmed Ottawa's lead to 3-2 when he made the most of a perfect stretch pass up the middle from captain Dion Phaneuf at 14:33 of the second.

After Holland tied it with some nifty stick work in front on the power play 3:18 into the third, Stone deflected Hoffman's shot past Reimer at 8:59 to restore Ottawa's lead. But the Leafs weren't done, with Winnik scoring at 16:21. Referee Kevin Pollack waved it off when it first happened, but the situation room looked at it, asked for the horn to blow to stop play and ruled the puck went in.—AP

NHL results/standings

Tampa Bay 4, Buffalo 1; Montreal 4, Boston 2; Ottawa 5, Toronto 4 (SO); Florida 7, Philadelphia 1; NY Rangers 5, Columbus 2; Washington 5, New Jersey 3; Detroit 4, Carolina 3; Nashville 2, Edmonton 0; Minnesota 3, St. Louis 2; Chicago 4, NY Islanders 1; Colorado 6, Dallas 3; Calgary 3, Vancouver 2 (OT); Arizona 2, Pittsburgh 1; San Jose 2, Anaheim 0.

Western Conference							Montreal		2	0	0	7	3	4
Central Division							Tampa Bay		2	0	0	7	3	4
	W	L	OTL	GF	GA	PTS	Ottawa	2	0	0	8	5	4	
Winnipeg	2	0	0	9	3	4	Florida	1	0	0	7	1	2	
Nashville	2	0	0	4	1	4	Toronto	0	2	1	5	12	1	
Minnesota	2	0	0	8	6	4	Buffalo	0	2	0	2	7	0	
Chicago	2	1	0	9	6	4	Boston	0	2	0	4	10	0	
Colorado	1	1	0	10	8	2	Metropolitan Division							
St. Louis	1	1	0	5	4	2	NY Rangers	3	0	0	12	6	6	
Dallas	1	1	0	6	6	2	Washington	1	0	0	5	3	2	
Pacific Division							NY Islanders	0	1	1	3	7	1	
San Jose	2	0	0	7	1	4	Philadelphia	0	1	1	3	10	1	
Arizona	2	0	0	6	2	4	Carolina	0	2	0	4	6	0	
Vancouver	1	0	1	7	4	3	Pittsburgh	0	2	0	1	5	0	
Calgary	1	1	0	4	7	2	New Jersey	0	2	0	4	8	0	
Anaheim	0	1	0	0	2	0	Columbus	0	2	0	4	9	0	
Edmonton	0	2	0	1	5	0	Note: Overtime losses (OTL) are worth one point in the standings and are not included in the loss column (L)							
Los Angeles	0	2	0	2	9	0								
Eastern Conference														
Atlantic Division														
Detroit	2	0	0	8	3	4								



ST. LOUIS: Cardinals' Jason Heyward is forced out at second base for the second out in the ninth inning of Game 2 in baseball's National League Division Series against the Chicago Cubs.—AP

DODGERS DEFEAT METS TO EVEN NL SERIES 1-1

LOS ANGELES: Mets shortstop Ruben Tejada broke his right leg when a takeout slide by Chase Utley flipped the shortstop during a four-run rally in the seventh inning as the Los Angeles Dodgers beat New York 5-2 Saturday to even their National League Division Series at one game apiece.

In the other NL series, the Chicago Cubs held off the St. Louis Cardinals 6-3 to even their series at a game apiece. The Dodgers' Zack Greinke (1-0) allowed two runs and five hits in seven innings. He struck out eight and walked none a night after teammate Clayton Kershaw fanned 11 while losing his fifth straight postseason game.

Kenley Jansen pitched the ninth for the save, completing a five-hitter. The play that resulted in Tejada's broken leg occurred when the Mets were leading 2-1 in the seventh inning.

The Dodgers put runners at the corners with one out against Noah Syndergaard. Bartolo Colon relieved, and Howie Kendrick hit a grounder up the middle. Second baseman Daniel Murphy flipped to Tejada, who took the

throw awkwardly for an apparent force as Utley slid past the bag and slammed into him, causing Tejada to flip over as the tying run scored from third.

The Mets said Tejada sustained a fractured right fibula. Utley was ruled safe on a video review, which determined Tejada's foot missed the bag. Utley also appeared not to touch the base.

Adrian Gonzalez followed with a two-run double off Addison Reed and scored on Justin Turner's double. Syndergaard (0-1) gave up three runs and five hits in 6 1/3 innings for the Mets. He struck out nine and walked four in following up Jacob deGrom's 13-strikeout performance in winning Game 1.

Game 3 is in New York on Monday, when Brett Anderson tries to pitch the Dodgers back into the best-of-five series against the Mets' Matt Harvey. In St. Louis, Kyle Hendricks and Addison Russell had successful squeeze bunts and Jorge Soler capped a five-run second with a two-run homer to lead the Cubs.

The usually steady NL Central champion

Cardinals made two errors as the Cubs didn't hit the ball out of the infield in scoring their first three runs in the second.

Playing in his first postseason game, Soler connected off Jaime Garcia (0-1), who was lifted because of a stomach ailment after the second inning. Besides the two-run homer, Soler doubled and walked twice in the Cubs' first postseason victory since 2003. Chicago had lost seven straight Division Series games. Dexter Fowler, Soler and Starlin Castro each had two of Chicago's six hits.

The Cardinals homered three times, including a leadoff long ball by Matt Carpenter. Consecutive shots by Kolten Wong and pinch-hitter Randal Grichuk with two outs in the fifth chased Hendricks one out shy of qualifying for the victory in his postseason debut.

Travis Wood (1-0) allowed one hit with two strikeouts in 2 1-3 scoreless innings for the victory. Hendricks allowed three homers in 4 2-3 innings. Game 3 is in Chicago on Monday, where the Cubs' 22-game winner Jake Arrieta faces St. Louis' Michael Wacha.—AP



Mike Hoffman in action in this file photo.

TEXAS UPSET OKLAHOMA

DALLAS: Tyrone Swoopes threw a touchdown pass and ran for a score as the University of Texas upset the No. 10-ranked University of Oklahoma 24-17 in college football on Saturday.

Coach Charlie Strong's Longhorns (2-4, 1-2 Big 12 Conference) came to Dallas in the midst of the program's worst start in 59 years and as two-touchdown underdog to the Sooners (4-1, 1-1).

It's been nothing but turmoil and excruciating losses for the Longhorns so far, but Strong's defense harassed Oklahoma quarterback Baker Mayfield and the offense made just enough plays for the win.

Jerrod Heard guided the Texas offense with 168 total yards. There were no other surprises in games involving top-ranked teams. No. 1 Ohio State outlasted Maryland 49-28. No. 2 Texas Christian University edged Kansas State 52-45. No. 3 Baylor trounced Kansas 66-7, and No. 4 Michigan State beat Rutgers 31-24. Ohio State's Cardale Jones threw two touchdown passes and J.T. Barrett scored three times as the Buckeyes remained unbeaten - and mostly underwhelming - with victory over Maryland. Ezekiel Elliott had two touchdowns for the Buckeyes (6-0, 2-0 Big Ten Conference), who were tied 21-21 in the third

quarter before shaking free of the Terrapins and extending the nation's longest winning streak to 19. Ohio State has won 26 straight regular-season conference games.

TCU's Trevone Boykin threw for 301 yards and two touchdowns, the second a 55-yard strike to Josh Doctson with 1:10 left in the game, as the Horned Frogs rallied from a big halftime deficit to beat Kansas State. Boykin also ran for 124 yards and two scores for TCU, which trailed 35-17 at the break. Aaron Green added 124 yards and two touchdowns rushing, while Doctson caught eight passes for 155 yards and two touchdowns.

Baylor's Seth Russell threw three touchdown passes and Shock Linwood ran for 135 yards and a score for the Bears. Russell threw for 246 yards, all in the first half. Two of the TD strikes went to Corey Coleman, pushing his nation-leading total to 13, helping the Bears (5-0, 2-0 Big 12) to a 52-7 half-time lead. Michigan State freshman LJ Scott scored on a 3-yard run with 43 seconds to play as the Spartans won ugly for the second straight week.

Scott, who did not play in the first half, also scored on a 1-yard run to help the Spartans (6-0, 2-0 Big Ten) win their 10th straight game. They overcame an impressive return by suspended Rutgers

senior receiver Leonte Carroo, who caught three touchdowns. Elsewhere, Devontae Booker ran for a season-high 222 yards and two touchdowns and No. 5 Utah forced six turnovers in a 30-24 victory over No. 23 California. The Utes (5-0, 2-0 Pac-12) are the lone undefeated team remaining in the Pac-12 Conference. Clemson's Deshaun Watson threw two touchdown passes and Wayne Gallman ran for two scores as the No. 6-ranked Tigers surged past Georgia Tech 43-24.

In the Southeastern Conference, Brandon Harris passed for a career-best 228 yards as No. 7 Louisiana State topped South Carolina; Calvin Ridley caught an 81-yard touchdown pass from Jake Coker to lead No. 8 Alabama past Arkansas 27-14; Kelvin Taylor ran for 99 yards and two first-quarter touchdowns to lift No. 11 Florida past Missouri 21-3; and Chad Kelly threw for 384 yards and three touchdowns to lead Mississippi over New Mexico State 52-3.

No. 19-ranked Georgia was not as fortunate, falling to Tennessee 38-31. Joshua Dobbs threw for 312 yards, ran for 118 more and accounted for five touchdowns as Tennessee overcame a 21-point deficit. In other Big 10 Conference games, Jehu Chesson returned the opening kickoff 96 yards for



DALLAS: Texas quarterback Tyrone Swoopes fumbles the ball as he crosses the goal line over Oklahoma safety Ahmad Thomas in the first half of an NCAA college football game.—AP

a touchdown to lead No. 18 Michigan over Northwestern 38-0 and Jordan Canzeri ran for 256 yards on a school-record 43 carries as No. 22 Iowa beat Illinois 29-20. No. 12 Florida State was also a winner in the Atlantic Coast Conference, getting 222 yards and three TDs from Dalvin Cook in a 29-24 win over in-state rival Miami.

In the Big 12, backup quarterback J.W. Walsh scored on a 2-yard run in overtime to lead No. 21 Oklahoma State past West Virginia 33-26.

In other games, No. 15 Notre Dame defeated Navy 41-24. No. 24 Toledo beat Kent State 38-7, and No. 25 Boise State triumphed at Colorado State 41-10.—AP

ITALY SECURE 2019 WORLD CUP BERTH

EXETER: Italian fly-half Tommaso Allan brought up a century of Test points yesterday as Italy beat Romania 32-22 to secure the crucial third spot in World Cup Pool D.

The 22-year-old who opted for the land of his mother's birth rather than Scotland where his father comes from scored a try and kicked 12 points to secure the injury-depleted Italians their place at the 2019 World Cup.

The victory means Italy's French coach Jacques Brunel departs on a winning note after 45 tests in charge. But he failed to rectify the Italians' sad record of being the only Tier One side never to reach the knockout stages of the tournament.

Florin Vlaicu, Romania's record Test points scorer, put them ahead in the fifth minute with a long range penalty. Italy scrum-half Edoardo Gori went close to putting the Italians ahead a minute later but he knocked on as he went to touch the ball down from his chip ahead.

However, Italy made no mistake in the eighth minute as the impressive Michele Campagnaro-playing on his new club Exeter's home ground-broke a tackle and floated out a pass to Leonardo Sarto who ran in unopposed.

Allan missed the conversion to leave the Italians 5-3 up and they went a man up in the 16th minute as Romania's South African-born lock Johannes van Heerden was sin-binned for lashing out at Gori.

The livewire scrum-half-picked out by Parisse as one of the players capable of leading the team in the future-made no mistake with the second try-scoring opportunity he was presented with and Allan converted for 15-3.

The hulking van Heerden returned.

Before taking his place in the lineout, referee Romain Poite held out his hand and they shook hands exchanging pleasantries with the lock patting the Frenchman on the back in a nice touch.

The Romans enjoyed a 10 minute spell inside the Italian five metres area. But hard as they knocked, the Italian line held firm and they eventually forced their opponents into conceding a penalty allowing them to clear their lines.

The Italians landed what appeared to be the killer blow shortly before the break with a well worked move. Captain Quintin Geldenhuys offloaded to Gori who passed to Allan.

The fly-half broke through the Romanian line and outstripped fullback Catalin Fercu to touch down, wagging his finger and sticking his tongue out in celebration.

He added the extras for a half-time lead of 22-3. The Italians rubbed salt in the wound when they added another try in the 47th minute. Alessandro Zanni burrowed over and Allan added the conversion for 29-3 and bring up his century.

Romania got a deserved try with 15 minutes remaining Adrian Apostol touching down-Vlaicu added the conversion for 29-10. Boos rang out when Italy opted to go for a pop at goal than for touch but Allan paid them no heed to add the three points for 32-10. The Romans added a third try in the final minutes. Valentin Poparlan raised his arms in celebration after touching down and Vlaicu added the conversion for 32-17. The Romans finished strongly as Vlaicu's long floated pass found Apostol who went in the far left hand corner.—AFP



LEICESTER: Namibia's Conrad Marais tackles Argentina's Horacio Agulla during the Rugby World Cup Pool C match between Argentina and Namibia at the Leicester City Stadium. —AP

PUMAS POUNCE ON NAMIBIA

LEICESTER: Argentina warmed up for the Rugby World Cup quarter-finals with a nine-try romp as they defeated minnows Namibia 64-19 in their final Pool C match at the Leicester City Stadium yesterday. Too fast and physical for the African side, it was a comfortable day out for the South Americans, who had made 11 changes for the match to give fringe players a run.

Juan Martin Hernandez, one of the standouts of the side that reached the 2007 semi-finals and handed a rare outing in the number 10 shirt, set the ball rolling with the opening score.

Matias Moroni, with his first international try, Horacio Agulla, Facundo Isa and Lucas Noguera also crossed before the break as Argentina forged a 36-7 halftime lead before Matias Alemanno, Leonardo Senatore, Julian Montoya and Tomas Cubelli joined the fun in the second half.

Santiago Gonzalez Iglesias kicked four conversions and a penalty, with Juan Pablo Socino adding four further conversions.

Namibia had to feed off scraps of possession but showed admirable determination to attack and were rewarded with tries from wing Johan Tromp, centre JC Greyling and scrumhalf Eugene Jantjies, with flyhalf Theuns Kotze converting two.

Roared on a sizeable portion of the 30,198 crowd, Argentina showed a willingness to run the ball at every opportunity and the pace of their attack often left Namibia clutching at air.

The Africans missed 28 tackles in the opening period and Argentina none, showing who had most of the ball but also the ease with which Argentina were able to scythe through the Namibian defence.

Wing Moroni's try was one for the Namibia horror-reel as he brushed off a collection of feeble attempted tackles. Namibia's first two tries

came from Argentine mistakes as Tromp and Greyling fed off wayward passes and poor hands to race clear and score, giving Argentina coach Daniel Hourcade something to ponder as they enter the knockout phase.

The spirit in the Namibian camp was evident right to the death. Having scored their third try past the 80-minute mark, giant prop Johnny Redelinghuys was given the chance to take the conversion to mark his final international.

His attempt never looked like going over but drew one of the biggest cheers of the day. "We were exposed a bit, it's not the way we wanted to leave the World Cup, but we showed a lot of heart until the end," Namibia captain Rohan Kitshoff told reporters.

Argentina, already confirmed quarter-finalists as runners-up in Pool C, will face the winners of Ireland and France's Pool D decider in Cardiff late yesterday. —Reuters

ENGLAND BOW OUT WITH VICTORY OVER URUGUAY

MANCHESTER: England brought a close to their sorry Rugby World Cup campaign with a predictably emphatic 60-3 victory over Uruguay on Saturday in a final outing that provided a crumb of comfort but did little to soothe the open wound of a pool-stage exit.

With irreparable damage already done in consecutive defeats to Wales and Australia, this was little more than a 10-try exercise in arithmetic in Manchester rather than the expected rousing send-off into the quarter-finals.

A hat-trick for both Nick Easter and Jack Nowell, two tries for Anthony Watson, one from Henry Slade and a late penalty try saw England pile on the points against their largely amateur opponents, whose fitness, if not their will to stay in the contest, wilted as the match wore on.

"Uruguay took a bit of breaking down, but we scored some great tries and everyone got a run," England coach Stuart Lancaster said. "We put some good shapes together, there were some good skills out there." The reaction of the crowd was great. It's been a tough week for the players, but the crowd stuck behind them and gave us a big lift.

It was always likely to be an awkward occasion for England; little more than a chance to alleviate a fraction of the embarrassment caused by their early tournament exit.

They had already sewn up third place in Pool A before the match and will probably

not waste any time looking at the final standings-two points behind Wales and six adrift of group winners Australia.

Lancaster, whose future in the job will be picked over in the coming days, selected one of the most creative and attacking sides possible, loading the team with playmakers charged with securing an emphatic victory. Nothing else would have been deemed par against Uruguay, but there was often little fluidity to their play, even if the score did tick over steadily.

A penalty for Uruguay to open the scoring after two minutes seemed strangely fitting, before Watson promptly chased down a Nowell kick to touch down and restore normality.

Veteran number eight Easter, who began the tournament as a TV pundit before being called into the squad to replace the injured Billy Vunipola, then twice bundled over from close range to give England a comfortable, if unspectacular, 21-3 advantage at the break.

A yellow card for Santiago Vilaseca at the close of the first half helped England to get off to a flyer at the start of the second, with Watson touching down in the corner for his second try two minutes after the break. Then the floodgates opened. Outside centre Slade showed some neat footwork before crossing in the corner, Nowell grabbed his first and Easter claimed his hat-trick. Nowell went over twice more and a late penalty try finished off the contest.—Reuters

AUSTRALIA LINE UP SCOTLAND

LONDON: Australia beat Wales 15-6 after withstanding a late Welsh siege while down to 13 men on Saturday to set up a Rugby World Cup quarter-final against Scotland, who beat Samoa in a thriller, and send the Welsh into a clash with South Africa.

Neither side crossed the line at Twickenham in the Pool A decider but only because of dogged Wallaby resistance against Wales while scrumhalf Will Genia and lock Dean Mumm were in the sin bin.

Flyhalf Bernard Foley kicked five penalties to two from opposite number Dan Biggar as the Wallabies avoided a southern hemisphere clash between two sides who have twice won the title.

Scotland had earlier survived a scare in Newcastle where they were pushed all the way by Samoa, finally clinching second place in Pool B and a last-eight berth against the Springboks with a 36-33 win.

That result dashed the hopes of Japan, surprise conquerors of South Africa in their opening match, reaching a first ever quarter-final berth which they would have been fighting for on Sunday against the United States if the Scots had lost.

Recent results do not augur quite so badly for the two British sides in next weekend's quarter-finals at Twickenham. Scotland have beaten Australia in two of their last three meetings and Wales overcame South Africa the last time the teams met-albeit after a 16-game losing streak-but the southern hemisphere teams are on a roll.

Australia, as they showed in attack in last weekend's victory at Twickenham that eliminated England and in defence on Saturday, are serious title contenders under Michael Cheika.

"It was a different type of game for us and so we had to show a different skin," said Cheika, who has transformed Australia since taking charge a year ago. "We threw everything at them but you have to give Australia credit for keeping us out," said Wales captain Sam Warburton. South Africa have put their 34-32 loss to Japan, the biggest World Cup upset ever, behind them with emphatic wins over Samoa, Scotland and the United States.

Samoa produced their best performance of the tournament and outscored Scotland by four tries to three and were 26-23 up at halftime but they will rue giving away a string of penalties in the second half. Scotland scrumhalf Greig Laidlaw scored a decisive late try and kicked 21 points.

"We came across a Samoan team that we haven't seen in this World Cup. They were impressive, and we had to change the way we played," Scotland's Kiwi coach Vern Cotter said.

England closed their disappointing tournament as the first main hosts top go out at the pool stage with a 10-try, 60-3 win over Uruguay in Manchester.

The Uruguayans were out of their depth yet showed that there has been some progress since they lost 111-13 in 2003 against the England team that won the title. Sunday is the last day of pool action and the pick of the day's four games is at the Millennium stadium where France and Ireland are battling for top spot in Pool D. The losers will face New Zealand in the quarter-finals while the winners take on Argentina. —Reuters



MANCHESTER: England's Jack Nowell is tackled during the Rugby World Cup Pool A match between England and Uruguay at Manchester City Stadium. —AP



TOKYO: Winner Spain's Dani Pedrosa holds the trophy during the awarding ceremony of MotoGP Japanese Motorcycle Grand Prix at Twin Ring Motegi circuit. —AP

PEDROSA WINS JAPANESE MOTOGP

JAPAN: Dani Pedrosa claimed the 50th Grand Prix win of his career yesterday, taking victory in the Japanese MotoGP as runner-up Valentino Rossi extended his lead in the championship standings.

Pedrosa, who almost quit the sport earlier this year because of an arm problem that needed surgery, grabbed the lead seven laps from the end of a wet race at the Twin Ring circuit in Motegi.

He surged clear of his rivals to win for the first time this season and the 50th of his career, which began in the 125cc class in 2001. Rossi finished second while his Yamaha team mate and championship rival Jorge Lorenzo faded to third after leading for most of the race until he had dropped back when having tyre problems.

"It's a real pity because today if the track didn't dry I would have won," Lorenzo of Spain said. "There was a dry line and I couldn't follow them. I just had to survive.

"Now there is only one target and that is to win the three races. Let's see if we can do it." Rossi now leads Lorenzo by 18 points in the standings with a maximum of 75 available from the remaining three rounds, in Australia, Malaysia and Valencia.

"It was a very long race. It was very easy to make a mistake," the Italian said. "At this moment I need to take points. After Jorge left our pace was the same. When it got dry it was difficult to control the bike and I saw Jorge slowing." It's a good result for the championship. Pedrosa had not won a MotoGP race since the Czech Grand Prix in August 2014 and missed three of the season's first four races due to the arm surgery.

The 30-year-old has suffered from a problem common among motorcycle rac-

ers when pressure builds up in the forearm and causes intense pain, making riding a bike difficult when the muscle becomes too big for the 'sack' that it sits in.

Sunday's race was delayed by heavy morning rain in Japan which forced organisers to shorten the Moto2 and Moto3 races but Lorenzo was all smiles at the end of a long day.

"It was not like I expected. At the beginning I had no good feeling with the rear and couldn't go fast," he said. "I kept my rhythm while the others burned their tyre. At the end my pace was faster and I'm really happy." Johann Zarco celebrated his first Moto2 title by winning his seventh race of the season. The Frenchman was already assured of winning the championship when Tito Rabat, the only other rider with any mathematical chance of overtaking him, withdrew from Motegi on Friday because of injury. The race was cut to 15 laps because of the foul weather. After a slow start from pole, Zarco took the lead on the seventh lap and raced away to win.

Jonas Folger, a two-time winner this season, held on for second ahead of his fellow German Sandro Cortese, who claimed his first podium finish this year.

Italy's Niccolò Antonelli won the Moto3 race, which was reduced from 20 to 13 laps, while Britain's Danny Kent extended his championship lead to 56 points.

Antonelli made a flying start on his Honda and led all the way, capturing his second race win this year. Miguel Oliveira finished second and Jorge Navarro third while Kent was sixth but still managed to stretch his lead by finishing ahead of his nearest title rival, Enea Bastianini.—Reuters

PAKISTAN BANK ON SPIN DUO TO MAKE ENGLAND TOIL

DUBAI: Pakistan are pinning their hopes on relative test novices Yasir Shah and Zulfiqar Babar to cause England's batsmen problems when the two countries renew a 51-year rivalry in the United Arab Emirates tomorrow.

England should be confident after reclaiming the Ashes on home soil this year with a 3-2 win over Australia, but Alastair Cook's charges may also feel some trepidation after their last series against Pakistan in 2012 ended in a 3-0 whitewash.

Spin duo Saeed Ajmal and Abdur Rehman were England's tormentors back then, taking 43 wickets for an average of 15.6 runs, but they are absent this

time so Shah and Babar will be Pakistan's main spin threat in the three-test series. Both are late bloomers.

Shah, 29, made his test debut last year and has since claimed 61 wickets in 10 matches including 24 against Sri Lanka in July. Babar, 36, has 42 wickets in 10 matches following his 2013 bow. "The way he (Shah) is bowling he's a threat to every team, he's our strength," said Pakistan captain Misbah-ul-Haq, 41.

"To win a test match, a series, you can't just focus on one bowler. Zulfiqar and the fast bowlers will play a key role because of the reverse swing, especially with the new ball." Younis Khan, Pakistan's all-time third-highest run scor-

er, will be crucial to the host's batting hopes especially after Azhar Ali was ruled out of the first test due to injury.

Most Pakistan players arrived in the UAE on Wednesday from a one-day series in Zimbabwe. The team opted for just one warm-up match, a sign of confidence about playing in their adopted UAE home where Pakistan remain unbeaten in seven series.

"Any away team these days seem to be the underdogs," England coach Trevor Bayliss told reporters. "Experience-wise, we've got some young players but players with a lot of ability and skill. There's no reason why we can't play some good cricket and if we play some good cricket

we'll be hard to beat." Joe Root, the world's third-ranked batsman, will be England's main scoring hope after many of the specialist batsmen struggled in the Ashes.

All-rounder Moeen Ali, a handy off-spinner and regular at No.8, seems likely to become Cook's seventh opening partner since Andrew Strauss's retirement in 2012 as the tourists try to instil greater resolve at the top of the order.

"It's always a challenge whenever you play Pakistan; the trial by spin will be tough," said Cook. Only five England players remain from the 2012 mauling-batsmen Cook and Ian Bell, plus fast bowlers James Anderson, Stuart Broad

and Steve Finn.

All should make the starting XI for the opening test in Abu Dhabi, Finn staking his claim with 4-16 in the final warm-up game against Pakistan A.

On-field temperatures could top 40 degrees Celsius for much of play so England may opt for a six-man attack. Adil Rashid seems poised for his test debut after the spinner ended a six-year absence from one-day internationals this year, which would likely leave Mark Wood and Ben Stokes, another all-rounder, vying for the final bowling spot. Dubai will stage the second Test from Oct. 22 and Sharjah the third from Nov. 1.—Reuters



INCHEON: US team captain Jay Haas (front centre) poses with his team after they defeated the International team 15.5 to 14.5 to retain the Presidents Cup at the Jack Nicklaus Golf Club Korea. —AP

US BEAT INTERNATIONALS TO WIN PRESIDENTS CUP

INCHEON: Captain's pick Bill Haas claimed the crucial final point at the Presidents Cup yesterday, as the United States beat the Internationals 15.5 to 14.5 to clinch the team golf event for the ninth time in 11 editions. Haas, who is also the son of US captain Jay Haas, held his nerve in the last of Sunday's 12 singles matches to beat local favourite Bae Sang-moon on a day of missed putts, momentum swings and hand-wringing tension.

Jordan Spieth and Jason Day, the top two players in the world, both lost their matches, while there was delight and heartbreak in equal measure for Asia's four representatives—Thongchai Jaidee, Anirban Lahiri, Hideki Matsuyama and Bae.

After five straight comfortable US wins, the one-point margin of victory was the narrowest since the Americans won 16.5 to 15.5 in 1996, and suggests the PGA Tour got it right by

reducing the total number of points on offer to 30 from 34.

An emotional US captain Jay Haas struggled to get through a televised interview next to the 18th green but said he had given his son a pep talk through the closing stages. "I told him, 'Come on, win one for your mom, your mom deserves this,'" he said. "We put him out 12th and had no idea this was going to happen. Couldn't even have dreamt this."

The Internationals trailed 9.5 to 8.5 going into the final day at the Jack Nicklaus Golf Club Korea but got the first point on the board when Adam Scott thrashed an out-of-sorts Rickie Fowler 6&5 to level the match. Louis Oosthuizen eagled the 18th to claim a half of his match against Patrick Reed, while fellow South African Branden Grace beat Matt Kuchar 2&1 and became just the fifth player to win five matches at a single Presidents Cup. American

veteran Phil Mickelson, who has played in all 11 Presidents Cups but needed a captain's pick for the first time since 1994, crushed Charl Schwartzel 5&4, while Dustin Johnson overcame a game Danny Lee, who led by one through 14 but then lost three in a row.

NO BLAME GAME

The early American red plastered across the other matches on the scoreboard began to fade in the afternoon as Japanese sensation Matsuyama fought back to beat J.B. Holmes and Thai Jaidee took an unexpected half point when Bubba Watson missed from five feet on the 18th.

Watson missed a similar tiddler at the same hole on Saturday but he was not the only one who struggled with short putts on the difficult final hole. Lahiri, the first Indian to play at the Presidents Cup, lipped out from just over two

feet to hand Chris Kirk victory, just as the Internationals looked to be turning the corner.

"I had Bubba Watson come up to me about a minute after we finished up and he said that he had done the same exact thing," said a despondent Lahiri. "I guess wasn't meant to be unfortunately."

After Spieth was stunned by Australian Marc Leishman and Day lost to Zach Johnson, the Cup boiled down to the final match between two captain's picks—Haas and Bae. South Korean Bae, playing in his last event before he swaps four irons for firearms and begins compulsory military service, trailed by one with two holes to play and drained a 10-footer on the 17th that kept the Internationals' hopes of a tie alive.

With the home crowd's hopes on his shoulders and the fate of his team in his hands, the pressure finally told on Bae and he cracked on

the last, stubbing his chip into a steep bank and seeing the ball roll back down the hill.

International skipper Nick Price was determined no blame should be apportioned to Bae and Lahiri and said his team could have had a much easier task had it not been for their woeful foursomes performance on the opening day. "I don't want any of you to be negative in any way toward Anirban and to Moon," Price told reporters. "The truth of it is, is that if we got off to a better start on Thursday and we had not been 4-1 down, it might not have been quite as exciting today... so we all feel for Anirban and for Moon for what happened. But they are part of our team, and we will leave here as a team."

The Presidents Cup returns to US soil in two years' time at Liberty National, New Jersey before coming to Melbourne for a third time in 2019.—Reuters

DE VILLIERS SPARKLES AS SOUTH AFRICA EDGE INDIA

KANPUR: AB de Villiers and Rohit Sharma enhanced personal reputations with scintillating centuries but it was the timely interventions of South African bowlers that secured the visitors' five-run win over India in the first one-dayer yesterday.

De Villiers' unbeaten 73-ball century provided the late impetus as South Africa posted 303 for five, the highest team total at the Green Park Stadium, after deciding to bat first.

Sharma led India's strong reply with a brilliant 150 before leg-spinner Imran Tahir turned the runfest on its head by claiming two wickets in his final over.

Paceman Kagiso Rabada then dismissed two Indian batsmen in two deliveries in the

final over to put South Africa 1-0 up in the five-match series.

India needed 22 runs of the last two overs with five wickets in hand and Dale Steyn conceded 11 before 20-year-old Rabada claimed back-to-back wickets to restrict the hosts to 298 for seven.

"I thought Imran Tahir first of all changed the game and gave us a chance," De Villiers, who was adjudged man-of-the-match for his unbeaten 104-run blitz, told reporters.

"And lot of credit to Dale and Kagiso. The youngster proved quite handy and he has got a bright future," added the South Africa captain who set alight the stadium with his superb stroke-making.

Containing De Villiers is one of the tough-

est jobs in international cricket and India were severely handicapped when their strike bowler Ravichandran Ashwin left the field after sending down only 4.4 overs. Ashwin struck in his first over to dismissed Quinton de Kock but Faf du Plessis (62) and Hashim Amla (37) shared a half-century stand.

De Villiers did not hit a boundary in the first 33 balls he faced but was unstoppable when he got going. The right-hander clobbered his sixth six off the final ball of the innings to bring up his 21st ODI century as South Africa plundered 109 runs from the last 10 overs.

When India came out to bat, Sharma added 149 runs with Ajinkya Rahane (60) and the hosts looked on course to chase down the target without any fuss.

Sharma hit six sixes and 13 boundaries before giving a return catch to Tahir who dismissed Suresh Raina in the same over. India captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni (31) struggled throughout his scratchy knock and fell in the final over.

Off-spinner Harbhajan Singh will join the Indian squad as Ashwin's cover before the second match in Indore on Wednesday.—Reuters

SCOREBOARD

KANPUR: Scoreboard at close of play in the first One Day International between India and South Africa on yesterday in Kanpur, India.

South Africa Innings

Q. de Kock c Raina b Ashwin	29
H. Amla b Mishra	37
F. du Plessis lbw b U. Yadav	62
A. de Villiers not out	104
D. Miller st Dhoni b Mishra	13
J. Duminy c Dhoni b U. Yadav	15
F. Behardien not out	35
Extras (lb-3 w-5)	8
Total (for 5 wickets, 50 overs)	303
Fall of wickets: 1-45 Q. de Kock, 2-104 H. Amla, 3-152 F. du Plessis, 4-197 D. Miller, 5-238 J. Duminy	
Did not bat: D. Steyn, K. Rabada, M. Morkel, I. Tahir	

Bowling

B. Kumar 10-0-67-0	
U. Yadav 10-0-71-2(w-1)	
R. Ashwin 4.4-0-14-1	
A. Mishra 10-0-47-2(w-1)	
S. Binny 8-0-63-0(w-2)	
S. Raina 7-0-37-0(w-1)	
V. Kohli 0.2-0-1-0	

India Innings

Ro. Sharma c&mbp Tahir	150
S. Dhawan lbw b M. Morkel	23
A. Rahane c Miller b Behardien	60
V. Kohli c M. Morkel b Steyn	11
M. Dhoni c&mbp Rabada	31
S. Raina c Duminy b Tahir	3
S. Binny c Amla b Rabada	2
B. Kumar not out	1
A. Mishra not out	0
Extras (lb-4 w-13)	17
Total (for 7 wickets, 50 overs) 298	
Fall of wickets: 1-42 S. Dhawan, 2-191 A. Rahane, 3-214 V. Kohli, 4-269 Ro. Sharma, 5-273 S. Raina, 6-297 M. Dhoni, 7-297 S. Binny	
Did not bat: R. Ashwin, U. Yadav	

Bowling

D. Steyn 10-0-54-1(w-1)	
K. Rabada 10-0-58-2(w-4)	
F. Behardien 6-0-38-1(w-1)	
M. Morkel 10-0-51-1(w-2)	
J. Duminy 4-0-36-0(w-1)	
I. Tahir 10-0-57-2	
Result: South Africa won by 5 runs	



KANPUR: South African batsman A B de Villiers hits a ball while playing against India in the first of their five one-day match series in Kanpur. —AP

KUWAIT CRICKET TEAM TO PLAY UAE MASTERS PREMIER LEAGUE

KUWAIT: For the very first time a Hard Tennis Cricket Team from Kuwait is participating in a GCC Cricket Tournament, Vanoo Masters Premiere League to be held in Dubai in Oct 15-16, 2015. VMPL Dubai 2015 is going to be a grand event as this tournament will be graced by many celebrities and personalities from India. Teams from Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar & Kuwait will be participating in this 2-day tournament which promises to be an action-packed event.

Kuwait Raiders team is owned and formed by 3 cricket loving individuals, Don D'Souza, Sharan Noronha &

Salaudin Bandarkar. The Owners of Kuwait Raiders would like to thank their Sponsors for supporting the Team. This team that is going to participate in Dubai was analysed based on individual performance & handpicked from all over Kuwait. Players that will be representing Kuwait in this 2-day tournament are experienced and have made their mark in Kuwait, Qatar, Dubai and India.

Kuwait Raiders Team Management sincerely hopes for all the wishes and support from people in Kuwait in order to make this a successful one for Kuwait Raiders.

KORDA WINS LPGA MALAYSIA

KUALA LUMPUR: Jessica Korda won the LPGA Malaysia yesterday for her fourth tour title, closing with a 6-under 65 in sweltering conditions at Kuala Lumpur Golf and Country Club for a four-stroke victory.

