

NEW YEAR GREETINGS

Kuwait Times Editor-in-Chief Abd Al-Rahman Al-Alyan wishes HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah, Cabinet members, heads of states around the world, Kuwaitis, expatriates and our valued readers a happy Hijri new year! Kuwait Times will not be published on Thursday, Oct 15, 2015. Our next issue will be out on Friday, Oct 16, 2015.



Happy New Islamic Year 1437



SPORTS AUTHORITY REJECTS IOC DEADLINE, CONDITIONS

KOC ACCUSED OF PROVIDING INCORRECT INFO TO OLYMPIC BODY



Min 26°
Max 39°
High Tide 00:01 & 12:23
Low Tide 06:22 & 18:35



KUWAIT: Smoke and flames rise as a helicopter flies during an annual military show of the Kuwaiti air force yesterday at Udaira military range. (Inset) Kuwaiti Defense Minister Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah and US Ambassador to Kuwait Douglas Silliman attend the show. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat (See Page 2)

KUWAIT/LAUSANNE: The International Olympic Committee set a deadline of Oct 27 for the resolution of a dispute that could lead to Kuwait's suspension from the Olympic body, but the Public Authority for Youth and Sports (PAYS) categorically rejected any deadline or conditions by the IOC, saying "the date of October 27 means nothing to PAYS".

IOC officials held meetings in Lausanne on Monday with a high-level Kuwaiti delegation to discuss issues involving sports legislation in the country. The IOC said "all parties agreed to fully respect and comply with the principles and rules of the Olympic Charter and the statutes of the international federations". The IOC said a working group has been set up to resolve the issues by Oct 27 "in the interest of the Olympic Movement in Kuwait and the athletes". Kuwait was suspended by the IOC for more than two years but reinstated in 2012 following guarantees that new sports laws would be adopted.

PAYS said in a statement yesterday that it had met with the IOC and listened to its views, affirming that the Kuwait Olympic Committee (KOC) lies behind claims that local sports laws contradict the Olympic Charter. It added that KOC had given inaccurate information to the IOC, holding the KOC headed by Sheikh Talal Al-Fahd responsible for providing the IOC with baseless information.

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FLIGHT MH17 SHOT DOWN BY RUSSIAN-MADE MISSILE

GILZE-RIJEN, Netherlands: Air crash investigators concluded yesterday that Malaysia Airlines flight MH17 was shot down by a Russian-made BUK missile fired from war-torn eastern Ukraine last year killing all 298 people on board. Even though the Dutch-led inquiry did not say who pulled the trigger, Russian officials were already disputing the findings set to further degrade strained ties between Moscow and the West. "Flight MH17 crashed as a result of the detonation of a warhead outside the airplane against the left-hand side of the cockpit," the chairman of the Dutch Safety Board, Tjibbe Joutstra, told a press conference. "This warhead fits the kind of missile that is installed in the BUK surface-to-air missile system."

The much-anticipated report also said it was possible that some on board the Boeing 777 en route from Amsterdam to Kuala Lumpur may have been conscious during the 90 seconds it took to crash on

July 17 last year. Malaysia vowed it would seek the prosecution of the "trigger happy criminals" who downed the flight, the second aviation tragedy for the country after the mysterious disappearance of flight MH370 in March 2014. "The wreckage was spread over several sites" near the villages of Grabove, Rozsypne and Ptopavlivka, most of which were in rebel territory, the Dutch report said.

The inquiry has marked out a 320 sq km area in eastern Ukraine from which the missile must have been fired to cause the amount of damage. But it did not specify whether it came from an area under the control of pro-Russian separatists battling Ukrainian forces. Standing in front of an eerie reconstruction of the plane's cockpit made from the wreckage, Joutstra said the inquiry had not pinned down the exact location of the missile launch site, saying that would take further investigation.

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KUWAIT: Oil Minister Ali Al-Omair (center left) is flanked to his right by deputy chairman and CEO of KPC Nizar Al-Adsani and to his left by KNPC CEO Mohammad Al-Mutairi and other officials during the Al-Zour refinery signing ceremony yesterday at the KNPC headquarters in Ahmadi. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

KNPC SIGNS \$13BN ZOUR CONTRACTS

KUWAIT: The Kuwait National Petroleum Company yesterday signed contracts worth \$13.2 billion with international firms to build a refinery said to be the state's largest development project. The deal comes as Kuwait, a key oil producer, moves to modernize its energy facilities and boost its refining capabilities. The Al-Zour refinery near the border with Saudi Arabia is slated to produce 615,000 barrels per day and come onstream in Nov 2019, KNPC CEO Mohammad Al-Mutairi told reporters.

The 10 foreign companies involved include Spain's Tecnicas Reunidas, China's Sinopec, South Korea's Hyundai, SK, Daewoo and Hanwha, Britain-based Fluor, Italy's Saipem and India's Essar. The new refinery will eventually be part of a complex to include a huge petrochemicals venture and a liquefied natural gas (LNG) import facility, both under study, Mutairi said.

The new refinery has a strategic goal of supplying low sulfur fuel (less than one percent compared to the current four percent) to local power plants, which will significantly reduce polluting emissions. The refinery will provide clean fuel to ministry of electricity and water stations, and new products in line with requirements of the European markets, which will help KNPC to open up fresh markets on the continent, in addition to promoting the oil industry at home, Mutairi added.

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TANA FILES TO GRILL SUBAIH

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: MP Mohammad Tana yesterday carried out his threat and filed a request to grill Minister of Social Affairs and Labor Hind Al-Subaih over alleged financial and administrative violations. National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem said he received the grilling yesterday and decided to place it on the agenda of the Assembly session following the opening ceremony on Oct 27. This means the grilling might be debated on Nov 3 if the minister does not request a two-week delay.

Ghanem however said that he will take the opinion of the Assembly on whether to take up the grilling in the opening session, but after the speeches of HH the Amir and HH the prime minister. Tana's grilling is based on alleged violations in four sectors under the ministry of social affairs and labor - the public authority for

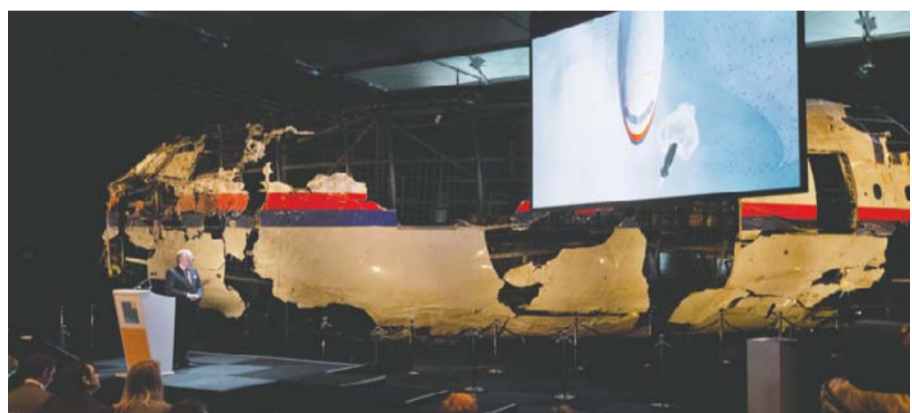


Mohammad Tana

the disabled, the public manpower authority, the cooperative societies sector and the social care homes sector.

Subaih, the only female member in the Cabinet, said in a quick response that she is prepared to face the questioning, adding that it presents an important opportunity for her to show the achievements she has made after assuming office.

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GILZE-RIJEN, Netherlands: A video shows the impact of a missile on Malaysia Airlines Flight 17, while a part of the reconstructed forward section of the fuselage is displayed behind during a presentation of the final report on the cause of its crash yesterday. — AP

FRANCE IN DEALS WORTH €10BN WITH SAUDI ARABIA

UK DROPS SAUDI JAIL CONTRACT BID

RIYADH: France yesterday announced a series of deals worth €10 billion (\$11.4 billion) with Saudi Arabia, reinforcing growing ties between the two countries. Prime Minister Manuel Valls confirmed the agreements, some still to be finalized, during a vis-

it to Riyadh. Talks between the two nations, held alongside a business forum, "marked the intense relations of friendship and confidence... and the shared will to take them even further," a final statement said.

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Kuwait Times honored at Arab Media Forum



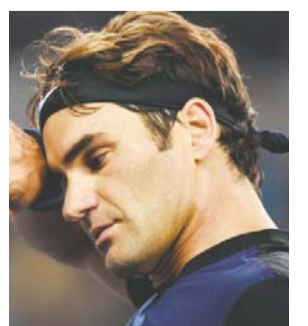
Palestinian 'Day of Rage' attacks kill three Israelis



Playboy throws in towel, ends nude photos



Federer knocked out in Shanghai opener





KUWAIT: A helicopter takes part in a military show of the Kuwaiti Air Force yesterday at Udaira military range, 140 km North of Kuwait City. Kuwaiti Air Force is undergoing improvement and development through more training and the purchase of more aircraft, said Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah in a press statement yesterday. He was speaking on the occasion of the conclusion of an annual drill for Air Force personnel that had started last Sunday. In yesterday's final drill live ammunition was used. Air force commander Maj Gen Abdullah Al-Foderi said in a similar press statement that this year's drills aimed at raising the capabilities of fighter pilots in a non-traditional war scenario. He extolled the performance of Kuwaiti pilots taking part in the coalition against Houthi militias in Yemen.

— Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat and Fouad Al-Shaikh



KUWAIT-EGYPT TIES LAUDED

CAIRO: Kuwait's Ministry of Information's Assistant Undersecretary for Radio Affairs Sheikh Fahad Al-Mubarak Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah yesterday praised the close ties between Kuwait and Egypt in various fields - especially on media. This came in Sheikh Fahad Al-Mubarak's statement to KUNA during Kuwait-Egypt Media Forum, which was held on Monday, titled (Thank You Kuwait). The event was held on the sidelines of Cairo Artworks and Media Mondial.

He also confirmed his belief in the importance of the role of art and art events that strengthen relations between people - noting that the Mondial resulted in a lot of discussions and dialogues by Egyptians and Arab producers, as well directors and scriptwriters on the implementation of joint work. He also praised the organization of this forum thanking Egypt for the good reception and the Mondial which brought together a large

number of media workers in Arab countries. On his part, Head of the Arab Producers Union Ibrahim Abu Thekri stressed that this Mondial is an honor of the countries that supported Egypt during the circumstances that finally passed-especially Kuwait.

Abu Thekri thanked His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the Government of Kuwait and people for their support to the Egyptian people. He also praised the role of the Kuwaiti media and the high-level of Kuwait TV works and drama that achieved a great success. Kuwait-Egypt forum was attended by a large number of Egyptian and Kuwaiti artists and those interested in artistic affairs. It also included a documentary film about the establishment of the TV in Kuwait and the broadcast television experience as well as a number of art works from both sides in addition to honoring a number of Kuwaiti and Egyptian media personnel. — KUNA

GCC CHIEF AUDITORS MEET, EYE CLOSER COOPERATION

DOHA: The 14th meeting of GCC chief auditors and accountants got underway yesterday, with agenda basically stipulating plans to bolster cooperation and integration of the auditing systems among the member states. Qatar's Head of the Audit Bureau Bandar Bin Mohammad Al-Thani said in the opening statement that the conferees would examine training strategies, preparation of studies, researches and the common auditing project.

The GCC states are currently witnessing extraordinary conditions, due to falling oil prices, he said, noting that the member states need to revise their development strategies to withstand effects of the bearish crude prices. Moreover, "this warrants that auditing be up to level of challenges to ensure sound control of financial resources, avert squan-

dering or misappropriation of the (financial) resources," the chief Qatari auditor pointed out.

Furthermore, Bandar Bin Mohammad indicated that to attain abovementioned goals, greater coordination is warranted among the GCC countries. Dr Abdul Latif bin Rashid Al-Zayani, the GCC Secretary General, addressed the inaugural session, underscoring role of the audit authorities in the GCC countries that play a crucial role in preserving public funds and the countries' financial resources. However, he called for greater cooperation and employment of more advanced methods and techniques to revamp the sector in the regional states. The Kuwaiti delegation taking part in the meeting includes the Audit Bureau Acting Chairman, Abdel Abdulaziz Al-Saraawi. — KUNA

'NO MORE CHOLERA CASES'

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: Health Ministry Assistant Undersecretary for Public Hygiene Affairs Dr Majeda Al-Qattan said that other than the five cases detected over the past two weeks, no further cholera cases were detected in Kuwait and that all the five patients had already recovered after receiving proper hospital treatment. Speaking to reporters, Qattan assured that there was nothing to worry about in this regard and explained that cholera is a disease caused by consuming contaminated water or food. "Kuwait has special desalination plants, bottled water and highly developed services," she underlined, pointing out that developing cholera symptoms was unlikely to happen in Kuwait.

Qattan also stressed that in collaboration with MoI and the customs department, MoH had taken all needed measures to prevent entry of the disease through sick people or contaminated goods arriving from Iraq. "All hospital and concerned bodies had been notified with how to deal with the disease, starting with diagnosis, treatment protocols, observing arrivals and preventive measures to be taken with those dealing with patients," she concluded.

Theft of six vehicles

Security sources received reports about the theft of six vehicles from outside a Special Forces camp. The sources explained that the vehicles belonged to employees working in the camp and that they had some military uniforms in them. A case was filed and further investigations are in progress.

Egaila center

MPW Undersecretary Awatif Al-Ghunaim said 99 percent of the construction of Egaila center has been completed and that electricity would be connected to it next week pending handing the building over to MSAL. Speaking to reporters after touring the center, Ghunaim said that it was one of the most comprehensive projects MPW was building to provide integrated services to both citizens and expatriates. She added that the center includes a mall, commercial stores, a community development center, a post office, a municipality center, a social unit, a police station, a park, parking places and MEW offices. "The project was built over an area of 70,970 square meters with a total cost of KD 13 million," she explained, predicting construction will be concluded by the end of October. Responding to a question about preparations for the rain season over the coming months, Ghunaim said MPW has already started cleaning rain drainage systems in various areas around Kuwait.

PACA investigating

The Public Authority for Civil Aviation (PACA) announced investigating all complaints related to aviation filed by passengers against travel agents. PACA's assistant director for aviation safety at Kuwait International Airport Emad Al-Jlowi said if violations are found of air transport regulations, the complaints would be immediately referred to a special committee that would decide on penalizing violators. He added that complainants also have the right to prosecute the concerned agent and demand compensation.



Assistant Undersecretary for Planning at the Ministry of Information Mohammed Al-Awash.



Kuwait Times Editor-in-Chief Abd Al-Rahman Al-Alyan receiving a memento from the Assistant Undersecretary for Planning at the Ministry of Information Mohammed Al-Awash.— Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat and Fouad Al-Shaikh

Kuwait Times honored at Arab Media Forum

By Nawara Fattahova

KUWAIT: Kuwait Times was honored in several categories at Tuesday night's Arab Media Forum. Kuwait Times founder Yousuf Al-Alyan was recognized for his important and pioneering role in early media in Kuwait, while Islam Al-Sharaa and Hanan Al-Saadoun were honored for serving more than 20 years in the newspaper industry here.

The Arab Media Forum, now in its third year, seeks to recognize and honor the diverse body of journalists, editors and media staff that contribute to the development and evolution of Kuwait's media sector. Held under the patronage of the Minister of Information and State Minister for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Al-Homoud Al-Sabah, the forum this year honored more than 80 local media personalities and staff.

"By organizing this ceremony, we say thank you to all those who spent their time, effort and work in developing Kuwaiti media to help it attain a leading position among Arab media," said Madhi Al-Khamis, Secretary-General of the Arab Media Forum and editor of Al Kuwaitiyah newspaper Madhi Al-Khamis.

Mohammed Al-Awash, the Assistant Undersecretary for Planning at the Ministry of Information, spoke on behalf of the minister, where he said that the media personalities honored at this ceremony participated in developing Kuwait through their services and are an example for younger generations working in the media and press. Sheikh Salman recently added a new division to the ministry - the media services and new media department. "This department is part of the government's vision of spreading Kuwaiti media's message through all electronic



media, which is now prevailing over traditional media in terms of reach and effect," stressed Awash.

To fill the legislation gap of electronic media and organize it, the ministry of information prepared an electronic media law and spent a long time discussing it with experts, MPs and social media users. "The ministry would like to assure that this new law does not include personal accounts of social media users. It also does not

limit freedoms that are set by the constitution. The law organizes the duties and rights of those on whom it applies. The law is currently in the parliament to be discussed by the education committee," he noted. "The ministry of information has launched a section on the official website of the ministry to receive opinions and queries on this law and provide answers, and all suggestions will be respected," concluded Awash.



Secretary-General of the Arab Media Forum and editor of Al Kuwaitiyah newspaper Madhi Al-Khamis.



Kuwait Times' Islam Al-Sharaa receiving an award.



Editor-in-Chief of Al-Anbaa Yousuf Khaled Al-Marzouq receives a memento honoring Al-Anbaa founder Khalid Yousuf Al-Marzouq for his services to the media.



Kuwait Times' Hanan Al-Saadoun honored for serving more than 20 years in the newspaper industry.



A cross-section of honorees and officials

KUWAIT UN ENVOY CALLS FOR AN END TO OPPRESSION OF MUSLIMS IN CAR

ARAB LEAGUE STARTS EXTRAORDINARY SESSION ON ISRAELI ATTACKS

NEW YORK: Delegates of the member states of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) to the United Nations met in New York on Monday to discuss the atrocities against the Muslim community of the Central African Republic (CAR). The meeting, chaired by Kuwait Representative to the UN and head of the 57-member OIC Group Mansour Al-Otaibi, was meant to shed light on ordeal of Muslim community in CAR at the hands of the extremist Anti-balaka group.

Speaking to KUNA after the meeting, Ambassador Al-Otaibi said: "We aimed to draw the attention of the international community and the UN to the need to end the serious violations, oppression and discrimination against CAR Muslims." "We have agreed on number of steps to protect the Muslim community in CAR, foremost

among which is to arrange for meetings with UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and President of the UN Security Council (Roman Oyarzun Marchesi, of Spain). "We plan to urge them to convene special debates on the issue and lobby for a UNSC resolution to protect this oppressed minority," Ambassador Al-Otaibi revealed.

The conferees called for reinforcing the role of the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) in protecting the civilians in Bangui and other areas. They also called on the UN to work for holding the general elections in CAR by the end of this year with the participation of all segments of the society including the Muslim minority, he added.

Regarding the recent Bangui forum, he called on the country's transitional authori-

ties to speedily implement the forum's outcomes and reach consensus on national reconciliation. Ambassador Al-Otaibi appreciated the efforts of CAR's neighbors such as Chad, Cameroon and Congo to provide humanitarian assistance for the refugees from CAR and alleviate their suffering.

On his part, Dr Cheikh Tidiane Gadio, the OIC Special Envoy for CAR, said at a joint press conference with Al-Otaibi, all efforts should focus on how to ensure successful completion of the transitional process. He condemned all forms of violence against the Muslim community in the country and called on the international community to work for smooth, sound and inclusive elections away from any racial or religious discrimination.

Israeli attacks

In another development, the Arab League permanent envoys council yesterday commenced its extraordinary session on the current Israeli attacks in Jerusalem and desecration of Al-Aqsa Mosque. The meeting was held under the auspices of the UAE, with presence of the League's Secretary General Nabil Al-Araby. The meeting was called for by Palestine and was approved by member-states. The meeting is aimed at discussing and taking measures against the vicious Israeli attacks against Palestinians and also against Al-Aqsa Mosque, said Deputy Secretary General of the League Ambassador Ahmad bin Hilli. Kuwait's delegation is headed by senior official of Kuwait permanent mission to the Arab League Mohammad Al-Alati. —Agencies

News

In brief

IPU's Secretary General hails Kuwait democracy

KUWAIT: Martin Chungong, Secretary General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) yesterday hailed as robust and successful the democratic experience in Kuwait. Emerging from a meeting with Minister of Social Affairs and Labor, State Minister for Planning and Development, Hind Al-Sebeeh, the IPU chief said the Kuwaiti National Assembly (Parliament) bears enormous responsibilities with respect of boosting democracy in the country. He expressed hope the Kuwaiti woman would be able to play a greater role in politics, noting that women in the country constitute 52 percent of eligible voters in parliamentary elections. He affirmed that his current visit to the country aims at holding talks with the leaders on the women political engagement. On his talks with Minister Al-Sebeeh, Chungong said the discussions dealt with cooperation among the country's civil associations, legislative and executive authorities. Minister Al-Sebeeh affirmed that the Kuwaiti woman is able of involvement in politics successfully, indicating that they had proved their capacities in this respect in the past.

Kuwait, Italy Eurofighter purchase deal initialed

KUWAIT: Kuwait and Italy initialed an agreement to buy Eurofighter Typhoon jets, Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah has said. Kuwait initialed the agreement with Italy because it represents the consortium of European countries that build the Eurofighter, Al-Jarallah told reporters on sidelines of a reception held by the Spanish Embassy marking the Kingdom's National Day last night. Spain is part of those countries, he said, and has welcomed the initial agreement "and is looking forward for the final signature soon." Eurofighter is a twin-engine and multirole fighter, and manufactured by a consortium of three companies: Alenia Aermacchi, Airbus Group and BAE Systems. Al-Jarallah, meanwhile, commended the special relations between Kuwait and Spain. He added that Spain was among the European countries that supported the Schengen visa waiver of Kuwait. Kuwait and Italy announced, during a visit by His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah to Rome on September 11, the Gulf state's intention to buy the Eurofighter.