After winning twice last season, the 22-year-old American entered the week with only one top-10 finish this year, a tie for second in January in Florida in the season-opening event.

"I think it was just a long time coming," Korda said. "I knew that I was getting really close and just needed to stay patient."

She made five birdies in a seven-hole stretch that ended on the 10th, dropped a stroke on the par-4 11th and sealed it with birdies on the par-3 15th and 17th. Second-ranked Lydia Ko, No. 3 Stacy Lewis and 2014 winner Shanshan Feng tied for second. "I was weirdly calm today," Korda said. "I knew what I needed to do. I needed to take care of myself. If somebody was going to make a hot start, that's just the way it was going to be. I was going to continue playing my game." She cried on the 18th green after her final putt.

"I think just struggling and being at your lowest and then feeling this and just going through these emotions, just incredible gratitude and just being so humbled by everything," Korda said. "All the support that I've had, the people that have stuck with me this year, didn't stop believing in me even when I did a little bit. I think just all that hit me a little bit."

The long-hitter failed to qualify for the Solheim Cup team and was passed over as

a captain's pick. "Stepping back and looking at it, yeah, I was disappointed I wasn't on the team, but I know I played my way off the team and there was no chance that I could have helped," Korda said. "I was really glad with the way that everything happened. I got to go to the Czech Republic for a couple days after Evian and sit down with my grandparents and my cousin. Honestly, the last three weeks have been such a great time in my life."

Korda finished at 18-under 266 and earned \$300,000. She opened with rounds of 69, 67 and 65 to take a two-stroke lead into the final day. The weekend 65s are her two best scores this year.

"Jess played unbelievable today. Nobody was going to beat her," Lewis said. "When you have a two-shot lead and shoot 6 under, it's pretty hard to beat."

Korda's father, Petr, won the 1998 Australian Open tennis tournament. "I didn't actually get to talk to my dad," Korda said. "It went straight to voicemail, but I did get a series of text messages."

Ko finished with a 66. The 18-year-old New Zealander was coming off consecutive victories in Canada and France, where she became the youngest major champion.

Feng also had a 66, and Lewis shot 67. "I think I did a lot of good stuff this week and a lot of good things to build on," Lewis said. The event was the first of five straight in Asia. The LPGA KEB Hana Bank Championship is next week in South Korea, followed by stops in Taiwan, China and Japan.—AP



MALAYSIA: Jessica Korda of the United States poses with her trophy after winning the LPGA Malaysia golf tournament at Kuala Lumpur Golf and Country Club. —AP

WAWRINKA BAGS JAPAN OPEN

TOKYO: Switzerland's French Open champion Stan Wawrinka captured his fourth title this year when he beat his good friend Benoit Paire 6-2, 6-4 in the final of the Japan Open yesterday.

Wawrinka, in the best form of his life, needed just 65 minutes to win the one-sided final at the Ariake Colosseum, the venue that will stage the tennis competition at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

The final was played with the roof closed because of the threat of rain and Wawrinka quickly gained control. He wrapped up the opening set after just 26 minutes with three service breaks.

The second set was much tighter, Wawrinka had to fight off two break points in the third game but he seized his only opportunity, in the 10th game, to complete a straight-sets win.

"I feel great, it's been a really good week for me to win a title again, something always special," said Wawrinka. "You don't win a title every week. It's always difficult when I play a good friend like Benoit. I knew before the match he was struggling a bit physically, but I saw the doctor who told me Benoit was ready to play."

"I played my best game today. I felt the ball well and was aggressive. I am very happy to have the trophy tonight." The win gave Wawrinka his 11th career title, the majority of which have come since he won the 2014 Australian Open. His win in Japan was the 30-year-old's fourth this year after he won in Chennai and Rotterdam and at the French Open.

Paire was appearing in just his fourth ATP career final and his second this year after winning the Swedish Open in July.

The Frenchman, who played Sunday's final with his left ankle heavily strapped, upset Japan's Kei Nishikori in the semifinals but was no match for Wawrinka.

"It was not easy, when I woke up this morning I could not walk. I was not sure if I could play today," said Paire. "One hour before the match it was very painful, so I asked: 'What can we do?' I spoke with the doctor and physiotherapist and we made something for my foot. 'I couldn't feel anything in my foot, but I tried to do all I could to play the match and win. It's harsh, but I could not defend on points. Stan played a very good match and congratulations to him. It's back luck for me.'—Reuters



TOKYO: Stan Wawrinka of Switzerland holds up the championship trophy after defeating Benoit Paire of France in the championship match of the Japan Open. —AP



SOCHI: Mercedes AMG Petronas F1 Team's British driver Lewis Hamilton celebrates with his trophy after winning the Russian Formula One Grand Prix at the Sochi Autodrom circuit yesterday. —AFP

CATCH ME IF YOU CAN

SOCHI: Lewis Hamilton won a dramatic Russian Formula One Grand Prix yesterday to take a huge step towards his third world championship after Mercedes team mate Nico Rosberg retired early on with throttle failure. The win was Hamilton's ninth of the season, and the 42nd of his career, and the Briton's untroubled afternoon was a stark contrast to his German team mate's woes.

Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel finished runner-up at the Olympic Park circuit to overtake Rosberg as Hamilton's closest rival, 66 points adrift of the Briton with four races and a maximum 100 points remaining. If results go Hamilton's way, he can secure his second successive title in Austin, Texas, in two weeks' time. Hamilton, who also won the inaugural Russian Grand Prix last year and has now surpassed the tally of victories racked up by the late triple champion Ayrton Senna, now has 302 points to Vettel's 236 and Rosberg on 229.

"It looked like we were going to have a race and I was thinking this is great and we were going to put on a good show," said Hamilton, after collecting the winners' trophy from Russian president Vladimir Putin. "Nico made a mistake at turn one and went wide. I overtook him and after that, or maybe even before, he started to have some problems. It is very unfortunate for the team."

"Those last five laps I was just taking it in. I don't know how many times I'll be in this position again," added the champion.

Mexican Sergio Perez finished third for Force India, in a race with two safety car interludes following crashes, after Finnish drivers Valtteri Bottas and Kimi Raikkonen collided while battling for the final podium place.

Raikkonen finished fifth for Ferrari, a result that kept Mercedes waiting for their second successive constructors' championship.

However, the Finn faced a stewards enquiry into the collision, with the possibility of a penalty for ramming the rear of Bottas's Williams.

OPENING LAP

The safety car was deployed after Perez's team mate Nico Hulkenberg spun on the opening lap and was hit by the Sauber of Marcus Ericsson with Max Verstappen's Toro Rosso also caught up in the action. Rosberg had led from pole, holding off Hamilton through the opening corners, but was forced to retire in the pits on the seventh of 53 laps.

"F1 is pretty incredible sometimes how tough it is," the German told the BBC. "After a great start, leading the race and feeling confident. Straight after the safety car the pedal broke. It was quite dangerous. Definitely not a

nice way to end the day."

Hamilton had already taken over the lead as Rosberg wrestled with the problem but his advantage was whittled away when Frenchman Romain Grosjean crashed heavily on lap 12 and brought out the safety car again. Perez had thought his podium hopes had gone when Bottas and Raikkonen, on fresher tyres, passed him in the closing laps but the collision put him right back for his first top three finish of the season. "One lap before the end it seemed like everything went away from us. I was very unhappy with myself but in the end I thought 'I gave it all'," said the Mexican.

"I did plenty of laps with my tyres and had massive degradation. On the last lap when it came it was just amazing."

Brazilian Felipe Massa finished fourth for Williams while Russian Daniil Kvyat was sixth for Red Bull, ahead of Sauber's Brazilian Felipe Nasr and Venezuelan Pastor Maldonado in a Lotus. In a boost for struggling McLaren, Jenson Button and Fernando Alonso finished ninth and 10th respectively. Spanish rookie Carlos Sainz, who was in hospital only a day earlier after crashing his Toro Rosso in practice, had been heading for his best result after running as high as sixth but retired eight laps from the end. —Reuters

DJOKOVIC CRUSHES NADAL

WINS CHINA OPEN FOR SIXTH TIME

BEIJING: World number one Novak Djokovic continued his recent dominance over Rafa Nadal when he beat the Spaniard in the final of the China Open to win the tournament for the sixth time yesterday.

The Serbian showed no mercy against the Spaniard, who was hampered by a foot problem in the second set, as he cruised to a 6-2 6-2 victory at the National Tennis Centre in the Chinese capital.

"I played a great tournament overall and continued playing well today," Djokovic said at the trophy presentation. "This definitely has been my most successful tournament in my career. I have won the Australian Open five times but Beijing has been a lucky place for me."

"I keep on coming back here and have very positive memories." Djokovic has now beaten Nadal in seven of their last eight meetings, dating back to the 2013 China Open, and is on the verge of levelling their head-to-head record.

The pair have played each other 45 times with Nadal, who has struggled with his form and niggling injuries in the past year, hanging on to a 23-22 advantage.

The world number eight took a medical time-out early in the second set when he hurt his right ankle but continued on, despite appearing to be in discomfort.

"I hope Rafa's foot is fine and he's able to play next week (in Shanghai)," Djokovic said. "It's always a pleasure to play against him on a big stage. 'We've played, I think 45 times against each other and we keep on going. Hopefully, we can have many more encounters.' Djokovic was already well on top and in complete control when Nadal hurt his foot. He broke Nadal's opening service game and fought off two break points on his own serve in the sixth game.

He broke Nadal again and took out the first set in 41 minutes, then ran away from his ailing opponent in the second. Djokovic has never been beaten at the China Open, winning 29 matches in a row, and six titles in total. The 28-year-old has now 56 career titles, eight of them this year, including the Australian Open, Wimbledon and US Open grand slam crowns.

"I have to say congratulations to Novak, he's having one of the best seasons in the history of our sport," Nadal said. "For me, it's also been a very positive week."

"I've been improving every single match and all the matches are good practice for me and especially the victories (because they) are a lot of positive energy for next year."—Reuters



BEIJING: Novak Djokovic of Serbia (right) and Rafael Nadal of Spain hold their trophies after their men's singles final match in the China Open tennis tournament. —AP

MUGURUZA TRIUMPHS IN CHINA

BEIJING: Spain's Garbine Muguruza, one of the rising stars of women's tennis, beat Switzerland's Timea Bacszinsky to win the China Open yesterday, her biggest title to date.

Muguruza won a hard-fought final 7-5, 6-4 to capture her first Premier Mandatory title and climb to fourth in the world rankings.

It was just the 22-year-old's second WTA title, after she won her first at last year's Hobart International, and made up for the frustration of losing her two previous finals this year, at Wimbledon in July and Wuhan last week.

"For me, to be able to come and win the tournament after losing in the finals of Wuhan last week is a great achievement," she said at the trophy presentation.

"It's amazing, and I can't wait to come back and defend my title next year." Muguruza turned 22 a few days ago and became the youngest player to win a title at this level or higher since a 21-year-old Petra Kvitova cap-

tured the WTA Finals crown in Istanbul in 2011.

Bacsinszky, twice a winner in Mexico this year, provided Muguruza with a stern test, leading 5-2 in the opening set and 2-0 in the second. But Muguruza rallied back each time to close out the match in straight sets. "It's the third time I'm losing against you," Bacsinszky told her conqueror.

"It's tough for me, but it's okay, I'm going to work harder now. Thank you for making me work harder." Bacsinszky will move into the top 10 when the new rankings are released on Monday and paid tribute to her coach Dimitri Zavialoff, who also used to coach Switzerland's reigning French Open champion Stan Wawrinka.

"I actually want to dedicate this tournament to someone, an emotional Bacsinszky said. "I came from really, really far away, I almost retired two years ago, and this man over there, my coach, Dimitri, thank you for helping me every day."—Reuters

THE SOCCER MAN EVERYONE WANTS IN EUROPE

MADRID: He's known as Monchi. And his method for evaluating soccer talent has Europe's attention. Ramon Rodriguez Verdejo, who still goes by the nickname from his goalkeeping days, has become one of the most sought-after football directors in European soccer after revolutionizing Spanish club Sevilla with a scouting system that helped rescue the team from the brink of financial collapse and turned it into a perennial contender in the continent's second-tiered competitions.

Monchi is soccer's version of Billy Beane, the baseball general manager whose innovative methods to evaluate players helped revitalize the Oakland A's and whose story later became a book and the movie, "Moneyball," starring Brad Pitt.

No Hollywood blockbuster is in the works about the bald-headed Monchi, but like Beane, he has his own way of doing things and has achieved significant success despite a limited budget compared to the powerhouses of European soccer, including local rivals Real Madrid and Barcelona.

In the last decade, the club based in the southern Spanish region of Andalusia has won eight titles: two Copa del Reys, one Spanish Supercup, one European Supercup, two UEFA Cups and the last two Europa Leagues. Many label him one of the best soccer directors in the world, and there is widespread talk that Europe's top teams are trying to sign him. In the most recent presidential election at Barcelona, one of the candidates tried to draw voters by promising to hire Monchi if elected. Tottenham and Real Madrid are among the teams that reportedly showed interest in talking to the gritty general manager.

What everybody is after is the so-called "Monchi Method," the scouting system that helped Sevilla discover and profit from players such as Dani Alves, Ivan Rakitic, Julio Baptista, Sergio Ramos, Seydou Keita, Jesus Navas and Carlos Bacca.

Monchi is believed to have helped Sevilla earn more than 200 million euros (\$225 million) in transfers in the 15 years he has been with the club. Alves, now a

regular on Brazil's national team, is seen as one of his most successful signings - being bought for 1 million euros (\$1.1 million) from a small Brazilian club and sold to Barcelona for 30 million euros (\$33.8 million).

"We are trying to work with a method that helps us find new talent that could benefit us on the field and also generate income," the 47-year-old Monchi said. "The biggest thing is to show our fans that this is something good for the team, that it's not only about making money. Nobody would defend this model anywhere in the world if the team wasn't winning titles."

There are no novel ideas in the Monchi Method, and its goal is quite simple: Find cheap players with potential and re-sell them to bigger teams at a higher price. It's an obvious formula for success, but not easy to achieve with the same efficiency as the always-upbeat Monchi.

So what is his method? Monchi has put together a network of scouts and soccer specialists to watch games in leagues around the world, focus-

ing on places where he knows his club will have a competitive edge in the transfer market. "We go looking for unknown players in places where we know the richer teams won't go because they don't think they will find anyone talented enough for them," Monchi said. "We know we can't compete with Madrid, Barcelona, Chelsea, City, Juventus, Milan ... But we know that we can find these good players. We know our market and we try to take advantage of it."

The first phase of the method begins in August, when Monchi's staff of about 15 comes up with "11 ideal players" in the top European leagues and the lesser-known ones in Asia, South America, Africa and other places across the world.

By December, Monchi has a list of about 150 players selected for each position. He and his analysts start examining players by traveling to specific matches and watching videos.

"It's important to see how each player will react when his team is winning, when it's losing, when it's playing at home, away,

in a decisive game. We want to avoid being surprised later on," Monchi said. "There is really no secret. We watch a lot of football, we travel a lot, we work hard."

By March or so, Monchi's staff comes up with a final report, with players graded on a scale from A to E, with A indicating the best options. Monchi meets with coaches and other officials to determine the club's strategy before starting to negotiate, and then he's off to try to snatch the next player who could hopefully boost the team's winning chances and finances.

"We may not have the same economic power as some other teams similar to us in Europe, like Fiorentina, Napoli, Hamburg, Lyon, but we have built something very special in the last few years, and that is our brand," Monchi said. "When we approach players to come to Sevilla, they know that they will be able to compete for titles, and they also immediately think about Rakitic, Alves, Keita, Ramos ... They know that here they may have a future." —AP

CYPRUS KEEP PLAYOFF CHANCES ALIVE

JERUSALEM: Cyprus stunned Israel when defender Jason Demetriou's 85th minute strike secured a 2-1 victory in Group B on Saturday to leave them with a slim chance of qualifying for Euro 2016 via the playoffs by finishing third.

The Cypriot victory was achieved with dogged defending, coupled by a lack of any inspired play by their Israeli hosts. It was a first win for the islanders in Israel in 12 meetings between the Mediterranean neighbors over 55 years.

After a first half in which the Israelis had most of the possession but failed to make any clear chances, Cyprus broke the deadlock

through a Dosa Junior header from a free kick in the 58th minute.

It silenced the already passive Israeli crowd of 25,300 at Jerusalem's Teddy Kollek Stadium, but they were awoken by Nir Biton's equaliser, a thunderbolt from 30 metres that crashed into the back of Antonios Giorialledes's net in the 76th.

But in their haste to find a winner and boost their own chances of finishing third in the group, the Israelis abandoned all defensive efforts and allowed Demetriou to blast home the winner from close range in the 80th. Third spot is still up for grabs, with Bosnia, who beat Wales 2-0 in occupying that position with 14 points, Israel in fourth on 13 and Cyprus fifth with 12 and all three can still secure the spot in the final round of matches on Tuesday.

Belgium, who beat Andorra 4-1 and Wales, have automatically qualified for next year's finals in France. Cyprus coach Charalampos Christodolou was delighted with their performance and the players wildly celebrated a famous victory as the final whistle sounded.

"It was an open game and both teams played to win. It could have gone either way but we are happy to be the ones who succeeded and now all three teams still have a chance to clinch third spot," Christodolou told a post-match news conference.

His downcast Israeli counterpart Eli Guttman declined to discuss his future but ominously said he would "make an announcement when there will be something to announce."

"This is one of the most disappointing moments in my career. When you have a chance like this and you don't take it, you don't deserve to even dream about finishing third. There was no implementation of any plan today and I take full responsibility... I have not been able to leave my mark on the team," Guttman said. —Reuters



ZAGREB: Bulgaria's Ivelin Popov (left) fights for the ball with Croatia's Luka Modric during the Group H Euro 2016 qualifying soccer match. —AP

CROATIA OUTCLASS BULGARIA

ZAGREB: Croatia thrashed hapless Bulgaria 3-0 in a Euro 2016 qualifier played behind closed doors at the Maksimir stadium on Saturday to remain in the hunt for an automatic Group H qualifying spot.

Fans were not allowed into the ground in Zagreb to witness Ante Cacic's debut as coach following a racist incident in their 1-1 home draw against Italy in June. Croatia also had a point deducted.

Saturday's result left Croatia, who have claimed at least a playoff spot, third with 17 points from nine games, two behind Norway, who beat Malta 2-0, and four adrift of leaders Italy, who booked a place at the finals with a 3-1 win in Azerbaijan.

Croatia, who have only once failed to reach the European Championship since independ-

ence in 1991, visit Malta in their final qualifier while Norway travel to Italy on Tuesday.

The third-placed finishers will still have a chance to make it through to the finals via a two-legged playoff. "This was just one step. We have to win in Malta to make these points valuable," said Cacic, who was concerned about the weather conditions for their next match. "It will be 30 degrees (Celsius) in Malta, it will be tough, but we are ready."

Croatia were back on top form under Cacic, who last month replaced the sacked Niko Kovac, as they bounced back from disappointing performances in their previous two games.

"We scored early, were more motivated than Bulgaria and, in the end, Croatia has more quality," he said. "With this passion, we can even go to the playoffs in good spirits." —Reuters

Ivan Perisic, the group's top scorer, put Croatia ahead inside an eerily silent stadium normally known for its deafening atmosphere with his fifth goal in the campaign following a fine through ball by Luka Modric after 88 seconds.

Nikola Kalinic, replacing the injured Mario Mandzukic, almost doubled their lead a few minutes later, they had a goal wrongly disallowed for offside and Bulgaria defender Georgi Terziev rattled his own post attempting a panicked clearance. The lively Ivan Rakitic did make it 2-0 with a low right-foot shot after playing a one-two with Kalinic three minutes before the break. Kalinic then completed the scoring from close range in the 81st minute following a precise cross from Perisic. Croatia substitute Duje Cop was sent off for a reckless challenge on defender Strahil Popov in the closing stages. —Reuters

Live Matches on TV (Local Timings)

EURO QUALIFIERS 2016

Russia v Montenegro	19:00
Abu Dhabi Sport	
Sweden v Moldova	19:00
Abu Dhabi Sport	
Austria v Liechtenstein	19:00
Abu Dhabi Sport	
Ukraine v Spain	21:45
Abu Dhabi Sport	
San Marino v Slovenia	21:45
Abu Dhabi Sport	
Lithuania v England	21:45
Abu Dhabi Sport	
Estonia v Switzerland	21:45
Abu Dhabi Sport	
Belarus v Macedonia	21:45
Abu Dhabi Sport	
Luxembourg v Slovakia	21:45
Abu Dhabi Sport	

WALES LOSE MATCH, WIN BERTH

ZENICA: Soccer history is riddled with world class players who missed out on major tournaments because their national teams were not strong enough—not so Gareth Bale.

Bale has led Wales into their first major finals in 57 years, the 2016 European championship in France. The Welsh, who played at the 1958 World Cup in Sweden, clinched second place in Group H with a match to spare despite going down to their first defeat, 2-0 in Bosnia, after Israel lost 2-1 at home to Cyprus on Saturday.

"This is right up there in my career. It was a dream from when I was a small child to play in a major tournament. It doesn't stop here, we have business to do in France," Bale said after the match in Zenica. Real Madrid winger Bale, who scored six goals in the qualifiers, will enjoy the international stage denied to compatriots like Ryan Giggs, Mark Hughes, Ian Rush and the late Gary Speed.

Wales are usually the nearly men in qualifying campaigns. They were denied a place at the 1978 World Cup when Scotland were controversially awarded a penalty, even though the ball struck striker Joe Jordan's hand and not defender Dave Jones.

Paul Bodin's penalty miss against Romania saw Welsh dreams of reaching the 1994 World Cup in the United States dashed. Then Hughes's Wales side fell at the

final hurdle in 2003 in a two-legged playoff to reach the Euros, cruelly beaten at home by Vadim Evseev's strike after holding Russia in Moscow.

On Saturday Wales lost the battle against Bosnia but won the qualifying war by securing a historic place at the finals. "It's a dream come true," manager Chris Coleman said.

"All the players from my generation, and generations before, nearly got there and it was really tough. But this group have gone that extra yard. They deserve everything they have got. From the first game to tonight they have given me their all," he told Sky Sports. Coleman took over the team from former midfielder Speed, who was found dead four years ago.

"Gary Speed was such a great man and a great presence that I wanted to carry on his work. But I couldn't. So I decided to do my own thing and it has been a fantastic campaign," Coleman added.

Wales finish at home to the group's bottom team Andorra at the Cardiff City Stadium where there will be a party atmosphere. "We always had belief from the start but we knew it would be a lot of hard work," said captain Ashley Williams. "We didn't manage to do it in front of our home fans but when we go home now we'll hopefully win that game and have a nice night after it," the Swansea City defender said. —Reuters



ZENICA: Bosnia-Herzegovina's Mensur Mujdza (center) fights for the ball with Wales' Hal Robson Kanu (right) during the Euro 2016 Group B qualifying match between Bosnia-Herzegovina and Wales, at the Bilino Pole stadium. —AP

BELGIUM THRASH ANDORRA 4-1

BELGIUM: Belgium secured a ticket to Euro 2016 by thrashing Andorra 4-1 with two goals in each half, including one from Laurent Depoitre on his debut, to move top of qualifying Group B on Saturday. The Belgians can guarantee finishing first with a home win over Israel on Tuesday, with previous leaders Wales having been beaten 2-0 in Bosnia but qualifying after the Israeli loss.

"First of all I'm happy nobody's injured," Belgium manager Marc Wilmots told state broadcaster RTBF. "Obviously, it's been some 33 years that we last qualified for two big tournaments in a row so we're quite happy, and I guess Belgium as well as the tournament's next door in France."

The Belgians were in control from the start with Radja Nainggolan opening the scoring in the 19th minute. Kevin De Bruyne made it 2-0 with a 20-metre free kick before the break.

The hosts clawed back a rare goal in the 51st minute when Ildelfons Lima converted a penalty conceded by defender Jan Vertonghen who had lost Andorra's Victor Moreira and could only stop him with an inclement nudge.

Belgium wrapped up the points and a place in France with a spot kick from Eden Hazard before Depoitre scored his first international goal.

Hazard could have made it 5-1 in the 78th with another penalty

but this time Andorra's Ferran Pol made the save. "We played a very complete and correct match, we circulated the ball around well against an adversary who defended with great rigour," added

Wilmots. "We remained patient and marked them at the right moment, created quite a few chances. Belgium, quarter-finalists at the 2014 World Cup, will play at the

European Championship for the first time since 2000 when they hosted the tournament with the Netherlands. The last time Belgium qualified for the finals was in 1984. —Reuters



ANDORRA: Belgium's Radja Nainggolan (second left) kicks the ball to score against Andorra during the Euro 2016 Group B qualifying match. —AP

Sports

De Villiers sparkles
as South Africa
edge India

17



Catch me if
you can

18



MONDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2015

THE SOCCER MAN EVERYONE WANTS IN EUROPE

Page 19



YEREVAN: Albania's Armando Sadiku (left) vies for the ball with Armenia's Karlen Mkrtchyan (right) during the Euro 2016 Group I qualifying football match. — AFP

ALBANIA, ROMANIA CLINCH EURO BERTHS

PARIS: Albania qualified for their first major international tournament yesterday as they beat Armenia 3-0 to book their place at Euro 2016 alongside Romania, who won 3-0 in the Faroe Islands. Defeat at home to Serbia on Thursday had left Albania needing three points in Yerevan to edge ahead of Denmark to claim second place in Group I and they made the most of their second chance. Kamo Hovhannissyan turned into his own net to give Albania a ninth-minute lead before Berat Xhimshiti made it 2-0 midway through the first half.

Substitute Armando Sadiku then added a third 14 minutes from time as Gianni De Biasi's side secured their spot at next summer's tournament in France.

Portugal, already through as group winners, registered their seventh successive qualifying victory as they overcame nine-man Serbia 2-1 in Belgrade.

The visitors were without the rested Cristiano Ronaldo but took a fifth-minute lead through stand-in skipper Nani as the ex-Manchester United winger converted the rebound after Danny's shot was saved by Vladimir Stojkovic.

Serbia replied through Zoran Tomic on 65 minutes but Joao Moutinho's terrific curling strike handed Portugal all three points as the hosts saw both Aleksandar Mitrovic and Nemanja Matic sent off late on.

Romania nailed down the second quali-

fying spot in Group F after easing past the Faroe Islands in Torshavn. Constantin Budescu scored twice with Alexandru Maxim also on target to ensure Romania went through as group runners-up behind European Championship debutants Northern Ireland, who rounded out their qualifying campaign with a 1-1 draw in Finland.

Craig Cathcart's 31st-minute goal in Helsinki put Michael O'Neill's side in front but Paulus Arajuuri's late equaliser earned Finland a share of the spoils.

A point was still enough for Northern Ireland to finish top of the group, though, becoming the first ever fifth seed to do so.

Greece, the 2004 European champions,

belatedly recorded their first victory with Panagiotis Kone's 86th-minute strike leading them past Hungary 4-3.

The Hungarians, who last qualified to qualify as the best third placed team, however, but need Spain to avoid defeat to Ukraine in Kiev on Monday.

Later, world champions Germany will bid to wrap up a qualifying spot when they host Group D opponents Georgia in Leipzig.

Joachim Loew's men will book their tickets to France by avoiding defeat, while Poland and the Republic of Ireland meet in Warsaw with both countries still chasing an automatic qualification berth. — AFP

Euro 2016 qualifying tables	
PARIS: Euro 2016 qualifyin tables after yesterday's earlymatches:	
Group A	
Iceland	9 6 2 1 17 5 20 — qualified
Czech Rep	9 6 1 2 16 12 19 — qualified
Turkey	9 4 3 2 13 9 15
Netherlands	9 4 1 4 15 11 13
Latvia	9 0 5 4 6 18 5
Kazakhstan	9 0 2 7 6 18 2
Group B	
Belgium	9 6 2 1 21 4 20 — qualified
Wales	9 5 3 1 9 4 18 — qualified
Bosnia-Herz	9 4 2 3 14 10 14
Israel	9 4 1 4 15 11 13
Cyprus	9 4 0 5 14 12 12
Andorra	9 0 0 9 4 34 0
Group C	
Spain	9 8 0 1 22 3 24 — qualified
Slovakia	9 6 1 2 13 6 19
Ukraine	9 6 1 2 14 3 19
Belarus	9 3 1 5 8 14 10
Luxembourg	9 1 1 7 4 23 4
Macedonia	9 1 0 8 6 18 3
Group D	
Germany	9 6 1 2 22 8 19 — qualified
Poland	9 5 3 1 31 9 18
R of Ireland	9 5 3 1 18 5 18
Scotland	9 3 3 3 16 12 12
Georgia	9 3 0 6 9 14 9
Gibraltar	9 0 0 9 2 50 0
Group E	
England	9 9 0 0 28 3 27 — qualified
Switzerland	9 6 0 3 23 8 18 — qualified
Slovenia	9 4 1 4 16 11 13
Estonia	9 3 1 5 4 8 10
Lithuania	9 3 1 5 7 15 10
San Marino	9 0 1 8 1 34 1
Group F	
N Ireland	10 6 3 1 16 8 21 — qualified
Romania	10 5 5 0 11 2 20 — qualified
Hungary	10 4 4 2 11 9 16
Finland	10 3 3 4 9 10 12
Faroes	10 2 0 8 6 17 6
Greece	10 1 3 6 7 14 6
Group G	
Austria	9 8 1 0 19 5 25 — qualified
Russia	9 5 2 2 19 5 17
Sweden	9 4 3 2 13 9 15
Montenegro	9 3 2 4 10 11 11
Liechtenstein	9 1 2 6 2 23 5
Moldova	9 0 2 7 4 14 2
Group H	
Italy	9 6 3 0 1 6 21 — qualified
Norway	9 6 1 2 12 8 19
Croatia	9 5 3 1 10 5 17
Bulgaria	9 2 2 5 7 12 8
Azerbaijan	9 1 3 5 7 16 6
Malta	9 0 2 7 3 15 2
• Croatia have had one point deducted	
Group I	
Portugal	8 7 0 1 11 5 21 — qualified
Albania	8 4 2 2 10 5 14 — qualified
Denmark	8 3 3 2 8 5 12
Serbia	8 2 1 5 8 13 4
Armenia	8 0 2 6 5 14 2
• Serbia have had three points deducted	

Note: Top two in each group as well as best third-placed team qualify for finals automatically. Eight other third-placed teams enter play-offs. France qualify as hosts.

KENYAN DUO CLINCH CHICAGO MARATHON

CHICAGO: Dickson Chumba captured the Chicago Marathon men's title yesterday, leading the second straight Kenyan podium sweep by finishing ahead of Sammy Kitwara and Sammy Ndungu.

Chumba crossed the finish line in 2hr 09min 25sec to beat Kitwara (2:09:50) in a race that featured slower times than usual after organizers decided not to include pace-setters.

Ndungu (2:10:06) claimed the bronze, outprinting Ethiopia's Girmay Birhanu Gebru (2:10:07) down the stretch for the final podium position.

Kenya's Florence Kiplagat won the women's title in a time of 2:23.33 as athletes from the East African dis-

tance running powerhouses dominated both elite fields.

Chumba's time was five minutes slower than Eliud Kipchoge's winning time last year at 2:04.11. The world record stands at 2:02.57.

Chumba said he hopes to return in 2016 to defend his title. "Maybe next year to win," he said. "I need to run maybe a faster time." The decision to drop the pace-setters made for a slower race but was done to try and combat doping in the sport.

Rita Jeptoo, a three-time women's winner of the Boston Marathon and two-time winner in Chicago, is the biggest name in Kenyan athletics to be swept up in the doping scandal that has cast a shadow over the distance running community.

Chumba took command of the race in the 23rd mile, pulling away from Kitwara and Abera Kuma to post a 25 second victory. It was also the third sweep of the podium by the Kenyans in the last five years.

Despite a slower time on Sunday, Chumba, who finished third in Chicago last year in 2:04.32, improved his podium position by two spots.

He has been one of the most consistent runners over the last year, winning the Tokyo Marathon in 2014 and finishing third there earlier this year.

In his last unpaced major marathon in 2013 he finished seventh (2:14:08) in Boston. Pre-race favourite Kitwara had been hoping to finally reach the top of the podium after finishing fourth in 2012, third in 2013 and second in 2014. Luke Puskedra was the top American finisher in fifth place with a personal best 2:10.24. Puskedra was ready to give up the sport after a disappointing time of 2:28.54 in his marathon debut in New York City last year. He beat his personal best time, which he set in June, by more than five minutes yesterday.

"I ran this on short notice," Puskedra said. "I put a lot of pressure on running my first marathon in New York last year. It didn't go how I wanted it.

"I felt bad for my wife because financially she was picking up everything. I just felt it might be time to move on, that this might be a hobby. It might just be a

pipe dream. This has definitely been a hard last 11 months." Kiplagat finished third here in 2014 but was awarded second place after Jeptoo was stripped of her title because of doping.

Kiplagat still had enough energy after completing the 26.2 mile course to celebrate her victory with a thumbs up followed by three quick leaps for joy in the finish area.

"The course for me was very nice," she said. "It was a flat course, sometimes it's windy, but that is part of competition." Ethiopia's Yebregual Melese finished second in 2:23.43 while Birhane Dibaba of Ethiopia placed third in 2:24.24. — AFP



CHICAGO: Florence Kiplagat, of Kenya, wins the women's 2015 Bank of America Chicago Marathon yesterday. — AP



CHICAGO: Dickson Chumba of Kenya wins the 2015 Bank of America Chicago Marathon yesterday. — AP

Kuwait Times BUSINESS

MONDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2015

Philippine firms on billion-dollar global shopping spree

Page 22

Stocks close out best week of the year

Page 24



Gold glitters for India's leaders but jewellery guarded tight

Page 23

INDIA RATE CUT TEMPTS SHOPPERS TO BUY CARS, MAJOR APPLIANCES

Page 25

PETROCHEMICALS BOOST SAUDI, MARKETS SLUGGISH VODAFONE QATAR LEAPS IN VERY ACTIVE TRADE

DUBAI: Saudi Arabia's main share market index rose yesterday as investors continued to buy beaten-down petrochemical shares on hopes that oil prices may have bottomed out, while most other regional bourses were sluggish.

Brent oil's strong recovery above \$50 a barrel last week made investors more comfortable with petrochemical stocks. Sector leader Saudi Basic Industries (SABIC) climbed 3.2 percent to 89.25 riyals yesterday, while four other stocks in sector were also among the 10 most-traded stocks and saw their prices surge.

Although the outlook for oil and therefore petrochemical prices remains unclear, equity valuations are now seen low enough to interest investors. Analysts' median target price for SABIC is 106 riyals, according to Thomson Reuters data.

The Saudi stock index rose 1.9 percent to 7,827 points in active trade, testing technical resistance at 7,812-7,953 points, its highs in September and at the end of August.

Among other big Saudi gainers, oil shipper Bahri surged 8.9 percent after its net profit for the three months to Sept. 30 came in at 510.3 million riyals, up from 84.85 million riyals in the same period a year earlier. Albilad Capital had forecast 300 million riyals.

Miner Ma'aden added 3.6 percent in unusually heavy trade after saying it had started trial production at the Ad Duwayhi gold mine; the average annual production capacity of Ad Duwayhi was estimated at 180,000 ounces of gold. Commercial production is to start in the first quarter of 2016. But Almarai, the Gulf's largest dairy company, slipped 0.6 percent after reporting a 10.3 percent rise in its third-quarter net profit to 595.1 million riyals; analysts had forecast 602.9 million riyals.

GULF, EGYPT

Other Gulf stock markets were more sluggish. Prices in most of those markets had dropped less than Saudi Arabia earlier this year, and they remain preoccupied by risks such as a worsening of banking sector liquidity and asset quality due to low oil prices, which have reduced flows of state money into banks.

Dubai's market index edged up 0.2 percent in thin trade. The most heavily traded stock, GFH Financial, added 2.8 percent.

At the end of last week Fitch Ratings affirmed the company's long-term rating at B-minus with a stable outlook; in a statement to the bourse yesterday, GFH said this was an endorsement of the company's strategy in handling its debt and that higher ratings were expected in future.

Abu Dhabi's index added 0.4 percent on buying of blue chips such as Aldar Properties, up 0.4 percent, and First Gulf Bank, up 0.7 percent. Qatar climbed 0.9 percent as Vodafone Qatar, the most heavily traded stock, surged 6.2 percent in its largest volume since February.

Drilling rig provider Gulf International Services was another big gainer, jumping 4.6 percent on the back of firm oil prices.

Egypt's index added 0.8 percent in heavy trade, still buoyed by Thursday's news that Orascom Telecom and Act Financial aim to buy Beltone for 650 million Egyptian pounds (\$83 million).

Orascom Telecom, the most active stock, climbed a further 2.7 percent yesterday and Beltone, which had soared 20.8 percent on Thursday, jumped 7.4 percent. The merger activity sparked interest in financial and investment firms in general, with EFG Hermes gaining 4.5 percent and Qalaa Holdings surging 7.4 percent.

YESTERDAY'S HIGHLIGHTS

SAUDI ARABIA

The index rose 1.9 percent to 7,827 points.

DUBAI

The index edged up 0.2 percent to 3,713 points.

ABU DHABI

The index rose 0.4 percent to 4,565 points.

QATAR

The index climbed 0.9 percent to 11,856 points.

EGYPT

The index rose 0.8 percent to 7,548 points.

KUWAIT

The index was up 0.3 percent at 5,728 points.

OMAN

The index advanced 1.1 percent to 5,932 points.

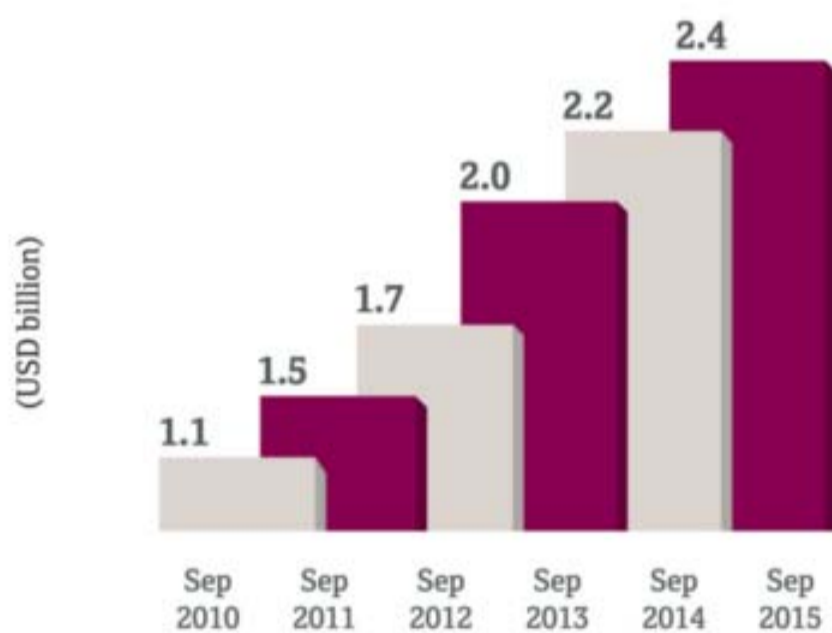
BAHRAIN

The index closed flat at 1,255 points. — Reuters

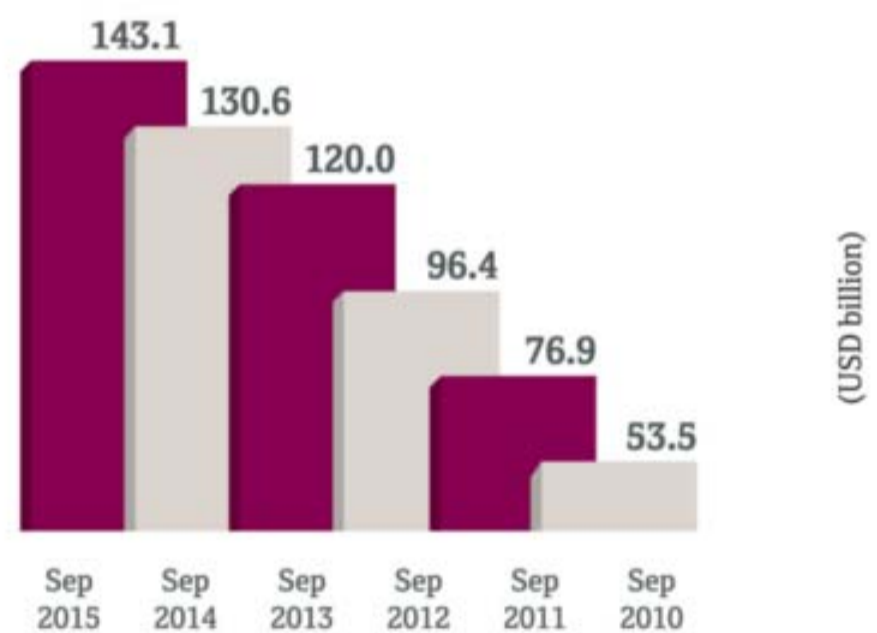


MAINE: In this Sunday, Aug. 9, 2015, photo, some businesses are boarded up in downtown Millinocket, Maine. The former Great Northern Paper Co. mill closed in February 2013, devastating the Katahdin region economy. Even so, many in the region are not in favor of a proposed national park. — AP

Net Profit US\$2.4 billion up by 9% on September 2014



Total Assets US\$143.1 billion up by 10% on September 2014



QNB Group - Financial Results for the Period Ended 30 September 2015.

Another set of impressive results reinforcing QNB Group's position as a leading bank in the MENA region, with an international network and presence in more than 27 countries across 3 continents.

Credit ratings: Capital Intelligence AA-, Fitch AA-, Moody's Aa3, Standard & Poor's A+.

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UN, WORLD BANK TO LAUNCH REFUGEE AND RECONSTRUCTION BONDS

LIMA: International agencies plan to raise billions of dollars to tackle the worsening refugee crisis in the Middle East and North Africa by issuing new bonds to help displaced people and support reconstruction in the war-torn region.

The United Nations, World Bank and Islamic Development Bank announced the proposal on Saturday after global policymakers met to discuss ways to ease the growing humanitarian and economic crisis stemming from conflicts in countries including Syria, Iraq, Yemen and Libya.

World Bank President Jim Yong Kim said more than 15 million people had fled their

homes, sending a massive influx of refugees into countries like Lebanon and Jordan.

The two-track initiative will ask donor countries to provide guarantees for bonds raising money for certain projects, ranging from support for refugees to rebuilding to allow displaced people to return home. Some would be Islamic bonds, or sukuk, targeting investors in the region.

Donors would also be asked for grants to cut the interest rate for countries hosting the bulk of refugees from commercial rates to as low as zero, said World Bank vice president for Middle East and Europe, Hafez Ghanem.

"People are focusing on the situation in

Syria because of what's happening in Europe but actually you have the situation in Yemen, which is also very serious," he said after the meeting, held during annual World Bank and International Monetary Fund meetings. Tunisia and Turkey were also struggling with a wave of refugees.

The United Nations expects hundreds of thousands of migrants to reach Europe this year as they flee war and poverty, the biggest wave of displaced people since World War Two.

Expressions of support had come from Group of Seven countries and other European countries for the initiative, which could raise

funds in the "double-digit billions" over five to 10 years, Ghanem said. "All of us have self-interest in this," he said.

"The instability in the Middle East and North Africa is affecting the whole world, it's not just through refugees, but also through terrorism, fluctuations in oil prices, so it is really the whole international community has an interest in containing this and in helping those countries regain stability and get back on a path of development and growth."

A working group will finalize details of the proposed fund raising-which would make resources available to other development agencies as well-by February. — Reuters



MANILA: A Philippine Jeepney passes by a mall run by SM, the largest shopping mall and retail operator in the Philippines, in suburban Manila yesterday. Philippine firms are on an unprecedented global shopping spree, spending billions on everything from vineyards to food manufacturers and casinos, reflecting the nation's recent economic rise. — AFP

PHILIPPINE FIRMS ON BILLION DOLLAR SHOPPING SPREE

'FILIPINO COMPANIES ARE MOVING INTO GLOBAL SPACE'

MANILA: Philippine firms are on an unprecedented global shopping spree, spending billions on everything from vineyards to food manufacturers and casinos, reflecting the nation's recent economic rise. A combination of strong domestic growth, bargain prices in retreating economies abroad and rock-bottom borrowing rates have fuelled the acquisitions, analysts said.

The Southeast Asian nation has for years exported shopping malls and junk food to the region, but cashed-up Filipino firms have diversified in recent years with acquisitions around the world and in many sectors.

"It has not happened in this rapid succession. It's like a colonial mentality in reverse," said Luis Limlingan, research head at Manila stock brokerage Regina Capital. The pace of the acquisitions has startled both local and foreign investors, according to BDO Unibank chief market strategist Jonathan Ravelas.

"Filipino companies are moving into the global space and it's not limited to just one sector. The opportunities abound," he said. In one of the most-recent big-ticket acquisitions, local instant noodle firm Monde Nissin said last month it was buying British meat substitute manufacturer Quorn for 550 million pounds (\$833 million).

In the last two years, the private company also snapped up popular fruit juice brand Nudie and chilled dips manufacturer Black Swan, both from Australia, for undisclosed amounts. Monde Nissin is owned by Betty Ang, who started her company 30 years ago and is now

the nation's 19th richest person with a net worth of \$900 million, according to Forbes. Meanwhile, Emperor, a company controlled by the Philippines' fourth richest man, Andrew Tan, and which specialises in cheap brandy at home, is looking to spend more than one billion dollars on diversifying in Europe.

In May, the company said it would bid to acquire French cognac maker Louis Royer SAS. There has been no resolution in that attempt yet but last year it paid 430 million pounds (\$726 million) for Scottish whisky maker Whyte and Mackay.

Emperor also spent 60 million euros (\$82 million) last year for half of Spanish brandy producer Bodega Las Copas. The Philippines' third-richest man, Enrique Razon, has made headlines by expanding on the port operator business that has made him his fortune by setting his sights on the Asian gaming market.

He opened a billion-dollar casino in Manila in 2013, and then in March this year his Bloomberg Resorts firm announced it was buying AN island and part of another one in South Korea for his first overseas gaming foray.

Analysts said these were some of the highest-profile acquisitions overseas, but there were many others in a wide range of sectors, including telecommunications, power, fast food and oil.

Awash with cash

Filipino firms are leveraging their earnings from a robust local economy to snap up bargains in countries

where growth has slowed, analysts said.

"These companies have huge stashes of cash and they are maximising it to compliment their existing businesses," said Astro del Castillo, managing director at Manila stock brokerage First Grade Holdings.

The Philippines had for decades endured low economic growth compared with other Asian tiger economies, partly due to crippling corruption and red tape. But in recent years the economy has been one of the strongest in Asia, averaging growth of 6.3 percent between 2010 and 2014. President Benigno Aquino, whose six-year term ends in 2016, has been widely credited overseas for the economic gains due to his efforts to tackle graft and stifle government bureaucracy.

This year the economy has slowed but still expanded by 5.3 percent in the first half. But many of the enduring problems remain at home and these are forcing the local firms to look elsewhere, according to Victor Abola, an economist at the University of Asia and the Pacific.

"It's not so much a lack of growth opportunities (locally)," Abola said, explaining why Filipino companies were investing abroad. "It's about the government changing the rules of the game midstream... and slow action on proposals." The Philippines ranks 95th out of 189 economies based on ease of doing business, according to The World Bank's International Finance Group. But that is a huge improvement under Aquino's reign the Philippines has moved up 53 spots in the last four years. — AFP

FED OFFICIALS THINK DATA WILL JUSTIFY RATE HIKE THIS YEAR

WASHINGTON: It's a question whose answer seems to be in constant flux: When will the Federal Reserve finally raise interest rates? Two voting members of the Fed's policy committee weighed in Friday with a similar view: That a rate hike remains likely by the end of 2015 but that any Fed decision will depend on how the economy fares between now and then.

William Dudley, president of the Fed's New York regional bank, and Dennis Lockhart, president of the Atlanta Fed, said that despite pressures from abroad, they thought the economy would keep performing at a solid enough pace to justify a rate hike at one of the Fed's final two meetings of the year. Still, Dudley and Lockhart both cautioned that they would closely monitor the economic data to determine whether and when to endorse a rate increase.

A third Fed official, Charles Evans, president of the Chicago Fed, also spoke Friday and delivered a more cautionary message: He urged the Fed to remain patient because inflation remains well below its 2 percent target.

"Before raising rates, I would like to have more confidence than I do today that inflation is indeed beginning to move higher," Evans said in a speech in Milwaukee, urging an "extra-patient approach" to rate policy.

Evans is among the Fed's "doves" - officials who worry more about threats from economic weakness than do "hawks," who focus more on the risk that inflation could run too high. The mixed messages delivered Friday won't resolve the uncertainty that has seized investors over whether the Fed will start raising rates from record lows by year's end. Dudley did signal that while a rate hike at the Oct. 27-28 meeting remains theoretically possible, any increase would more likely occur at the Dec. 15-16 meeting. "Have we seen enough information between September and October to convince us to do in October what we didn't do in September?" Dudley said. "That would be the question I would ask."

Lockhart noted that the Fed will have much more economic data available in December to help make a decision. The data will include jobs reports for October and November, inflation data for September and October and the government's first two estimates of economic growth in the July-September quarter.

Fewer jobs

Two more job reports may be critical in making the decision. The most recent employment report showed that

employers cut back sharply on hiring in September and added fewer jobs in July and August than previous month.

Dudley suggested that other reports on the economy painted a brighter picture. "If you look at the US economy right now, you see a pretty strong domestic economy," he said. The trouble, he said, is that this strength is being offset somewhat by global weakness, including a slowdown in China, and a stronger US dollar, which is hurting US exports.

Lockhart also acknowledged recent weakness in economic data. He noted that these reports followed a turbulent August in which concerns about China's slowdown sent stock prices plunging.

"While I have not changed my basic outlook, very recent data have not provided much confirmation that my narrative still holds," Lockhart said in a New York speech to the annual meeting of the Society of American Business Editors and Writers. "I perceive a touch more downside risk today than I saw some weeks ago."

Still, he said, "I continue to feel that cumulative progress is consistent with liftoff relatively soon." The Fed has kept its key rate at a record low near zero since 2008. Many had expected the first hike to occur in September. But minutes of that meeting released Thursday revealed concern that China's slowdown could weaken the U.S. economy and that inflation could remain excessively low. The Fed voted 9-1 to keep rates unchanged. Lockhart, Dudley and Evans all voted with the majority.

The three officials are among five regional bank presidents with a vote this year on the panel of Fed bank presidents and board members that meets eight times a year to set interest rate policy.

A fourth regional bank president with a vote, John Williams, head of the San Francisco Fed, said in a speech Thursday that he also expects a rate hike this year. But he cautioned, "That view is not immutable and will respond to economic developments over time."

Many economists say the weak jobs report for September makes a rate increase more uncertain. Some still foresee an increase in December, others not until next year. When the Fed does start raising rates, something it hasn't done in nine years, it will eventually mean higher rates for consumers and businesses. But Fed officials, including Chair Janet Yellen, have stressed that the rate increases will likely be very gradual, meaning that rates would still remain near historic lows for a while. — AP

EXCHANGE RATES

AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

ASIAN COUNTRIES

Japanese Yen	2.517
Indian Rupees	4.676
Pakistani Rupees	2.897
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.162
Nepali Rupees	2.924
Singapore Dollar	218.680
Hongkong Dollar	39.053
Bangladesh Taka	3.890
Philippine Peso	6.600
Thai Baht	8.507

GCC COUNTRIES

Saudi Riyal	80.750
Qatari Riyal	83.180
Omani Riyal	786.510
Bahraini Dinar	804.170
UAE Dirham	82.443

ARAB COUNTRIES

Egyptian Pound - Cash	40.855
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	38.678
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.413
Tunisian Dinar	155.760
Jordanian Dinar	427.110
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.018
Syrian Lira	2.158
Morocco Dirham	31.791

EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES

US Dollar Transfer	302.650
Euro	347.140
Sterling Pound	466.530
Canadian dollar	236.080
Turkish lira	104.000
Swiss Franc	317.910
Australian dollar	225.020
US Dollar Buying	301.450

GOLD	
20 gram	233.99
10 gram	119.69
5 gram	60.53

UAE EXCHANGE CENTRE WLL

CURRENCIES

Australian Dollar	207.34
Canadian Dollar	237.51
Swiss Franc	319.30
Euro	346.99
US Dollar	302.85
Sterling Pound	466.17
Japanese Yen	2.55
Bangladesh Taka	3.888
Indian Rupee	4.675
Sri Lankan Rupee	2.160
Nepali Rupee	2.924
Pakistani Rupee	2.897
UAE Dirhams	0.08240
Bahraini Dinar	0.8048
Egyptian Pound	0.03857
Jordanian Dinar	0.4307
Omani Riyal	0.7864
Qatari Riyal	0.08350
Saudi Riyal	0.08078

DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

Rate for Transfer	Selling Rate
US Dollar	302.900
Canadian Dollar	236.000
Sterling Pound	465.270
Euro	345.110
Swiss Frank	292.425
Bahrain Dinar	803.930
UAE Dirhams	82.765
Qatari Riyals	90.745

Saudi Riyals	81.500
Jordanian Dinar	426.815
Egyptian Pound	38.572
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.164
Indian Rupees	4.671
Pakistani Rupees	2.897
Bangladesh Taka	3.885
Philippines Peso	6.592
Cyprus pound	576.925
Japanese Yen	3.510
Syrian Pound	2.600
Nepalese Rupees	3.915
Malaysian Ringgit	74.100
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	48.045
Thai Bhat	9.495
Turkish Lira	104.250

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
	Europe	
British Pound	0.457342	0.466342
Czech Koruna	0.004706	0.016706
Danish Krone	0.042090	0.047090
Euro	0.338921	0.346921
Norwegian Krone	0.033514	0.038714
Romanian Leu	0.086817	0.086817
Slovakia	0.009018	0.019018
Swedish Krona	0.033081	0.038081
Swiss Franc	0.308859	0.319059
Turkish Lira	0.098681	0.108981
	Australasia	
Australian Dollar	0.213933	0.225433
New Zealand Dollar	0.196910	0.206410
	America	
Canadian Dollar	0.228707	0.237207
US Dollars	0.298550	0.303050

US Dollars Mint	0.299050	0.303050
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Asia		
Bangladesh Taka	0.003486	0.004086
Chinese Yuan	0.046201	0.049701
Hong Kong Dollar	0.036949	0.039699
Indian Rupee	0.004388	0.004778
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000018	0.000024
Japanese Yen	0.002440	0.002620
Kenyans Shilling	0.003145	0.003145
Korean Won	0.000256	0.000271
Malaysian Ringgit	0.069646	0.075646
Nepalese Rupee	0.002899	0.003069
Pakistan Rupee	0.002835	0.003115
Philippine Peso	0.006473	0.006753
Sierra Leone	0.000067	0.000073
Singapore Dollar	0.213903	0.219903
South African Rand	0.016815	0.025315
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001861	0.002439
Taiwan	0.009562	0.009742
Thai Baht	0.008190	0.008740

Arab		
Bahraini Dinar	0.795156	0.803156
Egyptian Pound	0.037809	0.040639
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000085
Iraqi Dinar	0.000192	0.000252
Jordanian Dinar	0.422863	0.430363
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000151	0.000251
Moroccan Dirhams	0.020468	0.044468
Nigerian Naira	0.001248	0.001883
Omani Riyal	0.779684	0.785364
Qatar Riyal	0.082419	0.083632
Saudi Riyal	0.080070	0.080770
Syrian Pound	0.001283	0.001503
Tunisian Dinar	0.151654	0.159654
Turkish Lira	0.098681	0.108981
UAE Dirhams	0.081419	0.082568
Yemeni Riyal	0.001368	0.001448

MARKAZ'S PRESENTATION ON CALCULATING COST OF CAPITAL AT KBA

KUWAIT: M.R. Raghu, Head of Research, Kuwait Financial Centre "Markaz" recently presented his viewpoints on calculating the 'Cost of Capital' which is of prime importance in corporate finance decision making. The presentation was held at Kuwait Banking Association yesterday with the participation of major banks in Kuwait.

The presentation pointed out that in the GCC, unlisted companies outnumber listed companies by miles and hence most of the deals involve unlisted companies in one way or other. Corporate finance professionals face twin problem while valuing an unlisted company. They have to estimate future cash flows and also estimate the appropriate "discount rate" at which these cash flows can be discounted to the present. Such a discount rate is nothing but the cost of capital adjusted for the weights of capital in the capital structure.

WACC Methodology

Raghu added, 'Opportunity cost' also referred to as 'hurdle cost' or 'discount rate' is of primary importance in valuation and helps the management in identifying projects which add value to the enterprise. Given the importance of this metric in creating value for shareholders, it is essential to understand how it is computed. Though, in reality, it's surprising to note that not much effort is diverted towards the calculation of cost of capital; while a significant amount of time is focussed on forecasting uncertain future cash flows. Improper capital cost assumptions could lead to type-I error (accepting projects that don't add shareholder value) or type-II error (rejecting projects that add shareholder value).

In order to compute the cost of capital, we start by

finding the cost of each capital component that the firm utilizes. Cost of capital primarily consists of equity and debt costs, weighed according to the proportions of debt and equity capital in the capital structure. The cost of debt can be inferred easily as it entails specific cost in the form of interest payments made in cash. The entire debt mix including money market debt in the form of commercial papers/notes, bank debt in the form of loans/overdraft, financial leases and bonds raised is aggregated. The interest payments made as a proportion of interest bearing debt instruments provides us with the debt cost.

Unlike debt holders, equity holders do not demand an explicit return on their capital. However, equity holders incur an implicit opportunity cost for investing in a specific company, because they could invest in an alternative company with similar risk profile. Equity cost involves various factors such as risk free asset, beta, market risk premium, country risk premium among others. Beta - a measure of priced risk, which is arrived by regressing the past price returns on an index. As private firms do not trade, estimation of beta becomes problematic for private firms.

In order to estimate the value of beta for a private firm, we create a list of comparable public firms from the same line of industry. Firms with similar line of business and asset size would typically be considered as a good comparable. To ensure we have zeroed down on appropriate comparable enterprise, a simple regression test between the revenues could be done. Firms which are affected by similar economic and industry factors, in general, would exhibit higher correlation.

Once the comparable list is drawn from listed companies, we may average their beta values and leverage ratios



to arrive at levered beta for the particular sector or industry. This levered beta is then unlevered to arrive at the beta for the industry/sector. The unlevered beta could then be levered based on the debt to equity (D/E) ratio for the private firm. One may either use the management target set for debt to equity ratio or the industry average to re-lever the unlevered beta. Considering this as beta for the private firm, we proceed with the calculation of cost of equity using the Capital Asset Pricing Model (CAPM)

Why does WACC vary widely?

Cost of equity is subjective as different people use

different methods to compute beta. Some use monthly data for past 5 years while others prefer weekly data for past 3 years. As beta is derived based on historical price data, few adjust it under the assumption that the beta value would revert towards the mean value of 1 over the long period. Difference in equity cost would lead to a range of values for cost of capital. Risk-free rate and equity risk premium values are dynamic in nature and change with time depending on the market perception of risk. In good times, ERP is compressed - due to lack of risk events, which lowers the equity cost and subsequently capital costs.



NEW DELHI: In this photograph taken on September 24, 2015, Indian sales personnel wait for customers at a jewellery store in New Delhi. Industry experts say India has around 20,000 tonnes of the precious metal lying idle in Hindu temple vaults, bank safes and jewellery boxes. — AFP

GOLD GLITTERS FOR INDIA'S LEADERS BUT JEWELLERY GUARDED TIGHT

NEW DELHI: Caressing delicate bangles she hasn't taken off since her wedding 11 years ago, Geetanjali Agarwal says she won't hand over her gold to the government, as it wages a campaign to take the nation's hoard of the precious metal more productive.

"For a woman to part with her jewellery, that is very difficult," said the 38-year-old New Delhi housewife, who also buys gold coins at the Indian festival of Diwali as an investment. "My daughter is 10 years old and I'm already collecting pieces for her." Industry experts say India has around 20,000 tonnes of the precious metal lying idle in Hindu temple vaults, bank safes and jewellery boxes-a trove worth about \$700 billion at current prices depending on purity levels. The country vies with China for the title of the world's biggest consumer of gold-for centuries considered a precious store of wealth-and imported about 900 tonnes last year, its second biggest import after oil. Now the government is encouraging people to lend their gold to banks through the Gold Monetisation Scheme starting in November, hoping to bring the national stash into the economy.

Households or temple trusts deposit their gold with banks and earn tax-free interest, so the idea goes, and banks then lend it to jewellers and a valuable asset is brought into circulation.

"A lot of people, particularly women and those in remote rural areas, hold jewellery which is lying idle in India, which is not taken as an investment," Gopal Krishna Agarwal, economic affairs spokesman for the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party, told AFP.

"(This scheme) can earn some return for those persons." But many, such as Poonam Vohra, a housewife from the capital's middle-class suburb of Rajouri Garden, say they are unsure about handing over their treasures.

"Gold is a really expensive buy and as it is we don't have much, so whatever we have we'd rather keep," said the 52-year-old, who keeps most of her jewellery in a bank vault after being robbed of a gold chain while walking in Delhi.

With little state social security to fall back on, gold is a vital safety net in India, in particular for women, for whom it may be the only savings they have. It is especially important in rural areas where many people do not have access to the formal banking system.

"Whenever there's a wedding or some function I take it out," Vohra said. "Maybe it will be my child's wedding in six months. I don't want to give it away."

Jewellers 'like doctors'

A similar scheme in 1999 was a near-total failure, thanks to low interest rates. The government promises the new scheme is different, with the minimum deposit lowered from 500 grams to just 30 grams-roughly the same as three gold bangles.

Banks will be allowed to set their own interest rate, expected to be between two and four percent, and post offices will boost the scheme's reach in rural areas. One fear is that households may face uncomfortable questions about where their gold came from, amid an intensifying crackdown on "black money". "People are still bothered about the tax queries. There is a myth that all Indians hold gold as unaccounted wealth," said Somasundaram P.R., managing director of the World Gold Council India.

Another sticking point is that gold has to be melted down to test its purity-though depositors can watch from a gallery-with the risk it could turn out to be worth less than thought.

For jewellers in Delhi's Karol Bagh, where the streets are lined with shops selling diamonds and antiques, monetising India's gold stash would be good news, reducing the need for expensive imports. "It will be good if our gold gets rotated, if the gold that is lying in bulk with people is put to use," said Anoop Dhar, manager of the opulent Sunar Jewellery store.

"Nothing can be better. We wouldn't have to bring in gold from outside." But at the bustling old market of Zaveri Bazaar in Mumbai-the centre of India's jewellery trade-some are sceptical the scheme will succeed, noting that it is still easy for people to take out loans against their gold or sell it if they need cash.

"Indians have a family Jeweller like a family doctor, and so have access to gold saving schemes run by their trusted jewellers," said Prithviraj Kothari, head of Riddhi Siddhi Bullions in Mumbai, India's largest gold trading firm. "Why would they allow the government to peek into their gold?" — AFP

INDONESIA'S RETURN TO OPEC COMPLICATES DEC OUTPUT TARGET

INDONESIA TO REJOIN AFTER 7-YEAR BREAK

LONDON: OPEC's policy meeting in December will welcome Indonesia's return as a member, complicating a decision by the producer group on whether to change its oil output target. After refusing to cut output last year, the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries is pumping much more than its target of 30 million barrels per day (bpd) because of near-record Saudi Arabian and Iraqi production, and smaller increases elsewhere in the group.

Indonesia's return to OPEC will expand the group's members to 13 and add about 900,000 bpd to OPEC output. That will push OPEC production to almost 32.50 million bpd and in theory calls for the target to be increased, according to some analysts.

The matter, though, is controversial for OPEC as raising its target has been bearish for prices in the past and the issue could resurrect the thorny topic of countries' individual output quotas. Crude is trading just above \$53 a barrel, not far above a six-year low, hurting members' oil revenue. "I would be concerned that if you change the OPEC ceiling it would open the door to the whole debate about quotas," said an OPEC watcher who declined to be identified. "Raising the ceiling opens up too many issues."

Indonesia will be OPEC's fourth-smallest producer. The Southeast Asian country pumped 910,000 bpd in August and the 12 current OPEC members 31.57 million bpd, according to the International Energy Agency. Those numbers make the 30 million target look even more out of date, some OPEC delegates say.

"It is not logical to take the 30 million barrel ceiling for 13 members," said an OPEC delegate, also declining to be identified. "Just adding Indonesia is most probably what will happen." Other OPEC delegates have downplayed the idea of raising the target, saying it has not been discussed yet and may not happen, or stressing that an increase to accommodate Indonesia will not raise actual production.

"Even if the ceiling was raised it will be artificial, just on paper," said a second delegate. "You are adding something on paper but not in terms of world supply. It will not affect world supply."

A debate on raising the ceiling could open up the controversial issue for OPEC of whether to reintroduce individual output quotas. OPEC ditched quotas, long a source of squabbling, when it set the

output ceiling at 30 million bpd from the start of 2012.

Given the changes in members' production levels since then due to events such as the collapse in Libya, growth in Iraq and sanctions on Iran, the quota issue remains sensitive and political as market share and national prestige are at stake.

Some OPEC members see the lack of individual quotas effectively as a license for countries able to boost production, such as Saudi Arabia or Iraq, to

expand market share. "Without a quota any production ceiling is redundant, ridiculous," said a third OPEC delegate. "Some countries cannot produce like before like Iran because of sanctions, or Libya. These are often opportunities for certain countries to take their share of the market."

Iran called for OPEC to reintroduce quotas at the last meeting held in June, although the idea failed to gain sufficient support. OPEC meets to set output policy on Dec. 4. — Reuters

JAPAN SOUNDS ALARM ON CONSUMER SPENDING

TOKYO: Do not believe in official statistics, Japanese retailers seem to be saying, as they cut earnings forecasts and warn of lacklustre consumer spending, a key growth engine for Japan at a time when exports and factory output are stalling.

If you go by the larger-than-expected 2.9 percent gain in household spending in August - the first year-on-year rise in three months - then consumption looks like it is finally alive and well again, after a sales tax hike last year stifled the economy.

But profits of retailers suggest the spending data, which has a small sample size, has not captured the full picture. Restrained household consumption raises the stakes for a central bank policy meeting on Oct. 30, and for the government's plan to flesh out new economic policies before the year-end.

"Consumer spending has ground to a halt," said Noritoshi Murata, president of Seven & i Holdings. "There are a lot of concerns about the global economy and not many positives for consumption. Weak spending could continue into the second half of the fiscal year." Seven & i, which operates Japan's ubiquitous 7-Eleven convenience stores, on Oct. 8 trimmed its full-year profit forecast by 1.6 percent to 367 billion yen (\$3.05 billion) and cut its revenue forecast by 3.9 percent to 6.15 trillion yen, triggering a fall in its shares in Tokyo.

The main problem is wages are not rising fast enough to keep pace with rising food prices, and consumers are starting to cut back on other goods. Real wages, adjusted for inflation, rose 0.5 percent in July from a year earlier. That was the first gain in 27 months. But wage growth subsequently slowed to 0.2 percent in August, and summer bonuses fell from last year, government data shows.

Another problem is more and more workers are getting stuck in jobs with low pay. Part-time and irregular workers comprised a record 37.4 percent of the workforce last year, according to the National Tax Bureau. Irregular workers earn on average less than half of what regular full-time workers earn, tax data show. The third problem is the government plans to raise the nationwide sales tax again, to 10 percent in 2017 from 8 percent, and households are already changing their behaviour.

"Shoppers are tightening their purse strings," said Masaaki Yoshizawa, senior managing director at apparel maker Onward Holdings.

"There is a lot of uncertainty about consumer spending, and another sales tax hike is on the way. Women are cutting back on clothes."

Onward Holdings had expected to make a 2.4 billion yen profit in the six months ended September. But when it closed its books, operating profit was only 200 million yen. — Reuters



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STOCKS CLOSE OUT BEST WEEK OF THE YEAR

NEW YORK: The stock market closed out its best week this year with a modest gain on Friday, helped by airlines and industrial companies.

The S&P 500 ended the week up 3.3 percent, its best week since mid-December. Global markets also had a strong week, with markets in Germany and France rising more than 5 percent.

more months. That signal was reinforced Thursday, when the minutes from the September Fed meeting showed policymakers are too concerned about low inflation and the slowdown in China to raise interest rates.

flights last month, an important profit driver for the industry. United Continental flew on average 82.9 percent full; while American Airlines reported its flights were 82.7 percent full.

next few weeks. Once we get guidance from Corporate America, investors will be reasonably more confident about getting back into the market," said Bob Doll, chief equity strategist at Nuveen Asset Management.

Steep drop in profits

United Continental rose 6.6 percent, American rose 6.7 percent, JetBlue Airways and Southwest Airlines added 3 percent each.

The price of US oil edged higher Friday. Benchmark crude oil rose 20 cents to close at \$49.63 a barrel in New York.

In other futures trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange, wholesale gasoline rose 0.9 cents to close at \$1.417 a gallon.

Investors are now positioning themselves for corporate earnings, which pick up steam next week with most of the nation's largest banks report their results, as well as big companies like Intel, Netfix, UnitedHealth and General Electric.

US government bond prices rose slightly. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note fell to 2.09 percent.

Metals prices rose. Gold climbed \$11.60 to \$1,155.90 an ounce, silver gained five cents to \$15.82 an ounce and copper climbed seven cents to \$2.41 a pound.

Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report

Sunday 11 October 2015

Table with 6 columns: Index, Change, Closing, Last Closing, High, Low. Rows include Price Index, Weighted Index, and KXS 15.

Summary table with 3 columns: Volume (127,103,534), Value (KWD) (9,905,958), Number of Trades (2,849).

Table with 8 columns: Security, High, Low, Volume, Value (KD), Trades, Last, Change. Rows include MARIN, IKARUS, IPG, NAPESCO, ENERGY, GPI, ARAR, Oil & Gas, KFOUC, DPCC, ALKOUT, ALQURAIN, Basic Materials.

Table with 8 columns: Security, High, Low, Volume, Value (KD), Trades, Last, Change. Rows include KCEM, REFR1, CABLE, SHIP, PCEM, PAPER, MRC, ACICO, GGMC, HCC, KPAK, KBMMK, NICBM, EQUIPMENT, NCCI, GYPSUM, SALDOOKH, AGLTY, EDU, CLEANING, CITYGROUP, KGL, KCPC, HUMANSOFT, NAFAS, SAFWAN, GFC, MAYADEEN, CGC, MITCC, UPAC, ALAFCC, MUBARRAD, LOGISTICS, SCEM, GCEM, QCEM, FCEM, RWKC, SPEC, Industrials.

Table with 8 columns: Security, High, Low, Volume, Value (KD), Trades, Last, Change. Rows include KGH, NSH, PAPCO, CATT, DANAH, POULT, FOOD, Consumer Goods, MHC, ATC, YIACO, Health Care, KCIN, KHOT, SULTAN, CABLETV, EYAS, IFARH, OULAFUEI, MUNTAZAHAT, JAZERA, SOOR, FUTURKID, ALNAWADI, ALRAI, ZIMAH, UFIG, KOUTFOOD, Mezzan, Consumer Services.