Kuwaiti parliamentary delegation pictured with Swedish Foreign Undersecretary Magnus-Helgegren.— KUNA

KUWAIT MPs HOLD TALKS WITH SWEDISH OFFICIAL

BERLIN: A Kuwaiti parliamentary delegation, headed by Saud Al-Herajji, held talks yesterday with Swedish Foreign Undersecretary Magnus-Helgegren on various political issues of common interest. The Swedish official said in a statement that his nation highly appreciates relief aid, provided by the State of Kuwait for Syrian refugees, and praised in particular its hosting of three international relief conferences to aid them. Helgegren, whose country

receives more than 10,000 Syrian refugees per week, affirmed that his nation is seeking to help them cope with the hardships.

In response to a question by MP Hamdan Al-Azmi as how Sweden copes with this mounting number of refugees, the official indicated that the Swedish authorities are trying to merge them into the society. Sweden, he added, cannot slam door in face of the immigrants and thus it is trying in coordination with the other EU

member countries to distribute them fairly among the member states. Total number of Syrian refugees who have settled in the country so far is estimated at 100,000.

The Kuwaiti lawmaker, Saud Al-Herajji, stated that Kuwait and Sweden respect human rights and their common advocacy to support refugees entails their backing for the Syrians in hardships. MP Humoud Al-Hamdan expressed gratitude to Sweden for its efforts for proliferation of weapons

of mass destruction in Iraq after the Iraqi aggression on Kuwait as well as its support for the Kuwaiti just cause. For his part, Mohammad Al-Hadya said Kuwait highly appreciates the accord with Sweden for cooperation to occupy a non-permanent seat in the Security Council, noting necessity that it reopen its embassy in Kuwait. The Kuwaiti delegation of lawmakers is currently on a European tour including Estonia. —KUNA



Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah with European officials.

GCC transport officials examine cooperation

DOHA: GCC transport undersecretaries held their 20th meeting yesterday with an agenda stipulating closer cooperation among member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council. Addressing the opening session, Qatari transport adviser, Hassan Al-Hail, called for new legislations in the GCC countries to cope with the tremendous development in the sector. He also indicated that actual integration of the GCC countries is becoming a reality with the near completion of the joint railway network. He indicated that the conferees would examine certain measures related to this mega project. The meeting is in preparation for the upcoming 19th ministerial meeting. Agenda of the meeting also includes other issues such as building a joint authority for the GCC ports, as well as briefing the undersecretaries about experience of other nations in the railway sector's development. The Kuwaiti delegation taking part in the meeting includes Undersecretary Hamid Habib Al-Gattan.

GCC Executive Council 80th session kicks off in Jeddah

JEDDAH: The 80th session meeting of the Executive Council of the GCC Educational Bureau kick-started yesterday in Jeddah. Kuwait participated in the meeting with a delegation headed by Undersecretary of the Ministry of Education Dr Haitham Saleh Al-Ahari as well as members of the Executive Council, which includes members from the Ministries of Education in the GCC. Director-General of the Arab Bureau of Education for the Gulf States Dr Ali bin Abdulkhalig Al-Qarni said during his opening speech that the Bureau's programs made advanced progress during its implementation stages as approved by the General Conference and the Executive Council. Al-Qarni stressed the keenness of the bureau on quality standards saying that "the bureau has developed a system to follow up on its programs and projects through advanced electronic systems, installed with advanced technology." The agenda of the 80th session includes a number of topics such as the second report on the progress of the office programs of the current financial year 2015-2016.

AMERICAN DRUG DEALER NABBED



By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Financial Crimes Police arrested an American for bringing in 'chemical' and other illicit drugs by courier. He was caught with 1,126 envelopes of chemical; \$305; 40 million Iranian tomans; KD 2,165; 4,200 Chinese yuan and 3,310 Afghan rupees. The suspect confessed being a member of a gang that brings in drugs for sale. They then smuggle the money out and launder it by buying precious stones. He was sent to concerned authorities.



Campaign against vendors

Jahra police carried out a campaign against vendors of unlicensed animal feed stores on Salmiyah road. Sixty-five violators were caught, and the municipality is preparing reports on them for legal action.



Fire Services meeting

Kuwait Fire Services Directorate and the social development office at the prime minister's diwan held a meeting to discuss cooperation in the field of training psychologists on firefighting through lectures and awareness courses.

Omariya house fire

Fire broke out in an Omariya house, prompting Farwaniya and Ardiya fire cen-

ters to respond. A family of five was rescued as the first-floor fire was fought and put out without injuries. The cause of the blaze is being investigated. In another development, fire broke out in a large building under construction in Sabah Al-Salem, prompting Mishref, Qurain, Hilali, Salmiya, technical rescue and backup fire brigades to respond. Three workers were trapped, and another was in a lift, so firemen used the second tallest ladder in the world to bring them down to safety. Fire was contained and put out without any injuries. Also, fire broke out at the ambulance station of Sabah Hospital. The fire was put out without injuries. The fire was caused due to faulty wiring.

Awareness lecture

The planning department for medical emergencies, in cooperation with KU's security and safety department, held an awareness lecture on managing crises and catastrophes by the head of planning and information Hamed Al-Otaibi and Jassim Al-Kandari.

21 camels stolen

Jahra detectives are hunting a thief or thieves who stole 21 camels. A security source said the theft took place in Rehaya. Also two persons stopped a Sri Lankan deliveryman and stole KD 308 from his wallet. He grabbed one of the thief's clothes, but he was pushed back and run over as they escaped.

Drunk and fighting

Eight citizens were detained in Maidan Hawally police station for being drunk and fighting in Shaab. A number of other brawlers escaped.

Bedoons arrested

Three bedoons were arrested for selling hashish in Sulaibiya. They also had an AK-

47 and sums of money. They were sent to concerned authorities.

Municipality hotline 139

The municipality's director general said supervisory jobs in Kuwait governorates should be followed by directors of municipality branches and other officials. Ahmad Al-Subaih made his comments during a tour of some municipality branches to check on their work. Subaih asked all citizens and expats to cooperate with and contact the municipality's hotline 139 as soon as a mistake, violation or corruption is seen in the municipality.

Five-vehicle collision

A five-vehicle collision resulted in the injury of an Asian expat, who suffered fractures and bruises. He was taken to hospital for treatment.



GOVERNMENT LAUNCHES NEW APP 'NEW KUWAIT'

KUWAIT: Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah yesterday announced that the Cabinet has launched a new electronic service, available on iPhones and Android, which is an application called "New Kuwait" aimed at educating the public about government projects. He said that the new service would reveal details about the development ventures and their schedules, with an unprecedented transparency. Launching this application reflects the government's keenness and

seriousness as to finalizing projects as scheduled.

MoJ electronic system

Meanwhile, at a ceremony held yesterday at Kuwait Institute for Judicial and legal Studies, the Ministry of Justice inaugurated the use of electronic services to meet the needs of the public for proper legal documentation. In a speech at the ceremony Minister of Justice, Awqaf, and Islamic Affairs Yaqoub Al-Sanea touted the electronic sys-

tem that binds electronically the services of the Ministry of Justice with those in other ministries in the government. The new system simplifies steps of litigation and documentation enabling the public to complete legalities of all sorts with ease and speed.

FATCA agreement

In another development, the National Assembly's Foreign Affairs Committee has recommended the approval of the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA) agree-

ment between Kuwait and the US. The committee also recommended joining the Co-operative Agreement for Arab States in Asia for Research, Development and Training related to Nuclear Science and Technology (ARASIA), the head of the committee, Hamad Al-Hershani said in a statement following a committee session. They also advised the endorsement of the agreement between Kuwait and Egypt on double taxation avoidance and income tax evasion prevention. — Agencies

MOI SETS WATERTIGHT PLAN TO SAFEGUARD HUSSEINIYAS SECURITY BEEFED UP AROUND SHIITE MOSQUES

KUWAIT: The Ministry of Interior has set a special watertight plan to tighten security measures near husseiniyas (Shiite mourning houses) in the Islamic calendar month of Muharram which starts on today and ends Friday Nov 13. In a press statement, the ministry said that the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Mohammad Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah held Monday a high-level meeting with the ministry officials including Undersecretary Suleiman Al-Fahad and his assistants for different sectors to discuss the different aspects of Hussainiyat safeguarding plan.

The conferees tackled the deployment, patrol and traffic police plans and pre-emptive security measures to ensure the safety of the people visiting Hussainiyat. During the meeting,

the minister said that security people would not condone any violation of law regards of the violators and would not allow holding any rituals outside Hussainiyat.

In this regard to, he urged the community leaders to do their best to make sure that all activities are organized inside the secured buildings. He added that he had given clear-cut orders to policemen to maintain the smoothness of traffic in the roads surrounding the Hussainiyat and to deal firmly with any violation.

The minister also asked policemen to deal elegantly with people and to show high discipline during the plan enforcement. Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled has expressed gratitude to directors and visitors of Hussainiyat for their cooperation and understanding of the security measures to maintain their safety. The Ministry of

Interior has been enhancing security measures around Shiite worship and congregation places after the suicide bombing attack, claimed by the so-called Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, that targeted a Shiite mosque in Kuwait city last June and left 26 worshipers dead and 227 others injured. Shiite Muslims hold a series of events usually in Hussainiyat, also known as congregation halls, to observe Muharram. The event marks the anniversary of the Battle of Karbala when Imam Hussein ibn Ali, the grandson of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) was killed. The commemoration of the event during yearly mourning season, from first of Muharram to 20th of Safar, the second month of the Islamic calendar, with Ashura (the 10th day of the Muharram) comprising the focal date.— KUNA



PARIS: Permanent representative of Kuwait to United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Dr Hassan Al-Ibrahim (left). —KUNA

REHIRING MILITARY PERSONNEL?

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: MP Sultan Al-Loghaisem expected a change in leading parliamentary positions in various committees and stressed that it would be for the greater good. He also said that heads and members of parliamentary committees had passed many laws, which proved they focused more on work than "crying over spilt milk". "Development is only achievable when proper legislations are passed," he underlined. On a different concern, Loghaisem said he met Defense Minister Sheikh Khalid Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah and suggested rehiring some military personnel who had been referred to retirement at the age of 60, before the parliament passed a law allowing extending their services up to the age of 65. "The minister promised to solve the problem and return them to their jobs soon," he noted.

New branches new cities

Following a meeting with Kuwait Credit Bank Director Salah Al-Mudhaf to discuss new residential cities' needs, MP Mohammed Al-Huwailah explained that the bank intends to open branches in these new cities in order to be within those cities' inhabitants' reach.

Unity and solidarity

MP Abdulhameed Dashti said the Al-Sadeq Mosque witnessed the best manifestation of Kuwaitis' unity and solidarity and stressed that Kuwaiti students have every right to visit it as declared within MoE's plans. "The minister of education has to carry on with this national project without listening to IS supporters," he underlined, urging the minister to ignore threats made by those he described as "original IS supporters brought up to killing and bombing in addition to new ones following their neo-Zionist

predecessors who reject all forms of civilization".

Control over private schools

MP Yousuf Al-Zalzalh urged Minister of Education Badr Al-Essa to have more control over private schools. "Some private schools have turned into commercial sites rather than educational facilities. They have been hiring low-paid teachers with bad performances," he said, urging the minister to activate the ministry's monitoring apparatuses and close private schools with bad performances.

KPC slammed

Secretary general of KPC employees' syndicate Ali Abdullah Al-Kandari slammed KPC for not hiring more citizens with university degrees and high school certificates and technical staff and holding special training courses for them, despite the mega oil projects due to be launched soon.

KUWAIT URGES WORLD TO ASSIST SYRIAN REFUGEES

PARIS: Kuwait called on the international community yesterday to enhance the humanitarian relief to Syrian refugees, and to exert more efforts in supporting Syria's neighboring countries in assisting Syrians who took up refuge on their lands. The permanent representative of Kuwait to United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Dr Hassan Al-Ibrahim added in a speech he gave on the occasion of the 197th session of UNESCO's Executive Council held in Paris that "the number of the Syrian refugees abroad exceeded four million people due to the armed conflict in their home land. Most of the refugees are women and children, which indicates that this crisis is the worst in the world since nearly a quarter of a century".

He called on the international community to offer all possible support to Syria's neighboring countries, espe-

cially Lebanon and Jordan; regarding the great burden such countries are suffering in hosting this number of refugees despite the shortage of resources and the weak capabilities in facing the consequences of this crisis". He stressed on the importance of taking all the possible measures in encountering the Syrian children employment by improving their living conditions by financing income-generating initiatives, besides education, and safety. He also tackled the acts of sabotage and destruction to the humanitarian heritage in many sites in the Middle East, which is the mother of old civilizations.

He praised the launching of international alliance in protection of heritage initiative last June, under the supervision of UNESCO, considering it as a response to a continuous international threat of destructing the humanitarian cultural heritage, especially in the Middle East. The launch-

ing of such an international alliance comes at a time heritage is being damaged due to terrorist groups' attacks. Terrorists have taken the heritage sites as strongholds. Kuwait has advised all parties to work hardy in encountering such criminal acts, and called on supporting and enhancing this international alliance, he affirmed.

The fruitful participation in sustainable development will greatly contribute in avoiding conflicts through offering the appropriate conditions needed to achieve integration between culture according to respect of humanitarian positive values, human rights, and fighting of radicalism and intolerance, he said. He called the Director General of UNESCO Irina Bokova, and UNESCO's Executive Council to enhance the capabilities of the youth sector and support the role of women to best serve their societies. — KUNA

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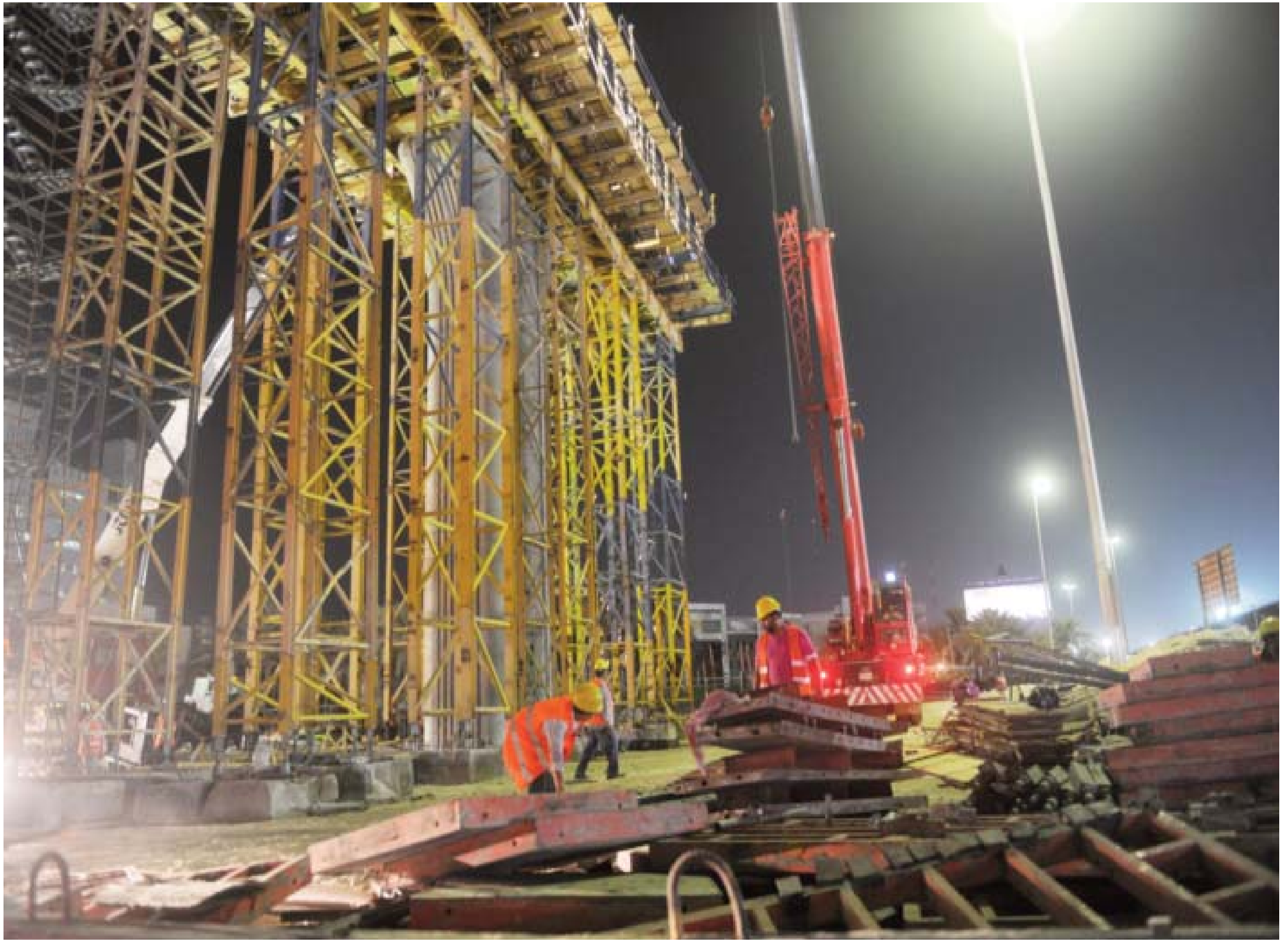
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Photo

of the day



KUWAIT: Workers are seen at the construction site. Work is ongoing to renovate the Al-Jahraa and Jamal Abdunnasser streets - the mega project is part of the development plan. — KUNA

Crime

Report

TUNISIAN AND KUWAITI GET INTO FISTICUFFS OVER SHARED HUSBAND

KUWAIT: A Tunisian expat beat her Kuwaiti husband's other wife, also a citizen, according to a complaint in Adailiya police station. The beating took place in the Tunisian wife's home, as the Kuwaiti wife went there looking for their shared husband. A security source said the victim who lives in Andalus, went to the house of the Tunisian wife because she had not seen her husband in some time. The woman was surprised by the Tunisian woman responding aggressively to her arrival and the two got into a heated verbal exchange that evolved into physical blows. Then the husband came outside and broke up the fight and told his Kuwaiti wife to go to her home and not cause problems. The Kuwaiti went to the police station instead and told them that she was beaten and that someone stole her phone. Authorities are investigating.

Woman photographed

A citizen accused a 4WD driver of photographing her with his phone as he passed by her in Bayan area. A security source the citizen told Bayan police that when she was driving in the area, the 4WD owner photographed her. She gave police the license plate number. Hawally detectives are investigating.

Filipina escapes kidnapping

A Filipina escaped kidnapping by a roaming taxi driver in Salmiya. She filed a complaint at the area police station, as police are looking for him. The Filipina told police that she got into a taxi driven by an Egyptian, who attempted to lure her with money, but she refused. He took her to a different area then what she had requested, so she opened the door and threatened to jump out. When he stopped the car to calm her down, she escaped. Detectives are looking for the taxi driver.

Instagram defamation

A citizen accused an instagram user of defaming her by publishing a video of her, as she filed a complaint at Adan police station. Police are investigating.

Pregnant woman beaten

Police rescued a pregnant Egyptian woman from her husband who had locked her up after beating her during a domestic dispute. She was taken to Jahra hospital for treatment. Police had to go the house along with firemen to break open the door. Police are looking for the husband.



Al-Anbaa

النبيه

Al-Anbaa

THE ERA OF FOOLS

By Nermin Al-Houti

I start by a quote of William Shakespeare that my mentor keeps repeating, which is "When we are born, we cry that we have come to this great stage of fools." Being away from the scientific part of children's crying when they are born, as we look at their crying today from philosophical and earthly aspects, as Shakespeare said, their crying is caused by what they will face in their future of foolishness and clumsiness.

That was Shakespeare's prophecy that extends from his era to ours. Yes, crying in our time is not only limited to children, rather adults are crying out of heartache when they deal and live with people that only have foolishness in their brains. Of the many people we live with, without mentioning certain areas and departments, fools have become the majority and found in all areas you go. They became a majority in our societies and do not have

an opinion, and if they did, it would be a silly one that does not have any information, principle or advice - just an opinion from people who do not have meanings, and do not know words, and regretfully, some of them are now occupying chairs.

This is our society, where fools have become its character, and whoever goes away from this type, his fate becomes oppression, humiliation and crying as Shakespeare said The bard predicted this for our children, as he did not realize that times change, which made men the criers because of their heartache over their societies because they cannot influence the events of the play, only allowing them to be crying spectators over what the foolish stars of the play are doing. As time passes, the stars of our play become a minority of sane people, and the foolish crowd will be laughing at them. That is our era, and this is our calamity.

الجريدة

Al-Jarida

FORGOTTEN PALESTINE

By Prof Ghanim Al-Najjar

According to Palestine's human rights center located in Gaza, 11 Palestinian civilians had been killed till Sunday, including a 26-year-old pregnant woman named Nour Hassan and her three-year-old daughter Rahaf, while the husband, other kids and some others were injured when a criminal Israeli bomber struck their house in south Gaza with two missiles.

International human rights grant Palestinians the right to self-determination and the Geneva fourth convention calls for protecting civilians under occupation, but what is actually happening is quite the opposite. Palestine would have been long forgotten if it were not for some diplomatic efforts at the UN such as voting for accepting Palestine's membership or accepting its membership at the International Criminal Court.