Table with 8 columns: Security, High, Low, Volume, Value (KD), Trades, Last, Change. Rows include ZAIN, ODREDO, HITSTELEG, VIVA, Telecommunications, NBK, GSK, CBK, ABK, ALMUTAHED, KIB, BURG, KFIN, BOUBYAN, AUB, ITHMR, WARIBANK, Banks, KINS, GINS, AINS, WINS, KUWAITRE, FTI, WETHAQ, BKIKWT, Insurance.

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National Bank of Kuwait Financial Markets Daily Report At 02:00 PM Previous Day. Includes a line chart showing market trends.

Global Stock Indices table with columns: Index, Previous Close, Last Price, Change, Daily Performance %, Yearly Performance %.

MENA Stock Indices table with columns: Index, Previous Close, Last Price, Change, Daily Performance %, Yearly Performance %.

Global Currencies Exchange Rate table with columns: Currency, Kuwaiti Dinar, Saudi Riyal, US Dollar, Euro, Sterling Pound, Swiss Franc, Japanese Yen, Australian Dollar.

MENA Currencies Exchange Rate table with columns: Currency, US Dollar, Kuwaiti Dollar, Saudi Riyal, Bahraini Dinar, Qatari Riyal, Omani Riyal, Emirates Dirham, Egyptian Pound.

Global Interest Rates table with columns: Currency, 1-Week, 1-Month, 3-Month, 6-Month, 1-Year.

Global Bond Yields table with columns: Country, 2-Year, 5-Year, 10-Year, 30-Year.

Commodities table with columns: Index, Previous Close, Last Price, Change, Daily Performance %, Yearly Performance %.

Source: National Bank of Kuwait

US DOLLAR DROPS AS FED MINUTES DELAY RATE HIKE EXPECTATIONS

NBK'S WEEKLY MONEY MARKET REPORT

KUWAIT: Last week, disappointing data from the US combined with the release of the Fed's minutes from its September meeting pushed rate hike expectation beyond December 2015. In the minutes, policy members cited concerns related to China and emerging markets in its decision to keep rates unchanged. Additionally, the minutes showed that members showed fears that a premature hike might suppress inflation further below its 2% target. Despite jobless claims reaching an almost 42-year low, the US Dollar continued to drop against most of its counterparts as the index reached a low of 94.692 and closed at 94.916.

The Euro gained against the US Dollar last week despite disappointing data that indicated slower growth in the region's economic activity. The Euro opened the week at 1.1216 and dropped to a low of 1.1172 amid disappointing manufacturing and industrial data from Germany. The currency quickly regained its losses as investors started trimming their US dollar positions ahead of the Fed's minutes. The currency continued to gain and reached a high of 1.1387 as dovish Fed minutes further delayed rate hike expectations.

Similarly, the British Pound gained against the US dollar despite negative services PMI data that signaled that the UK's recovery is losing momentum. The currency dropped temporarily amid the BoE decision to keep rates unchanged, but regained its momentum amid the release of the dovish Federal Reserve meeting minutes. Cable reached a high of 1.5383 and closed the week at 1.5322.

The Japanese yen gained last week following the Bank of Japan's decision to refrain from adding stimulus despite the recent slowdown in the country's exports. The pair opened the week at 119.91 and reached a high of 120.57 only to drop to a low of 119.63 amid the Fed's minutes. On Friday the US Dollar regained its losses and closed the week at 120.27.

The Australian dollar also gained against the greenback last week. The currency opened the week at 0.7045. The Aussie broke the 0.7300 level and reached a high of 0.7344 on Friday. The currency closed the week at 0.7336.

Commodities had their fair share of gains against the greenback as oil and gold closed the week higher. Oil opened the week at 45.54. The commodity gained towards the end of the week to break the 50 level on Friday and closed

at 49.63. Similarly, spot gold opened at 1.138.60 and reached a high of 1159.78 at the end of the week. Gold closed at 1156.53.

Mixed Data

The US ISM non-manufacturing activity index in September dropped to 56.9 compared to the expected drop to 57.5 from August's 59.00, a sign that weak wages may be pushing the demand down amid signs of slowdown in the global economy.

Meanwhile, US trade deficit in August widened by the most in five months as exports hit a 4-year low. Trade deficit widened to 48.3 billion, beating the expected deficit of 48 billion from the July's revised 41.8 billion. Imports rose 1.2%, while exports decreased 2%. Weak overseas demand and a strong US Dollar weighed over the exports.

Jobless claims fall to almost 42-year low

The number of Americans filing new applications for jobless benefits fell to almost the lowest in 42 years last week, pointing to ongoing tightening in the labor market despite the recent slowdown in hiring. The data provides an upbeat check on the health of the labor market after last week's monthly employment report increased doubts the Federal Reserve would raise interest rates by the end of this year. Initial claims for state unemployment benefits dropped 13,000 to a seasonally adjusted 263,000 the Labor Department said.

Concerns over Global Growth Inflation Fed to Delay a Rate Hike

During its September monetary policy meeting, the FOMC voted nearly unanimously to leave its benchmark Federal Funds Rate unchanged, marking the 55th consecutive meeting that it decided to hold rates at its current near-zero level. Citing mounting concerns related to slowing growth in China along with a host of emerging market economies, the Federal Reserve decided that the timing was not appropriate to normalize monetary policy. The deceleration in economic growth, according to the minutes, led to a spike in the dollar, which the Fed believes is holding down inflation. Long-term inflation has remained under the Fed's targeted goal of 2% in every month for the last three years. The FOMC also expressed fear that a premature rate hike could "erode the credibility" of its inflation objective, if

long-term inflation stayed below 2% for a prolonged period. In September, the Fed forecasted that its preferred gauge of inflation will not reach its 2% target until at least the end of 2018.

The relatively dovish minutes from the September meeting may bolster arguments that the FOMC could wait as long as March of next year before lift-off. Previously, it was widely believed the FOMC could raise rates either this month or when it meets in December. A rate

increase in September as the economy benefited from strengthening domestic demand on the back of record employment, rising wages and low inflation.

UK services PMI drops

The UK's recovery is losing momentum as concerns about the world economy continue to grow and weakness from the manufacturing sector spreads to the dominant services sector. Financial data company Markit said its monthly all-se-

increase. Inflation at zero, combined with an "easing in the pace of activity," may keep the MPC on a cautious footing as it judges when to begin removing the emergency stimulus it put in place during the financial crisis. Investors haven't priced in a rate increase until late 2016 and short-sterling futures rose after the minutes were released, indicating traders were taking off bets for higher rates.

In the central bank's analysis, unit-labor costs aren't yet strong enough to push inflation back to its 2% target. While official statistics put the annual increase in unit labor costs at 2.2% in the second quarter, the central bank said that the underlying figure may be much weaker.

Asia

BoJ keeps stimulus unchanged

The Bank of Japan held off on expanding stimulus, even as slumping exports and falling oil prices threaten its projection that the economy is on track to hit its 2% inflation target next year. The central bank maintained its pledge to increase money supply at an annual pace of 80 trillion yen through aggressive asset purchases. The BOJ kept its optimistic view that while exports and output have been hurt by slowing emerging market growth, the economy continues to recover moderately.

Reserve Bank of Australia leaves Key Rate at 2.0%

The Australian Dollar gained after the country's central bank held interest rates unchanged for a fifth-straight month. The currency rose against most of its major counterparts after Reserve Bank of Australia Governor Glenn Stevens left the cash-rate target at a record-low 2%. Policy makers have toned down calls for a weaker Aussie after the exchange rate dropped in each of the past three months, falling 8.9% in its steepest quarterly depreciation for more than two years. Speculators have been betting that the RBA will be forced to lower rates in the coming year as growth slows in China, Australia's biggest trading partner, even as Stevens has signaled he is reluctant to ease policy again.

Kuwait

Kuwaiti Dinar at 0.30180

The USD-KWD opened at 0.30180 yesterday morning.



hike is viewed as bullish for the dollar, as foreign investors pile into the greenback looking to capitalize on higher yields.

Europe & UK German Factory Orders Drop Unexpectedly

German factory orders unexpectedly fell in August in a sign that Europe's largest economy is vulnerable to weaker growth in China and other emerging markets.

Orders, adjusted for seasonal swings and inflation, dropped 1.8% after decreasing a revised 2.2% in July, data from the Economy Ministry in Berlin showed on Tuesday. The typically volatile number compares with a median estimate of a 0.5% increase in a Bloomberg survey. Orders rose 1.9% from a year earlier.

A China-led slowdown in emerging markets that threatens Germany's export-oriented economy is exacerbated by an emissions scandal at Volkswagen AG that could affect as many as 11 million cars globally. Still, business confidence unexpectedly

tor purchasing managers' index (PMI) had fallen to its lowest since April 2013, suggesting that the economy as a whole was now growing at its weakest rate in nearly three years. The headline services PMI dropped to 53.3 in September from August's 55.6, its lowest since April 2013 and well below forecasts in the market. The expectations component was its lowest since August 2014.

BoE keeps policy unchanged

Bank of England policy makers said the UK economy is withstanding international pressures, while also signaling they have room to keep the benchmark rate at a record low as inflation weakness persists. In the minutes of its October meeting, the Monetary Policy Committee weighed risks of a further global slowdown against resilient domestic demand and consumer spending. It said the near-term outlook for inflation had weakened since August and price growth will probably stay below 1% until spring 2016. Officials voted 8-1 to keep the key rate at 0.5%, with Ian McCafferty maintaining his call for an

AL TIJARI ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF AL NAJMA ACCOUNT

KUWAIT: Commercial Bank of Kuwait held the Al Najma Account draw yesterday.

The draw was held under the supervision of the Ministry of Commerce & Industry represented by Abdulaziz Ashkanani.

The winners of the Al Najma Daily Draw are **Alexander Victor Bitass KD 7000/-**, **Mohammad Nasser Ismaeil KD 7000/-**, **Abdullah Eissa Al Mesri KD 7000/-**, **Yuefan Chen KD 7000/-**, **Mohammed Abu Horaiyra Khondakar KD 7000/-**

The Commercial Bank of Kuwait announces the biggest daily draw in Kuwait with the launch of the new Najma account. Customers of the bank can now enjoy a KD 7,000 daily prize which is the highest in the country and another 4 mega

prizes during the year worth KD 100,000 each on different occasions: The National Day, Eid Al Fitr, Eid Al Adha and on the 19th of June which is the date of the bank's establishment.

With a minimum balance of KD 500, customers will be eligible for the daily draw provided that the money is in the account one week prior to the daily draw or 2 months prior to the mega draw. In addition, for each KD 25 a customer can get one chance for winning instead of KD 50.

Commercial Bank of Kuwait takes this opportunity to congratulate all lucky winners and also extends appreciation to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry for their effective supervision of the draws which were conducted in an orderly and organized manner.



NEW DELHI: A file photo of shoppers at a mall in New Delhi.

INDIA RATE CUT TEMPTS SHOPPERS TO BUY CARS, MAJOR APPLIANCES

MUMBAI: The way car salesman Ashish Bhavsar tells it, in India, men come first on their own to eye up a potential purchase. Then they bring their wives. Then - if it's serious - the whole family.

On this weekday, almost two weeks after the central bank cut interest rates, a young boy and his elderly grandmother inspect a sports utility vehicle at a busy Hyundai Motor dealership in downtown Mumbai, while his parents speak to a sales agent nearby. That's good news for branch manager Bhavsar.

He estimates that cheaper borrowing could mean sales growth of 12 to 15 percent this year, above his 10 percent target.

"Many customers were waiting for rate cuts. They didn't want to make a decision," he says with a grin, surrounded by gleaming new cars. "They will definitely come now."

India kicks off its two-month religious festive period yesterday, a time considered auspicious to buy big-ticket items such as cars, and when promotions abound. Company executives say they see the Reserve Bank of India's unexpectedly sharp 50 basis points cut last month as a lifeline.

Consumers have already been showing an eagerness to spend more on small luxuries, like movie tickets and fancy hair cuts, even as the overall economy struggles to take off after a

period of cooler growth.

Yet with retail spending accounting for 50 to 60 percent of the economy, India needs households to splurge on more expensive, higher-margin items like washing machines, TVs and cars.

To date, a combination of slow consumer spending and a dearth of corporate investments has delivered a double punch to the economy, which grew a slower-than-expected 7 percent in the April-June quarter, well below the government's 8 to 8.5 percent target.

GOING SHOPPING

With inflation around record lows and central-bank rate cuts totalling 125 basis points so far this year, retail executives believe a consumer recovery is now in the offing.

Firms selling discretionary items such as cars and electronics are desperate for such a recovery. They have reported double digit annualised falls in earnings for the past four quarters.

Banks have not passed on all of the central bank's latest cut. In the last two weeks, auto loans are down only 25 basis points, and home loans by 30 basis points. But retailers expect traditional festival-season discounts to help pull shoppers in.

Added to that, Indian consumers often prefer instalment plans to finance bigger purchases. Known as equated monthly instalments (EMI),

they are typically provided on a floating-rate basis, so consumers benefit from falling loan rates.

Sunita Pednekar, a 35-year old nurse, at one downtown electronics store, said she planned to buy a washing machine for now, and a TV next month during Diwali, the Hindu holiday that marks the peak of the Indian festive period.

"We can afford the washing machine now since EMI will be cheaper after interest rates have come down, and there are discount offers before festive season," she said, speaking as she headed into the store with her husband and young son.

"I can spread out the expenditure, rather than pay a lump-sum amount upfront." Optimism about consumer demand is being given a further boost as India gears up to raise the wages of 10 million government employees and pensions from next year.

Abheek Barua, chief economist at HDFC Bank in New Delhi, says last month's official rate cut and the expected pick-up in consumer demand would help boost economic growth. He has forecast 7.5 percent growth for the year ending in March.

"Earlier we were banking on investment demand to push up growth," he said. "Now we are expecting a better consumption phenomenon to drive growth." — Reuters

SPE KUWAIT OIL & GAS SHOW AND CONFERENCE SET FOR SUCCESS

KUWAIT: Following the huge success of the first edition in 2013, the Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE) Kuwait Oil & Gas Show and Conference is returning to Kuwait from 11-14 October 2015. The event will be held at the Kuwait International Fair in Mishref under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, the Prime Minister of the State of Kuwait.

Set to be the largest gathering of the oil and gas industry ever seen in Kuwait, KOGS 2015 incorporates a multidisciplinary conference programme organised by the SPE and a world-class international exhibition of oil and gas hardware and services organised by Allworld Exhibitions' member Arabian Exhibition Management. The event is expected to attract over 3,500 regional and international attendees.

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

The KOGS 2015 conference takes place under the theme "Future Hydrocarbon Resources; Innovations, Technology and Opportunities" and focuses on key areas of interest for those working in the upstream and downstream sectors in the region, including reservoir management, production operations, sustainable development, drilling and completion technologies, innovation, refining and the petrochemical

industries. The conference opens in a special ceremony on 11 October 2015 at the Hilton Kuwait Resort. The session will begin with welcome addresses from His Highness Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Kuwait's Prime Minister; His Excellency Dr. Ali Saleh Al-Omair, Kuwait's Minister of Oil and Minister of State for the National Assembly; Nizar Al-Adhani, Chief Executive Officer, Kuwait Petroleum Corporation; Hosnia Hashim, Vice President Operations, KUFPEC and Janeen Judah, 2017 SPE President.

Keynote speeches on this year's conference theme will follow, delivered by His Excellency Abdalla Salem El-Badri, Secretary General, OPEC; Mohammad Al-Mutairi, Chief Executive Officer, Kuwait National Petroleum Company; Bob Dudley, Chief Executive Officer, BP and Samir Brikho, Chief Executive, Amec Foster Wheeler.

More than 180 technical and poster presentations designed to share the knowledge and experience of managing, operating and supplying companies will follow over the subsequent 3 days of the conference at Kuwait International Fair, delivered by over 260 expert speakers from more than 60 companies across 27 countries.

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



THE NEW MERCEDES-BENZ GLC

VERSATILITY AND STYLE IN AN UNRIVALLED ALL-TERRAIN SUV

KUWAIT: Design driven, modern, athletic - the new Mercedes-Benz GLC is set to impress and car enthusiasts as A.R. Albisher and Z. Alkazemi Company - the exclusive general distributor of Mercedes-Benz in Kuwait - confirms its arrival in Kuwait this September. The new model, which succeeds the GLK, is much more spacious and refined and signifies an evolution for the second generation Mercedes-Benz mid-range SUV, turning heads with its sleek design and taking the lead in terms of technology, comfort and performance.

The design philosophy behind the new GLC favours sensual purity and a modern aesthetic over the classic off-road look. The dynamic design exudes emotional appeal while also employing purist forms, with clearly defined lines that deliberately display a degree of tension.

"The second generation of the mid-range SUV sets benchmarks in road safety, efficiency, driving performance and design. Offering outstanding capabilities both on-road and off, we are confident the new GLC

will be well received across Kuwait, and continue the success Mercedes-Benz enjoys in the overall SUV segment," said Michael Ruehle, CEO, Abdul Rahman Albisher & Zaid Alkazemi Company.

With its athletic and urban design, all-round capabilities and supreme comfort, the GLC fits seamlessly with any lifestyle, whether for a family trip on- or off- road, a sporty adventure with friends or just a comfortable driving experience around the city.

The new GLC is available in two models, the GLC 250 4MATIC and the GLC 300 4MATIC. The former comes with the OFF ROAD Line exterior that includes 19-inch multi-spoke light alloy wheels, radiator grille with twin louvres and chrome inserts, bumpers with a chrome-plated underguard at front and rear, two chrome-plated tailpipes, polished aluminium trim and roof rails in anodised aluminium. The GLC 300 4MATIC comes with the sporty AMG Line exterior - with distinctive AMG body styling, AMG wheels, chrome package, and enhanced performance and driving

dynamics thanks to the sports suspension.

GLC interior: spacious, elegant and modern

The GLC's interior conjures up the feel-good atmosphere that is a Mercedes-Benz brand hallmark, with premium materials, including nappa leather and open-pore wood trim, meticulously finished details and an appealing overall touch and feel. A key focus of the totally new interior design is the dashboard and the centre console with its flowing lines, and large, one-piece console panel sweeping elegantly from the centre air vents to the armrest. These clear-cut lines create a feeling of open space and establish a purist, modern vibe.

The newly developed innovative touchpad, located in the hand rest, nestles ergonomically in the centre console. As on a smartphone, this provides for very simple and intuitive operation of all the head-unit functions using finger gestures. A centrally positioned media display is partially integrated above the centre console.

The new GLC is substantially more spacious for front and rear passengers alike. The increase in the GLC's length in comparison to the previous model has been translated effectively into useful interior space. (12 cms longer & 5 cms wider)

Both the GLC 250 4MATIC and GLC 300 4MATIC come with EXCLUSIVE line interior, including upholstery in ARTICO man-made leather/fabric, ARTICO-covered dashboard with contrasting topstitching, seats featuring an exclusive upholstery design, Interior Light package, the 3-spoke multifunction steering wheel, high-gloss brown line structure lime wood trim in the GLC 250 4MATIC and light aluminium trim in the GLC 300 4MATIC.

Driving enjoyment, on- and off-road

The new GLC offers the DYNAMIC SELECT handling control system with five driving programs as standard. In addition to the ECO, COMFORT, SPORT, SPORT+ and INDIVIDUAL settings, which are familiar from other models, the new all-rounder, can also be equipped with the Off-Road Engineering package. This comprises up to five programs: Slippery, Off-road, Incline, Rocking Assist and Trailer.

The Off-Road Engineering package additionally includes a robust Gemtex underbody guard, which takes the stress out of heavy ground contact as on the previous model. Downhill Speed Regulation (DSR) is also included for controlled downhill driving. The driver can pre-set a speed using the cruise control lever. This set speed is then maintained automatically on downhill stretches, without any need to operate the brake pedal.

The new GLC features the AGILITY CONTROL suspension with steel springs and a variable damping system as standard. The suspension combines excellent driving stability and sporty agility with optimum comfort and outstanding off-road capabilities.

The nine-stage 9G-TRONIC automatic transmission comes as standard on the GLC 250 4MATIC and the GLC 300 4MATIC, offering an impressively high shift speed and perfect transitions for energetic sprinting as well as with gentle, barely perceptible gear changes for enjoyable cruising.

Mercedes-Benz Intelligent Drive: guardian angels on board

As part of the Intelligent Drive concept, the safety systems combine data from various sensor technologies to enhance comfort and safety substantially. COLLISION PREVENTION ASSIST



PLUS, Crosswind Assist, Headlamp Assist and ATTENTION ASSIST are on board as standard. The Driving Assistance package Plus provides an even more comprehensive scope of active safety features, comprising DISTRONIC PLUS with Steering Assist and Stop & Go Pilot, PRE-SAFE(r) Brake with pedestrian detection, BAS PLUS with Cross-Traffic Assist, Active Blind Spot Assist, Active Lane Keeping

Assist and PRE-SAFE(r) PLUS.

The Head-up Display (HUD) in the new GLC displays important information directly in the driver's field of vision on the front windscreen, providing for clear legibility and less distraction from the road ahead, and includes information on speed, posted speed limits, navigation instructions and messages from the DISTRONIC system.



'AHLI UNITED BANK' ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF WEEKLY DRAW

KUWAIT: Ahli United Bank held its weekly draw of Al-Hassad Islamic Saving program on October 7, 2015. This program offers the biggest prize amount to the largest number of winners. The prize program succeeded in becoming the first and only prize account in Kuwait compliant with the Islamic Shari'a principles. The program has been developed to fulfil the needs of the Bank customers and increase their opportunities in winning sizeable and attractive prizes in addition to enjoying the latest banking advantages that Ahli United Bank provides.

On this occasion, the bank issued the following press release: Al Hassad Islamic Saving program offers the highest amounts of prizes which amount to KD 3.4 Million per year. This program also offers 26 weekly prizes, with the highest number of weekly winners. The Islamic Hassad Saving Account may be opened by the lowest amount to open an account, which is KD 100.

The winner of the weekly grand prize in the amount of KD 25,000/- is: -Amal Abdulrasool Mohammed.

The winners of the KD 1,000 prize each: -Abdulla Ahmed Al Jadawi, Shirin Aida Adenwala, -Anyukourn Chanphiro, -Mohammed Mnahe Al-Osaimi, -Fares Falah Al Basman, -Shammah Khalifah Aljina, -Naser Mohammed Al Mudhaf, -Yacoub Jassim Al-Mohamad, -Samirah Omar Mohammed

-Ahmed Assem Mohamed
-Adel Mohammad Hasan
-Falah Abdulla Al Braiki
-Awad Saber Al Shimmari
-Salahaldin A. Rahim
-A. Aziz Husain Dashti
-Mohammed Hassan Maki
-Judell Joann Alves
-Karim Jaafar Al Modaweb
-Hameeda Mirza Alasfoor
-Esam Mohd Ahmed
-Jamileh Yousif
-Anita Mascarenhas
-Khalid Abdullatif Khalid
-Duke Karunakarn Esthacker
-Mahmood Alawi Shubbar.

The prize program of "Al Hassad Islamic Saving" from Ahli United Bank offers a weekly grand prize worth KD 25,000/- in addition to 25 weekly prizes worth a total of KD 25,000 distributed to 25 prizes, KD 1,000 for each winner.

In addition, prizes of Al Hassad Islamic saving program from Ahli United Bank offer 4 quarterly grand prizes announced in quarterly draws. Each is a "Salary for Life" prize which is worth KD 25,000.

In general, Ahli United Bank continues to offer innovative tools and means to meet the needs of its customers to match the Bank's long history of distinctive services which extend over 73 years during which the Bank managed to take the lead among local banks.

For further information about "Al Hassad Islamic Saving" account, customers may call at any Ahli United Bank branch, or call: "Hayakom" service at 181 2000.

FEAR AND RESPECT: VW'S CULTURE UNDER WINTERKORN

BERLIN/LONDON: Like many chief executives, Martin Winterkorn was a demanding boss who didn't like failure. But critics say the pressure on managers at Volkswagen was unusual, which may go some way to explaining the carmaker's crisis.

Three weeks after it admitted to cheating US emissions tests, Europe's largest carmaker is under pressure to identify who exactly was responsible. Volkswagen has declined to comment on whether the firm's culture or the management style of Winterkorn, who resigned last month, had been a factor in the cheating. Lawyers for Winterkorn did not respond to a request for comment. But now that VW's problems are coming out into the open and Winterkorn has gone, some executives are declaring that the company needs to change its approach. "We have to streamline

our processes," Volkswagen Group of America CEO Michael Horn told a US congressional hearing when asked about what the revelations said about VW's integrity. "This company has to bloody learn and use this opportunity in order to get their act together, and 600,000 people worldwide have to be managed in a different way," he said. "This is very, very clear."

Bernd Osterloh, a member of VW's supervisory board, was even more precise in a letter to staff on Sept. 24, a week after US regulators revealed the cheating. "We need in future a climate in which problems aren't hidden but can be openly communicated to superiors," said Osterloh, who as chief of the VW works council represents employees on the board. "We need a culture in which it's possible and permissible to argue with your superior

about the best way to go." Five former VW executives interviewed by Reuters and industry observers describe a management style under Winterkorn that fostered a climate of fear, an authoritarianism that went unchecked partly due to a company structure unique in the German motor industry.

"The culture and organisational structure of Volkswagen are not comparable to Daimler or BMW, it is something specific," said Professor Ferdinand Dudenhofer, automotive expert at the University of Duisburg-Essen. "All you hear when you speak to people is that there is a special pressure at VW." Lawyers for Winterkorn, who said when he quit that he was unaware of any wrongdoing on his part, did not respond to a request for comment.

NO AUTHORITY

All German companies have two boards: the management board, led by the chief executive, runs the business day-to-day, and above it the supervisory board, to which the CEO reports. The supervisory board can hire and fire management board members and must sign off on major strategic decisions. Dudenhofer said this system did not work well at Volkswagen. "In Daimler and BMW, you have a supervisory board that is controlling the CEO. But at VW you have no such authority," he told Reuters.

VW's 20-seat supervisory board gives nine seats apiece to workforce and shareholder representatives, so meeting a legal requirement to have equal representation. But VW differs from other German carmakers in one respect - the firm's home state of Lower Saxony also gets two seats on the supervisory board. By contrast, Daimler, the maker of Mercedes-Benz cars, and BMW have

no politicians on their boards. Industry observers say the representatives from Lower Saxony and those of the workforce share a common goal: protecting jobs at one of Lower Saxony's biggest employers. As a consequence they are willing to give the CEO a relatively free hand provided he delivers on jobs.

Henning Gebhardt of Deutsche Bank's asset and wealth management unit, who manages VW shares, said corporate governance had not progressed at the company. Labour officials and Lower Saxony representatives did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

HUMBLE BACKGROUND

Winterkorn has supporters. Marc Trahan, a retired executive vice president at Volkswagen Group of America, said he believed Winterkorn and some of his top engineers would never have countenanced the cheating.

"I know Dr Winterkorn personally. I know these guys personally. There is no way they would have allowed this to continue if they had known that US laws were being broken," Trahan told Reuters.

VW design chief Klaus Bischoff said he could not imagine that Winterkorn knew of or tolerated cheating. "He is a hard-core engineer who was deeply engaged with the physics of a car but had nothing to do with software matters," Bischoff said. Winterkorn was born in 1947 into a humble background: his parents were ethnic German refugees who had recently fled Hungary after World War Two. After studying metallurgy, he rose through the ranks at engineering and electronics group Bosch before he joined Audi in 1981, later moving to the VW brand and then the group.— Reuters



WOLFSBURG: A man arrives at gate 17 of the plant of German car maker Volkswagen (VW) in Wolfsburg, central Germany. Several engineers at scandal-hit German automaker Volkswagen had admitted to installing the device in the company's cars aimed at cheating pollution tests. The global scam had wiped more than 40 percent off Volkswagen's market capitalisation and led chief executive Martin Winterkorn to resign. — AFP

AMAZON CHALLENGES ETSY WITH HANDMADE AT AMAZON

NEW YORK: Amazon is launching its site for handcrafted goods called Handmade at Amazon, hoping to capitalize on shoppers' appetite for handmade goods ahead of the holiday season. The move throws down the gauntlet to craft-selling site Etsy. But at least at the time of launch, the two sites will have a very different seller base, fee structure and stances on manufacturing.

Amazon started offering invitations in May to join Handmade, giving sellers access to Amazon's 285 million shoppers. The Seattle-based retailer says the site, which will carry everything from \$30 walnut cufflinks from Australia to \$325 handmade quilts from Wisconsin,

sprang from customer feedback and site searches for crafty items.

"We had thousands of searches every day from customers looking for handmade or handcrafted items," said Peter Faricy, vice president for Amazon Marketplace. That focus also pits it directly against Etsy Inc., which started 10 years ago as a marketplace for homemade goods and went public in April. But they're a bit different in size and scope.

At launch, Handmade at Amazon will include about 5,000 sellers from 50 states and 60 countries offering 80,000 items. Amazon takes a 12 percent fee from overall sales made by Handmade at Amazon sellers and includes pay-

ment processing, discounted shipping and access to other Amazon services. There's no listing fee or monthly fee to start.

In contrast, New York-based Etsy has 1.5 million sellers and 21.7 million buyers as of June 30. It takes a 3.5 percent fee on overall sales and a 20 cent listing fee per item listed. They also differ in terms of manufacturing policy. Amazon says sellers have to fill out an online application to be approved to sell on the site and all items sold on the site must be "factory-free" and not made by manufacturers.

New York-based Etsy, on the other hand, started letting some merchants apply to use manufacturers for some

products in 2013. In September, Etsy said it was creating a new Etsy manufacturing marketplace to make it easier for its sellers to find "responsible production assistance." Manufacturers can apply to be part of the program and Etsy approves them based on certain criteria.

The divide on manufacturing highlights the challenge that platforms for handmade craft sellers face: They want to preserve the personal nature of handmade goods but also help their sellers (and themselves) grow and make more money.

HELPING SELLERS

Etsy CEO Chad Dickerson said Etsy

Manufacturing grew out of trying to help sellers that have reached a point where they need outside help to grow. "It's really about providing access to values-aligned producers, often in the sellers' own community," he said.

As far as competing against Amazon, Dickerson said that about half of Etsy sellers already sell via multiple venues, and of those sellers, Etsy is still usually their primary source of income.

"We believe that Etsy is the best platform for the creative entrepreneur," he said. "Etsy has a decade of experience understanding the needs of artists and sellers and supporting them in ways that no other marketplace can." — AP

MOBILE AD-BLOCKERS COULD WIPE OUT BILLIONS IN AD REVENUE

PARIS: Mobile Internet sites face a new threat as millions download ad-blockers to their phones and tablets, removing pesky adverts but potentially wiping out billions of dollars in advertising revenue.

There were close to 200 million downloads of ad-blocking software by mid-2015, according to research firm PageFair, but only 1.6 percent of the blocking was done on mobile devices rather than computers.

That could be changing as mobile ad-blocking software becomes increasingly popular across the globe, particularly after the high-profile move by Apple to incorporate it directly into its latest iPhone and iPad operating system iOS9.

The software tends to be cheap and effective. Quickly installed, it reduces the clutter on web pages, speeds up performance and spares users from some of the click-bait that many find hard to stomach.

"When people are even willing to pay to stop adverts, it gives you an idea of how fed up they are," said Hicham Berrada, head of France de Teads, a video advertising firm.

While the Chinese government trawls websites for politically sensitive content, they remain littered with pop-up advertising, forcing millions to buy apps such as "360 Mobilephone Guard".

In Hong Kong, mobile ad-blockers "Purify Blocker" and "Crystal" recently entered the top 30 paid-for iPhone apps. A study by Adobe and PageFair in August said the losses for websites that rely on advertising could be huge—totaling an estimated \$21.8 billion (19.3 billion euros) this year and rising to \$41 billion in 2016.

But few mourn the loss of nuisance publicities, with Hong Kong tech site Unwire.hk recently promoting the blocking apps even though the magazine itself relies on advertising revenue.

"As an employee of Unwire, writing this tutorial does not do good to the boss's livelihood, but I also understand some people do not have unlimited data plans and it's a pain to be receiving data-consuming ad banners," said reviewer Tim Yan.

'SQUAWK WITH CONCERNS'

There is particular concern that Apple's promotion of ad-blocking may bring it into the mainstream, where once it was

reserved for more tech-savvy users.

"It's dangerous because it democratizes ad-blocking and we know how good Apple is at making these things simple for users," said Berrada.

Apple has little to lose, given that it does not rely on advertising revenue in the same way as digital competitors like Google and Facebook.

As a result, Google has been more reluctant to embrace ad-blocking apps, although some third-party developers are offering them for Google's Android mobiles, with one app boasting more than half a million downloads.

"Google doesn't make it easy because it makes most of its money from advertising," Silicon Valley analyst Rob Enderle told AFP. "If advertisers get the sense everyone is blocking ads, they are going to stop funding content," he said.

"There is a big concern. A lot of publishers can't take another re-adjustment in ad revenue. The folks who make the primary money on advertising are starting to squawk with concerns."

Digital media advertising had been forecast to grow 15.7 percent in 2015, according to analysis agency Carat, but that could soon look like a peak.

LIKE PRIVATE TV

"We were in an extremely favourable situation because mobile opened up a huge range of functions that were not available on the web," said Sophie Poncin, head of an Internet advertisers' union in France, highlighting the particular value of GPS positioning for advertisers.

In an industry in which creative destruction is the norm, the ad-men are already reacting to the new environment and calling for change.

Berrada's firm recently published a manifesto urging less-annoying ads: an end to pop-up videos that fill the whole screen and give users the option to skip ones they don't like.

They are also appealing to users to recognise the importance of advertising in keeping the Internet free. "With television, people understand perfectly well that advertising finances private channels," said Poncin. "We never took the time to explain to a user how everything works." — AFP

GITEX WEEK TO SPUR GROWTH OF REGION'S DIGITAL ECOSYSTEM

OVER 3,600 COMPANIES FROM 62 COUNTRIES TO TAKE PART

DUBAI: More than 3,600 companies from over 62 countries are taking part in the 35th edition of the Gitex Technology Week, which is taking place from October 18-22 at the Dubai World Trade Centre.

This year's theme is "The Internet Future of Everything", revolves around the pillars of innovation, connected cloud, big data, mobility and security.

Out of the 3,600 companies, 30 per cent are from the UAE and around eight per cent from Gulf countries.

"For the past many years, 20 per cent of the companies used to be from the UAE and this year many are participating to reflect the strong demand for how Internet of Things technologies such as drones, robotics and 3D printing can impact daily lives and every industry vertical in the Middle East and beyond," said Trixie Loh Mirmand, senior vice-president of Dubai World Trade Centre, organisers of the event.

Aisha Butti Bin Bishr, assistant director general of The Executive Office and Smart Dubai Taskforce leader, said that Dubai is committed to becoming a "global benchmark" for Smart Cities of the future.

"In the last two years, we have been working very closely with our strategic partners to meet the needs of all residents and visitors, from government to education and health care, through a connected and responsive citywide infrastructure.

By 2025, the global Smart Cities market will reach \$3.3 trillion (Dh12.1 trillion), with nearly half of the world's 26 Smart Cities arising in emerging markets such as the Middle East.

"We are continuously reviewing and refining the latest technology innovations, from mobile apps to drones, to understand how we may adopt these tools to make city experiences more seamless, safe, efficient and impactful for all," she said.

Business differentiator

Dima Kandalaft, smart cities leader for Gulf and Levant at IBM, said that Internet of Things is the future and IBM has estab-



DUBAI: Top officials seen during the Press Conference of Gitex Technology Week 2015 at Dubai World Trade Centre.

lished an Internet of Things business unit by investing \$3 billion in developing cloud-based services to serve the industries around the world.

"Over the past year, we have witnessed how technologies are moving from a business enabler to a business differentiator. This year is a milestone. Technology is becoming a game-changer. The digital transformation and the ability the technology allows right now are growing at a rapid pace," said Hannes Liebe, COO of SAP Middle East and North Africa.

By 2020, he said that there is going to be 50 billion connected devices globally

and the business value surround it is going to be around \$14 trillion. In the Middle East, the business value is around \$2 billion. Omar Boulos, regional managing director of Accenture in the Middle East and North Africa, said that digital transformation can boost competitiveness and economic growth, and researches show that unlocking this potential can add trillions to the GDP (gross domestic product) of top global economies.

"This region's appetite for innovation makes it uniquely positioned to take advantage of the digital opportunity," he said.

SELF-DRIVING CARS WON'T SAVE US FOR VERY LONG TIME

WASHINGTON: Each year about 33,000 people in the US die in a car accident. Around the world, that number shoots up to about 1.2 million people. Overwhelmingly, the vast majority of these accidents are preventable. The problem, in large part, is human error. Technology companies and automakers alike are trying to end these unnecessary deaths with self-driving cars. The bet is autonomous vehicles decked with sensors and cameras simply have more data about the car's environment than humans, therefore, the computer can more quickly respond to potential dangers.

But while all the major car companies are investing in this technology, the fact remains that there are a number of hurdles to be addressed before fully autonomous cars can hit the streets in any meaningful way in the US.

Most automakers and industry experts estimate these

vehicles will be on the road closer to 2030. However, technology does already exist that can make cars a lot safer. New cars won't be fully autonomous, but they will do a lot more without humans. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 80% of all accidents occur because of some kind of distraction that happens three seconds before an incident. To help prevent these kinds of accidents, you don't need a fully autonomous vehicle, you just need better safety technology, Michael Backman, a general manager at Mobileye, a tech company that makes the software and tech that enables advanced safety systems, told Tech Insider.

Amazing

About 80 percent of all accidents occur because of a distraction that occurs before an incident. "It's amazing when

you think about it that we allow people to perish at this rate in this country and also around the whole world," Backman said. "It's terrible that this happens and we have the technology to change that right now."

Instead of waiting years for the regulations and technology to be fully developed for fully autonomous vehicles, automakers should already be implementing semi-autonomous systems that help make vehicles safer now.

Many automakers are doing just that

By 2020, almost every major car company plans to have a vehicle with self-driving features—like autonomous driving for the highway, self-braking, and self-parking—available for sale. In fact, in September, 10 major car companies—including Audi, BMW, Ford, General Motors, and Tesla—agreed to make automatic braking a standard feature in their vehicles. This kind of safety technology could help prevent or cut as many as 1,700 deaths caused by rear-end collisions each year. BMW's all-electric i3 can already park itself and Tesla recently rolled out its latest autopilot features, which enables highway autosteer and parallel autopark, as part of a beta program. But new cars aren't the only vehicles getting safer. Consumers and companies are also beginning to retrofit their dumb cars with smart car tech that helps them avoid accidents.

Old cars are also getting a tech update

Mobileye, which provides its technology to auto suppliers and manufacturers, powers 85% of cars with collision avoidance or some kind of driving assistance systems, Backman said. The company's software communicates with sensors and cameras placed on a car to help warn drivers of possible hazards and to power self-driving functions. Tesla, General Motors, Ford, Chrysler, Audi, and BMW are just a few of the companies that use the company's technology.

But Mobileye has another part of its business that uses its technology to basically make dumb cars a lot safer. The product, called Mobileye 5 Series, is a camera-based computer system that attaches to the dashboard to alert the driver to all kinds of hazards. For example, the camera in the system can read speed limits, so it will alert the driver by beeping when they are speeding. It will do the same if the driver is veering out of their lane, tailgating, or if it detects that the vehicle might be on a collision course with a pedestrian or another object.

TOMTOM APPLYING GPS TECHNOLOGY TO SELF-DRIVING CARS, FITNESS WATCHES

BERLIN: GPS device maker TomTom has moved beyond turn-by-turn directions into smartwatches and embedded car software that could be used for self-driving vehicles.

The portable mapping device maker announced in September the release of 24,000 km (roughly 15,000 miles) of highly automated driving (HAD) maps covering Germany's entire highway network. HAD maps are a highly accurate type of 3D mapping technology that enables automated driving vehicles to drive from point A to point B, instead of just sensing what is on the road in front of them.

These types of maps provide self-driving cars with a realistic representation of the road ahead, outlining such things as lane centerlines, lane dividers, road borders, and guard rails, for instance. It can also point out speed limits and lane dividers to keep the car in check and allow it to adjust accordingly.

TomTom has also jumped into fitness with the release of the TomTom Spark watch. This wearable tracks many of the same things as other fitness devices such as steps, mileage and sleep time, but also allows you to listen to your music on the go without your smartphone. It does require a Bluetooth-enabled headset to work, but comes with quite a bit of storage space for plenty of tune options. The watch's 3GB allows for up to 500 songs and can sync via USB cable from your laptop.

Thanks to TomTom's origins in GPS technology, the Spark aims to accurately record mileage, minutes of activity and how many calories you may have burned during that time. The watch also comes with a serious heart rate sensor that the company says rivals that of the Apple Watch.



TOKYO: A model is seen showcasing a robot at the Ceatec Japan 2015 in Tokyo. Over 500 technology companies took part in the electronic trade fair. — AFP

CIGNA DROPS MAIL-ORDER REQUIREMENT FOR HIV DRUGS IN SETTLEMENT

NEW YORK: Health insurer Cigna Corp on Friday agreed to drop its requirement that patients with HIV/AIDS get some of their medications exclusively through its mail-order pharmacy, settling a consumer lawsuit. California-based advocacy group Consumer Watchdog, which announced the settlement on Friday, had sued Cigna in April in Florida federal court on behalf of a Fort Lauderdale man. They claimed the mail-order requirement discriminat-

ed against HIV/AIDS patients in order to boost profits. When the settlement takes effect on Dec 1, Cigna patients will be able to get their drugs at any in-network pharmacy. The group sought to represent a nationwide class of HIV/AIDS patients, but Cigna agreed to the settlement before the court certified the case as a class action.

Consumer Watchdog claimed that Cigna's policy of requiring patients to buy certain high-cost specialty

HIV/AIDS drugs through its mail-order program violated the Affordable Care Act, President Barack Obama's signature healthcare law, which prohibits discriminating on the basis of patients' medical condition. It said the program prevented patients from consulting with knowledgeable local pharmacists about the safety of their drug regimens, ran the risk of compromising their privacy when they received drugs in the mail and, in some cases, made the

drugs more expensive. Patients who paid more than they would have through a local pharmacy will be able to seek reimbursement under the settlement, Consumer Watchdog said. "This settlement will bring to a close a nerve-racking episode for patients with HIV and AIDS who face serious threats to their health and privacy," Jerry Flanagan, lead staff attorney for Consumer Watchdog, said in a press release. Cigna spokeswoman Karen

Eldred said the company had no comment on the settlement, which was finalized in court on Thursday.

Consumer Watchdog reached with United Healthcare and Anthem Blue Cross in July 2014 and June 2013, respectively. The case is John Doe, on behalf of himself and all others similarly situated plaintiffs, v Cigna Health and Life Insurance Co et al, US District Court, Southern District of Florida, No. 15-60894. — Reuters



AJACCIO, France: A man walks by wastes littering in a street at southern Corsica prefecture in Ajaccio on the French Mediterranean island of Corsica, as the island's main landfill is blocked by activists of environmental organizations protesting against plans to enlarge the site. — AFP photos

FRANCE'S CORSICA: FROM 'ISLE OF BEAUTY' TO 'ISLE OF TRASH' 'INTOXICATED BY A SMELL OF FREEDOM'

AJACCIO, France: Corsica, France's lush and feisty Mediterranean "isle of beauty", as it's known, has another nickname, the "scented isle" for its dense fragrant shrubs. Of late the moniker has taken on a tongue-in-cheek twist as the island faced a massive garbage problem. The crisis jettisoned Corsica back into French news headlines thanks to overflowing landfills and malodorous garbage left by the hordes of tourists who flock to

the Mediterranean jewel known for its vast sandy beaches, mountain vistas and rare animal and plant life.

Residents and tourists produce more than 300,000 tons of trash annually on Corsica, or the equivalent of more than 100,000 cars, and landfills are reaching full capacity. Rampant construction on the island also contributes vast amounts of waste. The rubbish problem got so bad that a union shut the landfills and

halted rubbish collections before finally agreeing to return to work late last month for the time being. A burgeoning population contributes to the growing garbage piles, with around 4,000 new residents arriving each year-adding to the 310,000 inhabitants already on the island.

It is not uncommon to see garbage bags in coastal nature reserves, and piled up after mobile homes come through. The crisis of overflowing bins is largely blamed on foreign holidaymakers. During peak tourist season, the population increases by tenfold, and around 20 percent of those tourists are foreigners. Several hikers have been fined for leaving trash on trails, particularly on the popular GR20 — which crosses Corsica diagonally north to south and is considered one of Europe's most beautiful mountain trails-frequented by thousands of tourists every year, according to Michel Acquaviva, head of parks on the island.

Acquaviva said that some of the foreign tourists may feel "intoxicated by a smell of freedom" on the island and dispose of their waste without thinking of the consequences. But that "smell of freedom" is quickly going off. Some

landfills, already saturated with rubbish from surrounding neighbourhoods, are refusing to take waste from other regions. France's Environment Minister Segolene Royal has called for action and urged for more regulation, calling the waste problem "particularly critical on Corsica".

Fed up with the waste

Only around 20 percent of Corsica's waste is recycled, which is close to the national average but well below countries like Germany (47 percent) and Slovenia (55 percent), according to EU's statistics agency Eurostat. This is primarily because waste is not sorted-so people end up tossing everything into the same bin, and it ends up in the same place. Some towns are taking the issue into their own hands. The small village of Girolata, on the western coast of Corsica, recycles around 80 percent of its rubbish, thanks to an efficient sorting system. The town's program works so well that it attracts official delegations, inspired by its waste management model. According to Mayor Francois Alfonsi, Girolata has invested 350,000 euros (HK\$97,000) in waste sorting and treatment. — AP



AJACCIO, France: A woman walks by wastes littering in a street.

US BOOSTS PRIVACY PROTECTION ON HEALTH INSURANCE WEBSITE

WASHINGTON: Responding to criticism from civil liberties advocates, the Obama administration said Friday it has strengthened consumer privacy protections on the government's health insurance website as a new sign-up season nears. HealthCare.gov CEO Kevin Counihan said in a blog post that the web page will have a new 'privacy manager' that lets consumers opt out of embedded connections to third-party advertising, analytics and social media sites. In addition, if a consumer has enabled the "Do Not Track" setting on their browser, the government will automatically honor their preferences as relates to

receiving digital advertising from HealthCare.gov.

The administration originally had said embedded third-party connections helped consumers have a better overall experience on HealthCare.gov. But The Associated Press reported earlier this year that the links could also result in personal information - including age, income, ZIP code, whether a person smokes and if a woman is pregnant - being sent to technology firms involved in marketing and advertising. A civil liberties group that previously had criticized the administration said the latest changes show a strong commitment to protecting privacy. Still,

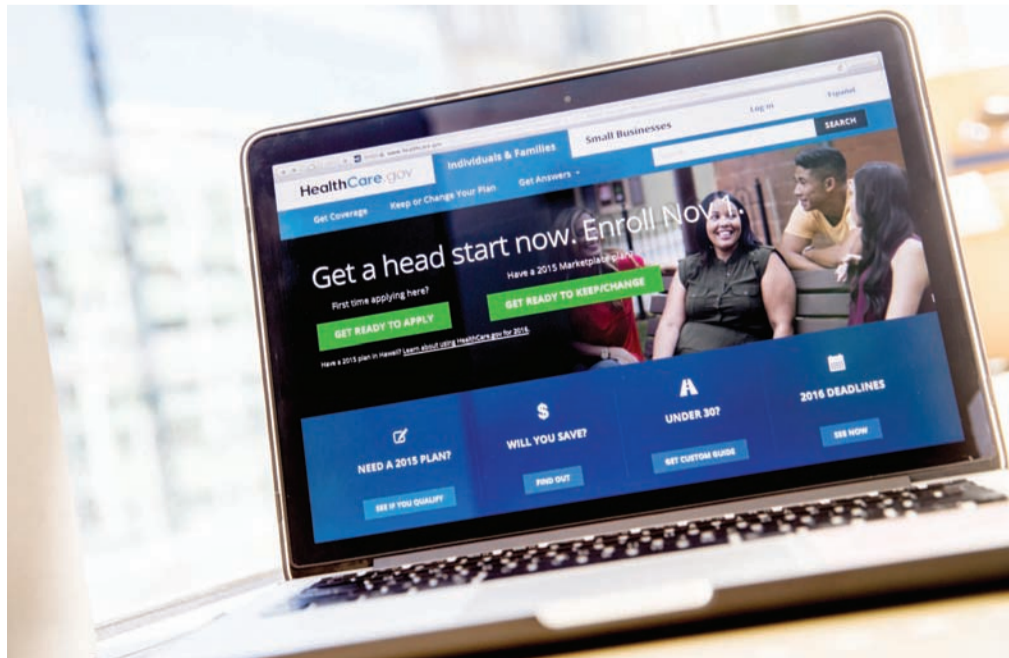
the Electronic Frontier Foundation said there's room for improvement. Administration officials said they are open to that.

Getting subsidized

"We applaud HealthCare.gov's decision to support 'Do Not Track' and give their users strong privacy controls," said Cooper Quintin, a staff technologist with the foundation. "We think that this is a great first step (and) would be thrilled to see more organizations, both public and private, follow their lead." HealthCare.gov's 2016 sign-up season starts Nov. 1, just a few weeks away. This will be the third open enrollment for taxpayer-subsidized private health insurance under President Barack Obama's law, and the administration is focusing on making the online health insurance markets more customer-friendly.

Also in the works are electronic tools to help consumers answer basic questions, such as whether the health plans they're looking at include their doctors and cover their medications. Another new feature will help customers get a better sense of their potential costs, not just premiums but deductibles and copays as well. About 10 million people are getting subsidized private coverage through federal and state insurance markets created by the law. Along with a Medicaid expansion now accepted by a majority of states and an improving economy, it's helped bring the number of uninsured people down to historically low levels - about 9 percent of the population.

The administration expects the remaining 10.5 million eligible uninsured people to be a tougher sell. Health and Human Services Secretary Sylvia M. Burwell says that's because the most eager customers have already enrolled, and many of the remaining uninsured are young adults who may not see the value of coverage or are juggling tight household budgets. — AP



WASHINGTON: In this photo taken Oct 6, 2015, the HealthCare.gov website, where people can buy health insurance, is displayed on a laptop screen. — AP

TAI CHI CAN HELP BUILD STRENGTH, RELIEVE PAIN

LONDON: For people with chronic illnesses ranging from cancer to arthritis, Tai chi exercises may improve walking, build strength and reduce pain, according to a new analysis of past research. The slow and gentle movements of Tai chi, a modified form of an ancient Chinese martial art, may be especially suitable for middle aged and older people with multiple health conditions, the authors write in the British Journal of Sports Medicine.

"Given the fact that many middle-aged and older persons have more than one chronic condition, it is important to examine the benefits of treatment/exercise interventions across several co-existing conditions," lead author Yi-Wen Chen, from the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada, told Reuters Health by email. Chen's team analyzed results from 33 studies that looked at the effects of Tai chi among people with four chronic conditions: cancer, heart failure, osteoarthritis and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), a group of lung disorders that make breathing difficult. Some of them also had additional health problems.

Breathing control

Tai chi is a set of exercises that emphasize breathing control, whole body exercises with bent knees and slow, flowing movements. In addition to strength, it can help to improve posture, balance and concentration, the researchers note. The studies Chen and her colleagues collected had a total of more than 1,500 participants and used Tai chi as an intervention for any of the four chronic conditions.

The researchers assessed the effect of Tai chi on how far a person could walk in six minutes, lower body muscle strength, the time required to go from sitting to standing, quality of life and depression. The researchers also looked at the effects on specific symptoms of certain conditions, such as pain and stiffness in

osteoarthritis and breathing problems for people with COPD.

They found that performance on the six-minute walking test improved for both heart failure and COPD patients. Tai chi also improved knee strength in one heart failure study and one COPD study. Tai chi helped to decrease depression in heart failure patients, while other interventions such as stress management worked better than Tai chi for cancer patients. Tai chi did not improve blood pressure in heart failure patients. For osteoarthritis patients, the time taken to stand up, overall physical function, and general quality of life significantly improved with Tai chi. Symptoms of pain and stiffness were also markedly reduced.

Normal walking

Rhayun Song of Chungnam National University in Korea, who studies Tai chi's effect on osteoarthritis but wasn't involved in this new study, said Tai chi is well suited to people with chronic conditions who may have physical limitations. "Tai chi can be modified according to their physical condition (i.e., in sitting, standing, less bended knees, small steps, etc.) to perform it within their comfort zone," Song said by email.

Song also noted that an advantage of Tai chi over other exercise is the particular style of Tai chi walking, which is different from normal walking. In this exercise, a person first takes an "empty" step, then transfers the weight. This movement explains "why we can expect to see the improvement in knee muscle strength, balance, bone mineral density compared with other types of exercise," Song said. Chen advised that anyone starting a new exercise program should consult with their doctor to ensure it is safe. "This type of exercise can be enjoyable, improve fitness and well-being without aggravating symptoms," she said. — Reuters



FIDGETING WHILE YOU WORK MIGHT BE GOOD FOR YOU

NEW YORK: People who can't resist fidgeting while they work may want to stop trying to kick the habit, because a new study suggests all that toe tapping and pencil rapping may be good for their health. Previous research has linked long stretches of sedentary time - whether facing a computer or watching TV - with poor health outcomes even in people who get plenty of exercise, the researchers note in the American Journal of Preventive Medicine.

But in the new study, among women who sat around for five to six hours a day, heavy fidgeting was linked to a significantly lower mortality risk over the study period than staying perfectly still in their chairs. Janet Cade of the University of Leeds, UK, and her colleagues analyzed survey data from more than 12,000 women about their lifestyles, including how much time they typically spent sitting, how much they fidgeted, whether they exercised and what they ate and drank.

Over the course of about 12 years, on average, the low-fidgeters who were sedentary for at least seven hours a day had a 30 percent higher risk of death compared to those who sat for no more than five hours a day. But among women who fidgeted the most, sitting for five to six hours a day had a 33 percent lower risk of death during the study than being sedentary for less than five hours a day.

"If you have to sit for long periods of time even small movements such as fidgeting could be helpful," Cade said by email. She and her team analyzed survey data collected from 1999 to 2002 when the women were typically in their mid-50s.

About 42 percent of the women reported sitting for less than four hours daily, 32 percent said they were seden-

tary for five to six hours and another 26 percent spent seven to 17 hours a day sitting down. Overall, about 54 percent described themselves as not very fidgety, 20 percent said they fidgeted occasionally and about 27 reported a strong impulse to fidget most of the time.

Fruits and vegetables

The self-proclaimed habitual fidgeters got significantly more exercise and sleep than their calmer peers, but they also appeared less likely to eat fruits and vegetables and more prone to drinking and smoking. One shortcoming of the study is its reliance on the women to accurately report how much time they spent fidgeting and sitting, the authors acknowledge. They also didn't account for the women's weight.

It's also possible that although the study accounted for exercise, the data may not have painted a complete picture of whether or not women were constantly in motion as they went about their daily lives, noted Robert Newton, Jr, an exercise expert at the Pennington Biomedical Research Center in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

"We currently do not know how vigorously people need to fidget to get a potential benefit," Newton, who wasn't involved in the study, said by email.

Fidgetiness may also be a marker of a person who is hard-wired to move around a lot, said Dr James Levine, a researcher at Arizona State University and the Mayo Clinic in Scottsdale, Arizona. "The fidget itself is actually a reflection of the brain sending out a signal to get moving," said Levine, who wasn't involved in the study. "If you can get out and walk around you do that, but if you are stuck behind a desk with a pile of work to do then you just make all the little movements you can." — Reuters

AFTER GIRAFFE, DANISH CHILDREN TO WATCH LION DISSECTION



DENMARK: A photo taken on February 9, 2014 shows a zoo vet carrying out a dissection autopsy on a perfectly healthy young giraffe named Marius who was shot dead at Copenhagen zoo on despite an online petition to save it signed by thousands of animal lovers. — AFP

COPENHAGEN: A Danish zoo said it would dissect a lion in front of children, undeterred by the international outrage that hit a Copenhagen zoo that last year did the same thing to a giraffe. "The reason we are dissecting it is that we believe there is a lot of education involved in dissecting a lion," Michael Wallberg Sorensen, a zookeeper at the Odense Zoo in central Denmark, told AFP. The animal was put down nine months ago because the zoo had too many lions and it has since been kept in a freezer.

It will be dissected on Thursday next week, to coincide with Denmark's autumn school break, in front of a crowd that is expected to include children as well as adults. "Although we are in contact with a lot of other zoos and try to relocate them, we can get a surplus," Sorensen said, explaining the reason why it was put down. The zoo has performed public dissections of lions in the past without prompting any negative reactions, he added.

Visitors are mostly "really interested in it and find it interesting to see a lion that up close," he said. A Copenhagen zoo prompted a storm of criticism in February last year for putting down a healthy giraffe and dissecting it in front of children.

The zoo's scientific director received death threats after Marius, a healthy 18-month-old giraffe, was put down despite numerous offers for him to be rehoused and thousands signing an online petition to save him. After the dissection the animal's meat was fed to lions. In Denmark, where farming is an important part of the economy, schoolchildren sometimes visit slaughterhouses on tours that include watching pigs on the slaughter line. Many Danes were surprised and even angered by what has been dubbed Marius-gate, and the Copenhagen Zoo's scientific director Bengt Holst was among those decrying the "Disney story" shaping many people's view of zoo creatures. — AFP

GUN VIOLENCE RESEARCHERS BECOMING AN ENDANGERED SPECIES?

'IF IT'S NOT A PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUE, WHY ARE SO MANY PEOPLE DYING?'

NEW YORK: Amid the bloodbaths of 21st-century America, you might think that there would be a lot of research into the causes of gun violence, and which policies work best against it. You would be wrong. Gun interests, wary of any possible limits on weaponry, have successfully lobbied for limitations on government research and funding, and private sources have not filled the breach. So funding for basic gun violence research and data collection remains minuscule - the annual sum total for all gun violence research projects appears to be well under \$5 million. A grant for a single study in areas like autism, cancer or HIV can be more than twice that much.

There are public health students who want to better understand rising gun-related suicide rates, recent explosions in firearm murders in many US cities, and mass murders like the one this month at an Oregon community college, where a lone gunman killed nine people. But many young researchers are staying away from the field. Some believe there's little hope Congress will do anything substantive to reduce gun violence, regardless of what scientists find. And the work is stressful - many who study gun violence report receiving angry emails and death threats from believers in unrestricted gun ownership.

Unintentional shooting

Currently, guns rank among the top five killers of people ages 1 to 64, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Deaths from gunfire have been holding steady at about 32,000 a year, with nearly half of them occurring in the South. But while the rates for gun murders and unintentional shooting deaths have been falling, firearm suicides - which account for 60 percent of gun deaths - have been rising. And nonfatal shooting injuries have reached their highest level since 1995.

US health researchers began to take a hard look at gun violence about 30 years ago, when firearm homicide rates were climbing to what were described as epidemic proportions. "The line is: 'If it's not a public health issue, why are so many people dying?'" said Philip Cook, a

Duke University economist who in the 1970s began studying the impact of guns on society.

The CDC, the federal government's lead agency for the detection and prevention of health threats, took an early leading role in fostering more research into violence. But beginning in the 1980s, the National Rifle Association tried to discredit CDC-funded studies, accusing the agency and the researchers the agency funded of incompetence and falsifying data. NRA officials in Washington did not respond to repeated AP requests for comment for this story.

In 1996, lawmakers sympathetic to the NRA took the \$2.6 million CDC had budgeted for firearm injury research and earmarked it for traumatic brain injury. Congressional Republicans also included language directing that no CDC injury research funding could go to research that might be used, in whole or in part, to advocate or promote gun control.

Violence research

Exactly what that language meant wasn't clear. But CDC officials, aware of how vulnerable their injury research center was becoming, ultimately adopted a conservative interpretation. The agency ceased to be the main engine driving gun violence research. With the CDC largely out of the picture, gun violence researchers turned to other sources. But there wasn't much. The field withered, with limited funding and not much new blood. In the last decade, funding for gun violence grew so tight that Dr. Garen Wintemute, a long-time gun violence researcher at the University of California at Davis, spent more than \$1 million of his own money to keep different gun violence research projects going.

Much of the research that has been done has had to be relatively simple - based on small surveys or on what limited data has been collected on guns and on gun-related injuries and deaths. As state and federal officials debate gun laws or violence prevention programs, it's often not clear how well they'll work. To answer such questions, researchers ideally would like to know the exact number, type, and distribution of guns, as well as who owns

them and where people got them. They'd like to know how and where they're stored, and to track use of gun safety courses.

That's all key data for determining actual risk and what actions best reduce risk. Researchers have wondered if there will be a turning point that might cause more people to advocate for research. Then came the December 2012 carnage in Newtown, Connecticut, where an armed 20-year-old man entered an elementary school and used a semiautomatic rifle to slay 20 first graders and six adult school staff members before killing himself. It was the deadliest mass slaying at a school in US history.

Little impact

The White House directed the CDC to research the causes and prevention of gun violence. The actions included a call for Congress to provide \$10 million to the CDC for gun violence research. The prestigious Institute of Medicine convened a special committee of experts to develop a research agenda. But Congress did not budget money to the CDC for gun violence research. It didn't strip away the legislative language that had chilled CDC activity on guns, either. The research agenda was not formally adopted by anybody.

Some young researchers are put off by the frustration of working in a field where their findings would likely be politicized, and have little impact. Worried about ensuring a flow of funding, even those most intrigued by gun violence must spend a lot of time working on other topics.

Meanwhile, the longtime leaders in gun violence research aren't getting any younger; many are in their 60s and 70s. Some, worried that the field may soon shrink through attrition, are working hard to recruit successors. Dr. Michael Levas, a young researcher in Milwaukee, is drawn to the area of gun violence, and fascinated by its potential, but he won't commit to it. "If the climate was right and the funding was there, it would make sense to focus on gun violence prevention," he said. "But right now, it would be a dead end." — AP

MANY BABIES EXPOSED TO UNNECESSARY PAIN IN RESEARCH

Babies often suffer unnecessary pain in clinical studies, potentially breaching international standards for ethical research, according to a new review of the medical literature. Even when proven pain relievers existed, nearly two-thirds of studies involving painful procedures in newborns included a group of babies who got no treatment for their discomfort, researchers found.

"We are urging parents and ethics review boards to refuse studies that do not provide acceptable analgesia to all babies enrolled in studies, if such pain relief exists," they wrote in *Acta Paediatrica*, a medical journal, online September 21. "In addition we are calling on medical journals to refuse to publish studies that deny pain relief to control infants undergoing painful procedures." Research shows babies experience pain more powerfully than adults, according to Celeste Johnston, one of the report's two authors and an emeritus professor at the Ingram School of Nursing at McGill University in Montreal, Canada.

Physiological changes

That's partly because nerve pathways that help block painful sensations are not yet fully developed, and the receptive fields of nerve cells processing sensory input are larger. That means a small prick in the heel might hurt all the way up to the knee, Johnston, past-president of the Canadian Pain Society, told Reuters Health. Apart from the pain, minor procedures also cause measurable physiological changes in babies - their blood pressure and heart rate go up, their blood oxygen level drops, and potentially harmful molecules called free radicals are released into their bloodstream.

"If you have a (pain) treatment that is established, then it's unethical to withhold it even in a clinical trial," said Johnston. Doing so, she added, goes against the Declaration of Helsinki, a set of ethical principles guiding research worldwide. Dr. Joe Brierley, who until recently chaired the Bloomsbury Research Ethics Committee in London and was not involved in the new work, agreed with that message.

"We would not have allowed one of these studies through in our committee," Brierley, of Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children in London, told Reuters Health. "We would be like, 'What do you mean you're not going to give

these babies pain killers?'" For their review, Johnston and Dr. Carlo Bellieni, a bioethicist and specialist in newborn care at Siena University Hospital in Italy, combed through clinical trials published between 2013 and June of this year.

Trial participants are usually divided into two groups, one of which receives the treatment under investigation. The other group, called the control or comparator group, may receive an inactive placebo, an established treatment, or nothing at all. Then researchers compare the outcomes in the two groups.

Bellieni and Johnston looked specifically for studies in newborns examining various methods of pain relief for procedures like heel pokes or needle pricks, which, as they note, are labeled as minor "although the pain they produce is far from minor." They found that in 32 of 46 trials, or 70 percent, babies in the control groups were exposed to painful procedures while receiving no treatment to ease their discomfort. Focusing on the 36 trials involving procedures for which tried-and-tested pain relief exists, 23, or 64 percent, nonetheless used a placebo or no treatment in the control group. For instance, just one out of seven studies where babies had blood drawn provided pain relief to the control group. Reuters Health emailed the researchers behind three of these studies - one in Australia, one in Brazil and one in Malaysia - for comments, but received no reply.

Analgesic creams

While a needle prick may seem trifling to many adults, studies show they cause "severe" pain in babies, ranging from 5.4 to 6.4 on the Neonatal Infant Pain Scale, where 0 is no pain and 7 is maximum pain. There are several proven ways to ease that pain: A few drops of sugar water, breast feeding, skin-to-skin contact and analgesic creams all do the trick. "Everybody knows that effective analgesia exists," Bellieni told Reuters Health. Except in cases where "for compelling and scientifically sound methodological reasons the use of placebo is necessary," the Declaration of Helsinki requires researchers to use the "best current proven intervention" in the control group. There could many reasons why researchers choose to withhold pain relief in clinical trials. — Reuters

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Kuwait Times

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GUST MASS COMMUNICATION AND MEDIA DEPARTMENT HONORS ITS OUTSTANDING STUDENTS



Gulf University for Science and Technology's (GUST) Mass Communication and Media Department, held a welcome event for its new and current students on Wednesday. A full program was set in place to discuss the departmental structure, its faculty, courses, in addition to honoring its high-achieving students for their excellent academic records.

The event included a full line-up of informative speakers including, faculty, alumni, the Student Success Center, and student clubs. The presenters discussed different aspects of their relationship to the Mass Communication and Media Department, and shared information that is beneficial not only to new students, but also to current students. In addition, the

department showed videos of their various activities, including their aid-work abroad internship, their annual student-faculty conferences, and a host of other innovations available to students in the department. The event concluded with an honoring ceremony for the department's high-achieving students, who have accumulated and maintained GPAs of 3.5 and above.

Dr Fahed Al-Sumait, Assistant Professor and MCM Department Chair, said, "I am very proud of our students and what they have accomplished, and hope that they set a good example for new students and inspire them to do the same. We have hosted this event several times and it has proven to be beneficial in getting students on the right track; which is exactly what we want for them, to be able to perform their

best in their courses and in the careers that will follow."

Congratulations to all outstanding students: RazanSifan, EngySobieh, Abdullatif ALDousari, RamziAbouGhaliom, ReemALWeqayan, NajlaAl Sager, ReemLawand, Abdulaziz Al Khalaf, Maram Ahmed, Shaikhah AL-Omar, Ahmad Al Bahar, YousifALSadoon, Muneerah Al Mulla, Humoud Al Mesanea, Abdalaziz Ahmad, ReemKaafarani, MaisShewaikani, Dima Al Hamad, Bashayer AlBaqer, Salem Al Mathkour, Zahraa El Tawil, Lama Arikat, Fahad Al Dugaishim, Abdallah Al Enezi, and Reem Al Tukhaim.

GUST wishes all its students continued success in their fields, and looks forward to celebrating all their achievements with them.

CITYSCAPE LAUNCHES INAUGURAL KUWAIT BUSINESS BREAKFAST

For the first time in Kuwait, Cityscape will host a Business Breakfast for developers, investors and key stakeholders of the real estate market to discuss local and global real estate investment trends. This exclusive event, to be held on October 18, 2015 at the JW Marriott Hotel in Kuwait City, introduces some of the most important themes that will take place during the upcoming Cityscape Kuwait event, the premier real estate investment and development event, being held on December 9-11 at the Kuwait International Fairgrounds in Mishref.

Set in an intimate environment, the Business Breakfast will feature an elite panel of experts providing key insights into the industry. It is designed to stimulate debate and discussion, while being a comfortable platform for decision-makers to build new relationships and network with their peers. "We are pleased to hold the first ever Kuwait Business Breakfast," said Deep Marwaha, Group Director of Informa, the organizers of Cityscape Kuwait. "The event is a preview to Cityscape Kuwait and introduces many of the key themes from the show - such as opportunities and issues in the local market, as well as providing insight into global investment hotspots including Turkey, Britain and Spain, among others," he asserted.

Marwaha confirms that the launch of the Business Breakfast is in reflection of the huge response Cityscape has received from the Kuwaiti market. "We are grateful for the support of the industry for our Cityscape event in Kuwait, particularly all the government organizations, our exhibitors and sponsors, and those high caliber industry experts who will participate in the Business Breakfast," he added.

The elite panel that is chosen to speak at the Kuwait Business Breakfast consists of experts from a cross-section of the business world. From the media sector, Ahmed Bou Merhi, Head of Kuwaiti Business News at AlArabiya and Head of the Business Department at Alnaba Newspaper, will be moderating the panel. He asserted that the Kuwait Business Breakfast is a much-needed event to shed light on the industry's development in Kuwait and around the world.

"With the challenging situation that Kuwait and the GCC are facing as a consequence of the drop in oil prices, investors in Kuwait are moving now from stock markets to real estate to save their investments and returns, and also to hedge against the decline of oil and shares. Therefore, Cityscape Kuwait comes in time to focus on the changes in the macro-economy and their influ-



ence on the real estate sector," he said. Nasser Faisal Alkhaleed, Head of Real Estate Funds at Global Investment House who is also a panelist at the

Business Breakfast, said, "I am pleased to be participating in the Cityscape Kuwait Business Breakfast. The issues and topics we will discuss are of interest

to all businesspeople. As an investment professional, the Business Breakfast is the perfect platform to meet investors interested in property

globally and to share my views on what the latest investment trends are," he remarked. Alkhaleed confirmed that "Cityscape Kuwait is a great source of proprietary knowledge of the most recent developments in the international real estate space where investors, end users or anyone interested in real estate can obtain current updates on opportunities globally."

Other panelists at the Kuwait Business Breakfast include Mr Rami Echo, Chief Investment Officer for Al Argan and Bassam Al-Othman, Executive Vice-President, Kuwait Financial Centre - Markaz. Al Othman commented "Cityscape Kuwait is the best venue to exchange information on the latest developments in the Kuwait real estate market. For Markaz, the exhibition facilitates building relationships with local, regional and international investors and other parties interested in the Kuwait real estate market. I am pleased to join the Kuwait Business Breakfast, which is a preview of December's Cityscape Kuwait, to give my thoughts on the industry."

The Cityscape Kuwait Business Breakfast is open to all members of the real estate and investment communities. You can find more details about the event by visiting www.cityscapekuwait.com.