Up till the 1980s, the world's racist regimes were in three main countries - Rhodesia, South Africa and Israel. Those racist regimes posed major impediments in international shifts towards human concepts, values and accepting others, especially since they had been cooperating or supported by the West that announces its commitment to international human rights standards.

International pressure over the past 50 years have, however, been practiced in the West in terms of NGOs, states' liberty and independence, developing justice and human rights concepts and all the way to halting Western support to extreme racism that is no longer accepted in any form. Accordingly, Rhodesia's racist structure gave way in the beginning of the 1980s and it turned into Zimbabwe. Over 10 years later, racist concepts gave way in South Africa and Mandela, the longest political prisoner in history, was released to assume the presidency in the new republic. This leaves Israel as the only remaining racist regime nowadays and it seems that it has been learning its racism lessons well while trying to adapt to modern developments, even if this was only nominally done. The only strong supporter of its racism is America and some minor states.

Most importantly, we, Arabs and Muslims, have willingly dropped Palestine out of our calculations and turned against one another under various excuses, names and endless justifications. Consequently, it will not be difficult for a racist Zionist regime to sweep this just cause supported by many world countries under the rug. It seems that we are about to witness another Palestinian intifada, which is highly predictable in view of a regime that is as racist as Israel and it seems there is no way to alter this. — Translated by Kuwait Times

Kuwait Times International

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2015



Myanmar to hold landmark vote as planned on Nov 8

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'KILL RUSSIANS' URGES SYRIAN AL-QAEDA AS PUTIN SLAMS US



EAST JERUSALEM: Israeli Zaka volunteers stand next to a body following a Palestinian shooting attack on a bus in the east Jerusalem Jewish settlement of Armon Hanatsiv, adjacent to the Palestinian neighbourhood of Jabal Mukaber, yesterday. Two Palestinian attackers opened fire on a bus while another assailant carried out a car and knife assault in Jerusalem, leaving two people dead and five wounded in two separate incidents, Israeli authorities said. — AFP

VIOLENCE INTENSIFIES ON PALESTINIAN 'DAY OF RAGE'

TWO STABBING INCIDENTS IN TEL AVIV SUBURB

JERUSALEM: Palestinian men armed with knives and a gun killed at least three people and wounded several others in a string of attacks in Jerusalem and near Tel Aviv yesterday, police said, on a "Day of Rage" declared by Palestinian groups.

With the worst unrest in years in Israel and the Palestinian territories showing no signs of abating, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called a security cabinet meeting for 3 p.m. (1200 GMT) to discuss what police said would be new operational plans.

Officials said Israel's public security minister was considering whether to seal off Palestinian neighbourhoods in East Jerusalem, home of many of the assailants of the past two weeks, from the rest of the city.

Unlike their brethren in the occupied West Bank, Palestinians in East Jerusalem can travel in Israel without restrictions. Israel annexed East Jerusalem after a 1967 war in a move that is not recognised internationally. Adding to a growing sense of Israeli public insecurity,

two Palestinians shot and stabbed passengers on a bus in Jerusalem, killing two and injuring four, police said. One of the assailants was killed, an ambulance service spokesman said, and the other captured.

"We don't know what to do, or where to walk," Avi Shemesh, a witness to the attack, told reporters. "They are Israel-haters and they need to be eliminated."

Minutes later, another Palestinian rammed his car into a bus stop in the centre of Jerusalem, then got out and began stabbing pedestrians, killing one and wounding six, police said. They said the attacker had been "neutralised", without saying what this meant.

Seven Israelis and 27 Palestinians, including nine alleged attackers and eight children, have died in almost two weeks of street attacks and security crackdowns.

The violence has been stirred in part by Muslim anger over increasing Jewish visits to the al-Aqsa mosque compound in Jerusalem, Islam's holiest site outside the Arabian Peninsula.

In Raanana, just north of Tel Aviv, a Palestinian man stabbed and lightly wounded an Israeli on a shopping street during the morning rush hour, officials and witnesses said.

Amateur video distributed by police showed several men kicking and beating the alleged assailant as he lay on the ground. The ambulance service said he was seriously hurt.

A shopkeeper said that, after hearing shouting, he had grabbed a heavy wooden umbrella and run outside to confront the assailant. "He started stabbing the guy. I hit him a couple of times and kicked him and the knife flew out of his hand," the store owner said. "I wish I had had a gun - I would have shot him."

Within an hour of that incident, another Palestinian stabbed and wounded four people in Raanana, police said. The main Palestinian factions, including the Western-backed Fatah movement and the militant Hamas group, declared a "Day of Rage" yesterday across

the West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem, accusing Israel of "escalating its crimes against our people" and carrying out "summary executions".

The leaders of Israel's Arab community called for a commercial strike in their towns and villages. The now-daily stabbings have raised speculation that Palestinians could be embarking on another uprising or intifada, reflecting a new generation's frustrations over their veteran leadership's failure to achieve statehood.

Palestinians also see increasing visits over the past year by Jewish groups and right-wing lawmakers to the al-Aqsa plaza, revered by Jews as the site of two destroyed biblical temples and Judaism's holiest place, as eroding Muslim religious control of the compound.

Netanyahu has said repeatedly that he will not allow any change to the status quo under which Jews are allowed to visit the site but non-Muslim prayer is banned, but his assurances have done little to quell alarm among Muslims across the region. — Reuters

GUNFIGHTS AFTER RESURGENT TALEBAN THREATEN AFGHAN CITY

GHAZNI: Explosions and sporadic gunfire rocked the outskirts of Ghazni yesterday after the Taliban attempted to storm the southeastern city, as the insurgents tighten their grip across Afghanistan following their lightning capture of another provincial capital.

Afghan forces repelled the brazen assault on Monday, but it rang security alarm bells as the largely rural insurgency threatens large cities for the first time in 14 years of war.

The violence, which emptied the streets of Ghazni, follows the Taliban's three-day occupation of northern Kunduz city and other attempts by militants to overrun provincial capitals in the north.

Around 2,000 insurgents attacked Ghazni from several directions on Monday, coming as close as five kilometres (three miles) to the city, deputy provincial governor Mohammad Ali Ahmadi said.

"But they were quickly pushed back by Afghan forces," Ahmadi told AFP. "Military reinforcements have arrived from neighbouring provinces to secure the city."

The fighting left the streets of Ghazni largely deserted for a second day as many panicked residents tried to flee towards the capital Kabul.

In Kunduz, meanwhile, the Taliban admitted yesterday that they had tactically retreated from the main intersections, markets and other government buildings.

Afghan soldiers, backed by NATO special forces, are still combating the city to flush out pockets of insurgents hiding in civilian homes.

The fall of Kunduz on September 28 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.

As fighting spreads in neighbouring provinces such as Badakhshan and Takhar, concerns are mounting that the city's seizure was merely the opening gambit in a new, bolder strategy to tighten the insurgency's grip across Afghanistan. It raises the prospect of a domino effect of big cities falling into

the hands of the Taliban for the first time since they were toppled from power in a 2001 US-led invasion.

The militants last week attempted to overrun Maimana, the capital of Faryab province, but were pushed back by Afghan forces with the aid of pro-government militias.

Guerilla war

"With this kind of guerrilla fighting focused around big cities, the Taliban are exerting enormous pressure on overstretched Afghan forces," Kabul-based military analyst Atiqullah Amarkhil told AFP.

"The Taliban know they can't control a city for long, but capturing one, even momentarily, is a huge propaganda win."

The NATO coalition said Tuesday that US and Afghan forces carried out one of their largest joint operations in southern Kandahar province, dismantling a major Al-Qaeda sanctuary in the Taliban's historic heartland.

The news came after a series of devastating setbacks. NATO forces are under pressure after a US air strike on October 3 pummelled a hospital in Kunduz run by Doctors Without Borders (MSF), killing at least 12 staff and 10 patients. The medical charity shut down the trauma centre, branding the incident a "war crime" and demanding an international investigation into the incident, which sparked an avalanche of global condemnation.

A Taliban suicide bomber on Sunday targeted a British military convoy in Kabul in a rush-hour attack that wounded at least three civilians including a child.

NATO also confirmed that two Americans, two Britons and a Frenchman were killed in a helicopter crash in Kabul Sunday, though the coalition ruled out any insurgent activity behind the incident.

And on Monday, unidentified gunmen on a motorcycle shot dead a woman working as a rights defender with the UN in Kandahar. Officials are investigating the motive behind the killing. — AFP



GHAZNI: Relatives assist a wounded Afghan man after a rocket attack by Taliban militants in Ghazni yesterday. Fighting flared in eastern Afghanistan yesterday as Taliban insurgents threatened to storm another provincial capital, two weeks after their lightning capture of northern Kunduz city which marked their biggest military victory in 14 years. — AFP

IRAQ USING INFO FROM NEW INTELLIGENCE CENTRE TO BOMB IS

BAGHDAD: Iraq has started bombing Islamic State with help from a new intelligence centre that has staff from Russia, Iran and Syria, a senior parliamentary figure said yesterday about cooperation seen as a threat to US interests in the region.

The centre has been operational for about a week, and it provided intelligence for air strikes on a gathering of middle-level Islamic State figures, Hakim al Zamili, the head of parliament's defence and security committee, told Reuters. The new security apparatus based in Baghdad suggests the United States is losing clout in a strategic oil-producing region where it has been heavily invested for years. Two weeks ago Russia started bombing anti-government rebels in neigh-

bouring Syria, including Islamic State, to support its ally, President Bashar al-Assad, to the consternation of the West.

Iraqi officials, frustrated with the pace and depth of the US military campaign against Islamic State, have said they will lean heavily on Washington's former Cold War rival Russia in the battle against the insurgents. Two Russian one-star generals are stationed at the intelligence centre in Baghdad, according to an Iraqi official who asked not to be named.

Zamili, a leading Shi'ite politician, said each of the four member countries has six members in the intelligence sharing and security cooperation cell, which holds meetings in Baghdad's fortified "Green Zone",

which once housed the headquarters of the US occupation. "We find it extremely useful," said an Iraqi official who asked not to be named. "The idea is to formalise the relationship with Iran, Russia and Syria. We wanted a full blown military alliance." Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi has said he would welcome Russian air strikes against the ultra-hardline Sunni insurgents on Iraqi soil. Iraq's government, and Iranian-backed Shi'ite militias who are leading the fight against Islamic State, say the United States lacks the resolve to eliminate militancy, an allegation it denies.

US-led air strikes on Islamic State militants, who control a third of Iraq, have failed to turn the tide in the conflict, which has sapped the OPEC oil producer's

finances and fuelled sectarian bloodletting.

Iraq's air force bombed a convoy this week that was thought to be carrying Islamic State leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, based on information from the centre, said Zamili. Security officials later said Baghdadi had not been in the convoy. "We can get a lot of use from Russian intelligence, even if they don't do air strikes," Zamili said. Sami al-Askari, a former member of Iraq's parliament and one-time senior adviser to former prime minister Nuri al-Maliki, said Iraq was aware of the sensitivities of the new arrangement. "The Iraqi government wants to do this in a way that doesn't look like they're pushing the Americans away," he said. — Reuters

TURKEY PROBES IS ATTACK LINK AS ERDOGAN TO BREAK SILENCE

ANKARA: Turkish investigators yesterday sought to firm up suspicions Islamic State jihadists were behind a double suicide bombing in Ankara that killed 97, as President Recep Tayyip Erdogan was to break days of silence over the blasts.

Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu on Monday said IS was the prime suspect behind Turkey's deadliest ever attack which saw bombs packed with ball bearings ripping through a crowd of leftist and pro-Kurdish activists at an anti-government peace rally in the capital.

Three days after the bloodshed, Erdogan who has come under fire over alleged security lapses was to make his first public remarks on the attacks at a joint news conference with visiting Finnish President Sauli Niinisto. And Davutoglu and his wife Sare visited the scene of the attack, laying memorial wreaths outside Ankara train station.

There have been growing indications that the authorities are focussing on possible parallels or even links to a July 20 suicide bombing at a peace rally in Suruc on the Syrian border that killed 34.

The government blamed IS for that attack, which also targeted a gathering of pro-Kurdish and leftist activists. The Ankara attack "bears similarities to the bombings in Suruc," Deputy Prime Minister Numan Kurtulmus said.

He said "several arrests" had been without giving further details. "We are carefully examining both the usual and alternative suspects with the help of these arrests," Turkish media quoted him as saying late Monday. The Hurriyet daily said DNA testing on part of the suspected bomber's corpse matched that of a known IS jihadist who had been to Syria and then returned.

Over the weekend and on Monday, police arrested dozens of people with suspected links to IS in cities stretching from the Mediterranean resort of Antalya to the southern city of Adana.

Turkey's NATO allies have long pointed the finger at Ankara for not taking a tougher line as IS militants seized swathes of northern Iraq and Syria. But following months of Western pressure, Turkey is now a full member of the US-led coalition against IS and allowing American jets to use its Incirlik air base for raids.

'No security in place'

The attack has raised political tensions to new highs as Turkey prepares for a November 1

snap election, with polarisation within the country now greater than ever.

The pro-Kurdish Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP), which lost several members in the blasts, accused Ankara of turning a "blind eye" to IS in Syria. "It seems there was no preventative work, no security arrangements in place" to thwart the bombing of the Ankara rally, HDP leader Selahattin Demirtas told CNN-International.

"That increases the responsibility of the government," he added. His party yesterday admitted it had incorrectly put the death toll as 128, blaming inaccurate information.

According to the health ministry, 53 people were still in intensive care yesterday. Hundreds of labour activists gathered in front of Istanbul's Sirkeci train station—the fabled terminus of the Orient Express—in the hope of marching through the city to remember the dead.

"We know the killer!" read the slogan on several banners, accusing the government of complicity in the bombing. The government had ridiculed such claims.

Growing anger

But tensions rose after the police blocked their way, saying the rally was not appropriate following a ban issued overnight by the Istanbul authorities. Scuffles broke out as demonstrators clashed with truncheon-wielding police in riot gear, AFP photographers said.

Bereaved relatives had on Monday held the first funerals for the victims of the Ankara blast, shouting slogans against Erdogan and the government. An protest in Istanbul's Gazi district—a known stronghold of hard-left anti-government activists—had descended into violence overnight as masked protesters threw Molotov cocktails at the security forces. Among those buried was the youngest victim of the bombings, 9-year-old Veyssel Atilgan, who was given a moving send-off by his classmates in Ankara, press reports said.

With Turkey on a high alert after the violence, the authorities on Tuesday defused a suspect package in front of Ankara train station. The attacks came as the government was waging a relentless "anti-terror" offensive against the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), even after the group announced a ceasefire at the weekend. In the latest air raids on PKK targets, the military said 12 "terrorists" were killed in air strikes on their hold-outs in the southeastern Hakkari region. — AFP



DAMASCUS: This photo released by the Syrian official news agency SANA, shows Syrians holding photos of Syrian President Bashar Assad and Russian President Vladimir Putin, during a protest to thank Moscow for its intervention in Syria, in front of the Russian embassy in Damascus, Syria, yesterday. Insurgents fired two shells at the Russian embassy in the Syrian capital yesterday as hundreds of pro-government supporters gathered outside the compound to thank Moscow for its intervention in Syria. — AP

'KILL RUSSIANS' URGES SYRIAN AL-QAEDA AS PUTIN SLAMS US

'SOME OF OUR PARTNERS SIMPLY HAVE MUSH FOR BRAINS'

BEIRUT: Al-Qaeda's Syrian affiliate called for jihadists to attack Russia over its air strikes in Syria, as rockets hit Moscow's Damascus embassy yesterday where demonstrators had gathered to back the intervention. Russian President Vladimir Putin slammed Washington for refusing to cooperate on Syria, saying "some of our partners simply have mush for brains". "How is it possible to work together?" he asked in Moscow, adding that the United States declined to share intelligence on Syria.

Washington and its allies say Moscow is also targeting Western-backed moderate rebels and seeking to prop up President Bashar al-Assad's regime. Abu Mohamed al-Jolani, head of Syria's Al-Qaeda affiliate Al-Nusra Front, urged jihadists in the Caucasus to target Russians because of Moscow's air campaign.

"If the Russian army kills the people of Syria, then kill their people. And if they kill our soldiers, then kill their soldiers. An eye for an eye," Jolani said in an audio recording released late Monday.

He pledged that Moscow's air war, which began on September 30, would have dire consequences. "The war in Syria will make the Russians forget the horrors that they found in Afghanistan," Jolani said, adding: "They will be shattered, with God's permission, on Syria's doorstep." Russia has said its raids are targeting Al-Nusra's jihadist rival the Islamic State group and other movements, and the defence ministry said it had hit 86 "terrorist" targets in Syria since Monday.

Putin criticises arms drop

"In the last 24 hours, Su-34, Su-24M and Su-25SM planes carried out 88 sorties against 86 terrorist infra-

structure targets in the provinces of Raqa, Hama, Idlib, Latakia and Aleppo," ministry spokesman Igor Konashenkov told Russian news agencies.

Yesterday's developments came a day after US-led coalition forces air-dropped ammunition to the Syrian Arab Coalition (SAC) battling jihadists near the Islamic State group's northern stronghold of Raqa.

Putin took issue with the arms drop, saying the weapons could end up in the wrong hands. The US-led air coalition fighting IS in Syria has also targeted Al-Nusra several times. Jolani urged armed opposition groups to shelve their differences until both air campaigns had been defeated.

"Delay the disputes until the demise and smashing of the Western Crusader and Russian campaign on Syrian land," he said. He also called on armed groups to "hurl hundreds of rockets" daily at villages of Assad's Alawite minority sect.

Jolani said he would pay "three million euros (\$3.4 million) for anyone who can kill Bashar al-Assad and end his story," and two million euros (\$2.2 million) for Hassan Nasrallah, leader of Lebanon's Shiite Hezbollah movement and a key Assad ally.

Tuesday's rocket attack on the Russian embassy in Damascus sparked panic among some 300 demonstrators waving Russian flags and pictures of Putin. The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said the rockets were fired from the eastern edges of the capital, where Islamist rebels are entrenched.

'Act of terror'

"Two rockets hit embassy territory at 10:15 am. No one was killed or wounded," Russian news agency

Interfax quoted an embassy official as saying. Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov told reporters in Moscow it was an "act of terror".

On Tuesday he was meeting the UN's Syria envoy Staffan de Mistura in Moscow for the first time since the Kremlin launched its bombing campaign. According to the Observatory, 12 civilians including two children were killed and dozens wounded in government air strikes on Eastern Ghouta, a rebel stronghold east of Damascus.

It said seven civilians including four children were killed in a village in northern Aleppo province in what were probably Russian air strikes. Elsewhere, fierce overnight fighting in the key village of Kafr Nabuda in the central province of Hama forced pro-regime forces to retreat and killed 25 of them.

The Observatory also said Hezbollah fighters arrived in the strategic Sahl al-Ghab plain to reinforce a regime offensive there. Sahl al-Ghab, at the intersection of Hama, Latakia and Idlib provinces, has been a major target for Russian air strikes.

The Observatory said thousands of Iranian fighters and supplies had reached Hmeimim airport in Latakia province, where all civilian flights have ceased and which is now used for military operations.

A military source told AFP the decision was taken because of the high levels of "traffic" from military aircraft. On the Israeli-occupied sector of the Golan Heights, the Jewish state's military said it responded to two stray rockets from Syria by targeting two regime military posts. It warned Israel would not tolerate rockets fired across the border, "intentional or not". — AFP



ISTANBUL: Protesters march behind a banner reading "We know the killer" during a demonstration yesterday in Istanbul, following the deadly attacks in Ankara on October 10. The double suicide bombing on a peace rally in Ankara has raised a feud between the government and Turkey's main pro-Kurdish party to a new level, widening a dangerous polarisation as Turks head to November 1 polls. — AFP

IN EGYPT, ELECTIONS LOOK SET TO CEMENT RETURN TO THE PAST

MINYA: Holding court behind a battered desk at his campaign office in the southern town of Minya, Bahaa Fikry embodies Egypt's past. A provincial apparatchik in Hosni Mubarak's ruling party before the 2011 Arab Spring uprisings swept them both from power, Fikry may well represent Egypt's future too if he wins a seat in this month's parliamentary elections. "The change happened and I said: 'Welcome'. What I care about is that my children live better than us... but I found the country was going... to the precipice," says Fikry. "The country needs us, or needs me personally, at this stage." On paper, Egypt's first parliament in three years should be a powerful one. It has the authority to impeach the president, interrogate the prime minister and withdraw its confidence in him. All laws must be approved by the elected house. But with the main opposition Muslim Brotherhood now banned and its leaders in jail alongside youth activists at the forefront of the 2011 revolt, the chamber is likely to be packed with supporters of general-turned-president Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, more interested in returning to business-as-usual than building a new democracy.

Egypt has been without a parliament since June 2012 when a court dissolved the main chamber, reversing a major accomplishment of the uprising that ended Mubarak's 30-year rule and ignited hopes of political and economic

change. Sisi ousted elected President Mohamed Mursi of the Brotherhood the following year, after protests against his rule. He won the blessing of other opposition forces, based on an army roadmap that promised to put Egypt back on a democratic course. Sisi secured his presidency in a 2014 vote. Long-delayed parliamentary elections, now set to take place in two rounds on Oct. 17-19 and Nov. 22-23, are the final steps in a process critics say has followed the roadmap in the wrong direction. The new parliament will comprise 568 members - 448 elected on an individual basis and 120 through winner-takes-all lists. Fikry, who was secretary general of the now-defunct National Democratic Party (NDP) in the southern province of Minya until the party was dissolved in 2011, is running for the first time. But 23 former NDP lawmakers are among the many campaigning across Minya's nine constituencies.