NSH CONDUCTS DEFENSIVE DRIVING PROGRAM

Nasser S Al Hajri Corporation (NSH), as part of its efforts to encourage positive road behavior, teamed up the employees in Kuwait to hold a special event. The event mainly targeted young drivers. The program seeks to transform the junior engineers

into road safety ambassadors of NSH through interactive presentations to practice safe driving habits in Kuwait. Corporate HR Head Pani J Anthony, in his inaugural address, said: "This initiative is further evidence of the success and importance of the Road Safety program in

improving driving conditions in Kuwait." This program included in-depth training sessions for the young drivers. The features in this session included the responsibility that falls on to teach drivers to protect not only their safety but that of others was stressed. One-on-one ses-

sions in this program helped them to become better drivers and also showed participants how quickly road conditions could change, emphasizing the need to always be aware.

"With the aim of working together to support our efforts, particularly with drivers, this oppor-

tunity will instill correct driving behaviors in our young drivers from the start and ultimately decrease the number of accidents in Kuwait" said the Safety Director Mike. The drivers attending this program said: "The program is amazing and helpful to be alert in road behaviors"

MALAYSIAN EMBASSY KICKS OFF FIRST NATIONAL SPORTS DAY

The Embassy of Malaysia held its first sports day in Kuwait on Saturday morning in celebration of its country's national sports day. The Ambassador of Malaysia to Kuwait Ahmad Rozian Abd Ghani spearheaded the said occasion held in the grounds of the embassy.

In his opening remarks Ambassador Abd Ghani mentioned that the sports day hopes to bring all Malaysian together wherever they are in the world. It also helps create awareness on the importance of health and exercise through sports activities. "The National Sports Day is celebrated on second Saturday of the month of October all over the world" The

Malaysian envoy also added that Malaysia has taken its place among the icons of Olympics to name a few; World Badminton Player Datuk Lee Chong Wei, Asia's fastest man Datuk M Jegathesan, Victorious Malaysian team of the 60s, World squash champion Nicol David and many others.

He also expressed his gratitude to all Malaysian who gave their support to their contingents who participated in the Asian shooting championship in October and he also urged nationals to support the Malaysian players who will compete in December in Kuwait. The event commenced with an Islamic prayer and the singing of the Malaysian

National Anthem. Fifteen minutes warm up of Cardio Zumba led by Gym Team instructors Ricky Laxa of The Viking Club of the Radisson Blu hotel and Jam of Rush Gym kicked off the event.

Tokens of appreciation were given later to the instructors. A series of matches of darts, chess, badminton and table tennis followed and the event culminated with the awarding of prizes to the winners. "We thank everyone who volunteered to make this event possible and to all those who prepared refreshments and food for everyone and everyone who participated in the occasion" said the Malaysian Ambassador.





Dr Najlaa Al-Sayyed

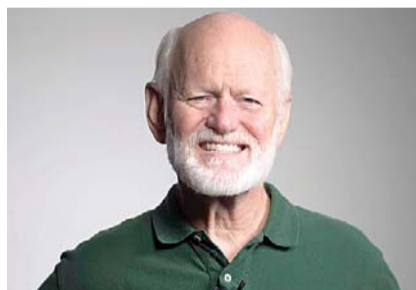


C.A.N's Hanna Al-Ali

As October marks the month of breast cancer awareness, Cancer Aware Nation (C.A.N) is carrying out an intensive campaign to spread the word among women about the importance of regular testing and following up to keep this disease at bay. Dr Najlaa Al-Sayyed, from Kuwait Cancer Control Center gave a lecture organized by C.A.N in cooperation with Al-Sayer Holding Group for female employees and administrators. Al-Sanabel Al-Thahabiya and Sebamed are among the sponsors of the campaign.

LEADERSHIP THINKER - MARSHALL GOLDSMITH - OFFERS UP ESSENTIAL GUIDELINES TO ACCELERATE SUCCESS

Vigor Events - in co-operation with Al Gas events- presents 'What Got You Here Won't Get You There' - a one day seminar with the World's #1 Leadership Thinker and the author of 34 books on Leadership strategies - Dr Marshall Goldsmith.



This powerful, solution-based seminar is designed to help individuals practice a proven model for leadership development, coaching and team building through creating and executing a developmental action plan that involves their peers and includes a plan for ongoing follow-up. Marshall's straight forward approach will help middle and senior managers gain skills, insights, and techniques to pinpoint key factors that hold them back from the ultimate experience of effective leadership and guide them to preemptively fix those behaviors. He will show attendees how to go beyond the traditional "To Do" list and work on their "To Stop" list. It is worth mentioning that Dr Goldsmith is the author of 34 books,

which have sold over two million copies, been translated into 30 languages and become bestsellers in 12 countries. He has written two New York Times best-sellers, MOJO and What Got You Here Won't Get You There - a Wall Street Journal #1 business book and winner of the Harold Longman Award for Business Book of the Year. Marshall's global professional acknowledgments include: Harvard Business Review - World's #1 Leadership Thinker, Institute for Management Studies - Lifetime Achievement Award (one of only two ever awarded), American Management Association - 50 great thinkers and leaders who have influenced the field of management over the past 80 years, BusinessWeek - 50 great leaders in America, Wall Street Journal - top ten executive educators, Forbes. His recent clients include IBM, Toyota, Johnson & Johnson, 3M, Linkage, Herman miller, GSK & Goldman Sachs. The 'What Got You Here Won't Get You There' seminar will take place on the 20th of October 2015 from 9:00AM to 4:00PM at Hilton Kuwait Resort as part of the Knowledge Club 2015 series which is sponsored by Zain Telecommunication Company as the lead sponsor, QualityNet as the Silver sponsor, Warba Insurance as Event Sponsor, ABK as Strategic Partner, Corporate Sponsors are Kuwait Petroleum Corporation and Kuwait Oil Company, Equate as Success Partner, and media support from the International Advertising Association-Kuwait Chapter.



US UNIVERSITIES TO SPEAK WITH STUDENTS

On Tuesday, October 22nd, a group of admissions counselors representing a variety of accredited universities from across the United States will be speaking with students at the Marina Hotel Kuwait from 6:00 - 9:00 pm. Prior to the fair at 5:30pm, there will be a presentation called: "How to prepare a winning application." The event, which is free and open to the public, is organized by Linden Educational Services,

an organization dedicated to helping students from around the world connect with prestigious US universities. For the past 20 years, Linden has been visiting Kuwait and helping students pursue their goals in higher education. Linden works closely with EducationUSA and AMIDEAST to ensure events of the highest caliber. University admissions officers visiting Kuwait this year represent a wide variety of schools in the United States, from large, public universities

to small, private colleges. The range of academic programs at these schools is extensive, and while most schools offer Business, Marketing and Engineering programs, students will also find schools offering degrees in the sciences, fine arts and liberal arts. To learn more about participating universities and to register for the fair, please visit us online at www.LindenTours.com or find us on Facebook as "Linden Educational Services."

ABK WISHES YOU A HAPPY ISLAMIC NEW YEAR

ABK announced that during the Islamic New Year holiday, its branches and the head office will be closed from Wednesday 14th October 2015 to Saturday 17th October 2015, in line with the timing set by the Kuwait Banking Association (KBA). The Bank will resume its regular working hours on Sunday 18th October 2015. ABK's online services and Call Center will be available 24 hours a day during the holiday and can be reached by con-

tacting an ABK representative via 'Ahi Chat' or a customer service agent via 'AhiAnAhi' at 1899899. On the occasion of the Islamic New Year, ABK's board members, management and staff, would like to extend its warmest wishes to the Amir of the State of Kuwait, His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and to the Kuwaiti government and its people.



AL-MULLA MUSIC CONCERT

Al Mulla International Exchange Co, the premier exchange company in Kuwait conducted musical concerts for their clients at the American International School in Maidan Hawally. This was the company's 114th and 115th show. The concerts were a tribute to the musical genius of RD Burman, a legendary musical composer. Rahul Dev Burman (RD Burman) was an Indian film score composer, who is considered one of the seminal music

directors of the Indian film industry. From the 1960s to the 1990s, RD Burman composed musical scores for 331 movies. He was mainly active in the Hindi film industry as a composer, and also provided vocals for a few of compositions. RD Burman did major work with Asha Bhosle (his wife) and Kishore Kumar, and scored many of the songs that made these singers famous. He also scored many songs sung by Lata Mangeshkar. He served as an

influence to the next generation of Indian music directors, and his songs continue to be popular in India even after his death. Playback singers from India, Prithvi Gandharv and Prathibha Singh took the excited crowd assembled at American International School through the musical journey of the versatile musician. As always, these events are done free for the customers of Al Mulla Exchange.

BBC lifestyle

- 00:15 Bargain Hunt
01:55 Homes Under The Hammer
03:40 Come Dine With Me
05:35 Vacation Vacation Vacation
06:00 The Roux Legacy
06:30 Michela's Classic Italian
07:00 Bargain Hunt
07:45 Come Dine With Me
08:10 Building Dream Homes
09:10 Rachel Khoo's Kitchen
Notebook: Cosmo Cook
09:35 Masterchef: The Professionals
10:30 The Roux Legacy
11:05 Homes Under The Hammer
11:55 Beat My Build
12:40 Building Dream Homes
13:40 Rachel Khoo's Kitchen
Notebook: Cosmo Cook
14:05 Masterchef: The Professionals
15:00 The Roux Legacy
15:35 Homes Under The Hammer
16:25 Beat My Build
17:10 Bargain Hunt
17:55 Come Dine With Me
18:20 Phil Spencer: Secret Agent - Specials
19:10 Bill's Kitchen: Notting Hill
19:35 Marbella Mansions
20:20 The Planners
21:10 Antiques Roadshow
22:05 Come Dine With Me
22:30 Bargain Hunt
23:25 Phil Spencer: Secret Agent - Specials

Discovery Channel HD

- 00:20 Fast N' Loud
01:10 Walking The Nile
02:00 For The Love Of Cars
02:50 Patrick Dempsey: Racing Le Mans
03:40 Container Wars
04:05 Dallas Car Sharks
04:30 Baggage Battles
05:00 How It's Made: Dream Cars
05:30 How Do They Do It?
06:00 Ice Cold Gold
06:50 Extreme Car Hoarders
07:40 Fast N' Loud
08:30 Container Wars
08:55 Dallas Car Sharks
09:20 Baggage Battles
09:45 How It's Made: Dream Cars
10:10 How Do They Do It?
10:35 Railroad Alaska
11:25 For The Love Of Cars
12:15 Patrick Dempsey: Racing Le Mans
13:05 Container Wars
13:30 Dallas Car Sharks
13:55 Baggage Battles
14:20 Ice Cold Gold
15:10 Extreme Car Hoarders
16:00 Fast N' Loud
16:50 How It's Made: Dream Cars
17:45 How Do They Do It?
17:40 Deadliest Catch
18:30 Outback Truckers
19:20 Survive That!
20:10 Dallas Car Sharks
20:35 Baggage Battles
21:00 Deadliest Catch
21:50 Outback Truckers
22:40 Manhunt With Joel Lambert
23:30 Extreme Car Hoarders

More

- 00:00 The Soup
00:30 WAGs
01:25 We Have Issues
01:50 Sex With Brody
02:20 E! News
03:15 Extreme Close-Up
03:40 Extreme Close-Up
04:10 E!ES
05:05 Beyond Candid With Giuliana
06:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
06:55 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
07:50 Style Star
08:20 E! News
09:15 Giuliana & Bill
10:15 Giuliana & Bill
11:10 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills
11:35 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills
12:05 E! News
13:05 We Have Issues
13:35 The Grace Helbig Show
14:05 Hollywood Cycle
15:00 Kourtney And Khloe Take The Hamptons
16:00 Kourtney And Khloe Take The Hamptons
17:00 Stewarts And Hamiltons
18:00 E! News
19:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
20:00 Hollywood Cycle
21:00 Hollywood Cycle
22:00 WAGs
23:00 Sex With Brody
23:30 Fashion Bloggers

itv CHOICE

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

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CHANNEL HD

- 00:10 Wicked Tuna
01:00 9/10: The Final Hours
02:55 Richard Hammond's Wildest Weather
03:50 Money Meltdown
04:45 Doomsday Preppers
05:40 Big, Bigger, Biggest
06:35 Megastructures

- 07:30 Richard Hammond's Wildest Weather
08:25 The Great Serengeti
09:20 Wild Case Files
10:15 Megastructures
11:10 Building Wild
12:05 Cabin Fever
13:00 Years Of Living Dangerously
14:00 Richard Hammond's Wildest Weather
15:00 Megastructures
16:00 World's Most Extreme
17:00 Building Wild
18:00 Engineering Connections
19:00 Megastructures
20:00 World's Most Extreme
20:50 Building Wild
21:40 Engineering Connections
22:30 Megastructures
23:20 Big, Bigger, Biggest

COMEDY

- 00:00 Two And A Half Men
00:30 About A Boy
01:00 The Nightly Show With Larry Wilmore
01:30 Comedians
02:00 Man Seeking Woman
02:30 Comedy Central Stand-Up
03:30 The Goldbergs
04:00 Mulaney
04:30 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
06:00 Men At Work
06:30 Til Death
07:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
08:00 Mulaney
10:30 Til Death
11:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
12:00 Men At Work
12:30 Mulaney
13:30 Til Death
14:00 The Goldbergs
15:30 About A Boy
16:00 The Nightly Show With Larry Wilmore
16:30 Men At Work
17:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
18:00 Brooklyn Nine-Nine
18:30 The Goldbergs
19:00 Hot In Cleveland
20:00 Community
20:30 Bad Judge
21:00 About A Boy
21:30 Last Week Tonight With John Oliver
22:05 The Brink
22:30 Ballers
23:00 Getting On
23:30 Community

COMEDY

- 00:00 Downton Abbey
01:00 The Americans
02:00 How To Get Away With Murder
03:00 Strike Back
03:00 Red Band Society
07:00 Glee
08:00 Chicago Fire
09:00 Scandal
10:00 Red Band Society
11:00 Glee
12:00 Emmerdale
12:30 Coronation Street
14:00 Chicago Fire
15:00 Red Band Society
16:30 Emmerdale
17:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
18:00 Chicago Fire
19:00 Scandal
20:00 Switched At Birth
21:00 Quantico
22:00 Homeland
23:00 The Leftovers

MORE

- 02:00 Good Morning America
03:00 Salem
04:00 Grimm
06:00 Good Morning America
07:00 Emmerdale
07:30 Coronation Street
09:00 Suits
10:00 Emmerdale
10:30 Coronation Street
12:00 Switched At Birth
13:00 Supernatural
14:00 Live Good Morning America
16:00 Suits
17:00 Switched At Birth
18:00 Supernatural
19:00 Suits
20:00 Switched At Birth
21:00 Supernatural
22:00 Salem

ACTION

- 00:00 Let The Bullets Fly
02:15 Alien 3

- 04:15 Destruction: Las Vegas
06:00 Prisoners Of The Sun
08:00 Star Trek
10:15 A Stranger In Paradise
12:00 Android Cop
14:00 Son Of Batman
15:45 Star Trek
18:00 Percy Jackson And The Lightning Thief
20:15 Android Cop
22:00 G.I. Joe: The Rise Of Cobra

ACTION

- 00:15 Alien 3-PG15
02:15 Destruction: Las Vegas
04:00 Prisoners Of The Sun-PG15
06:00 Star Trek-PG15
08:15 A Stranger In Paradise-PG15
10:00 Android Cop-PG15
12:00 Son Of Batman-PG15
13:45 Star Trek-PG15
16:00 Percy Jackson And The Lightning Thief-PG15
18:15 Android Cop-PG15
20:00 G.I. Joe: The Rise Of Cobra
22:00 Guardians Of The Galaxy

COMEDY

- 00:00 Tim And Eric's Billion Dollar Movie
02:00 The Waterboy
04:00 The Love Guide
06:00 The Pretty One
08:00 You Again
10:00 The Love Guide
12:00 The Waterboy
14:00 Until She Came Along
16:00 You Again
18:00 HairBraided
20:00 Renaissance Man
22:15 John Dies At The End

DRAMA

- 01:00 Atlas Shrugged Part 2: The Strike-PG15
03:00 Ashes-PG15
05:00 Philomena-PG15
07:00 Return To Nim's Island-PG
09:00 Middle Of Nowhere-PG15
11:00 Philomena-PG15
13:00 Little Red-PG15
15:00 Kon-Tiki-PG15
17:00 Middle Of Nowhere-PG15
19:00 Reasonable Doubt-PG15
21:00 Zulu-PG15
23:00 Horns-18

FESTIVAL

- 01:30 Carrington
03:30 1911
05:15 Temptation: Confessions Of A Marriage Counselor
07:15 Se Puder... Dirija!
09:00 Awakenings
11:15 Temptation: Confessions Of A Marriage Counselor
13:15 Five Thirteen
15:00 The Secret Life Of Bees
17:00 Awakenings
19:15 The Double
21:00 Julie And Julia
23:30 Cold Creek Manor

ACTION

- 01:00 Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues-PG15
03:00 When The Game Stands Tall-PG15
05:00 The Butler-PG15
07:15 Brick Mansions-PG15
09:00 Paranoia-PG15
11:00 Bears-PG
13:00 High Moon-PG15
15:00 Good Deeds-PG15
17:00 Paranoia-PG15
19:00 Edge Of Tomorrow-PG15
21:00 By The Gun-18
23:00 Bad Words-18

KIDS

- 01:15 Ghatotkach - Master Of Magic
03:00 Saving Santa
04:30 Krazzy Planet
06:00 Minuscule: Valley Of The Lost Ants
08:00 Hatching
09:45 Niko 2: Little Brother, Big Trouble
11:15 Tarzan (2013)
13:00 Saving Santa
14:30 Pim And Pim: The Big Adventure
16:00 JLA: Adventures: Trapped In Time
18:00 Niko 2: Little Brother, Big Trouble
20:00 The Adventures Of Don Quixote

OSN MOVIES HD PREMIERE

- 00:15 300: Rise Of An Empire-18
02:30 The Expendables 3-PG15
04:45 Billy Elliot The Musical
07:45 The Monuments Men-PG15
09:45 The Past-PG15
12:00 The Expendables 3-PG15
14:15 Avengers Confidential: Black Widow & Punisher-PG15
15:45 The Monuments Men-PG15
17:45 The Grand Budapest Hotel
19:45 Anna Nicole-PG15
21:45 Oculus-PG15
23:45 Not Safe For Work-PG15

STAR MOVIES

- 01:15 Mrs. Miracle
03:00 Meet Bill
04:30 The Rig
06:00 Inferno
07:45 Piranha 3D
09:00 The Stone Council
10:45 Instinct
12:45 Frankenweenie
14:15 Mrs. Miracle
16:00 Spy Kids 4
17:30 The Help
20:00 Unbreakable
21:45 The Nines
23:30 Henry's Crime

STAR WORLD

- 00:00 Grey's Anatomy
01:00 MasterChef Australia
02:00 Nine Lives Of Chloe King
03:00 Transporter: The Series
04:00 Da Vinci's Demons
05:00 According To Jim
06:00 The Simpsons
07:00 Lost
08:00 Grey's Anatomy
09:00 MasterChef Australia
10:00 Nine Lives Of Chloe King
11:00 Transporter: The Series
12:00 Da Vinci's Demons
13:00 According To Jim
14:00 The Simpsons
15:00 Lost
16:00 Grey's Anatomy
17:00 MasterChef Australia
18:00 Private Practice
20:00 Grey's Anatomy
21:00 Cougar Town
22:00 The Simpsons
23:00 Lost

HISTORY

- 00:00 American Daredevils
01:00 Mountain Men
02:00 Swamp People
03:30 Shipping Wars
04:00 American Daredevils
05:00 American Pickers
06:00 Duck Dynasty
07:00 Swamp People
08:00 Mountain Men
09:00 Gold Hunters: Legend Of The Superstition...
10:00 Alaska Off-Road Warriors
11:00 Shark Wranglers
12:00 American Pickers
13:00 Storage Wars
14:00 Pawn Stars
15:00 Shipping Wars
16:00 American Restoration
17:00 Storage Wars
17:30 Pawn Stars
18:00 American Pickers
19:00 Storage Wars
20:00 Shipping Wars
21:00 Pawn Stars
21:30 Pawn Stars
22:00 Pawn Stars
22:30 Pawn Stars
23:00 American Pickers

AMC

- 03:10 Red Dawn
05:00 The Great Scout And Cathouse Thursday
06:50 Buona Sera, Mrs. Campbell
08:40 Robinson Crusoe
10:10 Meteor Man
11:50 Bound For Glory
14:15 Innocent
15:45 Fast Food
17:15 The Tender
18:45 Alexander The Great
21:00 Walking Tall
22:25 Hart's War
00:30 Strange Wilderness
01:55 Walking Tall

ANIMAL PLANET HD

- 03:25 Blood Lake: Attack Of The Killer Lempreys
05:02 Hunt For Hogzilla



G.I. JOE: THE RISE OF COBRA ON OSN MOVIES ACTION HD

- 05:49 River Monsters (Best Of Series 1-5)
06:36 Call Of The Wildman
07:00 Call Of The Wildman
07:25 Dogs 101
08:15 Lion Man: One World African
08:40 Lion Man: One World African
09:10 Treehouse Masters
10:05 Tanked
11:00 Dogs 101
11:55 Bondi Vet
12:50 Zombie Sharks
13:45 Lion Man: One World African
14:10 Lion Man: One World African
14:40 Treehouse Masters
15:35 Tanked
16:30 Queens Of The Savannah
17:25 River Monsters (Best Of Series 1-5)
18:20 The Lion Man
18:45 The Lion Man
19:15 Treehouse Masters
20:10 Tanked
21:05 Cute To Kill
22:00 Monster Island
22:55 Tigerfish: Africa's Piranha
23:50 The Lion Man
00:15 The Lion Man
00:45 Call Of The Wildman
01:10 Call Of The Wildman
01:40 Monster Island
02:35 Tigerfish: Africa's Piranha

BBC ENTERTAINMENT

- 03:05 Hotel Secrets With Richard E Grant
03:50 Gates
04:15 The Weakest Link

- 05:00 The Green Balloon Club
05:25 Nina And The Neurons: In The Lab
05:40 Nina And The Neurons: In The Lab
05:55 Gigglebiz
06:10 The Green Balloon Club
06:30 Nina And The Neurons: In The Lab
06:45 Nina And The Neurons: In The Lab
07:05 The Weakest Link
07:50 Only Fools And Horses
08:20 My Family
08:50 The Cafe
09:15 Doctors
09:45 Casualty
10:35 The Paradise
11:30 The Weakest Link
12:15 The Cafe
12:40 My Family
13:10 Only Fools And Horses
13:40 Casualty
14:30 The Paradise
15:25 Doctors
15:55 The Cafe
16:20 My Family
16:50 Only Fools And Horses
17:20 The Weakest Link
18:05 Call The Midwife
19:00 Doctors
19:30 Eastenders
20:00 Bedlam
20:45 Hitler On Trial: The Story Behind The Film
21:40 Inside No. 9
22:10 Call The Midwife
23:05 The Weakest Link
23:50 Doctors
00:20 Eastenders
00:50 Call The Midwife
01:45 Bedlam
02:30 Hitler On Trial: The Story Behind The Film

- 03:20 Grojband
04:05 Total Drama: All Stars
04:05 Teen Titans Go!
04:50 Grojband
06:00 The Amazing World Of Gumball
06:25 New Uncle Grandpa
06:37 Uncle Grandpa
06:50 Adventure Time
07:35 New Clarence
07:46 Clarence
08:00 Teen Titans Go!
08:20 Ninjago: Masters Of Spinjitzu
08:45 New Ben 10 Omniverse
09:10 Ben 10: Omniverse
09:30 Regular Show
09:55 Dreamworks Dragons: Defenders Of Berk
10:20 Total Drama World Tour
10:40 Total Drama: Pahkitew Island
11:05 Johnny Test
11:50 Steven Universe
12:15 Uncle Grandpa
12:40 Regular Show
13:25 Adventure Time
14:10 The Amazing World Of Gumball
15:00 Ben 10: Omniverse
15:45 Ninjago: Masters Of Spinjitzu
16:10 Matt Hatter New
16:30 Teen Titans Go!
17:20 New Clarence
17:31 Clarence
17:40 The Amazing World Of Gumball
18:30 Adventure Time
19:15 New Uncle Grandpa
19:27 Uncle Grandpa
19:40 Steven Universe

- 20:00 Regular Show
20:50 Ben 10: Omniverse
21:40 Adventure Time
22:25 Johnny Test
23:10 Regular Show
23:55 Total Drama: All Stars
00:40 Grojband
01:25 Transformers: Robots In Disguise
01:50 Regular Show
02:35 Johnny Test
03:00 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones
03:45 Deadly Women
04:30 California Investigator
05:20 The Will
07:00 Dr G: Medical Examiner
07:50 On The Case With Paula Zahn
08:40 Fatal Encounters
09:30 Murder Shift
10:20 Forensic Detectives
11:10 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones
12:00 The Will
12:50 I Almost Got Away With It
13:40 California Investigator
14:05 Dr G: Medical Examiner
14:55 Fatal Encounters
15:45 On The Case With Paula Zahn
16:35 Murder Shift
17:25 I Almost Got Away With It
18:15 Forensic Detectives
19:05 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones
19:55 California Investigator
20:20 The Will
21:10 Who On Earth...
22:00 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones
22:50 California Investigator
23:40 Who On Earth...
00:30 The Haunted
01:20 Ghost Lab
02:10 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones



GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY ON OSN MOVIES ACTION HD

DISCOVERY SCIENCE

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

CLASSIFIEDS

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

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

SHARQIA-2	
PAN	12:15 PM
PAN	2:45 PM
HOTEL PENNSYLVANIA23	5:15 PM
AHWAK	7:15 PM
PAN	9:45 PM
PAN	12:15 AM

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

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

MUHALAB-2	
24 HOURS	11:45 AM
HOTEL PENNSYLVANIA2	2:00 PM
THE MARTIAN	4:00 PM
RUDHRAMADEVI	4:00 PM
JAZBAA	4:00 PM
THE MARTIAN	7:00 PM
RUDHRAMADEVI	7:00 PM
RUDHRAMADEVI	10:00 PM
PAN	10:00 PM
24 HOURS	1:00 AM

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

FANAR-1	
24 HOURS	12:45 PM
HOTEL PENNSYLVANIA2	3:00 PM
THE WALK	5:00 PM
24 HOURS	7:30 PM
24 HOURS	9:45 PM
24 HOURS	12:05 AM

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

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

JAZBAA	9:15 PM
THE MARTIAN	12:15 AM
FANAR-4	
PAN	11:30 AM
PAN	2:00 PM
PAN	4:30 PM
THE MARTIAN	7:00 PM
PAN	10:00 PM
PAN	12:30 AM

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

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

MARINA-2	
HOTEL PENNSYLVANIA2	11:30 AM
THE MARTIAN	1:30 PM
THE MARTIAN	4:15 PM
AHWAK	7:15 PM
AHWAK	9:45 PM
THE MARTIAN	12:15 AM

MARINA-3	
PAN	12:30 PM
PAN	3:00 PM
HOTEL PENNSYLVANIA2	5:30 PM
PAN	7:45 PM
THE WALK	10:15 PM
PAN	12:45 AM

AVENUES-1	
THE WALK	11:45 AM
THE WALK	4:30 PM
THE WALK	5:15 PM
THE WALK	8:15 PM
THE WALK	11:15 PM

AVENUES-2	
HOTEL PENNSYLVANIA2	12:15 PM
HOTEL PENNSYLVANIA2	2:15 PM
HOTEL PENNSYLVANIA2	4:15 PM
HOTEL PENNSYLVANIA2	6:15 PM
BLOWTORCH	8:15 PM
BLOWTORCH	10:00 PM
BLOWTORCH	11:45 PM

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

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

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

360-2	
HOTEL PENNSYLVANIA2	11:30 AM
THE WALK	1:30 PM
THE WALK	4:15 PM
THE WALK	7:00 PM
THE WALK	9:45 PM
THE WALK	12:30 AM

360-3	
HOTEL PENNSYLVANIA2	1:15 PM
HOTEL PENNSYLVANIA2	3:15 PM
HOTEL PENNSYLVANIA2	5:15 PM
HOTEL PENNSYLVANIA2	7:15 PM
AHWAK	9:15 PM
AHWAK	11:45 PM

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

AL-KOUT.2	
THE MARTIAN	11:30 AM
HOTEL PENNSYLVANIA2	2:15 PM
HOTEL PENNSYLVANIA2	4:15 PM
THE MARTIAN	6:15 PM
THE MARTIAN	9:15 PM
THE MARTIAN	12:15 AM

AL-KOUT.3	
PAN	12:15 PM
AHWAK	2:45 PM
AHWAK	5:15 PM
AHWAK	7:45 PM
AHWAK	10:15 PM
AHWAK	12:45 AM

AL-KOUT.4	
24 HOURS	12:15 PM
THE WALK	2:30 PM
24 HOURS	5:00 PM
THE WALK	7:15 PM
24 HOURS	9:45 PM
24 HOURS	12:05 AM

BAIRAQ-1	
AHWAK	12:15 PM
HOTEL PENNSYLVANIA2	2:45 PM
HOTEL PENNSYLVANIA2	4:45 PM
AHWAK	6:45 PM
AHWAK	9:15 PM
AHWAK	11:45 PM

BAIRAQ-2	
PAN	12:45 PM
24 HOURS	1:30 PM
PAN	3:30 PM
24 HOURS	6:00 PM
PAN	8:00 PM
24 HOURS	10:30 PM
PAN	12:45 AM

BAIRAQ-3	
THE MARTIAN	1:00 PM
THE WALK	1:30 PM

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Fax No: 24584027

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Room for rent only family, Farwaniya, block-122, street-1, building-1, near Gulf Mart, near Nesto. Tel: 60668549 / 55002546. (C 5051) 12-10-2015

SITUATION WANTED

Prof. Qualified & well Exp. Sr. Finance Exec., seeks Sr. position job, Co. having Sr. level vacancy, may pls. Contact Mob.# 50519450 or e-mail: smart_finance@yahoo.com (C 5052) 12-10-2015

Prayer timings

Fajr: 04:28
Shorook 05:47
Duhr: 11:35
Asr: 14:53
Maghrib: 17:22
Isha: 18:38

FOR SALE

Toyota Yaris - 2012, white color, Saloon - Excellent condition, 35,000 km, price

Flight Schedule

Arrival Flights on Monday 12/10/2015			
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
THY	772	Istanbul	00:15
JZR	239	Amman	00:20
JZR	267	Beirut	00:30
DLH	637	Dammam	00:35
FDB	069	Dubai	00:55
JZR	539	Cairo	01:30
ETH	3403	Addis Ababa/Riyadh	01:35
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:40
RJA	642	Amman	01:45
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	01:50
OMA	643	Muscat	02:05
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15
KKK	6507	Istanbul	02:15
JZR	529	Asyut	02:20
UAE	853	Dubai	02:25
MSC	403	Sohag	02:30
QTR	1076	Doha	02:55
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:05
CEB	7694	Manila	03:10
FDB	067	Dubai	03:15
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15
KAC	1544	Cairo	03:35
THY	1464	Istanbul	03:55
MSC	401	Alexandria	04:00
PGT	860	Istanbul	04:05
THY	770	Istanbul	04:40
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10
KAC	412	Manila/Bangkok	06:15
BAW	157	London	06:35
KAC	362	Delhi	07:30
KAC	206	Islamabad	07:30
IRC	6521	Lamerd	07:40
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50
OMA	641	Muscat	07:50
KAC	354	BLR	07:55
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:55
QTR	1086	Doha	07:55
KAC	154	Istanbul	08:10
KAC	352	Kochi	08:15
KAC	344	Chennai	08:15
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25
KAC	362	Colombo	08:30
KAC	284	Dhaka	09:00
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:05
IRA	667	Esfahan	09:05
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:10
QTR	1070	Doha	09:25
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40
KAC	350	Kochi	09:40
SYR	343	Damascus	09:50
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40
UAE	873	Dubai	10:40
MEA	404	Beirut	10:55
AXB	889	Mangalore/Bahrain	11:15
MSC	405	Sohag	11:20
JZR	561	Sohag	11:25
AGY	680	Alexandria	11:40
JZR	165	Dubai	11:50
FDB	075	Dubai	12:25
UAE	871	Dubai	12:45
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00
KAC	620	Doha	13:10
THY	766	Istanbul	13:10

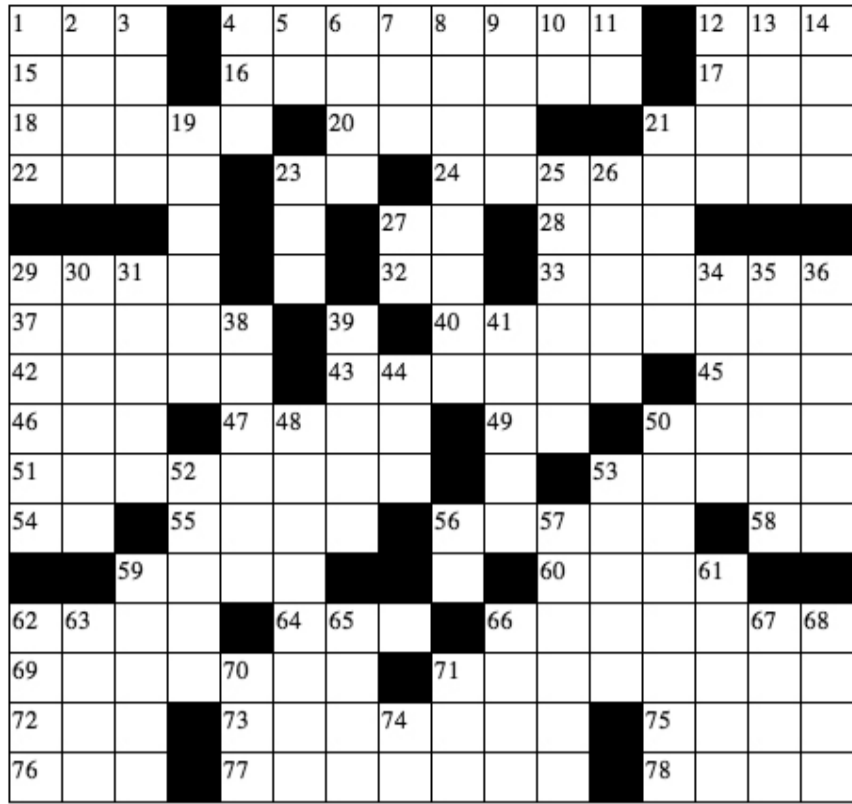
Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page (www.kuwait-airport.com.kw)

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

Departure Flights on Monday 12/10/2015			
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
RBG	556	Alexandria	00:05
BBC	044	Dhaka	00:10
UAL	981	IAD	00:25
JAI	573	Mumbai	00:25
MSR	615	Cairo	00:30
FDB	072	Dubai	00:30
PIA	206	Lahore	00:40
DLH	637	Frankfurt	01:35
THY	773	Istanbul	02:05
ETH	621	Addis Ababa	02:50
PGT	859	Istanbul	02:55
ETH	3403	Addis Ababa	03:05
KKK	6508	Istanbul	03:10
MSC	404	Sohag	03:30
OMA	644	Muscat	03:35
UAE	854	Dubai	03:45
FDB	068	Dubai	04:00
ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	04:05
MSR	613	Cairo	04:15
CEB	7695	Manila	04:40
PGT	861	Istanbul	04:45
THY	1465	Istanbul	04:50
THY	765	Istanbul	04:55
MSC	406	Sohag	05:00
JZR	560	Sohag	05:00
QTR	1077	Doha	05:05
RJA	643	Amman	06:35
GFA	212	Bahrain	06:50
THY	771	Istanbul	06:50
FDB	070	Dubai	07:05
ZR	164	Dubai	07:15
KAC	537	Sohag	08:20
BAW	156	London	08:30
FDB	054	Dubai	08:30
IRC	6522	Lamerd	08:35
OMA	642	Muscat	08:50
QTR	1087	Doha	08:55
KAC	671	Dubai	09:25
KAC	619	Doha	09:30
KAC	787	Jeddah	09:30
JZR	482	Istanbul	09:40
ABY	126	Sharjah	09:45
UAE	856	Dubai	09:50
ETD	302	Abu Dhabi	10:00
IRA	666	Esfahan	10:05
QTR	1071	Doha	10:40
FDB	056	Dubai	10:40
SYR	344	Damascus	10:50
KAC	501	Beirut	11:00
KAC	165	Rome/Paris	11:25
KAC	561	Amman	11:25
GFA	214	Bahrain	11:35
MEA	405	Beirut	11:55
KAC	791	Madinah	12:00
KAC	541	Cairo	12:05
UAE	874	Dubai	12:10
KAC	103	London	12:10
AXB	890	Mangalore	12:15
JZR	776	Jeddah	12:15
MSC	402	Alexandria	12:20
KAC	679	Muscat	12:30
AGY	685	Sohag	12:40
KAC	785	Jeddah	13:00

DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

CROSSWORD 1047



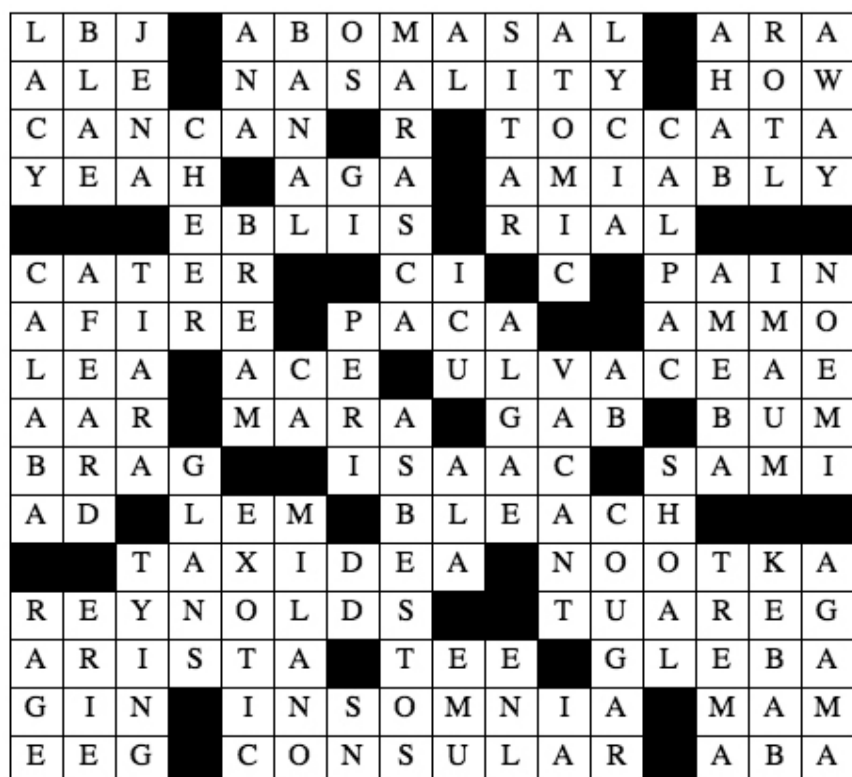
ACROSS

- The 21st letter of the Greek alphabet.
- A flat cake of thin batter fried on both sides on a griddle.
- Having leadership guidance.
- A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
- (law) A formal objection to an opponent's pleadings.
- The waging of armed conflict against an enemy.
- Largest crested screamer.
- (Scottish) Bluish-black or gray-blue.
- A former copper coin of Pakistan.
- Talking idly or incoherently.
- A flat wing-shaped process or winglike part of an organism.
- (Old Testament) The eldest son of Isaac who would have inherited the Covenant that God made with Abraham and that Abraham passed on to Isaac.
- A light strong brittle gray toxic bivalent metallic element.
- Any of various hard resins from trees of the family Dipterocarpaceae and of the genus Agathis.
- Lean end of the neck.
- A unit of current equal to 10 amperes.
- A crude uncouth ill-bred person lacking culture or refinement.
- Animal food for browsing or grazing.
- A fractional monetary unit of Japan and Indonesia and Cambodia.
- Someone who engages in arbitrage (who purchases securities in one market for immediate resale in another in the hope of profiting from the price differential).
- Rounded like an egg.
- A white soft metallic element that tarnishes readily.
- Edge of a way or road or path.
- A silvery-white metallic element of the platinum group that resembles platinum.
- A small island.
- A colorless and odorless inert gas.
- United States composer noted for his innovative use of polytonality (1874-1954).
- A city in northern India.
- An overwhelming feeling of wonder or admiration.
- A ruddy rock consisting of sharp fragments embedded in clay or sand.
- The cry made by sheep.
- (Norse mythology) A dwarf who possessed a treasure that was stolen by Loki.
- The Hebrew patriarch who saved himself and his family and the animals by building an ark in which they survived 40 days and 40 nights of rain.
- A doctor's degree in education.
- Relating to or being a word processing system that prints the text exactly as it appears on the computer screen.
- A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.

DOWN

- Large burrowing rodent of South and Central America.
- German chemist who was co-discoverer with Lise Meitner of nuclear fission (1879-1968).
- A theocratic republic in the Middle East in western Asia.
- A federal agency established to regulate the release of new foods and health-related products.
- A chronic inflammatory collagen disease affecting connective tissue (skin or joints).
- A platform raised above the surrounding level to give prominence to the person on it.
- 100 puls equal 1 afghan.
- The edible flesh of any of various crabs.
- A particular geographical region of indefinite boundary (usually serving some special purpose or distinguished by its people or culture or geography).
- Unknown god.
- Angular distance above the horizon (especially of a celestial object).
- 100 lwei equal 1 kwanza.
- Earn on some commercial or business transaction.
- A small amount of residue.
- A large spotted feline of tropical America similar to the leopard.
- A device (used by carpenters) that holds things firmly together v. 1.
- A fluorocarbon with chlorine.
- A member of an agricultural people of southern India.
- Expletives used informally as intensifiers.
- The blood group whose red cells carry both the A and B antigens.
- Flesh of young Atlantic cod weighing up to 2 pounds.
- A popular island resort in the Netherlands Antilles.
- Genus of tropical Asiatic trees having large solitary flowers.
- A genus of tropical Asian and Malaysian palm trees.
- Someone who pays rent to use land or a building or a car that is owned by someone else.
- A mobile mass of muscular tissue covered with mucous membrane and located in the oral cavity.
- English economist noted for his studies of international trade and finance (born in 1907).
- (Norse mythology) God of light and peace and noted for his beauty and sweet nature.
- Fermented alcoholic beverage similar to but heavier than beer.
- The quality of evil by virtue of villainous behavior.
- The animal order including amoebas.
- English theoretical physicist who applied relativity theory to quantum mechanics and predicted the existence of antimatter and the positron (1902-1984).
- (trademark) An alloy of iron and nickel having a low coefficient of thermal expansion.
- A Russian river.
- Rig used in drilling for oil or gas.
- (Greek mythology) One of the mountain nymphs.
- A constitutional monarchy on the western part of the islands of Samoa in the South Pacific.
- One-hundredth of a right angle.
- A large number or amount.
- Characterized by lightness and insubstantiality.
- A flat-bottomed volcanic crater that was formed by an explosion.
- A dull persistent (usually moderately intense) pain.
- The sound made by corvine birds.
- Informal terms for the mouth.
- Denoting a quantity consisting of six items or units.

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

You are ready to let go of your personal agenda now that the even-tempered Libra New Moon falls in your 7th House of Partnerships. Paradoxically, the likelihood of receiving support for your impetuous behavior increases when you distance yourself from others. Nevertheless, you could end up frustrated if you believe that you can happily exist in your dreamworld alone. Thankfully, finding ways to express yourself without going to extremes brings emotional satisfaction, but it just might arrive in a different package than you expected.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

A coworker may present you with a complicated conundrum that eludes immediate resolution. Thankfully, the fair-minded Libra New Moon pacifies your 6th House of Employment, enabling you to emotionally detach yourself from the unresolved situation. You might not be able to fix the problem today, but you can't set it aside, either. Ultimately, you can be of the most help by just listening to your friends without interruption. Showing compassion by offering a supportive shoulder is more useful now than rattling off an overly simplistic answer.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Wrestling with your own feelings isn't always the simplest thing to do; it's even more challenging when you're dealing with someone else's erratic emotions. Luckily, you can smoothly skate over this bumpy territory because the Libra New Moon's presence in your 5th House of Fun and Games allows you to maintain a playful attitude. But stress won't drop out of sight just because it's inconvenient for you; knowing what you can and can't control is your secret to happiness.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Taking a sentimental journey through your personal history isn't new behavior for you nostalgic Crabs, but the reflective Libra New Moon's emphasis on your 4th House of Roots raises issues that you might not have considered yet. Thankfully, you are in a positive frame of mind today, making it easier to handle the emotional complexities that arise now. But don't get lost on your trip down Memory Lane. It's more productive to remain in the present moment, instead of traveling back in time to relive your past.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

Although you believe you know what's best for you, today's accommodating Libra New Moon falls in your 3rd House of Communication, encouraging you to also consider the needs of others. But don't allow your current enthusiasm to trick you into thinking everything will turn out fine just because you're feeling generous. Although you might not normally be so dependent on anyone else, you can't fill in your schedule now before talking to the people who have a stake in your success. Practicing the art of compromise allows everyone to win in the end.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

You must make a significant decision about your finances now, yet it's challenging to reach a definitive conclusion while the ambivalent Libra New Moon influences your 2nd House of Money. You may waste time wavering back and forth today, unable to finalize your choice. However, it's not helpful to be too self-critical. Wait a couple of days to see where the new wave of energy carries you before committing one way or the other. Keeping your options open improves your chances for success.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

You're eager to put your new intentions into constructive action, but first you need to express your desires clearly enough to create the impact you want. Thankfully, the strategic Libra New Moon triggers a sudden break from your recent past mistakes. Although focusing your thoughts on a specific goal can set you into motion, your irrepressible confidence isn't enough to assure that you'll reach your destination. Success is one percent inspiration and ninety-nine percent perspiration.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

You're often a champion at keeping secrets, but something you are hiding could spell trouble now. Although the friendly Libra New Moon creeps into your 12th House of Privacy, you yearn to tell someone what you know. However, you won't likely spill the beans if it means going back on your word. This dilemma is stressful if you believe there's no right course of action. Put off your final choice until the Moon enters insightful Scorpio tomorrow and then let your intuition be your guide. You're often a champion at keeping secrets, but something you are hiding could spell trouble now.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Even if your social calendar is chaotic, the energy shifts when the artistic Libra New Moon rattles your 11th House of Long-Term Goals. You're marching to the beat of a different drummer now as you begin to pull away from the crowd. Although stress is exacerbated by awkward relationship dynamics, you still can continue to be true to yourself. Your interpersonal dance grows more fulfilling as you take care of your own needs first. Ultimately, living life in a creative manner improves your connections with everyone else.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

You're taking your professional obligations to heart while the diplomatic Libra New Moon is busy activating your 10th House of Social Status. Your career objectives are accentuated, but it isn't wise to pile more busy work onto your full plate today. Accept additional tasks only after you weigh and balance the pros and cons of having to fulfill another promise. Delegating specific jobs enables you to cover more ground without exhausting your resources. Think outside of the box and success is yours.



Aquarius (January 20-February 18)

Your excitement grows as you anticipate new ways to widen your world view as the creative Libra New Moon lands in your 9th House of Big Ideas. You're inspired to make a decision now about a new course of study to expand your horizons. But don't limit yourself to work-related subjects because it is time to break out of your rut by exploring a totally different universe. Free your mind, buckle your seat belt and enjoy the ride.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Your sensitivity to someone's emotions is the key that opens a door to intimacy while the lovely Libra New Moon strengthens your 8th House of Deep Sharing. However, there is no need for worry because your intuitive compass will prevent you from getting lost in uncharted waters. Fortunately, you can maintain clear boundaries today, even while diving into the unexplored shadows of an evolving relationship. Solving the mystery of love is a lifelong journey, so don't forget to come up for air now and then.

WORD SEARCH PUZZLE

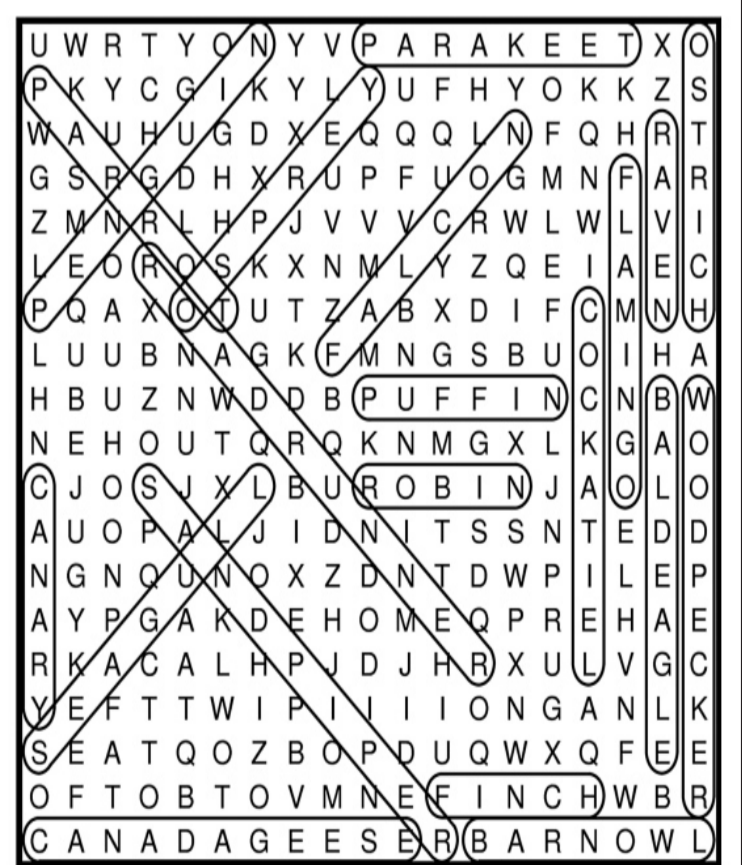
STAR WARS WORD SEARCH PUZZLE



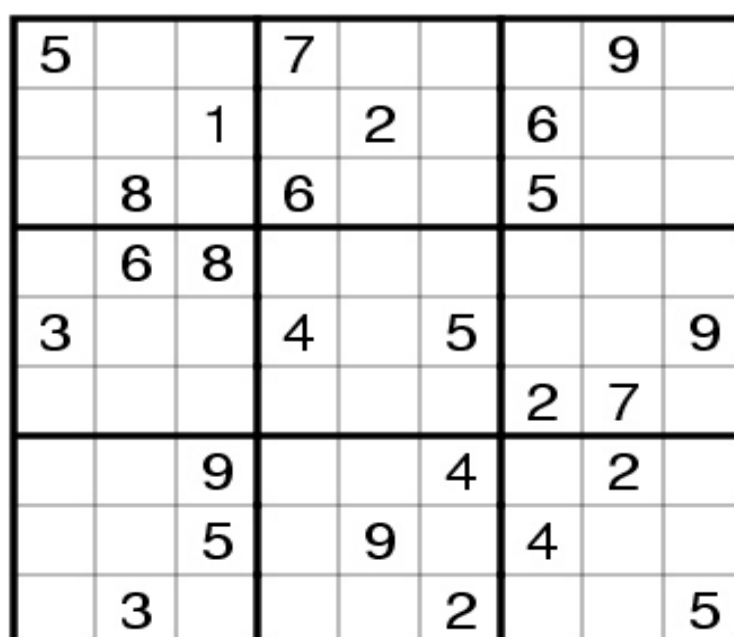
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|-------------|--------------|----------------|----------------|
| AL DERAAN | EMPIRE | IMPERIAL ARMY | PHANTOM MENACE |
| CHEWBACCA | EWOKS | JEDI | PRINCESS LEIA |
| DARTH VADER | FORCE | LIGHTSABER | SITH |
| DEATH STAR | GEORGE LUCAS | LUKE SKYWALKER | STORMTROOPER |
| DROID | HAN SOLO | OBI WAN KENOBI | YODA |

Yesterday's Solution

SOLUTION TO FEATHERED FRIENDS PUZZLE



Daily SuDoku



very hard

Yesterday's Solution



very hard

For labor-related inquiries and complaints:
Call MSAL hotline 128

Hospitals

Sabah Hospital	24812000
Amiri Hospital	22450005
Maternity Hospital	24843100
Mubarak Al-Kabir Hospital	25312700
Chest Hospital	24849400
Farwaniya Hospital	24892010
Adan Hospital	23940620
Ibn Sina Hospital	24840300
Al-Razi Hospital	24846000
Physiotherapy Hospital	24874330/9

Clinics

Kaizen center	25716707
Rawda	22517733
Adaliya	22517144
Khalidiya	24848075
Kaifan	24849807
Shamiya	24848913
Shuwaikh	24814507
Abdullah Salem	22549134
Nuzha	22526804
Industrial Shuwaikh	24814764
Qadsiya	22515088
Dasmah	22532265
Bneid Al-Gar	22531908
Shaab	22518752
Qibla	22459381
Ayoun Al-Qibla	22451082
Mirqab	22456536
Sharq	22465401
Salmiya	25746401
Jabriya	25316254
Maidan Hawally	25623444
Bayan	25388462
Mishref	25381200
W Hawally	22630786
Sabah	24810221
Jahra	24770319
New Jahra	24575755
West Jahra	24772608
South Jahra	24775066
North Jahra	24775992
North Jleeb	24311795
Ardhiya	24884079
Firdous	24892674
Omariya	24719048
N Khaitan	24710044
Fintas	23900322



PHARMACIES ON 24 HRS DUTY

GOVERNORATE	PHARMACY	ADDRESS	PHONE
Ahmadi	Sama Safwan Abu Halaifa Danat Al-Sultan	Fahaeel Makka St Abu Halaifa-Coastal Rd Mahboula Block 1, Coastal Rd	23915883 23715414 23726558
Jahra	Modern Jahra Madina Munawara	Jahra-Block 3 Lot 1 Jahra-Block 92	24575518 24566622
Capital	Ahlam Khaldiya Coop	Fahad Al-Salem St Khaldiya Coop	22436184 24833967
Farwaniya	New Shifa Ferdous Coop Modern Safwan	Farwaniya Block 40 Ferdous Coop Old Kheitan Block 11	24734000 24881201 24726638
Hawally	Tariq Hana Ikhlas Hawally & Rawdha Ghadeer Kindy Ibn Al-Nafis Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Salmiya-Amman St Hawally-Beirut St Hawally & Rawdha Coop Jabriya-Block 1A Jabriya-Block 3B Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	25726265 25647075 22625999 22564549 25340559 25326554 25721264 25380581 25628241

INTERNATIONAL CALLS



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

STATE OF KUWAIT DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



Tel: (+965) 161 Ext: 2627 - 2630
Fax: (+965) 24348714
www.met.gov.kw



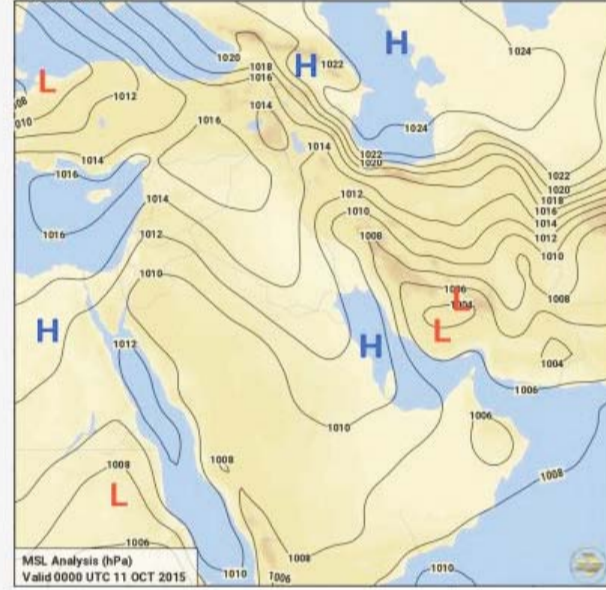
Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

Issued 11/10/2015-07:00 LT UTC +3hr

MAX Temperature 38 °C

By Day : Sunny with light to moderate freshening gradually at times north westerly wind, with speed of 15 - 42km/h with a chance for blowing dust over open areas
By Night : Fair with light to moderate north westerly wind, with speed of 12 - 35 km/h

SFC. CHART



Four-Day Forecast

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Expected Weather	sunny + scattered clouds	hot	sunny + scattered clouds	partly cloudy+scattered rain might be thundery at times
Min Temp °C	26	25	25	28
Max Temp °C	39	40	39	38
Wind Direction	north westerly	north westerly to light variable later on	variable wind changing to south easterly later on	variable wind changing to south easterly
Wind Speed km/h	12 - 35	08 - 30	06 - 26	08 - 30

All times are local time (GMT+3) unless otherwise stated

Warnings NO CURRENT WARNINGS

Kuwait Forecast

Station	MIN °C REC	Max °C EXP
KUWAIT CITY	28	37
KUWAIT AIRPORT	28	38
ABDALY	22	38
BUBYAN	24	37
JAHRA	27	38
FAILAKA ISLAND	27	35
SALMIYAH	28	33
AHMADI	29	34
JAL ALIYAH	23	37
QAROH ISLAND	31	34
UMM AL-MARADEM	31	34
WAFRA	23	36
MANAGISH	23	37
SALMY	22	36
MUTRIBA	23	38

Recorded Yesterday at Kuwait Airport

Max Temp (°C)	37
Min Temp (°C)	29
Max Rel Hum (%)	41
Min Rel Hum (%)	19
Max Wind Speed (km/h) and Direction	39 N
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR	0 mm

Sunrise	05:47
Sunset	17:23

Prayer Times

Fajr	04:28
Sunrise	05:47
Zuhr	11:35
Asr	14:54
Sunset	17:23
Isha	18:39



PRIVATE CLINICS

Ophthalmologists	Plastic Surgeons
Dr. Abidallah Al-Mansoor	25622444
Dr. Samy Al-Rabea	25752222
Dr. Masoma Habeeb	25321171
Dr. Mubarak Al-Ajmy	25739999
Dr. Mohsen Abel	25757700
Dr. Adnan Hasan Alwayl	25732223
Dr. Abdallah Al-Baghly	25732223
Ear, Nose & Throat (ENT)	
Dr. Ahmed Fouad Mouner	24555050 Ext 510
Dr. Abdallah Al-Ali	25644660
Dr. Abd Al-Hameed Al-Taweel	25646478
Dr. Sanad Al-Fathalah	25311996
Dr. Mohammed Al-Daory	25731988
Dr. Ismail Al-Fodary	22620166
Dr. Mahmoud Al-Booz	25651426
General Practitioners	
Dr. Mohammed Y Majidi	24555050 Ext 123
Dr. Yousef Al-Omar	24719312
Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhaezem	22636920
Dr. Kathem Maarafi	25730465
Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadah	25655528
Dr. Nabeel Al-Ayoobi	24577781
Dr. Dina Abidallah Al-Rafea	25333501
Urologists	
Dr. Ali Naser Al-Serfy	22641534
Dr. Fawzi Taher Abul	22639955
Dr. Khaleel Abidallah Al-Awadi	22616660
Dr. Adel Al-Hunayan FRCS (C)	25313120
Dr. Leons Joseph	66703427

Paediatricians	Endocrinologist
Dr. Khaled Hamadi	25665898
Dr. Abd Al-Aziz Al-Rashed	25340300
Dr. Zahra Qabazard	25710444
Dr. Sohail Qamar	22621099
Dr. Snaa Maarroof	25713514
Dr. Pradip Gujare	23713100
Dr. Zacharias Mathew	24334282
Dermatology	
Dr. Mohammed Salam Bern University	23845955
Dentists	
Dr. Anil Thomas	3729596/3729581
Dr. Shamah Al-Matar	22641071/2
Dr. Anesah Al-Rasheed	22562226
Dr. Abidallah Al-Amer	22561444
Dr. Faysal Al-Fozan	22619557
Dr. Abdalateef Al-Katrash	22525888
Dr. Abidallah Al-Duweisan	25653755
Dr. Bader Al-Ansari	25620111
Neurologists	
Dr. Sohal Najem Al-Shemeri	25633324
Dr. Jasem Mola Hassan	25345875
Gastrologists	
Dr. Sami Aman	22636464
Dr. Mohammad Al-Shamaly	25322030
Dr. Foad Abdallah Al-Ali	22633135

Family Doctor	Psychiatrists	Gynaecologists & Obstetricians
Dr. Divya Damodar	23729596/23729581	
Psychiatrists		
Dr. Esam Al-Ansari	22635047	
Dr. Eisa M. Al-Balhan	22613623/0	
Gynaecologists & Obstetricians		
Dr. Adrian arbe	23729596/23729581	
Dr. Verginia s. Marin	2572-6666 ext 8321	
Dr. Fozeya Ali Al-Qatan	22655539	
Dr. Majeda Khalefa Aliyami	25343406	
Dr. Ahmad Al-Khooly	25739272	
Dr. Salem soso	22618787	
General Surgeons		
Dr. Amer Zawaz Al-Amer	22610044	
Dr. Mohammad Yousef Basher	25327148	
Internists, Chest & Heart		
Dr. Adnan Ebil	22639939	
Dr. Mousa Khadada	22666300	
Dr. Latefa Al-Duweisan	25728004	
Dr. Nadem Al-Ghabra	25355515	
Dr. Mobarak Aldoub	24726446	
Dr. Nasser Behbehani	25654300/3	

Physiotherapists & VD	Rheumatologists:
Dr. Deyaa Shehab	25722291
Dr. Mused Faraj Khamees	22666288
Internist, Chest & Heart	
DR. Mohammed Akkad	24555050 Ext 210
Consultant Cardiologist	
Dr. Farida Al-Habib MD, PH.D, FACC	2611555-2622555
Inaya German Medical Center	
Te: 2575077	
Fax: 25723123	

Psychologists
/Psychotherapists

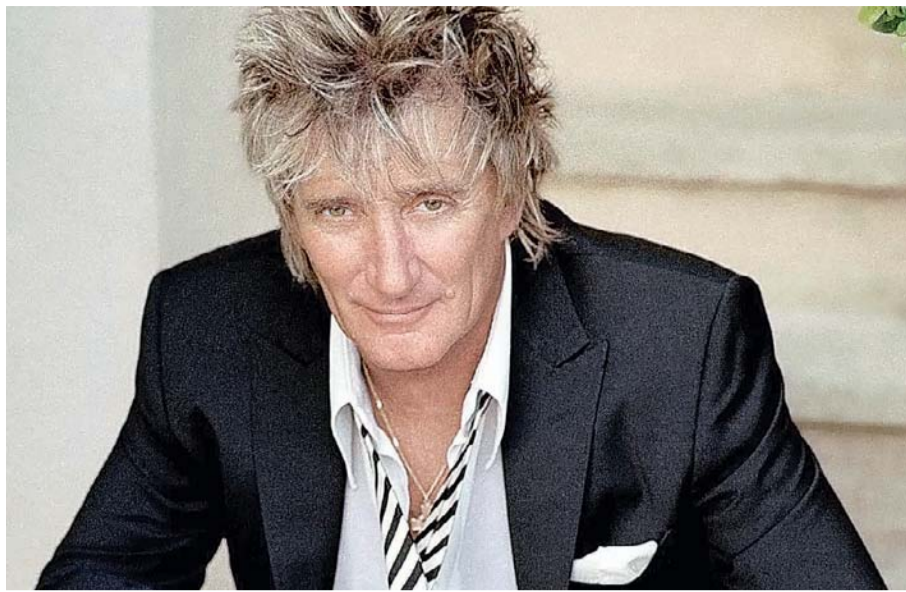
Soor Center
Tel: 2290-1677
Fax: 2290 1688

info@soorcenter.com
www.soorcenter.com

Kaizen center
25716707

Noor Clinic
23845955

William Schuilenberg, RPC 2290-1677
Zaina Al Zabin, M.Sc. 2290-1677



Stewart's creative drives

Rod Stewart gets his "best ideas" when he's driving. The 'Maggie May' hit-maker finds getting behind the wheel of one of his many vehicles clears his head and helps his creativity. He said: "I love to drive. It clears my head and I get my best ideas then. 'The one thing I don't do any more is drive at night because I like to have a drink of wine every night.' Rod finds songwriting "wonderfully fulfilling" and thinks of his songs as being his "babies". He explained: "I long for the next song to be written but, in says that, I wouldn't write unless I had to. 'It's wonderfully fulfilling,

when it's right, and you go, 'Blimey, did I write that?' One minute your page is empty, later it's got some stuff on it. 'It gives me even more satisfaction, because my songs are like babies. You create them, you nurture them, and you bend them and twist them and then you put them out to the public and then you hear them on the radio and you go, 'That's amazing.' To hear it back." And the 70-year-old star still gets excited when he hears his work on the radio. He added to Uncut magazine: "That buzz hasn't left me after all these years, to hear it on the radio."

Welch's broccoli medicine

Florence Welch told Dave Grohl to eat broccoli to heal his broken leg. The Florence + the Machine singer - who broke her foot jumping off stage at Coachella earlier this year - sought advice on calming her nerves ahead of headlining Glastonbury, a gig she was given after the Foo Fighters frontman's injury caused his group to pull out, and in return offered some health tips. She wrote: "I'm so sorry you broke your leg. I know how that must feel. I broke my foot onstage too only a few weeks ago. What idiots we are! "But let me recommend eating lots of broccoli as it aids the healing process. It's the iron. "If you in turn could recommend something that would quell my outrageous nerves, that would be lovely." In response, Dave wrote back and suggested Florence watch a performance of Freddie Mercury performing with Queen at Live Aid in 1985, insisting it was the right way to play on stage. Florence noted: "So sweet. And so true! That really is how you do it." The 'Spectrum' singer found one of the best ways she could prepare for the gig was to visualize it in her mind. She admitted to Q magazine: "I played Imaginary Glastonbury about 17 hundred times. That helped. 'Rod [Ackroyd, guitarist] spent a lot of the time watching old Oasis at Glastonbury videos. Or maybe it was Blue. Always get those guys mixed up."



Haenow's American dream

Ben Haenow wants to crack America. The 'X Factor' winner is hoping to make it big in the USA and believes his new single 'Second Hand Heart' with Kelly Clarkson - released on Friday - will help him to do so because she is so well known in the States. Asked if he thinks he can break into the US market, he exclusively told BANG Showbiz: "I'd like to think so. I think we've got a great start with Kelly being on board." But the 30-year-old singer - whose eponymous debut album will be released on November 13 - confessed the track wasn't originally intended to be a duet and only turned into one when he returned to the UK after working on the track abroad. He admitted: "It wasn't supposed to be a duet. We got back to the UK after recording it and Sonny, the head of the label, was kind of like, how do you feel about it being a duet? "But I asked who he was thinking and he said Kelly Clarkson, so I toyed with the idea. But as soon as we got the track back with the vocals on it, for me that was it, it just sold it. It brought a new perspective to the song instead of it just being one."

HURTS MAKE 'PARADISE' ALBUM

Hurts' third LP 'Surrender' is inspired by "paradise". The synth-pop duo - comprised of singer Theo Hutchcraft and synthesist Adam Anderson - have spent the past year enjoying "fun" destinations which have influenced their most "bold" pop album to date. Speaking exclusively to BANG Showbiz about the record, which is available from today, singer Theo revealed: "We wanted to make a big pop album. you know? A big bold statement of an album. "When you go to LA and Ibiza, and to New York as well, it's just non-stop. And those places are fun. It's just life's great and I think it's an interesting food to put in your music ... When we made it, it was just us enjoying ourselves. We set out with this plan of not wanting to make music in the rain in Manchester. So we said, 'What would happen, if we went to the sunshine, had a great time and just let the music come out?' We make music with aspirations. But the weirdest thing about it is that we're normal. We're not weird, we're fun. And those places brought it out in us." But the peddlers of melodramatic pop stuck in a few darker tracks for good measure, including 'Police', and the 29-year-old 'Lights' singer insisted they haven't forgotten their Yorkshire roots. He added: "Because of where we come from, I'm often drawn to people who've had tragedy, but a strong outlook. Where I grew up, it was difficult for people and it was hard to get out of that. So I like those stories and I like those stories, I like romanticizing things."



Presley vows not to 'compromise' Elvis

Priscilla Presley has vowed never to "compromise" Elvis' voice. The 70-year-old actress - who was married to the star from 1967 to 1973 - insists she would never take advantage of the late singer's legacy so doesn't think she should be criticized for backing a new album which features his vocals with backing from the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. She said: "I hope people embrace it. I know there will probably be critics but I would never ever compromise his voice. Because, it was what it was and it was great. "Don (Reedman) brought this idea to me in 2013 when I was here playing the mean queen in panto. It was music to my ears. I went, 'We have to do it.'" Defending her choice to create 'If I Can Dream', she insisted the 'Jailhouse Rock' hitmaker would have loved the collection. She explained: "Elvis loved bigness. This is the kind of thing he would have absolutely supported and would have done in a minute." The record also features a duet between Elvis and Michael Buble, who Priscilla praised for doing justice to the track. She gushed to The Sun newspaper: "The professionalism Michael showed on this is unbelievable. He is a perfectionist. I don't know how many times he rehearsed with Elvis but you feel they are in the same room. "I can just see Elvis ... he had such a great sense of humor ... going, 'OK, you think that's good? Listen to this!' and Michael replying, 'Well, mmm, let me show you what I got!' It's really good and we are very proud of it." brands : Jailhouse Rock, If I Can Dream, The Sun, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra.



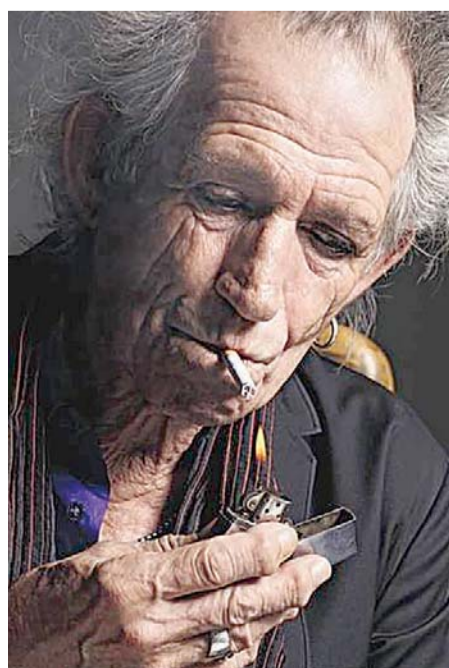
Artists changing release dates to avoid Adele

Major artists are changing their release dates to avoid clashing with Adele's new album. A slew of acts including Ellie Goulding, Little Mix, One Direction and Justin Bieber are set to put out albums next month but they've moved their release dates forward so they aren't engaged in a chart battle with the superstar, whose third studio album is scheduled to be released on November 20. A music industry insider said: "Adele's album is coming and it's likely to be an epic release. "The major labels have realized it's essential they get out any big releases before then because from November 20, it's very likely to be about one woman only. She will dominate pre-Christmas sales. "That's why Justin Bieber, Kylie Minogue and 1D are going head-to-head the week before - usually the record companies would want a No1 album with artists that big but in this case they simply want to get the album out there before Adele." The album - tentatively titled '25' - will be the 'Rolling In The Deep' hitmaker's first album since 2011's '21', which went on to shift 30 million copies, meaning she's a real threat to other acts hoping to find chart success at the same time. And her release means some artists have had their albums delayed until next year because record labels believe they would be easily overshadowed. The source told The Sun newspaper: "It's still possible there might be a surprise release from Coldplay or Beyonce who would be confident to put music out at any time of the year. "But Emeli Sande and Michael Buble, who share the same market as Adele, are both delayed into next year for certain."