They stand to do well in an impoverished region where those with the cash and connections to help locals access health, education and other services have traditionally dominated. "These are not real elections and we have seen all kinds of people running, mostly former NDP people, mostly businesspeople trying to buy themselves a seat in the next parliament," said Khaled Dawoud, who resigned as spokesman of the liberal Destour Party following an internal crisis.

PARTIES UNDER PRESSURE

In the absence of the Brotherhood, now branded a terrorist organisation, the Nour Party

offers the government the figleaf of Islamist representation. It backed Mursi's removal and has vowed to limit itself to "polite" opposition,



CAIRO: Bulldozers work on the roof of the former ruling National Democratic Party (NDP) headquarters that was looted and burned during the 2011 uprising that ousted President Hosni Mubarak, in Cairo, Egypt, yesterday. Egypt's long-awaited parliamentary elections will start on Oct. 18-19, a hoped-for step toward democracy amid a harsh crackdown on dissent. The second stage of the staggered vote will take place on Nov. 22-23. Final results will be announced in early December. — AP

losing credibility among many Islamists. Analysts say it will struggle to repeat its 2011-12 success, when it came second to the Brotherhood. Smaller liberal and socialist parties, including Destour, have been riven by infighting and have boycotted the vote or been thwarted by costly bureaucratic procedures, leaving just a few scattered critics in the running.

As opposition lists collapsed, "For the Love of Egypt", an alliance of loyalist groups, emerged as a leading force. Sameh Seif Elyazal, the ex-intelligence officer heading the alliance, says he will seek to form a bloc to lead the house. In the absence of a parliament, Sisi has wielded legislative authority, passing some laws that critics say curb freedoms. The constitution demands parliament pass or reject these within two weeks. With so many laws to debate, MPs will be under pressure to rubber stamp the lot to avert a constitutional crisis. Seif Elyazal favours this approach. But the preponderance of independents and the absence of a ruling party to replace the NDP could make negotiations more difficult for the government as it seeks to pass legislation. Indeed, loyalists struggled for over a year to build an alliance to secure Sisi a sizeable bloc of parliamentary support ahead of this month's vote. They could be faced with more horse-trading after the ballot. — Reuters

US RIGHTS GROUP SUES OVER CIA INTERROGATION TACTICS

WASHINGTON: The American Civil Liberties Union yesterday sued two former Air Force psychologists who designed a CIA program that used harsh interrogation techniques to elicit intelligence from suspected terrorists, saying the pair endorsed and taught torture tactics under the guise of science.

The lawsuit comes 10 months after the release of a damning Senate report that said the interrogation techniques had inflicted pain on al-Qaeda prisoners far beyond the legal limits and did not yield lifesaving intelligence.

The suit by the human rights advocacy group accuses the doctors, James E. Mitchell and John "Bruce" Jessen, of developing an interrogation program that relied on beatings, sleep deprivation, starvation, waterboarding and other methods that caused physical and psychological suffering on prisoners in CIA custody.

A lawyer for the doctors did not immediately return a

message seeking comment yesterday. The suit was filed in federal court in Washington state on behalf of three former CIA prisoners. One, Gul Rahman, was interrogated in a dungeon-like Afghanistan prison called the Salt Pit, subjected to isolation, darkness and extreme cold water, and was later found dead of hypothermia. The other two men, Suleiman Abdullah Salim and Mohamed Ahmed Ben Soud, are now free.

The lawsuit was brought under the Alien Tort Statute, which allows noncitizens to sue in US courts over human-rights violations. A 2010 Associated Press report, citing former US officials, said the CIA promised to cover at least \$5 million in legal fees for the psychologists if the program ran into trouble.

The suit repeats many of the allegations that surfaced in an exhaustive Senate investigation issued last year. It found sweeping flaws with the CIA's approach to interrogations. The complaint alleges that the psychol-

ogists, despite having no practical interrogation experience or specific background in al-Qaida, devised a program for the CIA that drew from 1960s experiments involving dogs and the theory of "learned helplessness." In making their case to the CIA, the psychologists argued that just as abused dogs will become passive and compliant, humans subject to "uncontrollable pain" would "become helpless and unable to resist an interrogator's demand for information," according to the lawsuit.

The pair, who worked as independent contractors for the CIA, formed a company that was ultimately paid \$81 million and which as of April 2007 directly employed 11 of the 13 interrogators used by the agency, the complaint states. The men were also themselves involved in some of the interrogations.

Following release of the Senate report last year, Mitchell told The Associated Press that though he could

not confirm his involvement with the CIA, he challenged the conclusion that the interrogation tactics did not produce otherwise unobtainable intelligence.

"I completely understand why the human rights organizations in the United States are upset by the Senate report," Mitchell said at the time. "I would be upset by it too, if it were true."

"What they are asking you to believe is that multiple directors of the CIA and analysts who made their living for years doing this lied to the federal government, or were too stupid to know that the intelligence they were getting wasn't useful."

In responding to the Senate report, the CIA defended the hiring of the two psychologists. "We believe their expertise was so unique that we would have been derelict had we not sought them out when it became clear that CIA would be heading into the uncharted territory of the program," the agency said. — AP



LAS VEGAS: Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Rodham Clinton speaks during a rally Monday, in Las Vegas, held by the Culinary Union to support a union drive at the Trump Hotel in Las Vegas. — AP

CLINTON, SANDERS READY FOR FIRST PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE

TONIGHT I'LL WALK ON STAGE AND PRESENT OUR PLANS: HILLARY

LAS VEGAS: Democratic presidential frontrunner Hillary Clinton will finally square off with top rival Bernie Sanders yesterday in the party's first debate of the 2016 campaign as she seeks to prove she is the candidate to beat.

Clinton will take center stage in Las Vegas with Sanders, an independent senator from Vermont who has drawn huge crowds on the campaign trail, and three other hopefuls seeking to make their mark with a national audience. Vice President Joe Biden has been mulling a run for months, and is the wild card of the Democratic race. But he has not announced his decision and is not expected to participate in the

debate, which starts in Sin City at about 6:00 pm (0100 GMT Wednesday).

The spotlight therefore is likely to be on Clinton and Sanders. While there is unlikely to be a dramatic clash of personalities as seen in the first two Republican debates, the former secretary of state will no doubt face pressure from the upstart senator in their much-anticipated encounter. The other three challengers—former Maryland governor Martin O'Malley, ex-senator Jim Webb and former Rhode Island governor Lincoln Chafee—will try to generate breakout moments to show they are electable alternatives to Clinton. The 67-year-old Clinton is nearly

eight years removed from her campaign clashes with ultimate White House winner Barack Obama, and part of her goal will be to show she still has expert debate skills even though she appears to struggle to personally connect with voters.

"Tonight I'll walk on stage at the first Democratic debate in Las Vegas and present our plans and ideas for this country—the same plans and ideas I've been talking about with Americans every day since we launched this campaign," Clinton told supporters in a fundraising email early yesterday. Besides focusing on her proposals for gun control, Wall Street regulations and other policies, Clinton will want to prove that she can be the first woman to win the White House, despite a recent downward trend in her poll numbers. Clinton still leads nationally in polls, but she trails Sanders by nearly 10 points in New Hampshire and holds only a modest lead in Iowa, both key early-voting states.

Her lead increases in debate state Nevada, where her support has reached 50 percent compared to 34 percent for Sanders and 12 percent for Biden, according to a CNN/ORC poll released Monday. While Clinton still elicits more unfavorable than favorable reactions among US adults (49 percent to 47 percent), she is far more popular than Sanders among Democrats, who view her favorably by 79 to 19 percent, compared to Sanders' 47-24 percent split, a Washington Post-ABC News poll out Tuesday shows. For Sanders, a rump, self-declared democratic socialist, Tuesday night will be the biggest test of his decades-long political career.

Contrasting with Clinton

Clinton has rarely mentioned Sanders on the campaign trail, but they will be standing a few feet apart on the debate stage. While Sanders said he is unlikely to level "personal attacks," he suggested he will hit Clinton on her recent position shifts, including her opposition to the Canada-to-US Keystone oil pipeline and her criticism of a huge Pacific Rim trade deal that she supported on multiple trips to Asia. "People will have to contrast my consistency and my willingness to stand up to Wall Street and corporations with the secretary," Sanders told NBC's "Meet the Press" Sunday.

The Sanders campaign telegraphed another line of attack over the weekend by releasing a statement outlining Sanders' 2002 vote against authorizing the use of force in Iraq sought by George W. Bush, which Clinton voted for. Obama opposed the war, and his difference with Clinton on the matter marked a defining issue in their 2008 showdown. Clinton has since acknowledged she was wrong to cast that vote.

Seeking her own opening, Clinton might use her rival's moderate position on guns—Sanders hails from Vermont, a rural state with few firearm restrictions—to highlight an area where liberals who seek tighter gun laws break with Sanders. Sanders casts himself as the anti-billionaire candidate intent on reshaping an economic system he says rewards the wealthiest Americans while leaving millions mired in poverty.

Clinton will likely face questions about her use of a private email account and server while secretary of state, an issue that has dogged her for months. She got little help from Obama shortly before the debate.

The president told CBS's "60 Minutes" program in an interview aired Sunday that while the scandal was largely "ginned up" by campaign politics, Clinton "made a mistake" using personal email and "could have handled the original decision better, and the disclosures more quickly." — AFP

COURT REINSTATES LAWSUIT OVER NYPD SURVEILLANCE OF MUSLIMS

PHILADELPHIA: A federal appeals court yesterday reinstated a lawsuit challenging the New York Police Department's surveillance of Muslim groups in New Jersey following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, saying any resulting harm came from the city's tactics, not the media's reporting of them.

The 3rd US Circuit Court of Appeals found the Muslim plaintiffs raised sufficient allegations of equal-protection violations and reversed a judge's decision last year to dismiss the case. US District Judge William Martini had concluded the police could not keep watch "on Muslim terrorist activities without monitoring the Muslim community itself" and concurred with the city in blaming reporting by The Associated Press, which exposed the surveillance program, for any harm.

A three-judge appellate panel rejected those findings, comparing the NYPD's alleged practices to blanket scrutiny of Japanese-Americans during World War II and blacks during the civil rights movement.

They said the attempt to blame the AP was akin to saying, "What you don't know can't hurt you. And, if you do know, don't shoot us. Shoot the messenger." The lawsuit was among legal actions that followed reports by the AP that revealed how city police infiltrated Muslim student groups, put informants in mosques and

otherwise spied on Muslims as part of a broad effort to prevent terrorist attacks. The reporting was honored with a Pulitzer Prize. A spokesman for the city Law Department said it was reviewing the decision and declined to comment further.

The city has called the intelligence gathering an appropriate and legal anti-terrorism tactic. Although a senior NYPD official testified in 2012 that the demographics unit at the heart of the program never generated any leads or triggered a terrorism investigation, former Mayor Michael Bloomberg, former police Commissioner Raymond Kelly and other officials said the surveillance helped the nation's largest police department identify and thwart terror plots. Current police Commissioner William Bratton disbanded the unit last year and reassigned its detectives. During oral arguments in January, the appellate panel questioned whether police had any specific leads to justify surveillance of Muslim businesses, mosques and student groups in New Jersey from 2002 to at least 2012.

The Muslim plaintiffs — including an Iraq War veteran, a grade school principal and members of the Muslim Student Association at Rutgers University — wanted the lawsuit revived in part so they could learn more about the program. — AP



CALIFORNIA: This undated combination of file photos provided by the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office show Sean Michael Angold, from left, Lila Scott Allgood, and Morrison Haze Lampley. A California prosecutor said Monday, that he has filed murder charges that could lead to the death penalty for Angold, Allgood and Lampley, three young transients accused of gunning down a Canadian backpacker and a yoga instructor walking his dog. — AP

THREE CHARGED WITH KILLING TOURIST, HIKER

SAN FRANCISCO: Three young transients charged in the shooting deaths of a Canadian backpacker and a yoga instructor in California have been booked into a jail and face arraignment later this week. The three arrived in California and were taken to Marin County jail on Monday evening, the county sheriff's office said. They were arrested last week in Oregon. The body of Audrey Carey, 23, was discovered in Golden Gate Park the morning of Oct. 3.

She was shot once in the head, police said. Investigators believe Carey was camping in the park, which was hosting a free, three-day bluegrass festival. She had left her home in Quebec to go backpacking in the US and Europe.

Tantric yoga instructor Steve Carter, 67, was found dead two days later along a popular hiking trail, 20 miles (30 kilometers) north of San Francisco. He was still clutching the leash of his dog, the Marin County Sheriff's Office said. The dog also was shot but is expected to survive. Carter had been living with friends while caring for his wife, who has cancer.

An arraignment hearing for 24-year-old Sean Michael Angold, 23-year-old Morrison Haze Lampley and 18-year-old Lila Scott Allgood has been set for Wednesday, authorities said. It's unclear if they have retained lawyers.

Marin County District Attorney Ed Berberian said each suspect is charged with two counts of murder with special circumstances, including lying in wait — charges that could lead to the death penalty. San Francisco Police Commander Toney Chaplin said the same gun was used in both killings. Authorities found the weapon when they arrested the suspects Wednesday outside a Portland, Oregon, soup kitchen, he said. The three also were found in possession of Carter's car and some of Carey's camping gear.

Chaplin said the gun was reported stolen from an unlocked car parked in San Francisco's Fisherman's Wharf neighborhood. The Marin County district attorney added a special circumstance of multiple killings to each of the transient's murder charges, enabling him to prosecute both shooting deaths in one trial. — AP



ROSEBURG: Nari Sarkissin, left, and Penny Lester join hundreds lining the road to Umpqua Community College in Roseburg, Ore., Monday, to show support for students returning to school for the first time since the deadliest shooting in state history on Oct. 1. — AP

A VIEWERS' GUIDE TO THE FIRST DEMOCRATIC DEBATE OF 2016 RACE

WASHINGTON: Five Democrats vying to be President Barack Obama's successor meet for their first televised debate of the 2016 election, a confrontation between one of the best-known women on the planet and four men seeking to unseat her as the party's front-runner.

But that quartet of rivals may not be Hillary Rodham Clinton's most immediate challenge. Instead, it's whether she can change the focus from emails she sent and received over a private server as secretary of state to the policies she's proposed to close the gap between rich Americans and everyone else. Her chief rival for the Democratic nomination, Vermont independent Sen. Bernie Sanders, isn't likely to let her stand out on that point. Look for him to insist he's the authentic liberal, far ahead of Clinton on the issue of income inequality, as well as education and trade.

Here are some things to watch for in the debate at the Wynn Las Vegas hotel and casino.

CLINTON VS CLINTON

If the emails come up — or, more likely, when they come up — look for Clinton to try to pivot from defending herself to explaining why she's running for president and what she would do as Obama's successor. She'll likely try to name issues on which she agrees with Obama, such as health care, while carefully noting where the two part ways, such as the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade deal.

Two recent developments could help Clinton deflect the email issue. The first is House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy's recent suggestion that the House committee investigating the deadly 2012 attack on the US consulate in Benghazi, Libya, which has focused in recent months on Clinton's email, has paid off by damaging Clinton in the polls.

While McCarthy apologized, his comment has fed Democratic arguments that the investigation was never truly about the deaths of four Americans. So, too, has the second development: accusations made this past weekend by a fired committee staff member that the panel is improperly focused on a partisan investigation of Clinton, rather than a definitive accounting of the attack.

SANDERS VS CLINTON

Sanders has passion, while Clinton has experience in presidential primary debates. But don't look for the two to go after each other in dramatic fashion. Each needs the supporters of the other to win in a general election, and they're not likely to risk

alienating them with open hostility. Yet distinctions will be drawn. Sanders has broadcast that he's not bothering with formal preparation for the debate. As a self-described democratic socialist, he's been advocating for middle- and lower-income Americans for years in the legislative arena. He's likely to cast Clinton as a late-comer to efforts to make college more affordable, for example, and a flip-flopper on such issues as the Iraq War and trade. As a senator from New York, Clinton voted for the war, which she's since said she regrets. Last week, she reversed her support as secretary of state for the Pacific trade deal backed by Obama.

Clinton, meanwhile, is sure to suggest her proposals are more realistic than those offered by Sanders, including his call to make college tuition free for all Americans.

THE FRONT-RUNNERS VS THE REST

Clinton and Sanders are the unquestioned front-runners, but there will be three other candidates on stage — each sure to be searching for a breakout moment. Expect former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley to be the most aggressive. "It's a very, very important opportunity for me to not only present my vision for where the country should head, but also 15 years of executive experience, actually accomplishing the progressive things some of the other candidates can only talk about," he said ahead of the debate. It's a little bit of a mystery how former Virginia Sen. Jim Webb, a decorated Vietnam veteran, and Lincoln Chafee, a former governor and senator from Rhode Island, will engage with the rest of the field.

Neither has campaigned as much as Clinton, Sanders and O'Malley up to this point, although both are critics of Clinton's vote for the Iraq War.

THE FIELD VS JOE BIDEN

Will he or won't he? Hovering over the debate will be Vice President Joe Biden, grieving father of son Beau, who is expected to announce within days whether he will make a late entry into the race. If asked about the potential candidate who isn't at the debate, look for the candidates to offer up familiar responses about giving Biden time to mourn his son's death.

While Biden's advisers have been talking to potential staff and donors, those familiar with his thinking say they don't expect him to upend the debate by revealing his plans before the candidates take the stage. — AP

AMNESTY OPENS NIGERIA OFFICE TO INVESTIGATE ABUSE CHARGES

LAGOS: Amnesty International opened an office yesterday in Nigeria, promising to investigate allegations of abuses from oil pollution and forced evictions to charges of military killings of civilians in the fight against Boko Haram Islamic extremists.

"From the relatives of the thousands killed and missing in northeast Nigeria to the thousands of villagers in the Niger Delta who cannot plant crops or drink clean water because of oil pollution,

Amnesty International will stand in solidarity with all the people in Nigeria who face human rights violations and abuses," said the director of the office in Abuja, the capital, veteran Nigerian career diplomat M.K. Ibrahim.

Nigeria's new government invited the London-based human rights group into the country, Ibrahim told the AP, after its report accusing Nigeria's military of killing some 800 civilian detainees by shooting, torture, starvation and suf-

focation. Amnesty named five senior officers it said should be tried for war crimes in its March report.

The Associated Press has reported the deaths of some 3,000 people in military detention within a matter of months in 2013, and the shootings of hundreds of unarmed detainees freed from a barracks in northeastern Maiduguri in a Boko Haram attack last year.

Amnesty had a combative relationship with the previous Nigerian government, headed by

Goodluck Jonathan, which denied allegations of gross military abuses. But Buhari, who won elections that brought the West African oil producer its first democratic change of government, has promised to investigate the charges. Buhari told Amnesty that the investigation can start only after the appointment of a justice minister and attorney general, expected in coming weeks, said Ibrahim.

One of Buhari's first acts after his May 30 inauguration was to fire all the military chiefs. — AP



CONAKRY: Guinea's President and presidential candidate Alpha Conde casts his ballot at a polling station in Conakry. — AFP

'DON'T TAKE GUINEA ELECTION ROW ONTO STREETS' WARNS EU

OPPOSITION LEADERS CALL FOR A RE-RUN OF VOTE

CONAKRY: EU election observers yesterday slammed the poor organisation of Guinea's first-round presidential ballot this weekend but urged the opposition to take its complaints to the courts rather than onto the streets.

At a highly-awaited press conference after the tense Sunday ballot, the European Union observer mission chief, Frank Engel, said the many logistical and organisational problems that surfaced "confirmed the lack of preparation" by Guinea's Independent National Electoral Commission (CENI). Opposition leaders on Monday called for a re-run of the vote, condemning the ballot as fraudulent even before the results were in and pledging to take to the streets in protest.

But Engel, who commended the fact that election day remained peaceful despite the glitches, said "the disputes that might arise in Guinea should be transferred to the judges rather than lived out in the street." It was only the second democratic presidential election in the west African country since independence in 1958 and saw a strong turnout of around 60 percent, the observers said.

Welcoming voter participation and lack of violence on election day, Engel said "the October 11 vote was an exem-

plary ballot for this country." The first free presidential vote in 2010, won by incumbent President Alpha Conde, was tainted by violence and accusations of fraud, as were legislative polls three years later.

But opposition leader Cellou Dalein Diallo dubbed Sunday's vote "a masquerade, a massive fraud throughout the day." Some polling stations opened late, others were short of envelopes. Some voters turned up without voter ID cards while others failed to find their names on electoral registers. Some lists were neither in alphabetical nor numerical order.

'We will demonstrate'

"We cannot accept this ballot, we request it be annulled. We will not accept the results of this vote," Diallo said at a press conference Monday also attended by the six other candidates challenging the incumbent head of state. "We will not give in, we have the right to demonstrate, we will demonstrate."

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon welcomed the peaceful vote and urged all sides to refrain from any action that could lead to violence ahead of the release of the offi-

cial results, expected in the coming days. While the other six candidates questioned the vote, none called for protest, and the single woman running for election, Marie Madeleine Dioubate, urged her supporters to "stay calm, stay off the streets". Even before voting opened, opposition parties had warned of fraud and vote-rigging and accused the CENI of mismanaging the poll. "No one wants the country to burn, no one wants citizens to clash, stones against stones, sticks against sticks, but the scene has been set... so that is where we end up," said former prime minister Lansana Kouyate, one of three ex premiers standing in the poll.