Keith Richards: Led Zeppelin are 'hollow'

Keith Richards has branded Led Zeppelin "hollow". The Rolling Stones rocker has revealed he's never been a fan of the band and while he thinks Jimmy Page is a great guitarist he didn't like him performing with the other members of the band. When an interviewer said he wasn't keen on Led Zeppelin, Jimmy agreed: "Me neither. I love Jimmy Page, but as a band, no, with John Bonham thundering down the highway in an uncontrolled 18-wheeler. He had cornered the market there. Jimmy is a brilliant player. But I always felt there was something a little hollow about it, you know?" After bad-mouthing the 'Stairway to Heaven' hitmakers he decided to also lay in to The Who by writing Roger Daltrey off as "all flash" and describing the band as "crazy". He explained: "I always thought [Roger] Daltrey was all flash. And I love Pete Townshend, but I always thought the Who were a crazy band, anyway. You would say to [Keith] Moon, if you were in a session with him, 'Just give me a swing,' and he [couldn't] ... He was an incredible drummer, but only with Pete Townshend." While discussing other musicians though he praised Ed Sheeran and admitted he wishes Amy Winehouse had had the chance to reach her full potential before tragically dying from alcohol poisoning in 2011. He told Rolling Stone magazine: "What's interesting about him [Ed] is he's almost a one-man band, to start with, which is always very interesting. I don't know, I feel a very genuine feel from the music and what he's doing. And I love it when you meet people and you realize immediately that fame isn't the only thing on their mind. I mean sadly, now, Amy Winehouse could have been that. She already was, but she's sadly missed. To [think] what she could have done, what she would have done."



KHALIFA CITED FOR PUBLIC URINATION IN PITTSBURGH

Pittsburgh police say rapper Wiz Khalifa has been cited for urinating in public. City public safety spokeswoman Sonya Toler says it happened at about 2:30 am Saturday behind a bar called The Flats on Pittsburgh's South Side. Khalifa, whose real name is Cameron Jibril Thomaz, is a graduate of Pittsburgh's Allderdice High School and keeps a home in suburban Canonsburg. He was in town to perform during Pitt's Midnight Madness basketball season kickoff Friday night. Representatives for Khalifa, who is known for hits like "Black and Yellow" and "See You Again," did not immediately return phone and email messages from The Associated Press seeking comment on the citation, which is basically a ticket. —Bang Showbiz





Beckham to open Hong Kong store

Victoria Beckham will open a store in Hong Kong next year. The 41-year-old fashion designer is thrilled with the success of her first standalone store in London and is now looking to expand internationally. She said: "Our next store will be in Hong Kong in the first half of next year, which I am incredibly excited about." In her stores, Victoria wants to cater for every level of shopper. She added to Grazia magazine: "I've always wanted people to be able to come to the store, whether it was just to browse, look at the architecture, buy a key ring or a full runway look. I have the most phenomenal shop staff."

The former Spice Girls star is also working on expanding her VVB line, the sister range to her main Victoria Beckham collection. She explained: "The VVB collection actually merged with denim this season for the first time as a result of really listening to my customer and understanding that the two categories belong together." And to mark the merger, as well as the anniversary of her London store opening, Victoria threw a lavish party last month. She said: "It was such a great night. I really wanted to celebrate the first anniversary, the new VVB/denim merge and also to be part of London Fashion Week. It's so important to relax and have fun, that night was a perfect time to reflect on everything we've achieved and have fun with friends, family and my fantastic team."

Crawford has raunchier dressing room personality

Cindy Crawford is "raunchier" in the dressing room. The 49-year-old supermodel admitted when she is backstage having her hair and make-up done she's more likely to reveal her biggest secrets or pour her heart out because afterwards she can walk out and feel "invincible". She said: "I know I have a dressing room personality that is slightly funnier and raunchier than I might have at a dinner party. In fact, it's practically mandatory! In order to keep up with the humour with some of the biggest personalities I've ever met, I have to bring my A game."

"But the make-up room is also the place where I could talk about the fight I had with my boyfriend or about feeling homesick. There, tears are dried, and friendships are cemented, so that by the time I step onto the set, I feel invincible." Meanwhile, the American beauty shared how back in her early modeling days she attended to her own hair and had to carry a bag of essential items. She told Refinery29.co.uk: "During my Chicago modeling days, in addition to doing our own hair and make-up, we also had to bring a bag of accessories to shoots. Black pumps, nude and black stockings, and earrings. "This was modeling 101. Most mornings I'd set my hair in hot curlers, pack my 'model bag,' and walk two blocks to Skrebneski Studio."



Khloe Kardashian gets hair tutorial

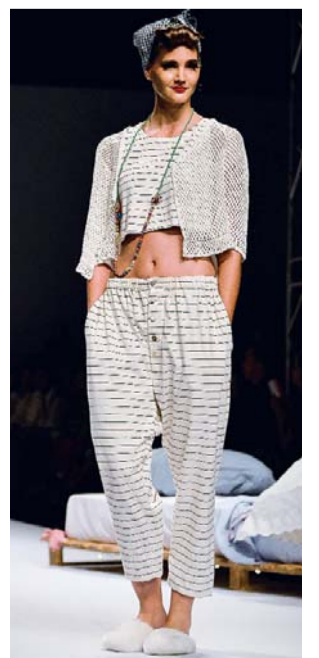
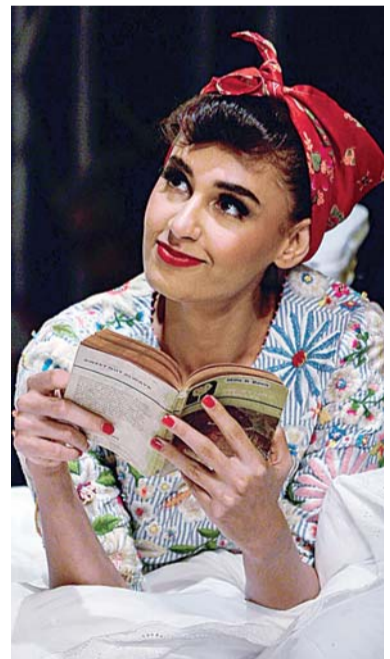
Khloe Kardashian can't style her own hair. The 'Keeping Up with the Kardashians' star's thick 'bronde' mane is usually looked after by a personal hair stylist but she won't be able to take Jen Atkin with her on her trip to China, so Khloe was put through her paces by Jen in a Facetime tutorial so she can look great while she's in the Far East. Khloe posted a video of the lesson on her website www.khloewithak.com and took to Instagram to upload a photo of her straightening her own locks. The accompanying caption on Instagram read: "See, who ever said you can't teach an old dog new tricks?! By @jenatkinhair Guys, I've created a monster #FacetimeHairTutorials #KardashianBeautyHair (sic)" In a Twitter post she confessed she has always been hopeless when it comes to caring for her own hair.

She tweeted: "Seriously didn't know how to do my own hair until @jenatkinhair taught me (sic)" A video clip of another style schooling posted on Twitter shows Khloe with Jen getting face-to-face tips. In the clip, Khloe takes a seat in the salon dressed in silk pyjamas as Jen stands dutifully by and attempts to teach her straightening basics. Reluctant to take up the tongs, Khloe says: "This is like a dangerous thing, so dangerous. Will I burn myself?" —Bang Showbiz

Amazon India Fashion Week



Models do the pillow fight as they present creations by Indian fashion designer Aneeth Arora during the Amazon India Fashion Week Spring Summer 2016.



Models present creations by Indian fashion designer Debarun during the Amazon India Fashion Week Spring Summer 2016 in New Delhi. —AP/AFP photos



A street vendor sells goods in front of a mural painted on building in Kiev. — AFP photos



A mural on a residential building in Kiev shows famous Ukrainian poetess Lesya Ukrainka.



Local residents watch as Spanish artist Zosen Bandido paints a mural on a residential building.

Street artists give Kiev colorful makeover



Spanish artist Zosen Bandido poses in front of his unfinished mural on a residential building in Kiev.

In a mural splashed across a four-story building in central Kiev, a small boy nonchalantly throws paper planes. The peaceful image is just one example of the colorful street art springing up across the Ukrainian capital, reflecting a new mood of optimism in a city once criss-crossed by barricades. The artist, 28-year-old Oleksandr Korban, is a former miner who fled the armed conflict in the separatist Donbass region of eastern Ukraine. His mural depicts a small boy called Lev, the son of friends of the artist who gave him shelter in Kiev and "helped me in difficult times," said Korban.

"When I came up with the idea of a boy with paper planes, my first thought was of Lev," Korban previously worked as a coal miner for five years and Paper Planes is his first major mural in the capital. In Kiev, he found himself in the right place at the right time.

Explicitly political

In just a year, Kiev has exploded with dozens of street art projects created by both Ukrainian and international artists. Australian artist Guido Van Helten painted a portrait of a Ukrainian woman poet Lesya Ukrainka, while Spanish artist Zosen Bandido transformed a facade with colorful mythical creatures inspired by Ukrainian folk art.

Some of the images are explicitly political. Ukrainian artist Oleksiy Bordusov created a mural showing a figure in Cossack dress with the head of a falcon, a national symbol of Ukraine, hacking at a two-headed snake. The snake on the mural titled "Ukrainian Saint George" symbolizes the dual threat from Western NATO member countries and Russia, Bordusov said.

"My idea is that Ukraine has become a bargaining chip in the geopolitical game of the West and the East." "When thousands of people die in your country, you can't just pretend nothing is happening and create something that doesn't reflect that reality", the artist said of his decision to comment on politics. Others opted to depict the Maidan uprising that swept away the pro-Russian president Viktor Yanukovich. Argentina's Franco Fasoli painted a figure waving a Ukrainian flag surrounded by Molotov cocktails and men in balaclavas. Meanwhile, a Portuguese street artist, Alexandre Farto, depicted the first person killed in shooting during the Maidan protests, Serhiy Nigoyan. And much more is yet to come.

New European look

The people of Kiev mostly support the young artists

who are giving the city a colorful facelift. "During work on one of the latest murals, the residents of the building brought us tea and cookies," says Ukrainian organizer Geo Leros. Leros launched the City Art project, which aims to create an art district in the city centre and is working to find investors and international artists. Bandido said that locals really appreciated his colorful mural and a kindergarten director even asked him to decorate its walls. "There are people with energy who try to open this city and culture more and more to the world", Bandido told AFP. Not all Kiev residents are fans of street art, however, Leros admitted. "When we were working on Lesya Ukrainka mural, an old woman from the building came up to the artist and started shouting that she would only allow a portrait of Lenin on her house," he recalled.

Nevertheless, street art is becoming an integral part of Kiev's new European look. Since August, sightseeing tours have taken in the colorful works of art, which are becoming a must-see for city visitors. "The new art objects fit perfectly with the new, modern and European style of the city," said Kiev mayor Vitali Klitschko. — AFP

'Military Art' Exhibition



A visitor looks at a painted ammunition crate during an exhibition which opened in Kiev entitled "Military Art" created by Pavlo Rotar, a special forces police officer fighting in a Ukrainian battalion. — AFP photos



A painted shell case is displayed.



A painted piece of military equipment is displayed during the exhibition.



A visitor looks at painted ammunition crates during an exhibition.



Painted pieces of military equipment is displayed during the exhibition.



This book cover image released by Ballantine Books shows "My Journey," a memoir by fashion designer Donna Karan. — AP photos



Fashion designer Donna Karan poses during an interview in New York.

Donna Karan's fashion wisdom

Donna Karan introduced her famous Seven Easy Pieces in 1985, as she was introducing the world to her namesake label. Based on a black bodysuit with simple added pieces like a wrap skirt, classic trousers, or a suede jacket, it was a lot more than a convenient wardrobe: It was a conceptual shift in fashion. Karan was trying to tell women working women that clothes could work for them, and not the other way around. And that they didn't need to wear buttoned-up suits to look professional.

It's a time of great transition for Karan, 67. In the summer, she announced she was stepping down from her signature Donna Karan collection to focus fully on her Urban Zen company and foundation, which along with designing clothes promotes health care, education and preservation of local culture in countries like Haiti.

What's more, she has a memoir coming out next week - "My Journey," a volume chock full of very personal, entertaining anecdotes (like that time Barbra Streisand came in and insisted on taking a sweater that had been determined to be too flammable. They became great friends.) Karan didn't know, when writing, that she'd have to add a new final chapter about her farewell to her famous label. But, she says "that's how my life happens" - beginnings and endings, always at the same time. Karan sat down to chat with The Associated Press this week in her sweeping, tranquil Urban Zen space in Greenwich Village. — AP

Forgotten Whistler found in Dutch museum

Forgotten for two decades, a dusty old canvas hidden in a corner of a small Dutch museum has been revealed as a painting by American artist James Whistler. "Thanks to chemical analysis and an examination of its origins, we have concluded that we have an authentic Whistler," museum curator Jan Rudolph de Lorm told AFP. The unsigned painting, called "Symphony in White. Girl in Muslin Dress," depicts a young girl with black hair dressed in a high-necked, ruffled white frock staring enigmatically straight out of the picture.

The work was displayed in 1956 when the Singer museum in Laren, in the central Netherlands, opened its doors. But a specialist in the works of the 19th century American-born artist - best known for his painting "Arrangement in Grey and Black No. 1" or "Whistler's Mother" — cast doubts on the authenticity of the canvas and it was relegated to a store room. "I saw the picture in the depot and I just couldn't get her stare out of my mind," said Rudolph de Lorm.

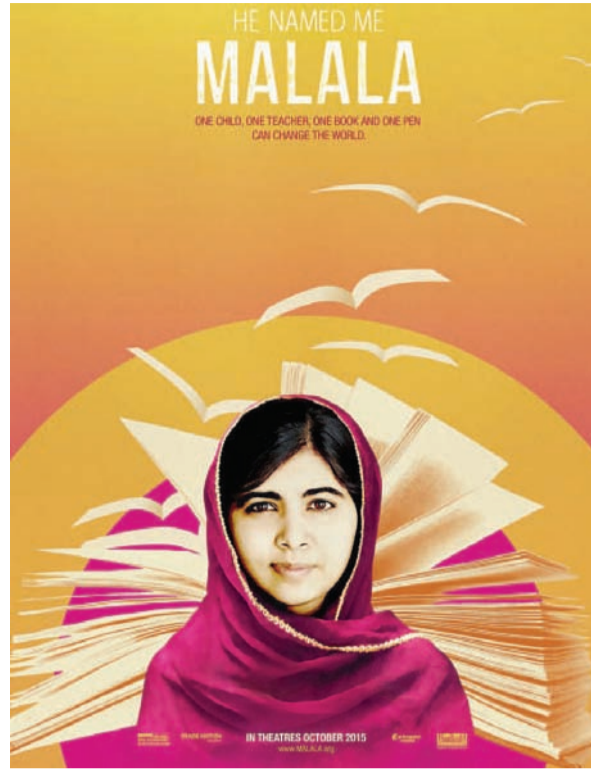
"A good portrait is like a meeting, and I have met this young woman." The curator asked for an investigation to be opened and, together with universities in Amsterdam, Antwerp and Glasgow, minutely traced the painting's origins. Analysis has also revealed traces of the chemical element strontium, matching that found in another Whistler painting exhibited in the central Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam. Carefully removing traces of restoration work carried out at the start of the 20th century also exposed



"very recognizable Whistler brush strokes," Rudolph de Lorm said. Little is known about the subject of the portrait, though she is thought to be most likely the daughter of an art collector at that time. Today the painting is worth about 500,000 euros. Born in a New England mill town in 1834, Whistler spent much of his life living in England and became known for his nocturne images of his adopted home of London. He died in the British capital in 1903. —AFP



In this Monday, Dec 8, 2014 file photo, joint Nobel Peace Prize winner Malala Yousafzai, aged 17, briefly speaks to the media as she arrives at her hotel after flying to Oslo, to receive her award. — AP



'He named me Malala': Portrait of girls' education icon

Malala was the name on everyone's lips this week at the London Film Festival where a documentary about the youngest-ever Nobel Peace laureate had its European premiere. "He named me Malala" is an intimate portrait of Malala Yousafzai, the passionate Pakistani advocate of girls' education who survived a brutal Taliban gun attack in 2012. Even the festival's biggest stars seemed humbled by the teenager and her aspirations. American actress Meryl Streep hailed her as the worthy heiress of the suffragettes who battled for the right to vote in Britain in the early 20th century.

Filmed over 18 months in Britain, Kenya, Nigeria, Abu Dhabi and Jordan, the documentary by American David Guggenheim recalls how Malala's father chose her name in honor of Malalai of Maiwand, a heroine who rallied the Pashtun army against British troops in 1880. "When I was little, many people would say, 'Change Malala's name. It's a bad name, it means sad.' But my father would always say, 'No, it has another meaning. Bravery,'" the 18-year-old said.

On screen, the teenager is seen at her home in

Birmingham, central England, explaining to her father in the family living room how Twitter works, or squabbling with her brothers, Atal and Khushal. "She's fighting for human rights but at home she's so violent," complained Atal after being beaten in an arm wrestling match. The film follows her at school, in the streets of New York, at a refugee camp, spreading her optimistic and determined message on the right to education. "One child, one teacher, one book and one pen can change the world," she proclaimed.

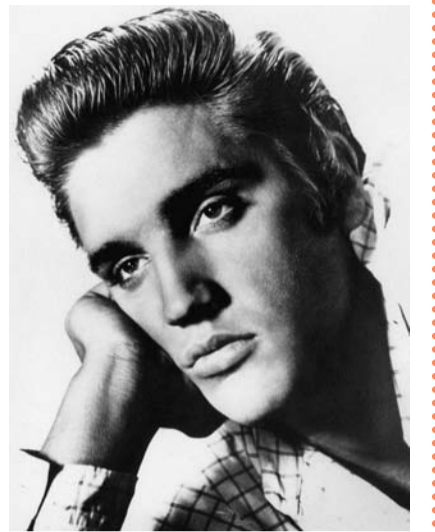
'They had never killed a child'

The documentary also shows her life in Pakistan's Swat valley where she decided, aged 11, to write a blog for the BBC. "Diary of a Pakistani schoolgirl" - in which she denounces Taliban violence. Guggenheim turns to animation to bring to life these years before the attempted assassination in October 2012, when Taliban gunmen opened fire on then 14-year-old Malala on her school bus. The cartoons, matching photos from the family album, also evoke the childhood of Malala's mother, Toor Pekai Yousafzai, who

recalled her own brief education Friday at London's Women in the World summit. "I left school because I was the only girl in a class full of boys. I just wanted to play with my cousins who were girls," she said in Pashtun, adding that she is now trying to learn to read and write in English. Of her daughter, she explained that, despite the anguish, she could not "stop a girl like her from talking or speaking up." "Sometimes when I worried she would tell me 'I can't stop going to school, I can't stop talking, because I am a girl and we cannot go back to the ages when they buried girls alive. I want to progress. I want to speak.'" The film also shows the months of hospitalization and reeducation of the girl who wants to become Prime Minister of Pakistan, as well as her close relationship to her father, himself a teacher and staunch defender of the right to education. "We are one soul in two different bodies," said Malala in the documentary. To silence the critics who see her as her father's mouthpiece, she added: "my father only gave me the name Malalai. He didn't make me Malalai. I chose this life." — AFP

New Elvis album teams king with royal orchestra

Priscilla Presley closes her eyes and bites her lip as she listens to a new album of Elvis songs, with the king of rock and roll's voice backed by Britain's Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. "I am emotional because I watched him singing each one of these songs," his ex-wife told AFP at London's Abbey Road Studios, where the album was recorded and where The Beatles made most of their hits. "I visualize everything that he's doing: his facial expressions, the point where he gets the chills or when he's really feeling it. I'm reliving all that." Due out on October 30, the album, entitled "If I Can Dream," gives Presley's songs the sort of huge backing he always wanted in studio recordings but only got during his 1970s Las Vegas concerts, Priscilla said. "Elvis loved bigness," she told reporters. She recounted how his manager Colonel Tom Parker would, on studio recordings, sneakily insist that the backing track volume be turned down and Presley's voice brought up front. "When Elvis heard this was happening, he went ballistic. So this is what the songs would have sounded like. He wanted it dramatic, he wanted to feel it," the 70-year-old said. "We've just added to it to make it the sound that Elvis truly would have loved to have had. "Because if you ever saw him on the stage in Las Vegas, this is what you heard."



An undated file picture of US rock star shows Elvis Presley, born in Tupelo Mississippi on January 8, 1935 and deceased on August 16, 1977 in Memphis. — AFP

but Parker felt he could not guarantee his security outside North America. Making this album in London is "kind of our way of saying thank-you" for the popular support he received in Britain, she said. Elvis would have done it "in a minute", she added.

Clean vocal over new backdrop

The album includes "It's Now Or Never", "You've Lost That Loving Feeling", "Bridge Over Troubled Water", "Can't Help Falling in Love", "In The Ghetto", "How Great Thou Art" and "An American Trilogy". "Fever" is reformulated as a duet with Canadian crooner Michael Buble, over a powerful new backdrop that swells like a James Bond movie theme. Hours of painstaking work went into extracting Presley's voice from the original tapes, using modern technology to paint out the music that leaked from his loud headphones onto the vocal microphone. — AFP

'Take it right through the roof'

The album mixes hits with lesser-known tracks deemed ripe for a string arrangement. The 14 songs are drawn from throughout his career, which spanned from the early 1950s to his death in 1977 aged 42. The project to give Elvis' recordings a full orchestral backing was a 15-month labor of love for Priscilla and producers Don Reedman and Nick Patrick. "Elvis didn't really use big orchestras in the recording studios," said Reedman, who came up with the idea. "I just felt this man needs a big orchestra to complement this amazing voice he's got and take it right through the roof." "We really did set out to make a fresh album. It wasn't just redoing the past." Priscilla said Elvis had wanted to perform in Europe from as early as 1959,

Hollywood women say 'no more' to pay disparity, harassment

Hollywood actresses bemoan pay disparity with their male counterparts, as well as the despised "casting couch" - where film executives sometimes make sexual advances before deciding who gets a coveted movie role. But some of Hollywood's top female stars are saying "no more," and are hailing this as a banner year for women in film. Ashley Judd was the latest to join the chorus, telling Variety magazine "one of the industry's most famous, admired" bosses-whom she declined to name-had lured her to his hotel suite in the late 1990s.

She said that after it became clear that she would not return his sexual advances, he asked if she would watch him shower. "I

when women in Hollywood are increasingly standing up for their rights, demanding better treatment and fair pay. "A lot of people are speaking out and the subject of sexism in Hollywood is trending," said Jennifer Merin, head of the Alliance of Women Film Journalists. "But that can be something dangerous as well because it can become a trend and then disappear."

The issue of pay disparity grabbed headlines last year after a leak of stolen emails from Sony Pictures Entertainment showed that Oscar-winning actress Jennifer Lawrence was paid less than her male co-stars in the hit movie "American Hustle." Patricia Arquette also railed against the industry's gender-based wage gap during her acceptance speech after winning an Oscar at this year's Academy Awards. Some of Hollywood's highest profile stars, such as Meryl Streep, Emma Watson and Gwyneth Paltrow, also have chimed in, helping put the issue in the spotlight.

"Look, nobody is worth the money that Robert Downey Jr is worth," Paltrow told Variety, speaking about her co-star in the movie "Iron Man." "But if I told you the disparity, you would probably be surprised." According to Forbes magazine's 2015 list of best-paid actors, Downey topped the list for the third year in a row earning a whopping \$80 million. That's nearly \$30 million more than Lawrence, the best-paid actress, who raked in \$52 million. Kirsten Schaffer, executive director of Women in Film, an advocacy group, said that while the outcry over gender disparities in the film industry was gaining steam much still needed to be done before Hollywood's glass ceiling is shattered. "There are a lot more women in the last six months speaking out publicly against sexism," Schaffer told AFP. "But there is a lot of room for growth." According to a report by the Center for the Study of Women in Television and Film at San Diego State University in California, only seven percent of the top 250 movies in 2014 were directed by women. The numbers aren't much better when it comes to other jobs behind the camera, including writers, executive producers and editors.

"Those number haven't changed in 20 years," said Martha Lauzen, executive director of the center. "Women's under-representation both on screen and behind screen has been an issue since the 1940s," she added. "But what is new is that those high-profile individuals are feeling comfortable about speaking out... aided by a cultural zeitgeist in favor of greater diversity overall." Lauzen said that given the industry's track record on sexism, what may prove a tipping point is the fact that rights groups such as the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) are now demanding answers from Hollywood. — AFP



Jennifer Lawrence

did not recognize at the time what was happening to me," the 47-year-old actress said in the latest issue of Variety. "It took years before I could retrospectively evaluate that incident, and realize there was something incredibly wrong and illegal about it."

'Subject of sexism trending'

Though Judd's story is by no means unique, harassment of women in Hollywood is only the most explicit manifestation of their treatment as second-class citizens. Her story comes at a time

Beyonce, Billie Holiday: Michelle Obama reveals favorites

Michelle Obama has revealed musical tastes that include Beyonce and past greats such as Billie Holiday as she released a first playlist on streaming service Spotify. Following a separate playlist by her husband, the US first lady released her own yesterday for the International Day of the Girl, part of a UN campaign to end extreme poverty by improving education and health for women and girls worldwide. Obama opened her playlist with a contemporary anthem to female empowerment "Run the World (Girls)" by Beyonce.

The choice is not entirely surprising as Beyonce and her husband Jay Z have been political supporters of the Obamas. Last month, Beyonce brought Michelle Obama on stage at the Global Citizen Festival in New York, where the first lady urged a campaign to bring education to the estimated 62 million girls around the world who are out of school. Obama also picked "Survivor" by Beyonce's former band Destiny's Child as well as songs by contemporary singers including Jennifer Hudson, Alicia Keys and Janelle Monae.

She also reached back to classics including Holiday's 1944 version of "On the Sunny Side of the Street," Diana Ross's hit 1970 take on "Ain't No Mountain High Enough" and, closing the playlist, Aretha Franklin's signature song "Respect." While the playlist, in line with the theme, is overwhelmingly female, men were represented with a song by Norwegian rappers Nico & Vinz. The only other men on the playlist came on "My Shot," a tune from the acclaimed Broadway hip-hop musical "Hamilton," composed by Lin-Manuel Miranda.



Beyonce

President Barack Obama released two playlists of his own in August on Spotify, the most popular streaming platform, during his summer vacation. Five artists win the distinction of being on the playlists of both Obamas: Beyonce, Mary J. Blige, Aretha Franklin, Ms. Lauryn Hill and Holiday. — AFP



Katy Perry set to roar for Hillary

She also performed at Obama's second inauguration and has used her social media power to spread the word on the president's signature reform expanding health care coverage. The 30-year-old singer - who has released a string of blockbuster hits including "Roar," "Firework" and "Teenage Dream" - was raised in a conservative Christian household and does not generally bring politics into her music.

An exception is gay rights, of which Perry has been an outspoken proponent, and which she touched upon in her hit song "I Kissed a Girl." Perry has been touring Latin America on the final leg of her year-and-a-half long tour to promote the album "Prism," with the final date scheduled for October 18 in San Jose, Costa Rica. Clinton is the front-runner to secure the Democratic nomination but has faced rising pressure on the left from Senator Bernie Sanders. Sanders has won endorsements of a number of musicians, although none with Perry's star power. These include Flea of alternative rockers the Red Hot Chili Peppers, Belinda Carlisle of all-female New Wave band The Go-Go's, and folk rockers Jackson Browne, Steve Earle and Loudon Wainwright III. — AFP

Obama offers friendly advice for Kanye presidential bid

US President Barack Obama offered advice Saturday to Kanye West on the rapper's improbable White House bid - telling him that reality TV might be good training for Washington. West, who has declared with an unclear degree of seriousness that he will run for president in 2020, was performing at a fundraiser for Obama's Democratic Party in San Francisco. Addressing supporters who paid up to \$10,000 a ticket, teased that he had campaign advice for West, who is married to reality television star Kim Kardashian.

"First of all, you've got to spend a lot of time dealing with some strange characters who behave like they're on a reality TV show," Obama said to laughter. Obama joked that the background of West-like Obama, an African-American who spent formative years in Chicago - may not be entirely far-fetched for the presidency. "Do you really think that this country is going to elect a black guy from the South Side of Chicago with a funny name to be president of the United States? That is crazy," Obama said to applause. But Obama noted that the title of one of West's albums may prove to be a political liability.

"Saying you have a 'Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy' - that's what's known as 'off-message' in politics," Obama said, referring to West's chart-topping 2010 album. Obama did not resist taking a jab at the rival Republican Party, whose leadership in the House of Representatives is in disarray, saying that he heard "Kanye is thinking of running for speaker of the House." West, who is known for his brash self-confidence and has likened himself to Michelangelo, declared in August at the MTV Video Music Awards that he plans to run for president in 2020. The rapper's aspirations earlier won unlikely praise from real estate mogul Donald Trump, the acerbic front-runner in the Republican presidential race for 2016. Trump told Rolling Stone magazine last month that he found West to be a "nice guy," adding: "I hope to run against him someday." — AFP



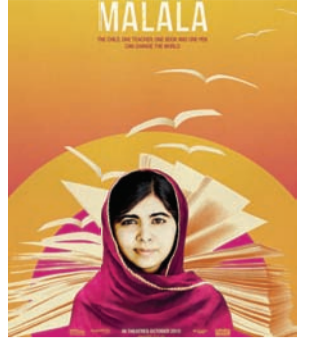
Kanye West



File photo show Vin Diesel speaks on stage at the 45th NAACP Image Awards at the Pasadena Civic Auditorium in Pasadena, Calif. — AP

Diesel says 'Witch Hunter' role cathartic to deal with grief

Vin Diesel still struggles over the loss of his friend and "Furious" co-star Paul Walker, so taking on the role of an immortal in the upcoming film "The Last Witch Hunter" helped him deal with his grief. "Death was a huge theme last year," Diesel told The Associated Press Friday. "There was something therapeutic about playing this role after going through (Walker's death)." Diesel is no stranger to fantasy and sci-fi films, having starred in "The Chronicles of Riddick" series, "Babylon AD," and "Guardians of the Galaxy," but this one was special for him. "The idea that someone immortal could be so melancholy, 2014 was a tough year for me in some ways - a lot of ways," Diesel said, choking up before continuing. "Playing a character that was masking his sorrow - his loss - was very appropriate for the time, because that's what I was doing in real life with the post-"Furious 7." Walker died in late 2013 after the Porsche in which he was a passenger crashed and burned north of Los Angeles during a holiday break in the filming of "Furious 7," the latest installment of "The Fast and Furious" franchise. Production was halted indefinitely, but resumed seven months later. Diesel felt continuing the film would honor Walker's legacy, and his respect for the series' devoted fanbase. "Paul said, 'You know ('Furious 7' could bomb and ('Furious 8' is still guaranteed). When somebody who is like your brother makes a promise, you feel inclined to want to honor that," Diesel said. Diesel shared Walker's vision on the longevity of the series. — AP



Jimmy Cheng, a former graffiti artist, poses for photo in front of a graffiti in Taipei. — AFP photos

New urban canvas for Taiwan's graffiti artists

Once vilified by the authorities and threatened with jail, Taiwan's graffiti artists are now being encouraged to get out their spray cans to revive urban areas. Run-down districts around the island have become legalized graffiti zones as Taiwan seeks to cast itself as a hub for creativity and design. But while some artists welcome the chance to show off their skills without repercussions, others say sticking to areas approved by authorities goes against the spirit of the anti-establishment art form. In Taipei's Ximending shopping district, drab city walls have been brightened with large scale technical colour graffiti.

A few blocks away from the area's main neon-lit hub of chain stores and food vendors, a network of alleyways is home to smaller boutiques and a thriving street culture scene. The walls of this area have become a legal canvas for graffiti artists, with images ranging from giant snakes to political caricatures. Jimmy Cheng, 39, a former graffiti artist, manages the zone-artists come to him to show their portfolio before they are allowed to spray on the walls. "We don't have any rules, apart from no swear words and no pornography," says Cheng. "I think having these kind of areas is definitely a good idea," he adds. "On a riverside wall you can spend a day painting, then the next day someone else covers it up. We tell our artists which parts they can paint on. Everybody follows the rules. "Also we've introduced lots of events, like street dance and tattooing as well as graffiti." Cheng says before the derelict square was transformed, it was mainly used by the homeless.

Turning tide

Local graffiti artist Bio, 25, sees the area as an opportunity to make a mark on the city without the risk of arrest. "Graffiti doesn't always have to be a bad thing," he says. "It makes a place shine... More and more people come here to take photos." The authorities' new approach is a far cry from the previous zero-tolerance approach which saw one leading political artist, BBrother, prosecuted and given a three to five-year jail sentence in 2006 for illegal graffiti in Taipei. The lawsuit was dropped after an online petition.

There is no law that specifically targets graffiti, but artists can be punished for damaging property, incurring up to a five year jail sentence, although



Jimmy Cheng, a former graffiti artist, poses for photo in front of a graffiti.

authorities say they rarely impose penalties. "In the past, government agencies tended to ban and banish graffiti because of public sentiment," a spokesman for Taiwan's culture ministry told AFP.

Kaohsiung City after the successful revitalization of a defunct railway repair station. The city's Jiuru Street Art Factory became one of Taiwan's first legalized graffiti areas in 2011 when the railway company



A building with graffiti in Taipei.

"But it has gradually become part of living spaces as people's acceptance and knowledge of graffiti art has grown."

Taipei has 10 legal graffiti zones while central Taichung City has seven areas. Local officials in southern Taiwan are planning a similar district in



A woman takes down the advertise from a light pod in front of a graffiti.

gave permission for artists to take over the space.

Thrill seekers

For Amos, a 29-year-old graffiti artist in Taichung, Taiwan's street art scene still has some way to go compared with what he sees in China, Japan, and in New



Graffiti artists Joker (left), Jimmy Cheng (center), Vestar Fu (right) and Bio (upper) pose for photo in front of graffiti showing their latest artwork depicting Taiwan's presidential candidates (from left) Tsai Ing-wen, Chairwoman of the main opposition Democratic Progressive Party (DPP), Hung Shiu-chu, Deputy Parliament Speaker from the ruling Kuomintang (KMT), James Soong, Chairman of the opposition People First Party (PFP) and Jimmy, a famous Taiwan graffiti artist, in Taipei.

York. "There have been a lot of graffiti events in China in recent years, mostly government funded," he says. "It can make a city feel younger, livelier." He also says that while legalized zones are useful, illegal graffiti will still flourish. "Those who do graffiti tend to have a rebellious streak. They may go to the designated areas but they will still roam the streets," he told AFP. "Those who go to paint in the zones are artists who want to create a complete work or to learn and teach." Amos shares his graffiti online and via Instagram, often featuring his trademark "Big Teeth Bear"—a blue animal with bulging teeth and a red eye patch—seen along freeways, under bridges, or in cargo areas. Taipei artist Bio agrees that some will not be able to resist flouting the rules. He has been arrested once for illegal graffiti and says his punishment was to clean it off as he could not afford the Tw\$200,000 (\$6,000) fine. It has not deterred him from exploring forbidden canvases. "I understand the government prefers us to do this (legal graffiti) and I respect that... but there's always a little devil in my heart. We don't want to be restricted. That's our spirit."

The government acknowledges the sanctioned parks will not stamp out illegal graffiti, but says it will continue with its policy to enhance the urban landscape. "Some graffiti artists may think legalizing it will greatly diminish the thrill," says the culture ministry. "But for the public, and the appearance of the city, it makes sense." — AFP



Jimmy Cheng poses for photo next to the drafts of graffiti.



A man walks past a giant graffiti.



Local artists sort out the paints during a graffiti competition.



A masked artist paints during a graffiti competition.