Conde was elected five years ago to head the mineral-rich but impoverished nation after returning from three decades in exile to defeat Diallo, a former prime minister who remains his closest rival. The 77-year-old incumbent campaigned on his track record of reforms to the army and judiciary and improved supply of hydroelectric power.

His foes have accused him of poor management, including the handling of the Ebola crisis, and said he wields too much power in isolation while stirring up tension among ethnic groups. — AFP

News

in brief

Four killed in mine collapse

KAKANJ: Four miners were killed and two injured early yesterday when a platform holding up the roof caved in on them in a mine in central Bosnia. The accident occurred at around 1 a.m. at a depth of 105 metres as a group of 28 miners were installing electric equipment in the Kakanj coal mine, outside the digging area, mining inspector Ferid Osmanovic told a news conference. Four miners were killed by falling rocks and another two were taken to hospital though their injuries were not life-threatening. The other miners escaped unhurt. Deadly accidents are frequent at Bosnian coal mines, starved of investment and upgrades since the country's 1992-95 war. Last year, five miners died when an earthquake triggered a collapse at the Raspotocje mine in the town of Zenica. Osmanovic could not say what caused Tuesday's collapse in a pit that was renovated two years ago.

Man survives on ants

PERTH: A man missing for six days in a remote Australian desert in searing heat without water was found yesterday after surviving by eating black ants, police said. Reg Foggerdy, 62, disappeared on October 7 heading to the Shooter's Shack camp near Laverton in the West Australian Goldfields, some 950 kilometres (600 miles) northeast of Perth, on a hunting trip. When he failed to return, family members raised the alarm and a search by police trackers finally found him 15 kilometres from where he went missing. Goldfields Police superintendent Andy Greatwood said Foggerdy had been sitting under the same tree for the last two days, with no water during his ordeal. "He was eating black ants, that's how he survived. So, fantastic survival skills by him, and fantastic skills by our trackers who found him in an extremely remote location," he told the West Australian newspaper. "He was extremely dehydrated, a bit delusional, but we've administered first aid and rehydrated him and it's pleasing to say he is now sitting up and talking."

Indonesian alive after chopper crash

SAMOSIR: A missing Indonesian man was found alive, naked and floating in a huge volcanic lake yesterday two days after the helicopter in which he was travelling crashed. The man, named in local reports as Fransiskus Subihardayan, was rushed to hospital after being found conscious but very weak, and wearing only a black watch, in Lake Toba, into which the aircraft is believed to have plummeted, on western Sumatra island. The survivor, in his 20s, was one of five people aboard the Eurocopter EC-130 when it disappeared Sunday during a short flight from Samosir island, a popular tourist spot on the lake, to the city of Medan. "The man was found by the navy at around 1:00 pm (0600 GMT)," Hisar Turnip, a search and rescue agency spokesman, told AFP. "He was not swimming, just floating. He was found without clothes, stark naked." He told rescuers he was a passenger on the helicopter and gave some details, but he was slipping in and out of consciousness as he was taken to a local hospital, officials said. His current condition was not immediately clear.

CAMERON TO PRESS SAUDI OVER BRITON FACING 350 LASHES

LONDON: British Prime Minister David Cameron will intervene in the case of an elderly Briton facing 350 lashes in Saudi Arabia after being caught with homemade wine - a punishment which his family said could kill him. Karl Andree, 74, was jailed for 12 months in August last year but remains in prison awaiting further punishment for breaking strict Saudi laws prohibiting alcohol after police found the wine in his car, his family said. "This is an extremely concerning case," Cameron's spokeswoman told reporters on Tuesday. "Given the ongoing concerns and the fact we would like to see more progress, the PM is writing today to the Saudis to further raise the case." The move underlines diplomatic tensions over human rights in Saudi Arabia, which is considered one of Britain's closest military allies in the Middle East.

It comes as France agreed potential deals worth 10 billion euros (\$11 billion) with Saudi Arabia. Andree's son Simon said his father had served his time and that he regretted what happened.

He said his father, who had worked for oil companies in the kingdom for some 25 years, was in poor health, had suffered cancer three times, and also had

asthma. "He's an old frail man and I fear this lashing sentence is potentially a death sentence for him," Simon Andree told BBC radio. "That's our biggest concern, which is why we are trying to raise the case now to get him out."

Britain's Foreign Office, which warns on its website that there are severe penalties for possessing alcohol in Saudi Arabia, said embassy staff in Riyadh were checking Andree's health regularly.

The Saudi Embassy in London had no comment. The Andree case comes just over a week after Cameron urged Saudi Arabia not to go ahead with the execution of a Shi'ite Muslim over his role in anti-government protests. Cameron's spokeswoman also said a commercial arm of the government's justice department would be withdrawing from a 5.9 million pound (\$8.97 million) bid to provide prison training services to Saudi Arabia. The decision to bid for the contract had been criticised by lawmakers and human rights groups. The withdrawal was consistent with plans to wind down the activities of the commercial entity, the spokeswoman said, adding that it was unrelated to the Andree case. — Reuters



LESBOS: A man swims next to a rubber boat as refugees and migrants arrive on the Greek island of Lesbos after crossing the Aegean Sea from Turkey yesterday. Greece pledged October 10, 2015 during talks with its EU partners to open its first so-called hotspot reception centre on the island of Lesbos within 10 days under EU efforts to better deal with the massive influx of migrants. — AFP

GERMANY EXTENDS BORDER CONTROLS UNTIL END-OCT

BERLIN: Germany, facing a record migrant influx, will extend temporary border controls until the end of October, with a special focus on the Austrian border, the interior ministry said yesterday. Berlin, which started to implement the controls on September 13, has told the European Commission it will maintain them until October 31 as "the situation at the border is such that we cannot do without them". "We need to return to an orderly handling of refugee policy," a ministry spokeswoman told AFP.

In the passport-free Schengen zone of 26 European countries, members can temporarily reinstate border controls with other member states if they cite a security threat or exceptional circumstances.

Members can do so for 10 days and then

maintain the controls for "renewable periods" of up to 20 days, for a maximum total of two months. In Brussels, a European Commission spokesman said that "indeed, we were notified by October 9 that this extraordinary measure would be prolonged by a further 20 days".

Germany, the EU's top economy, has taken in the largest share of migrants arriving in Europe to escape war and poverty, with total numbers expected to reach 800,000 to one million this year.

Chancellor Angela Merkel has urged citizens to welcome the newcomers and help to quickly integrate them, but has faced harsh criticism and falling approval ratings amid rising fears about the burden the refugee wave poses for Germany.

In the southern state of Bavaria-the

main gateway to Germany for migrants travelling through the Balkans and Austria-state premier Horst Seehofer has proposed setting up 'transit zones' where migrants would be held while their asylum claims are assessed. While Merkel's conservatives are considering the idea, the centre-left Social Democrats, partners in her coalition government, have voiced scepticism, arguing that the zones would amount to "large detention centres in no man's land".

The Commission spokesman said that "the concept of transit zones is something that is indeed foreseen under EU rules. In practice, they are currently used at airports."

"Transit zones allow you to control who enters the territory and, in an accelerated procedure, to filter out those clearly not entitled to international protection." — AFP



WARSAW: Queen Mathilde of Belgium, King Philippe, Poland's President Andrzej Duda and Poland's First Lady Agata Kornhauser-Duda, from left, participate in the welcome ceremony for the Belgian Royals at the Presidential Palace in Warsaw, Poland, yesterday, on the first day of a three days visit in Poland. — AP

Project Manager

Al Hamra Kuwait Co. W.I.I.
Kuwait

You will be responsible for developing a cost-effective plan and schedule for completion of project following a logical pattern for utilization of resources, selecting and coordinating work of subcontractors working on various phases of the project, as well as, overseeing performance of all trade contractors and reviewing architectural and engineering drawings.

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Brand Merchandising Manager - West Elm

M.H. Alshaya Co. - Kuwait

You will be responsible for providing leadership and direction to brand managers and support functions for all aspects of business planning, brand management and merchandising for your division, accountable for OTB, forward planning, stock management, maximising sales and profit contribution and coaching, developing and mentoring a team of senior merchandisers.

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Sales Manager

Body Center Perfume
Kuwait

You will be responsible for determining annual unit and gross-profit plans by implementing marketing strategies, analyzing trends and results, setting promotional activity direction for Marketing and Merchandising teams as per the company plan, as well as, maintaining sales volume, product mix and selling price by keeping current with supply and demand.

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Corporate Sales Manager

DIGITS
Kuwait

You will be responsible for developing relationship with companies, VIP customers, ministry departments, educational institutes, oil sectors, banks, etc., to promote and sell Digits brands and products, providing support and advise to potential and existing customer, adhering to company standards at all times, as well as, developing new clients and achieving sales targets.

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Shop Manager

Rashid A Mejerm Al Roumi Co.
Kuwait

You will responsible for ensuring efficient management of sales and operations in the store to achieve maximum output and profitability in all functions, ensuring proper use of resources and delivering the highest levels of customer service, as well as, working closely with the Retail Manager ensuring department targets are met or exceeded.

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Head of Quality Assurance

Madison Pearl
Kuwait

You will be responsible for leading the development and implementation of the quality assurance (QA) processes within the operational aspects of internal audit activity, conducting regular QA reviews of the work delivered, emphasising on the use of Audit Management System (MKI), as well as, ensuring that audit reports clearly highlight the key issues, risks, etc.

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Sales Manager

ITC Promotions
Kuwait

You will be responsible for approaching potential customers to prospect for new business - out door sales - B2B, increasing and developing sales and revenues, handling client inquiries, gathering market and customer information, as well as, representing the company at exhibitions & events.

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Retail Store Manager (Fashion and Lifestyle) - Charterhouse

Middle East - Kuwait

You will be responsible for supervising the duties of staff members to include coaching, training and assisting them in achieving sales objectives, demonstrating an active management presence on the sales floor, as well as, exemplifying exceptional service and ensuring all team members embody the brand spirit.

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Business Development Manager - Treeline Business Solutions Private Ltd. - KSA

You will be responsible for strategizing and developing Business Development initiatives, branding exercises, promotions, marketing campaign initiatives, identifying key customer segments and sales group, as well as, mapping their requirements vis-à-vis innovative service solutions that can be used to provide value added customer service.

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Sales Manager - HVAC

BWP
KSA

You will be responsible for leading the team of Applied Sales account managers in order to achieve sales and margin objectives, growing and developing the Applied Sales channel, identifying prospects, signing new accounts, creating quotas and mutual win-win commitments, as well as, creating short-term and long-range plans.

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Software Project Manager

Digital Flow
KSA

You will be responsible for managing Online Software Development project activities for multiple projects across all project phases, as well as, working collaboratively with development team, lead architect and the president to determine technical direction and approach to system design and implementation.

Apply Now [JB3325644](#)

Real Estate Manager - Projects & Property - M.H. Alshaya Co. KSA

KSA

You will be responsible for new store opening plan, negotiating and renegotiating leases, initiating and maintaining key contracts, site selection and budgets and always striving to secure the most prominent space in malls and street locations wherever possible and you will be required to have relevant professional qualification.

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Traffic Manager/ Engineer

Guildhall Agency
UAE

You will be required to be experienced in the design of temporary traffic management on highways, designing temporary schemes including diversions and contra-flow, as well as, assisting with preparation of drawings and method statements for submission and agreement with Public Works Authority (PWA/Ashghal).

Apply Now [JB3325626](#)

Senior Manager Sanctions

Robert Half International UAE
UAE

You will be responsible for establishing measures to identify suspicious activity and reporting to relevant authorities locally, conducting quality testing for financial crime surveillance and intelligence outputs from company systems (e.g. Detica), as well as, providing second line assurance to business and functional management.

Apply Now [JB50075990](#)

Software Engineering Manager - Emirates

UAE

You will be responsible for developing and delivering solutions according to the approved works program with adherence to time, cost, regulatory and quality parameters and ensuring the deployment and alignment of works undertaken by the development team is in line with business application/ enterprise architectures, standards, methods and practices.

Apply Now [JB50075992](#)

Commercial Department Manager - Marks and Spencer

Al Futtaim Group - UAE

You will be responsible for ensuring a pleasant shopping experience is provided for customers, setting up, monitoring and reviewing sales targets for the relevant commercial department, ensuring that department and store objectives are achieved and managing and developing staff within the department in order to achieve departmental and personal goals.

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Marketing Director

Flex-i Partners
Qatar

You will be responsible for selling IT products & services and being entrusted with the most important corporate asset, as well as, leading, overseeing the development of the product strategy and plans within the portfolio and managing product life cycle for all products with views for product definition, development, implementation, versioning and support.

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Project Manager

EC Harris
Qatar

You will be responsible for creating a defined development process for assigned projects in a team environment, supporting the management in development projects, reviewing of product lines that maximize revenue and credibility for the developer, as well as, assisting in the preparation and management of project development briefs and budgets management of documentation required for product launches.

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Program Manager Urban Planning - Qatar Foundation

Qatar

You will be responsible for spearheading the program development for the Grand Challenges program in "Sustainable Urbanization", working with the Director Technical, Social Sciences Arts and Humanities to establish policies, research priorities, and funding activities and developing administrative and grant budgets and monitoring financial performance against budget.

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Senior Manager Operations

Qatar Airways
Qatar

You will be responsible for creating and setting future strategy for the business needs ensuring business requirements are identified and represented, developing the departments future strategy in terms of customer focus, audits and expected results or KPI's, developing and driving efficiencies in processes and overseeing implementation within the departments, as well as, planning and managing execution.

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WORLD MUST CARRY OUT UN SLAVERY PLEDGE: SATYARTHI

NEW DELHI: The new UN global development pact may have been a significant step towards ending human trafficking and slavery, but governments must now follow through on their pledge, Nobel Laureate Kailash Satyarthi said yesterday.

Although slavery is illegal everywhere, almost 36 million people are enslaved worldwide - trafficked to brothels, forced into manual labour or victims of debt bondage, the Walk Free Foundation estimates.

Last month, the 193 UN member states made ending modern-day slavery one of the United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which will shape development and poverty eradication efforts for the next 15 years. Satyarthi, an Indian whose charity Bachpan Bachao Andolan (Save the Childhood Movement) is credited with

rescuing more than 80,000 enslaved children, welcomed adoption of the SDGs but said governments now had a responsibility to allocate adequate budgets and design suitable policies. "Freedom has always been considered a matter of human rights, but for the first time it has been acknowledged that without freedom there can be no development. But now the question is how to implement it," Satyarthi told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

"Governments should now prioritise child-centred development goals and devise more holistic policies interlinking education, trafficking, slavery and child labour and violence against children because they are all connected," The United Nations called for immediate measures "to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking

and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour".

'Best practices'

Campaigners say countries of major concern include India, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Malaysia, Thailand and Mauritania.

Satyarthi, who was awarded the 2014 Nobel Peace Prize jointly with Pakistani schoolgirl Malala Yousafzai, said he had written to the head of state of every UN member asking them to look at successful initiatives to replicate. There are many "best practices" by governments, civil society organisations and companies across the world, which countries could take up as national policies, he said. Satyarthi cited the Brazilian conditional cash trans-

fer scheme, where mothers are given a monthly stipend if they withdraw their child from labour and enroll him or her in full-time education, as one example. The 62-year-old follower of Gandhi said his letter had also called on governments to increase their national and foreign aid budgets for the SDGs related to children. "This means more funds spent on education, health, the rescue and rehabilitation of child labourers and more money for enforcing the legal framework in relation to trafficking and slavery related issues," he said.

"I personally feel very satisfied that we have a very strong policy document in our hand that can be further used to change the lives of millions of people who are trapped into slavery," he said. "But we can't stop here." — Reuters

CHINA-NEPAL BORDER REOPENS AFTER EARTHQUAKE REPAIRS

KATHMANDU: A China-Nepal border point that was damaged by April's devastating earthquake reopened yesterday just as the small Himalayan nation struggles with supply shortages because of protests that have disrupted border points with India in the south.

Meanwhile, a large number of trucks carrying transport and cooking fuel entered Nepal on one of the southern routes that had been blocked for weeks. India and China are major trading partners of the country sandwiched between the giant Asian rivals.

Both of the two major trading points on the border between Nepal and China were shut down after the earthquake that killed thousands. The border point at Jilung in southwest Tibet was opened after months of repair, Sun Lijun, who is the head of the port's management committee, told China's official Xinhua News Agency.

A customs official at the Nepal side, Durga Subedi, said he did not see any trucks enter Nepal yesterday but authorities there are ready for operation.

The Jilung border point was generally used to bring truckloads of clothes, furnishings, electronic and household items into Nepal but never for any oil products. The route is narrow and passes through mountainous terrain.

Since the protests began in southern Nepal by the Madhesi ethnic group, neighboring India has restricted fuel supplies, causing severe shortages. India, which has close ties with the ethnic group, has repeatedly denied there is any unofficial blockade and drivers are afraid to drive in Nepal, but trucks were stopped at border points even where there were no protests or trouble.

However, yesterday dozens of trucks, even those loaded with fuel, were allowed to cross the border. Police official Pramod Kharel said 101 trucks that included 34 diesel, 14 gasoline and 15 cooking gas trucks entered Nepal from the Jogbani border point in the southeast yesterday. It was the biggest shipment of fuel to cross at that border point in the past two weeks.

Jogbani is one of the biggest trading points between Nepal and India. The

main border point at Birgunj was still closed by protesters who are demonstrating in the middle of the border points between the two countries.

Officials said traffic on other border points was fine and they expected more fuel trucks to enter in the evening. The shortages have forced cars off the streets, shortages of medicines and other supplies.

Yesterday, the government announced private cars would be given a rationed amount of fuel which was the first time this month. Tens of thousands of cars and motorcycles line up outside service stations in Kathmandu for miles (kilometers) and police had to control the drivers.

The Madhesi oppose the new constitution because it divides Nepal into seven new states, with some borders slicing through the Madhesi's ancestral homeland in the southern plains. The Madhesi, along with several other small ethnic groups, want the states to be larger and to be given more autonomy over local matters.

Talks last week made little progress. United Democratic Madhesi Front, the main Madhesi group, does not plan to ease its protests for the Dasain festival. Upendra Yadav, one of the leaders of the group, said they would not stop until their demands are fully met.

"We will stop only after constitutional amendments have been made to address our demands. But until then our protests will continue," Yadav said adding their participation in the voting for prime minister election in parliament was not an indication of them withdrawing their protests.

Yadav said they want changes made in the constitution that would readjust the state border, electoral constituencies would be redrawn on the basis of the population so that there would be more representation in parliament from the more populated southern Nepal, there would be more reservation of seats for the ethnic minorities in parliament seats, government jobs and positions and more autonomy powers to these new states. Yadav said the main issue was increasing the area for their state. — AP



YANGON: Members of the National League for Democracy (NLD) party hold posters and flags as they campaign for the upcoming November 8 general election in Yangon yesterday. Myanmar election authorities yesterday suggested postponing landmark November polls, a spokesman for Aung San Suu Kyi's opposition party said, throwing doubt over the timing of the first credible elections in generations. — AFP

MYANMAR TO HOLD LANDMARK VOTE AS PLANNED ON NOV 8

COUNTRY STILL RECOVERING FROM MASSIVE FLOODS

YANGON: Myanmar election authorities yesterday confirmed that landmark polls would go ahead on November 8 in a national broadcast, after Aung San Suu Kyi's opposition rejected official suggestions that the vote be postponed because of flooding.

In an announcement read out on state media the Union Election Commission said it had decided to go ahead as planned with elections, after floating the idea of a delay at a meeting with major parties in the capital Napyidaw. "Following a review of the possible pros and cons of postponing the election date, the commission's decision is that the general elections will be held on November 8 2015, as previously stated," said an announcement read out on state media.

News of the meeting had earlier sent ripples of alarm through the nation where election fever is in full swing just weeks ahead of a vote seen as a crucial test of the country's emergence from junta rule. Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy (NLD), which is forecast to make major gains in the polls, earlier said it was against any attempt to stall the first nationwide vote it has contested in a quarter century. Win Htein, a spokesman for the NLD, said the party was alone in opposing the postponement. Election rules mean the authorities can suspend voting in constituencies affected by natural disaster or unrest. Myanmar is still recovering from massive floods in recent months that damaged infrastructure across the country and displaced 1.6 million people, but they were not previously thought to threaten the date of the polls.

Decades of conflict

Officials earlier yesterday said they had cancelled voting in swathes of northern Shan and Kachin states bordering China because of ongoing fighting with ethnic rebels.

"Some village areas have security restrictions and we have security concerns about those. Others are in the control of Kachin (rebels) where we are not capable of holding elections," Tun Aung Khaing, a senior election official in Kachin State, told AFP.

That move had been anticipated and mainly affects areas battered by war or beyond the government's writ, in a country where several ethnic minority armies still resist state control.

It comes as Myanmar prepares to sign a limited ceasefire on October 15 as it tries to end decades of civil war. A ceasefire between the army and Kachin rebels collapsed in 2011 under a new quasi-civilian government.

Democracy fight

Myanmar's November polls are set to crown four years of unprecedented openness in a nation driven into poverty and isolation by nearly half a century of repressive military rule.

There have been increasing fears that reforms are stalling in recent months. Parties are already taking to the streets to drum up support and Suu Kyi has held large rallies across the country attended by crowds of flag-waving supporters. The NLD won elections in 1990 but the military rejected the results and repeatedly put Suu Kyi under house arrest until after 2010 polls. The army-backed ruling Union Solidarity and Development Party swept those elections, unopposed by the NLD. Nobel laureate Suu Kyi cannot be president under constitutional rules barring the post to a person who married and had children with a foreigner.

In 2008 the country held a national referendum on the junta-drafted charter just days after parts of the nation were devastated by Cyclone Nargis which killed around 138,000 people. — AFP



DAVAO: This undated image grab taken yesterday from a video uploaded on YouTube shows gunmen standing behind three foreign men (not pictured) and a Filipina (not pictured) who were kidnapped last month in the southern Philippines. — AFP

THREE FOREIGN HOSTAGES IN PHILIPPINES APPEAR IN VIDEO

MANILA: Three foreign men and a Filipina kidnapped last month in the southern Philippines have appeared in a video posted online, making demands for the Islamic militants who abducted them. Gunmen raided a luxury marina near the major southern city of Davao on September 21, abducting the Norwegian owner of the resort, two Canadian tourists and one of their girlfriends.

No group immediately claimed responsibility but the video uploaded on YouTube on Monday appeared to confirm it was the Abu Sayyaf, which has a long history of kidnappings-for-ransom in the southern Philippines. In the video, the three foreigners appealed for Philippine authorities to halt military assaults against the gunmen.

The hostages were sitting on the ground, surrounded by at least eight men holding high-powered machine guns. One man also holds a large knife. After the three foreigners spoke, one of the gunmen, with a scarf and sunglasses completely covering his face, spoke in English, repeating his demand for military operations to stop against "us".

He said once the military operations stopped, the kidnappers would be prepared to start negotiations for the hostages' freedom. In all other Abu Sayyaf kidnappings of foreigners, the group has demanded and often received large sums of money for the release of its captives. The Canadians abducted were John Ridsdel, 68, and Robert Hall, 50, and the Norwegian resort owner was Kjartan Sekkingstad, 56. Hall's girlfriend, Marites Flor, was also abducted. She did not speak in the video.

\$1million reward

Philippine authorities had previously said

they did not know if the Abu Sayyaf was behind the abductions, nor where the hostages were being held. This was despite security analysts saying it was almost certain the Abu Sayyaf was responsible, and that the victims were being held on Jolo island, the group's stronghold about 1,000 kilometres (600 miles) south of Manila. In the video, Ridsdel referred specifically to nearby artillery fire and to overhead flights.

When asked to comment on the demands, the regional military spokesman for the area, Captain Antonio Bulao, told AFP troops had conducted an assault that included artillery fire against an Abu Sayyaf leader on Jolo on October 8. Bulao, spokesman for the Western Mindanao command, said the assault was aimed at Radullan Sahiron, who is on the US government's list of most wanted "terrorists".

Sahiron was involved in the kidnappings of three Americans in 2001 from a resort in the southwestern Philippines, according to a US government website, which offers a \$1 million reward for bringing him to justice. One of the Americans was beheaded.

Bulao said Sahiron was believed to be currently holding a Dutch birdwatcher kidnapped from a southern Philippine island in 2012, as well as two unnamed Filipinos. The Abu Sayyaf is holding three other foreigners, a Korean and two Malaysians, military officials told AFP earlier. An Abu Sayyaf leader appeared online last year pledging allegiance to Islamic State. But Philippine authorities and security analysts say the group has little religious ideology, and is primarily concerned with getting money through kidnappings. — AFP



KATHMANDU: A Nepalese woman pushes her scooter forward as she waits for her turn to fill fuel at a gas station in Kathmandu, Nepal, yesterday. A China-Nepal border point that was damaged by April's devastating earthquake reopened yesterday just as the small Himalayan nation struggles with supply shortages because of protests that have disrupted border points with India in the south. — AP

INDIAN POLICE ARREST SIX OVER INK ATTACK

MUMBAI: Indian police said yesterday they had arrested six members of a far-right political group over an ink attack on an activist who organised the launch of a former Pakistani foreign minister's book.

As he left his Mumbai home on Monday, Sudheendra Kulkarni had ink thrown on him by a group of activists from the Hindu nationalist Shiv Sena party, in the latest apparent attack on free speech in the country.

"We have arrested six men, they are all Shiv Sainiks and have been released on bail," Mumbai Police Deputy Commissioner Dhananjay Kulkarni told AFP. Sudheendra Kulkarni condemned the incident as an "assault on democracy" as he addressed the media in Mumbai on Monday, his face and hair covered in ink.

The launch of Khurshid Mahmud

Kasuri's book "Neither a Hawk nor a Dove: An Insider's Account of Pakistan's Foreign Policy" later passed in the western Indian city without incident.

India and Pakistan have been bitter rivals since gaining independence from Britain in 1947, and have fought three wars. The Shiv Sena, a junior partner in a ruling coalition with the Bharatiya Janata Party in the Maharashtra state government, was last week accused of using threats to force the cancellation of an appearance in Mumbai by Pakistani singer Ghulam Ali.

There are growing concerns over freedom of speech in India after the execution-style killing in August of M.M. Kalburgi, a leading secular scholar who had angered hardline Hindu groups.

Shiv Sena spokesman Sanjay Raut described the ink attack as a "non-violent protest". — AFP



RIYADH: Saudi King Salman receives French Prime Minister Manuel Valls yesterday. — AP

FRANCE IN DEALS WORTH €10BN WITH SAUDI...

Continued from Page 1

The agreements include contracts and letters of intent between the countries whose economic and political relations have grown under President Francois Hollande.

The statement says both sides will conclude negotiations - with an end-of-year target date - to provide fast patrol boats for the Saudi navy. Separately, the kingdom's Public Investment Fund has allocated \$2 billion for French investments focused on renewable energy and small- and medium-sized enterprises, it said. The lifting of an embargo on French beef, imposed over "mad cow" disease, will allow 37 French firms to resume exports to the Gulf kingdom, Valls' office said. Other deals under discussion could cover telecommunications and surveillance satellites, urban transport and energy.

France is the third-largest investor in Saudi Arabia, and Valls said he expects additional deals to be finalized. "We don't doubt for one instance that these letters of intent will be confirmed," said Valls. The announcements came during the third high-level visit this year by French officials to the world's largest oil exporter. France has boosted ties with the conservative Islamic kingdom - the Arab world's largest economy - despite persistent criticism from rights activists of its record on civil liberties.

For Saudi Arabia, expanding ties with France are part of an effort to build alliances beyond its traditional defence partner the United States, to counter Riyadh's regional rival Iran. Valls, accompanied by Defence Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian, was on a regional tour which included Jordan and Egypt. Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius joined them in Riyadh for the talks.

Hollande visited in January to pay his respects after king Abdullah died, and returned in May for a regional summit. The negotiations for patrol boats follow a series of weapons sales Paris has made in the region this year. On Saturday, Egypt signed a deal with France to buy two Mistral warships originally ordered by Russia. According to French government sources, Egypt will receive "significant" Saudi financing for the purchase. France this year also sold 24 Rafale warplanes to Egypt and Qatar.

The French delegation was discreet on the subject of human rights, but Valls told reporters he "called for clemency" for Ali Al-Nimr, a member of the minority Shiite community facing the death penalty. Nimr was just 17 when arrested in Feb 2012 after taking part in pro-reform protests.

Separately, Britain yesterday abandoned a bid to provide training to Saudi Arabia's penal system and raised the case of a 74-year-old Briton facing a flogging, following an outcry over human rights in the kingdom. "The government has decided that it won't be proceeding with the bid," Prime Minister David Cameron's spokeswoman told reporters. The potential contract was worth £5.9 million (\$9 million). Downing Street insisted the decision was separate from the case of the reportedly frail

grandfather Karl Andree, who has been told he could face 350 lashes in public after serving a year behind bars for being caught with home-made wine.

The spokeswoman said the move was linked to the winding up of Just Solutions International, a commercial offshoot of the Ministry of Justice. Britain's ties to Saudi Arabia have come under greater scrutiny in recent months as concerns mount over human rights, including Saudi plans to crucify pro-democracy activist Nimr and flog prominent blogger Raif Badawi. Saudi Arabia is Britain's most important trade partner in the Middle East and was its biggest market for arms exports last year. In an unusual move, Britain's new opposition leader Jeremy Corbyn used his first party conference speech last month to call on Prime Minister David Cameron to intervene on behalf of Nimr.

In another sign of tensions over Saudi Arabia, newspapers reported yesterday on a rare split within the ruling Conservative Party over ties with the kingdom. The Times said Justice Secretary Michael Gove wanted to pull out of the prison training deal agreed by his predecessor, but Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond thought it would make Britain look untrustworthy to a key ally. Gove told parliament yesterday that even though the bid had been dropped Britain would continue to work closely with Saudi Arabia.

"There is security cooperation between Britain and Saudi Arabia that has saved British lives in the past. While we would never compromise our commitment to human rights... we should continue with the necessary security cooperation with the Saudi government," Gove said. He added that the government had "profound concerns" about human rights in Saudi Arabia, but that Britain must be allowed to use diplomacy to make progress on the issue. "David Cameron has been shamed into a U-turn on this terrible contract, but why on Earth was it set up in the first place?" said Labour leader Corbyn.

The Downing Street spokeswoman said Andree's sentence was "extremely concerning" and Cameron was "writing today to the Saudis to further raise the case". There has been a "gradual stepping up of government activity" on the issue, she said. Andree's family said they welcomed Cameron's intervention after they appealed for clemency. "He's done his time now; he should be released. This lashing sentence - we fear, because of his age, he won't survive it," his son, Simon, told BBC radio. "He's a frail old man... enough is enough."

He had implored Cameron to intervene personally, but feared his father was "at the bottom of the list". "I feel that all the business dealings with Saudi Arabia and the UK are probably taking priority," he said. The Sun - Britain's most widely read newspaper - carried the story on its front page. It said that despite having served his sentence, Andree was still in jail as Saudi officials wait to carry out the flogging. The grandfather of seven, who has already survived cancer, has lived in Saudi Arabia for 25 years, working in the oil industry. — Agencies

FLIGHT MH17 SHOT DOWN BY RUSSIAN-MADE...

Continued from Page 1

But earlier the respected Volkskrant daily said sources close to the investigation had pointed to it being fired by pro-Russian rebels. "The BUK missile is developed and made in Russia," one source told the daily. "It can be assumed that the rebels would not be able to operate such a device. I suspect the involvement of former Russian military officials." Jousra also hit out at the Ukrainian authorities for allowing civil aircraft to continue to fly above the eastern part of the country despite the raging conflict between Kiev's forces and pro-Russian separatist insurgents.

On the day that MH17 was blown out of the skies, some 160 commercial flights overflew the area, the inquiry said. "There was sufficient reason for the Ukrainian authorities to close the air space above the eastern part of their country," Jousra said. Relatives earlier emerged visibly shaken after being privately briefed by Jousra in a conference centre. One of them, Robby Oehlers said a wave of sadness had swept through the room. "They showed us the fragments that were inside the plane," Oehlers said, adding in the room "it was so quiet, you could have heard a pin drop."

The downing of MH17 threw the global spotlight back on the uprising in eastern Ukraine and was followed by a toughening of Western sanctions against Russia. Yesterday's findings were swiftly dismissed by the missile

maker Almaz-Antey, after a test which "disputes the version of the Dutch," adding the damage to the MH17 pointed to the use of an older type of missile. "The results of the experiment completely dispute the conclusions of the Dutch commission about the type of the rocket and the launch site," said Yan Novikov, director of Almaz-Antey.

Ukrainian Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk meanwhile blamed Russia's security service. "I personally have no doubt that this was a planned operation of the Russian special services aimed at downing a civilian aircraft," Yatsenyuk told a cabinet meeting. The Dutch report makes 11 recommendations, aiming to improve safety for civilian aircraft. They include that countries involved in a conflict should close their air space in a timely manner, and that stricter rules should be applied by international aviation bodies.

But it has stressed its mandate was not to determine who pulled the trigger, amid a separate criminal probe by Dutch prosecutors. Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte called on Russia to cooperate in the criminal investigation, adding "the priority now is to find and pursue those who are responsible." Oehlers said relatives had been told "there was a zero percent chance that the people inside felt anything or had any notion of what was happening." But the report states "it cannot be ruled out that some occupants remained conscious for some time during the one to one-and-a-half minutes for which the crash lasted." — AFP

SPORTS AUTHORITY REJECTS IOC DEADLINE...

Continued from Page 1

It warned that it would not accept any infringement on the sovereignty and laws of Kuwait, especially as local sports laws are compatible with the Olympic Charter. But, it noted that relevant remarks on the local sports situation would be discussed and addressed in line with certain constitutional channels, leading up to a final consensus on the file through direct contacts with the IOC.

In the last couple of years, KOC never provided PAYS with any remarks on sports laws, though PAYS is always cooperative with it, it added. PAYS blamed the KOC for the suspension of Kuwaiti sports activities, calling on its leaders to live up to their national responsibility towards this matter. Voicing full respect of the IOC and the Olympic Charter during meetings with its officials, PAYS asked the IOC to provide it with the nine remarks which are believed to contradict local laws.

Meanwhile, the Kuwaiti delegation accompanying Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud Al-Sabah said yesterday that talks with IOC were successful and new facts were uncovered. In a statement to KUNA, Dr Mohammad Al-Feeli, head of the legal team at the talks, said that Kuwait's sports laws are compatible with the Olympic Charter and that people who manage Kuwaiti sports clubs should respect the laws just like the situation in all countries.

But he warned that in case of violations of the law, the matter will be taken to court. "We discovered that the file submitted to the IOC contains inaccurate information and

the evidence used by the committee is extremely weak, so the complaint against Kuwait is baseless," he said. Problems should have been solved in accordance with Kuwaiti laws before resorting to the IOC, he said, noting that the committee looked at the details of Kuwait's policy regarding sports laws. Dr Saqer Al-Mulla, advisor to the minister of information, said that Sheikh Salman decisively refuted inaccurate information received by the IOC. The minister said Kuwait cannot accept any threats, especially as it provides clear-cut legal facilities to sports associations, Mulla said.

MP Abdullah Al-Turajji, a member of the National Assembly's sports committee, said that there were no certain points in the meeting and the IOC legal representative didn't reply to several questions asked by the Kuwaiti delegation. He added that the IOC's members should have realized that Kuwait is a state and legislations are adopted only in accordance with all norms applied in all countries that have parliamentary regimes.

"The IOC doesn't have the right to impose law amendments on Kuwait, so the committee should respect the sovereignty of Kuwait," Turajji said. "We realized, unfortunately, that the Kuwait Olympic Committee is working with the IOC against Kuwait, and the Kuwaiti people should know this fact," he said. MP Abdullah Al-Mayouf, head of the parliament's sports and youth committee, said the IOC failed to answer many questions asked by the Kuwaiti delegation. He added that it doesn't intend to ban Kuwait's sports activities, urging the IOC to reconsider inaccurate information and discuss the issue with the KOC. — Agencies

TANA FILES TO GRILL SUBAIIH

Continued from Page 1

The grilling is unique since it's the first ever grilling request to be submitted while the Assembly is in summer recess, but the speaker said there is nothing wrong with this.

In his grilling, Tana claimed that a large number of financial and administrative violations have been committed in the four sectors and that the minister failed to take any action to curb the wrongdoings. In the public manpower authority, the lawmaker claimed that the official running the authority is not qualified for the job and that he was appointed in violation of the law, since he has never dealt with expatriate manpower and issues related to the demographic structure.

The former director of the authority Jamal Al-Dossari was fired by the minister following a dispute with her, and an official was appointed as a caretaker. Tana claimed that despite the establishment of the authority, visa trafficking, which he described as a crime, continues unabated and the minister failed to provide this vital sector with the required attention and care. The lawmaker claimed that the man running the authority is a geography graduate and had been absent from his job for 13 years until 2013.

Regarding the authority for the handicapped, he claimed that a large number of financial violations have been committed in awarding the contracts and remarks by the Audit Bureau were deliberately ignored or bypassed established financial rules to escape the bureau's monitoring powers. He said that many contracts were divided deliberately to escape such monitoring, thus opening the doors for financial violations and corruption. He cited individual examples to prove his claim.

In the cooperative societies sector, the lawmaker alleged that massive corruption was committed by several cooperative societies and the minister did not take any action, thus failing to stop the violations. He claimed that the minister forced some cooperative societies to purchase certain equipment like cameras from a company owned by one of her relatives.

Under Kuwaiti law, the grilling will be debated in the National Assembly and the debate could lead to the submission of a no-confidence motion by 10 MPs. For the motion to pass, it requires the support of the majority of the elected MPs in the Assembly without the Cabinet ministers. If the no-confidence motion is passed, the minister will be dismissed immediately. Tana's grilling is the first amid a string of threats by lawmakers to question several ministers.

KNPC SIGNS \$13BN ZOUR CONTRACTS

Continued from Page 1

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

Meanwhile, Oil Minister Ali Al-Omar said a technical meeting of oil experts from OPEC and non-OPEC countries later this month will discuss a proposal by

Venezuela to introduce a price band for oil. "There is no decision. It will be discussed, and (based on) the outcome, we will decide whether to agree or disagree," Omar told reporters. He did not elaborate. In an interview with Reuters on Monday, Venezuela's former oil minister Rafael Ramirez said the proposal - to be presented to the meeting on Oct 21 - would reapply a mechanism of progressive production cuts to control prices, with a "first floor" of \$70 per barrel and a later target of \$100 per barrel. — Agencies

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Issues

ATTACK AIMED
TO TIP TURKEY
OVER THE EDGE

By Fulya Ozerkan

The perpetrators of the worst attack in Turkey's modern history appear intent on seeking to throw the country into chaos by provoking already explosive existing tensions, analysts say. The twin blasts carried out by suspected suicide bombers on Saturday ripped through a gathering of leftist and pro-Kurdish activists outside Ankara's main train station, killing at least 97 people. The rally, backed by the pro-Kurdish Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) and other left-wing groups, had been called to demand peace as the government wages a relentless assault against the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK).

Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu said the Islamic State extremist group was the prime suspect in the attack, although the authorities have yet to give specific conclusions. The attack came as Turkey battles both IS and the PKK - two groups who are themselves bitterly opposed - in its biggest recent security crisis with the risk of spillover from the Syria conflict looming large.

Analysts say that whoever actually carried out the attack, they appear alarmingly determined to exploit the current tensions to create a major confrontation. In the aftermath of the attack, Kurds accused the government of responsibility, pro-government media alleged the PKK was to blame and thousands took to the streets in protest. "I think with the attack the perpetrators are hoping to induce the PKK, or its rogue and more radical youth elements, to continue fighting in Turkey," said Soner Cagaptay, director of the Turkish Research Programme at The Washington Institute.

Kurdish militants had on Saturday announced a de-facto ceasefire ahead of the key elections on November 1 where the ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) is seeking to win enough votes to form a single party government.

'Terrible Memories'

Nihat Ali Ozcan, security expert at Ankara-based TEPAV think-tank, said the Saturday's bombing appeared the result of the fighting between IS and the PKK's Syrian Kurdish allies spilling over into Turkey. "Both groups have active supporters in Turkey. This is another episode in the two bitter foes' confrontation on Turkish soil," he told AFP. The war between IS and PKK also rekindled fears of a return to chaos of the 1970s, when thousands were killed as right and left-wing groups engaged in street fighting and the security forces stepped in.

In an interview with Italian daily La Repubblica, Turkey's Nobel-winning novelist Orhan Pamuk said he feared a return to civil war. "Certainly I fear that. Especially in the 1970s the streets of my city (Istanbul) witnessed a real conflict between people of the left and those of the right," said Pamuk. "Anyone over 35 has terrible memories of that period and never wants to go back there." Davutoglu brushed off fears of a civil war and bluntly told Turkish television this week: "Turkey will not turn into Syria."

'Eerily Like Suruc'

Berkay Mandiraci, researcher at the International Crisis Group think tank in Istanbul, said it was essential the truth over the bombings came out to minimise further tensions. "The risks of new attacks is really continuing and the polarisation of Turkey is increasing now, right before the elections," he said. "That's why it's important that these links are brought out by the government so that other possible attacks are also prevented."

The latest attack came after a suicide bombing blamed on IS in the Turkish town of Suruc, on the Syrian border, killed 34 people in July. It also targeted mainly young peace activists. Cagaptay said the bombing in Ankara looked "eerily" similar to the Suruc attack. "So, early indicators would point at ISIS (IS) as the culprit which has the most to benefit from full-blown Turkey-PKK war," he told AFP.

Max Abrahms, professor of political science at Northeastern University and a member at the US Council on Foreign Relations think-tank, said in the current climate President Recep Tayyip Erdogan would have to tread carefully ahead of the November polls. After such attacks "national publics tend to throw their backing behind the leader, giving the executive a freer hand to crush the perpetrators militarily," he told AFP. But the latest attacks "will weaken - not strengthen, Erdogan if the public blames him for the violence due to his controversial stances against ISIS or the PKK." — AFP

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TSIPRAS POSTPONES REVOLUTION, TROUBLE LURKS

By Paul Taylor

Listening to Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras and his re-elected leftist government, you would think the revolution had been postponed, not cancelled. That makes it hard to answer the 64-million-euro question on the minds of policymakers and investors in Europe and beyond: has Greece finally emerged from six years of economic and political crisis, or is this just another false dawn? To be sure, Tsipras has largely jettisoned the anti-austerity rhetoric with which his Syriza party swept to power in January, taking Greece to the brink of economic collapse and ejection from the euro currency within six months.

The tie-spurning prime minister, 41, now says Greece must, as fast as possible, implement painful economic changes, spending cuts and tax rises contained in the bailout program he finally accepted in August, so that it can return to a radical social agenda in the second half of his four-year term. "This is the first Greek government to be elected with the pledge to implement, not tear apart or renegotiate from the start, the bailout program," Athens University economist George Pagoulatos said in an interview.

Moreover, the main centre-right and centre-left opposition parties, squabbling over their future after their election defeat, also back the plan. Diplomats and Greek analysts expect a honeymoon for the rest of this year in which the government passes an orthodox budget and

enacts a giant reform package to ensure it secures the next €3 billion (\$3.4 billion) instalment as well as funds to recapitalise its ailing banks, and negotiations on debt relief.

But trouble lurks next year when painful changes to pensions, labour law and public services have to be implemented by a weak and demoralised state administration, tax increases and benefit cuts eat into purchasing power, and inflated hopes for the debt talks risk souring into disillusionment. Given the reluctance of Germany and other north European creditors, official debt restructuring is likely to be limited, gradual and tied to conditions that could erode public support for Tsipras.

Doubts remain about the competence of some ministers and their lack of an entourage of experienced technocrats to make the bureaucracy carry out the required policies. "I'm afraid they don't have the confidence or the staff to implement the program even if they believed in it themselves," said Yannis Papantoniou, a former reforming Socialist finance minister who helped prepare Greece for joining the euro. Adding to his headaches, Tsipras faces pressure to tighten border security and slow the flood of migrants and refugees entering from Turkey and crossing Greece to northern Europe, although this may give him some leverage in seeking EU funds.

Time to Invest?

The government expects the recession this year and next to be shallower than the 2.3 per cent contraction officially forecast for 2015 and

1.3 percent for 2016. But earlier recovery will need a return of confidence and investment lacking so far. On a visit to the United States this month, Tsipras declared he had restored political stability, ended the debate about a possible Greek exit from the euro and won a mandate to carry through difficult reforms. He urged investors to pile in.

But an attempt to harness his youthful charm and stumbling English to the charisma of former US president Bill Clinton to attract international capital fell flat when Tsipras fell back on platitudes about Greece being the birthplace of democracy. He told parliament last week he would not let foreign 'distress funds' come to Greece to buy up non-performing loans and scour the balance sheets of the four major banks. But the government has offered no alternative solution so far that would free them to lend again to healthy businesses and households. Obstacles ranging from trade union and local authority protests to court action and political backtracking have deterred potential buyers of ports, airports or public real estate.

Ideologically Averse

Chafing under pressure to pay down Greece's debt, the government is determined to avoid fire sales and remains ideologically averse to privatisation. Canadian miner Eldorado, with one of the biggest investments in Greece since the crisis began, won a court injunction last week allowing it to resume preparatory work at a gold mine in northern Greece that the leftist energy minister

had abruptly suspended just before the election. For once, trade unions protested on the side of their employer rather than trying to obstruct the sell-off of state property.

How the bank recapitalisation is carried out is crucial to restarting the economy. If shareholders and senior bondholders are severely hit and the banks nationalised, they argue, it will deter future investment in Greece. If the capital shortfall is well below the €25 billion initially feared, and a fair burden-sharing deal can be found to plug the gap, then capital controls imposed in June can be phased out, some of the €40 billion Greeks hid under mattresses may return to the banks and business will be able to function again.

Jens Bastian, an investment consultant and former member of the European Commission task force that was helping Greece until Syriza kicked it out, says foreign investors are more interested in buying up banks' liabilities than risking share capital. "There are two different issues," Bastian, who works for the MacroPolis consultancy, said in an interview. "How (Greek leaders) behave under the (bailout) memorandum and how they behave when they are not bound by the memorandum and can act in a manner inimical to foreign investment."

So while Tsipras has the best chance of any Greek leader in a generation to engineer a genuine economic transformation, he will need to drop more ideological ballast and provide long-term vision, competence and tactical political skill to meet the challenge. — Reuters

REFUGEE TO SHAKE UP GERMAN MUSLIM COMMUNITY

By Yannick Pasquet

Germany's Muslim community is bracing for a culture shock when masses of Arab migrants join millions of residents of Turkish origin. But experts suggest the change could be positive for it could broaden outlook, and say fears of Islamist radicalism may be overblown. For a Syrian refugee family, attending Friday prayers in a German mosque can be a headache. "Most sermons are held in Turkish," said Yasemin El-Menouar, Islam expert at think-tank the Bertelsmann Foundation.

A legacy of Germany's post-war industrial revival, the more than four-million Muslim community is "two-thirds of Turkish origin or culturally Turkish," the researcher told AFP. In the 1960s and 70s, Turkish construction and factory workers came to participate in the "economic miracle" years. Today, "even in the second and third generation, Turkish influence is strong," said Menouar.

More than 900 mosques are managed by the DITIB, the European arm of the Turkish state secretariat for religious affairs, a key interlocutor for German authorities on matters related to the third largest religion in the country. DITIB declined to comment to AFP. In these religious communities imams have usually been sent directly by Ankara for over 30 years. Most of the time, they do not speak German, and very often, it is a portrait of Ataturk, the father of modern, secular Turkey, which adorns the walls of the organisation.

'Gain in Diversity'

All this is worlds away from the religious and historic backgrounds of Muslims who may have fled the Syrian battlefields of Homs or the Iraqi city of Mosul, now in the hands of the Islamic State jihadist group. "Now they will have to open up to Muslims from other parts of the world," said Menouar. It could be a "stroke of luck," said Mouhanad Khorchide, who holds the Chair on Islam at the University of Munster. "Islam in Germany will gain in diversity," said Khorchide, who lives under police protection after receiving death threats from radical Islamists.

The number of newcomers is enormous. Of



A photo taken on May 26, 2015 in Stuttgart shows Muslim men praying in a mosque of the Turkish-Islamic Union for Religious Affairs. — AFP

the more than 800,000 new asylum seekers expected in Germany this year, some 80 percent are Muslims, according to the Central Council of Muslims in Germany (ZMD). More than 161,000 Syrians now live in Germany and the number is expected to grow further, making it the largest Syrian community in Europe. Some worry about a possible radicalisation of the community, given the influx of people unfamiliar with Western values, from countries where homosexuality may be a crime and gender equality doesn't exist.

Young radicals of the Salafist movement have also attempted to "recruit" disoriented young migrants. But the interior ministry insists the proportion is very small and no cause for alarm as yet. German intelligence has estimated there are about 7,900 Salafists in Germany.

Some have made headlines, for example by forming a "Sharia police" last year to patrol a nightclub area in the western city of Wuppertal.

'Margins of Society'

Chancellor Angela Merkel has repeatedly reminded refugees to respect the principles of a free society and the rule of law. Germany will continue to be defined by "the constitution, the social market economy, the freedoms of religion and expression," she said in a newspaper interview Monday. "To the people who come here, we make clear from day one that we have laws and rules that govern communal life which they must follow. Only in this way can Germany be a safe haven to them."

In Berlin, in the 12 asylum homes run by the Workers Welfare (AWO) aid organisation, no reli-

gious practice is allowed, a rule meant to preempt potential problems. "We tell those who ask where there are mosques nearby but we do not authorise any prayers over our loudspeakers," said its chairman Manfred Nowak. For Khorchide, of Munster University, the major challenge will be the social integration of young refugees. "If we leave them on the margins of society, if we do not quickly give them the feeling that they are wanted in Germany, then the danger is great that they turn to Salafist and radical movements," he said.

The risk is however diminished by the fact that many have just fled from radical Islamists in Syria or Iraq, said Menouar. Khorchide agreed. "Those who lived through the atrocities of the Assad regime or the Islamic State do not want to hear talk of Islamic fighters," he said. — AFP

WARNER CONFIDENT OF FITNESS

SYDNEY: Aggressive opening batsman David Warner is facing a race against time to be fit for the start of Australia's three-test series against New Zealand with his thumb still broken after the Ashes.

The 28-year-old, who is the vice-captain of a new Australian side after a series of retirements, broke the thumb on his left hand in the one-day match against England at Lord's on Sept. 5 and X-rays last week confirmed the bone was still broken. "I saw the surgeon at the four-week mark, which was last Friday," Warner told reporters in Sydney yesterday. "I had an X-ray and it was still broken."

"He said generally around the six-week mark, I'm coming up to five weeks at the moment, generally it would be healed. "I'll have a follow up X-ray this Friday and then if all goes well I'll be having a hit (in the nets) on Monday."

Warner was hoping to be fit enough for New South Wales' first class match against South Australia from Oct. 28-31, a week before the first test against Brendon McCullum's side starts in Brisbane on Nov. 5. Australia's test side will be named during the round of matches that Warner is hoping to play in and the batsman said he felt if he makes that Sheffield Shield game, he should be fine to play the test the following week. —Reuters



ICC UNVEIL CASH BOOST

DUBAI: Cricket's governing body has unveiled a cash boost for Associate and affiliate countries as well as an increase in prize money for the top men's and women's teams.

The decisions were made during a two-day meeting of the International Cricket Council (ICC) Board which concluded in Dubai yesterday.

"The Board approved an increased allocation of US\$65 million prize money for the top ranked Test sides and for men's and women's ICC Events during the period 2016-2023," said an ICC release.

That means a 41 percent increase in prize money paid to players compared to the previous eight-year cycle, the ICC said. As a result, the number-one ranked Test team as of April 1 next will receive \$1 million, up from \$500,000 in 2015.

"This prize money is in addition to the Test Cricket Fund of \$70 million, which the ICC Board introduced last year to help ensure Test playing sides are able to sustain a home programme of Test cricket through to 2023. "The fund will be available from next year to all Test Members except the Board of Control for Cricket in India, Cricket Australia and the England and Wales Cricket Board." —AFP

PACQUIAO EYES EARLY RETURN

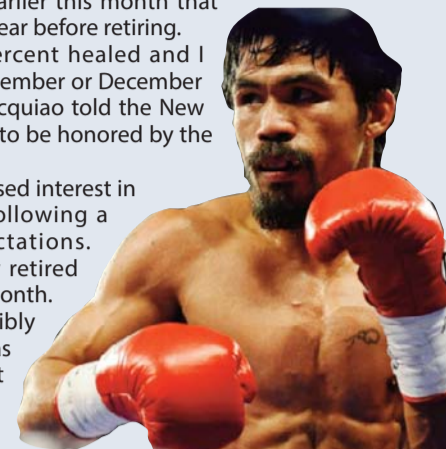
NEW YORK: Manny Pacquiao will be ready to return to the ring by next March, the Filipino boxer said on Monday while in New York to accept an award. Pacquiao is recovering from surgery to repair a torn rotator cuff following his defeat to Floyd Mayweather in May.

Winner of world titles in eight different weight classes, the 36-year-old Pacquiao said earlier this month that he is eyeing one final fight next year before retiring.

"My shoulder is 80 to 90 percent healed and I believe I can start training in November or December so I can fight early next year," Pacquiao told the New York Daily News while preparing to be honored by the Asia Society yesterday.

Pacquiao had formerly expressed interest in a rematch with Mayweather following a fight that did not meet expectations.

Mayweather has said he is now retired after he improved to 49-0 last month. Pacquiao was asked about possibly facing British fighter Amir Khan as his potential next opponent, but was non-committal. —Reuters



LIGHTNING STRIKE BRUINS

BOSTON: Steven Stamkos scored his 500th point with a tiebreaking power-play goal that sent the Tampa Bay Lightning to a 6-3 victory over the Bruins on Monday. Stamkos has 278 goals and 222 assists in 495 regular-season games.

Brian Boyle scored two goals, and Ondrej Palat, Jonathan Drouin and Valtteri Filppula added goals for the Lightning. Ben Bishop stopped 27 shots. It was Tampa Bay's first win in Boston since March 25, 2010. Loui Eriksson had two power-play goals, and David Krejci also had one for Boston. The Bruins have opened with three straight losses for the first time since 1999.

Tuukka Rask made 17 saves for the Bruins. Boston captain Zdeno Chara played his first game after missing most of the pre-season with an undisclosed upper-body injury.

ISLANDERS 4, JETS 2

John Tavares had a power-play goal and added two assists, and Thomas Greiss made 22 saves as New York beat Winnipeg for its first victory in its new Brooklyn home.

The Islanders came out with purpose after losing their opening two games to the defending champion Blackhawks, one in overtime at home and the other in regulation in Chicago.

The Islanders outshot the Jets 16-6 in the opening period and had a 20-9 shots advantage in the second. Jets goalie Ondrej Pavelec made a number of key saves in the first as the Islanders had four power-play chances.

Ryan Strome banged in a rebound with a man advantage at 19:48 of the first, giving the Brooklyn matinee crowd a chance to launch the standard "Yes! Yes! Yes!" chant. Tavares and Kyle Okposo assisted on Strome's first of the season.

CANUCKS 2, DUCKS 1

Radim Vrbata and Alex Burrows scored in the shootout as Vancouver spoiled Anaheim's home opener. Ryan Miller made 28 saves and Adam Cracknell scored in regulation for Vancouver, which beat the Ducks for just the third time in their last 12 meetings.

Sami Vatanen scored and Frederik

Andersen stopped 24 shots for the Ducks, who are winless in the first two games of the season.

After the Ducks failed to score on a power play during their first taste of 3-on-3 overtime hockey, Vrbata and Burrows got stuttering, halting shots past Andersen, who stopped Burrows' shot before watching it trickle under him.

FLYERS 1, PANTHERS 0

Michael Neuvirth stopped 31 shots for his first shutout in more than 3 1/2 years, leading Philadelphia past Florida. Brayden Schenn scored to help the Flyers win for the first time in three games this season.

Neuvirth replaced Steve Mason after Florida scored four goals in a 7-1 victory Saturday night. Mason left the team Monday because of unspecified personal reasons, giving Neuvirth the chance to shut down the Panthers from the opening face-off. He had his first shutout since March 11, 2012, against Toronto. Philadelphia coach Dave Hakstol won for the first time in the NHL game after spending 11 seasons coaching North Dakota. The college-tos move in the NHL is a rare one. Hakstol was the first to make the jump since Bob Johnson went from Wisconsin to the Calgary Flames in 1982.

SABRES 4, BLUE JACKETS 2

Rookie star Jack Eichel scored a hustling unassisted goal as Buffalo beat Columbus to give coach Dan Bylsma his first victory with the Sabres.

Eichel, the former Boston University player selected No. 2 overall in the June draft, bodied off Boone Jenner in a loose-puck battle, kept the puck in the offensive zone, wheeled to his forehand and ripped a shot over goalie Sergei Bobrovsky to give Buffalo a 3-1 lead at 9:21 of the third period. Eichel has two goals this season. Rasmus Ristolainen, Ryan O'Reilly and Matt Moulson had power-play goals for Buffalo. Moulson added two assists, and Chad Johnson made 21 saves to help Buffalo rebound after losing its first two games of the season. Scott Hartnell and Brandon Saad scored for Columbus, and Bobrovsky stopped 29 shots. The Blue Jackets are 0-3. —AP

NHL results/standings

Tampa Bay 6, Boston 3; NY Islanders 4, Winnipeg 2; Buffalo 4, Columbus 2; Philadelphia 1, Florida 0; Vancouver 2, Anaheim 1 (SO).

Western Conference						
Central Division						
	W	L	OTL	GF	GA	PTS
Nashville	2	0	0	4	1	4
Minnesota	2	0	0	8	6	4
Winnipeg	2	1	0	11	7	4
Chicago	2	1	0	9	6	4
Colorado	1	1	0	10	8	2
St. Louis	1	1	0	5	4	2
Dallas	1	1	0	6	6	2
Pacific Division						
Vancouver	2	0	1	9	5	5
San Jose	2	0	0	7	1	4
Arizona	2	0	0	6	2	4
Calgary	1	1	0	4	7	2
Anaheim	0	1	1	1	4	1
Edmonton	0	2	0	1	5	0
Los Angeles	0	2	0	2	9	0
Eastern Conference						
Atlantic Division						
Tampa Bay	3	0	0	13	6	6

Note: Overtime losses (OTL) are worth one point in the standings and are not included in the loss column (L)



BOSTON: Bruins' Matt Beleskey (39) checks Tampa Bay Lightning's Andrej Sustr (62) during the first period of an NHL hockey game. —AP



NEW YORK: Los Angeles Dodgers' Yasmani Grandal drops to a knee after striking out swinging against the New York Mets during the eighth inning of baseball's Game 3 of the National League Division Series. —AP

CUBS PUSH CARDS TO BRINK OF ELIMINATION METS ONE WIN FROM LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES

CHICAGO: The Chicago Cubs blasted a Major League Baseball post-season record of six home runs in an 8-6 win on Monday as they pushed the St. Louis Cardinals to the brink of elimination in their National League Division Series.

Seeking to end a 107-year wait for a World Series title, the Cubs electrified their home crowd at Wrigley Field in Game Three as Kyle Schwarber, Starlin Castro, Kris Bryant, Anthony Rizzo, Jorge Soler and Dexter Fowler all clubbed homers.

Fowler hit the Cubs' sixth homer of the game, over right field in the bottom of the eighth, to set the record and put Chicago ahead 8-4 before Stephen Piscotty followed suit for St. Louis in the top of the ninth to cut the deficit.

With Piscotty and Jason Heyward both connecting for the Cardinals, the combined total of eight home runs also set a Major League mark for one post-season game.

The Cubs' win over the top-seeded Cardinals made it 2-1 in the best-of-five series that remains in Chicago for a possible clincher in Game Four late yesterday.

"We are definitely capable of that," Cubs manager Joe Maddon said of his team's impressive display of hitting power in windy conditions at Wrigley Field. "The support was there. Our players responded. You had to be pretty much entertained if you're a baseball fan."

Maddon felt his team had become energized following their 4-0 win over the Pittsburgh Pirates last week in the wild card game. "Coming into the post-season, I thought our guys were really fresh," he said. "Once you win that (the wild card game) it permits you to exhale a bit."

"I don't mean that in a negative way but in a positive way because that's really the most intense moment outside of a Game Seven of maybe the World Series. I just think our guys have handled this properly." Cubs right-hander Jake Arrieta, who was 22-6 with a 1.77 ERA in the regular season, allowed four runs in 5-2/3 innings.

Cardinals right-hander Michael Wacha took the loss after giving up four runs in 4-1/3 innings. Schwarber set the tone for the Cubs when he homered to left center in the bottom of the second, before the Cardinals edged ahead 2-1. After Castro had tied it at 2-2, rookie Bryant launched a two-run homer off Wacha in the bottom of the fifth before Rizzo hit his homer to put the Cubs 5-2 up. "It's just what we do," said first baseman Rizzo. "With the wind blowing out here at Wrigley, get the ball in the air and guys put really good swings on the ball."

"We had good at-bats early off Wacha who pitched well ... we just kept grinding, guys put together some nice at-bats, hit the ball over the fence. "We know what it's like when the wind is blowing out here. We took advantage of that today."

In New York, the New York Mets, stinging from a costly loss, mauled the visiting Los Angeles Dodgers 13-7 on Monday to move within one win of reaching the National League Championship Series. The Citi Field crowd alternated between roars of delight for sluggers Curtis Granderson, Yoenis Cespedes and Travis d'Arnaud and taunting chants for bench-riding Dodger Chase Utley as the Mets seized a 2-1 lead in the best-of-five Division Series.

Utley, whose two-game suspension for a

fierce slide into New York's Ruben Tejada that broke the Mets shortstop's right leg in Game Two awaits an appeal, did not get into the game.

Yet the crowd of 44,000 rocked with chants of "Utley Sucks" and "We Want Utley" as New York's lead grew in the first post-season game played at Citi Field, which replaced Shea Stadium as the Mets' home in 2009. "We knew going in it was going to be loud, it was going to be a lot of energy," said Mets manager Terry Collins after his team's franchise record runs total for a playoff game. "The response when our guys came on the field was unbelievable." Granderson drove in five runs with a pair of booming doubles, while Cespedes and d'Arnaud both homered and each had three hits, three runs scored and three RBIs.

Harvey, who yielded two earned runs in five innings, said the team needed to concentrate on winning rather than look for retaliation for Tejada's injury.

"For us it was to stay focused, go out and let our play do all the talking," he said. Filling in admirably for Tejada was Wilmer Flores, who stroked a single and a double and scored two runs. The Dodgers struck first with four hits in a

row in the top of the second for three runs off winning starter Matt Harvey, but the Mets quickly did them one better.

A booming, bases-loaded double off the center field fence by Granderson in the bottom of the second put New York ahead 4-3. D'Arnaud lined a two-run homer to left in the third off losing starter Brett Anderson and Cespedes capped a four-run fourth with a three-run blast that turned it into a rout for the Mets, striving to win their first World Series in 29 years.

A three-run homer in the ninth by Howie Kendrick narrowed the gap. Adrian Gonzalez hit a solo home run for the losers in the seventh.

Game Four will be played in New York on Tuesday with three-time Los Angeles Cy Young winner Clayton Kershaw taking the mound on short rest against Mets' rookie Steven Matz.

Dodgers manager Don Mattingly was optimistic despite his ace left-hander working without his usual four days off in an elimination game at Citi Field. "He's been pretty good with three days rest," said Mattingly. "I feel good with him. His stuff's always good. So yeah, I'm always pretty confident when he's pitching." —Reuters



CHICAGO: Chicago Cubs center fielder Dexter Fowler (24) hits a home run against the St. Louis Cardinals during the eighth inning of Game 3 in baseball's National League Division Series. —AP

HAMILTON HEEDS FATHER'S WORDS AS TITLE NEARS

SOCHI: Lewis Hamilton has his father's words in mind as he stands on the brink of a third Formula One world championship. "I don't think about 'nearly,'" the Mercedes driver told British reporters, after celebrating his ninth win of the season in Russia, when it was suggested that the job was nearly done. "You either are or you're not. I'm not there yet. That's what my Dad would always say. You either do or you don't and I don't yet."

Hamilton is 66 points clear of Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel and 73 ahead of his own team mate Nico Rosberg with four races

remaining. The points gulf make it inconceivable, even if mathematically possible, that the 30-year-old will not join the elite group of triple champions-possibly in Texas in two weeks' time.

If Hamilton wins in Austin, and Vettel fails to take second place, he will have matched the three titles of the late Brazilian Ayrton Senna, his boyhood hero.

It should be in the bag by the time he gets to Brazil for the penultimate race of the season but Hamilton said the location was not important.

"My mind's set on crossing the line at the last race and being ahead, that's what matters to me. Whether it's before then or not is kind of irrelevant to me," said the Briton.

He would still be a championship behind Vettel, who won four with Red Bull, but the Sochi podium spoke of a changing dynamic that has even had Hamilton's team bosses rubbing their hands in anticipation. With his 42nd career win, Hamilton equalled Vettel's career tally and the two of them are third in the all-time lists behind Michael

Schumacher and Alain Prost.

Finishing one-two, with the German overtaking Rosberg in the standings, hinted at plenty of battles ahead next season as Ferrari close the gap.

"They are both in very performing cars and it could be one of the great rivalries in the sport in different teams," said Mercedes motorsport head Toto Wolff, without underestimating Rosberg's potential to battle his team mate.

"Lewis has his own rivalry within the team so that is good. It is great for the sport and it is going to push us, as it is

the team you want to be battling with."

Hamilton spoke warmly of Vettel afterwards, the two champions joking in the post-race news conference after inviting the podium hostesses in to join them, and described the German as an original. "What you see is what you get. A great driver and just a good personality. I'm looking forward to racing him for many more years," he said. "If I hung up my gloves and was just a fan I would want to see the two of us up against each other. I am super excited to do that." —Reuters

SPRINGBOKS FOCUS ON DISCIPLINE

BAGSHOT: South Africa will work hard on their on-field discipline and try to force Wales into losing theirs in the Rugby World Cup quarter-final at Twickenham on Saturday.

Springboks defence coach John McFarland believes try-scoring opportunities will be limited in what is likely to be an arm wrestle between the packs.

That means, just like Wales' victory over England and loss to Australia in the pool stages, the match could be decided by penalties.

"The key to Saturday and any playoff game is your discipline with and without the ball, and you how you don't give the opposition the chance to build the scoreboard through penalties," McFarland told reporters on Monday.

"It's essential. If you look at the England game (against Wales), the score was 28-25 with one try each, but the chance to build the score through penalties influenced the game. "We have to improve there and be better, we don't want to give away penalties when they have the ball. We obviously want to force them to give penalties away in that situation."

Bok head coach Heyneke Meyer has said

all along that defence wins World Cups and Australia illustrated that point when they held their line heroically with 13 players in the 15-6 win over Wales on Saturday. "Everybody was so impressed with Australia, not just their goal-line defence but the way they defended the scrum and kept them out at the line-out," McFarland said. "That's what World Cups are about." South Africa appear to have got their defensive structure in shape after the shock 34-32 loss to Japan in their opening game of the tournament.

They have conceded just a single try in three games since and that came from an intercept against Scotland. "We are in a good space, we have certainly improved and we have set a marker in terms of our physicality," McFarland said.

"It will be a tough game on the weekend, knockout rugby always is, so it will be who works hardest, who dominates the collisions and who takes their chances."

Wales beat a second-string South Africa 12-6 in a friendly in Cardiff in 2014 but the Springboks are bullish about their chances of revenge. "We are pretty confident that we are going to beat them," McFarland said.—Reuters



CARDIFF: France's Sebastien Tillous-Borde (left) claims a ball that was dislodged from the grasp of France's Mathieu Bastareaud (centre) by Ireland's Sean O'Brien during the Rugby World Cup Pool D match. —AP



NBA, TISSOT ANNOUNCE NEW GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP

NEW YORK: The National Basketball Association (NBA) and TISSOT announced today a new multi-year global partnership that makes the Swiss watch brand the first Official Timekeeper of the NBA, Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA), and NBA Development League (NBA D-League). This marks the first Official Timekeeping partnership for TISSOT with a major North American sports league and the largest partnership in the company's history of more than 160 years.

With the agreement, TISSOT adds to an already robust portfolio of international sports and sporting event partnerships. TISSOT, the number one Swiss traditional watchmaker in terms of volume and a member of the Swatch Group - the world's largest watch producer and distributor - will work with the NBA to develop a state-of-the-art integrated timing system. The new precision timekeeping system, inclusive of TISSOT-branded shot clocks, will be implemented across all 29 NBA arenas beginning with the 2016-17 NBA season. "TISSOT is very proud to join the NBA and to be able to create a bond with the players and the fans," said FranAois ThiEbaud, President of TISSOT. "The emotions and the spirit behind the sport will further translate into our products. Our daily work is to dress time. We create pieces of beauty and accuracy but above all of emotionality and that is what sport, and more particularly the NBA, is about."

"In basketball every second - or even tenth of a second - can be critical, and this new partnership with TISSOT will bring state-of-the-art timing technology to every NBA arena," said NBA Commissioner Adam Silver. "We are proud to partner with TISSOT, a world-class brand with a long history of developing innovative and dependable timekeeping systems." Additionally, the watch company will receive global league licensing rights for timepieces, watches, clocks, and watch accessories for all NBA teams. TISSOT

will provide support for the partnership at its retail stores around the world.

The partnership will tip off this week during NBA Global Games 2015-16, which will feature six NBA teams playing seven regular-season and preseason games in six countries. TISSOT will also become the Official Timekeeper and Official Watch of several marquee league events, including NBA All-Star, NBA Draft presented by State Farm, Samsung NBA Summer League, and NBA Global Games.

As part of the partnership, TISSOT will make investments across all NBA teams and league broadcast partners. In addition, TISSOT and the NBA will partner on a global basis through events, marketing, media, and the launch new NBA-themed creative and advertising.



IRELAND TARGET PUMAS AFTER LOSS OF 'WARRIOR'

CARDIFF: Ireland must re-focus on doing their homework on Argentina ahead of Sunday's quarter-final after inspirational skipper Paul O'Connell was ruled out of the World Cup.

O'Connell, capped 108 times by Ireland, is to undergo an operation on a hamstring injury sustained in the brutal 24-9 Pool D victory over France. With a move to European heavyweights Toulon pending, it means the end to the 35-year-old stalwart's international career.

"Paul was a true leader and a true character off the pitch," said centre Robbie Henshaw. "He was a truly inspirational leader. Each time he spoke he said the right thing. I loved and admired the fact that he was not always intense or worked up."

O'Connell's withdrawal follows those of flanker Peter O'Mahony, who was ruled out after suffering knee ligament damage in the brutal victory over France, and first-choice centre Jared Payne (foot fracture). And doubts remain over fly-half Jonny Sexton, who went off after 25 minutes of the France game with a groin injury.

"Paul O'Connell really was a true warrior," prop Jack McGrath said, adding the shaven-headed lock's forte was mastering the "minor details." "Every time Paul's pulled on an Irish jersey over the last 15 years, he's never let it down.

"He hasn't left anything out on the pitch. "Hopefully he'll be around for the next couple of days." Like Henshaw, McGrath added: "It's a chance for other guys to step up." Argentina went down 26-16 to defending champions New Zealand in their opening Pool C game but then went on to rack up the highest number of points in easily seeing off Georgia (54-9), Tonga (45-16) and Namibia (64-19).

Allied with their traditional forward strength based around an immovable front five and dynamic yet bruising back-row, Nicolas Sanchez has ignited an exciting backline.

With wingers Juan Imhoff and Santiago Cordero feeding off quick, go-forward ball and clever decision-making from scrum-half Tomas Cubelli, Sanchez and play-making inside centre Juan Martin Hernandez, Los Pumas promise to be a handful come Sunday, according to McGrath. "Argentina pride themselves on their physicality and we know we'll have to be ready," the prop said. "We toured there two years ago and know them well."

"They pushed New Zealand in their first game so we can't take them lightly. They've got some great footballers and we're going to have our homework." Rhys Ruddock, called up as a replacement for O'Mahony, said the team had

reacted well after seeing both the blindsided flanker and O'Connell stretchered off in the France game.

"I'm sure the lads will know to fulfill what's expected of them and if Paul or someone goes off the field they need to step up and I think that's what we saw at the weekend," said Ruddock, the Irish-born son of former Wales coach Mike.

"In an 80-minute performance the team were outstanding last weekend. But in terms of intensity and physicality, this week will probably be at least the same level or more."

Ruddock added: "Argentina have scored over 20 tries already in the tournament, they're looking to play rugby and they've got the footballers to do it now."

"They've come on a long way (from the game I played in 2014), they've also got some real quality backs as well." Flanker Chris Henry, who impressed when he came on against France, added that there would be extra motivation to perform for O'Connell and O'Mahony.

"We want to do it for those players, they've given so much not just in the last five weeks, but in the last decade," Henry said. "It would be incredible to do something special for Paul and Pete." —AFP

CENTURION GITEAU DEFIES HIS OWN EXPECTATIONS

TEDDINGTON: Matt Giteau is on course to win his 100th cap in the World Cup quarter-finals on Sunday but the Australian star said he did not think he would make it past his debut.

The 33-year-old centre-who should be in the starting XV against Scotland on Sunday has sparked at the tournament, justifying the decision to recall him after the Australian Rugby Union relaxed their ban on overseas-based players.

Giteau-who has been integral to French club Toulon winning three successive European Cups and a domestic championship-returns to the Twickenham ground where he made an inauspicious debut against England in November 2002. "I certainly remember my debut," Giteau said yesterday. "We lost by a point. I think I went on with about eight minutes to go. At the time, (coach) Eddie Jones had a score system where you got a point for every positive thing you did and where you lost a point for every negative."

"I think I was the only player to finish with a minus. After that game, I never thought I'd get to a hundred. I didn't think I'd get past one."

Giteau, whose Toulon team-mate Drew Mitchell also earned a recall to the squad, said returning after a hiatus of four years-he left for Toulon after being left out of the 2011 World Cup squad-had been a superb feeling.

"I'm really enjoying it," said Giteau, the only member of the squad who featured in the heart-breaking 2003 loss in the final to England. "The way Squeak's (captain Stephen Moore) leading the team around, off the field as well, it's been really enjoyable."

"It's a great bunch of guys. From the start, I've felt really welcome - not just myself but Drew too. It

shows what sort of environment has been created here." Moore too will also join the centurions club on Sunday. But the 32-year-old hooker remains understated and businesslike.

"I probably had a bit more (hair) back then, that's the main difference," said Moore, who made his Test debut in June 2005 against Samoa.

"For me, it's not really a week to be reflecting on things. "We've got a great opportunity to play in the quarter-final of a World Cup and that's more than enough to play for. These personal achievements are things you probably look at when you hang up your boots."

One of Moore's less enjoyable memories was suffering a rare loss to Sunday's opponents Scotland, 12-6 in appalling weather in the Australian city of Newcastle in 2012. Scotland's present captain Greig Laidlaw kicked all their points. "I opened the curtains during the day and I think I saw one of the bins rolling down the middle of the street and thought, 'Oh yeah, this is going to be good,'" said Moore. "It was one of the toughest conditions I've ever played in my career - the wind was howling, it was raining sideways - and they really played well in those conditions, controlling the game really well." —AFP



TEDDINGTON: Australia players warm up during a training session, in Teddington, outside London. Australia will play Scotland during their Rugby World Cup quarterfinal match on Sunday. —AP

WNBA FINALS GO TO DECISIVE GAME 5

INDIANAPOLIS: It's only fitting these WNBA Finals are going the distance. "It's absolutely been a great series," Minnesota coach Cheryl Reeve said. "Four really, really hard fought games. Why not go to a Game 5? It's been that good of a series. It's one of those things that people like to see."

"I think it's good for the game. Good to have eyes on our product right now because there's a lot of great things to watch and a lot of great people out there putting it all out there."

This is the first time since 2009 the league's championship has gone the full length. Game 5 is today in Minneapolis, where the Fever won Game 1.

"It gives us confidence knowing that we've been able to win on the road all season long," Indiana coach Stephanie White said. "We're happy to be playing another day."

Indiana won 75-69 Sunday night in Game 4. As they've done all postseason, the Fever found a way to stave off elimination. Indiana is 5-0 in the playoffs this season in elimination games. Starting with their run to the franchise's lone title in 2012, the Fever are 9-2 in elimination games.

The only other series to make it to a fifth game since the WNBA started playing best-of-five in 2005 were in 2006 and 2007. History may be on Indiana's side. The team that won the championship in all three of those series lost Game 3.

Maya Moore, who hit a buzzer-beating shot for the Lynx in Game 3, can appreciate what this series has meant. "It's been a fun one to watch," she said. "Especially the last few games have been very fun from a fan's standpoint. Lots of great things happening, players making plays. If I was to say where do I want to finish my season, it would be at the Target Center."

Now the Lynx return home with a chance to win their third title in five years. Only the Houston Comets won

more in a similar stretch when they took the first four WNBA championships. The Lynx won their previous two titles on the road, in Atlanta in 2011 and 2013. They'll have a chance to win one in front of their home fans.

"Great opportunity for us and our fans who have been with us all season," Moore said. "That's the beauty of it. Be ourselves at home. We have a really good chance if we do that."

Tamika Catchings has been a huge reason for the Fever's postseason run, seemingly willing them to victories. "This was a great series for the WNBA, great for women's basketball," Catchings said. "It's great it's on TV and so many people are locked into this that have never seen a WNBA game. Never been interested in women's basketball. Basketball is basketball. You can't deny there's great competition on both sides."

"Great plays on both sides of the ball. It's only fitting that we go to Game 5. We'll go to Minnesota and the place will be loud. That's what you play for." While the Lynx flew home as a team on Monday morning, the Fever had piecemeal flights to Minnesota. "Finding so many flights at the last minute is always a challenge, but a good one to have worry about because it means we're still playing," White said while going through security at the Indianapolis airport.

"We had a few flying early in the afternoon, a few others flying later in the day," Catchings announced before the season she will retire after the 2016 season. She has spent her whole career in Indiana, getting to the title series three times. She was on the team that lost to Phoenix in Game 5 in 2009. "We've been very blessed as an organization to be able to make the playoffs 11 years straight," she said. "But making it to the finals, out of 11 years, we've only been there three times. So this doesn't happen every single year, and every game you have to take advantage of your next opportunity." —AP



ABU DHABI: Pakistan batsman Muhammed Hafeez (right) plays a shot as England wicketkeeper Jos Buttler looks on during the first day of the first Test match. —AP

MALIK LEADS PAKISTAN CHARGE IN FIRST TEST

ABU DHABI: Shoab Malik hit a fighting hundred to cap an impressive return to Test cricket after five years as he led Pakistan's charge in the first Test against England in Abu Dhabi yesterday.

Malik was unbeaten on 124 for his third Test hundred-his first against England-to guide Pakistan to 286-4 at close on the opening day at Sheikh Zayed Stadium.

Malik added an invaluable 168 for the second wicket with opener Mohammad Hafeez who missed his century by two runs after Pakistan won the toss and opted to bat on a flat pitch which is expected to take turn on the last two days.

Malik, who has been averaging 100 in one-day cricket this year-form which earned him a recall in the longer format-has so far hit 14 boundaries in his 230-ball patient knock.

Apart from Malik and Hafeez, the day was also memorable for senior batsman Younis Khan (38) who became Pakistan's leading run scorer in Test cricket when he overhauled Javed Miandad's tally of 8832 runs made in 124 Tests.

Younis, playing his 102nd Test, jumped out of his crease to hit spinner Moeen Ali for a big six at deep mid-wicket to reach 21, two more than his illustrious countryman Javed Miandad.

Younis said he felt proud at reaching the milestone. "I had wanted to contribute more runs, but we are still in a good position as Malik played really well," said Younis, who now has 8852 runs.

"If he (Malik) plays the first two sessions on Wednesday then our position will be further strengthened, he has shown all of us how to make a comeback."

England's pace-cum-spin attack struggled for wickets under hot conditions, bowling some loose deliveries coupled with two dropped

catches by Ian Bell-both off James Anderson.

It was Anderson who gave England an early breakthrough when he dismissed Shan Masood (two) in a bizzare manner, with the left-handed opener taking his eyes off a bouncer. The ball hit the grill of his helmet before crashing onto the stumps.

Hafeez and Malik steadied the innings and batted with resolve. Hafeez hit 13 boundaries during his 170-ball knock before he tried to play on the leg-side in an attempt to reach his ninth Test hundred. He challenged Australian umpire Paul Rieffel's decision but to no avail.

Anderson, who took 2-29, was unlucky not to account for Hafeez as Bell dropped a regulation catch off the bat in the second slip. Hafeez was then batting on seven.

Hafeez took advantage of the lapse and at 26 hit leg-spinner Adil Rashied to point boundary to reach 3,000 runs in his 45th Test. He is the 17th Pakistani batsmen to score 3,000 or more runs in Tests.

Malik also had a reprieve when on 40 he was

caught in the gully off paceman Stuart Broad only to see the umpire signalling a no-ball.

Paceman Stuart Broad dismissed Younis with a miscued drive which was well taken by Alastair Cook at an unusual position, close to the non-striker end's umpire.

Skipper Misbah-ul-Haq became Anderson's 415th Test wicket when he was adjudged caught behind after England players reviewed the umpires' decision of not out.

Anderson is now the tenth all time wicket taker in Tests. England's misery was completed when Shafiq was also dropped by Bell at ten, spilling an easy catch off Anderson.

Pakistan's plans to hit England with spin were dealt a blow when their leg-spinner Yasir Shah was ruled out of the match with a back problem.

The 29-year spinner, seen as match-winner for Pakistan, stumbled while bowling in the nets on Monday and after assessment early yesterday was left out. England were also without injured paceman Steven Finn. They included Rashid for his first Test. —AFP

SCOREBOARD

ABU DHABI: Scores at close on the opening day of the first cricket Test between Pakistan and England played at Sheikh Zayed Stadium in Abu Dhabi on yesterday.

Pakistan 1st innings		England	
Mohammad Hafeez lbw b Stokes	98	Ali, Imran Khan	
Shan Masood b Anderson	2	Fall of wicket: 1-5 (Masood), 2-173 (Hafeez), 3-247 (Younis), 4-251 (Misbah)	
Shoab Malik not out	124	Bowling: Anderson 14-3-29-2, Broad 14-5-30-1 (1nb), Stokes 10-1-35-1, Wood 13-3-34-0, Rashid 17-0-76-0, Ali 19-2-73-0.	
Younis Khan c Cook b Broad	38		
Misbah-ul-Haq c Butler b Anderson	3		
Asad Shafiq not out	11		
Extras: (b4, lb5, nb1)	10		
Total: (four wkts; 87 overs)	286		
To bat: Sarfaraz Ahmed, Wahab Riaz, Zulfiqar Babar, Rahat			



INDIANAPOLIS: Maya Moore No. 23 of the Minnesota Lynx shoots the ball against the Indiana Fever in this file photo at Bankers Life Fieldhouse. Indiana defeated Minnesota 75-69.—AFP

ETIHAD AIRWAYS, AL ITTIHAD FOOTBALL CLUB SIGN NEW PARTNERSHIP DEAL

JEDDAH: Etihad Airways and Al Ittihad Football Club have held an official signing ceremony in Jeddah, marking the start of the new partnership between the Abu Dhabi-based airline and the Saudi Arabian football club. The three year agreement, named Etihad Airways as the official airline partner for the Abdul Latif Jameel League club.

The signing ceremony took place at Al Ittihad FC between Ibrahim Al-Balawi, President of Al Ittihad FC, and Peter Baumgartner, Etihad Airways' Chief Commercial Officer.

Accompanying Baumgartner from Etihad Airways at the ceremony was Hareb Al Muhairy, Senior Vice President Corporate and International Affairs, and Patrick Pierce, Vice President Sponsorship.

Peter Baumgartner said: "We are delighted to visit Jeddah, the home of Al Ittihad Football Club, and to celebrate this new partnership which has captivated football fans in Saudi Arabia and across the Middle East."

"We were extremely proud to host the club for its visit to Abu Dhabi and Dubai in September, and this return trip to Jeddah to celebrate the commencement of the partnership with the club's fans and officials marks another exciting chapter in the cooperation between Etihad Airways and

Al Ittihad FC." Etihad Airways will continue to activate the partnership with Al Ittihad FC across a number of marketing and communications platforms, including home matches in King Abdullah Sports City Stadium, media conferences, exclusive club events and player appearances.

Al Ittihad FC will also use Etihad Airways as its preferred airline when the club and its supporters travel overseas for matches, including the Asian Champions League tournament.

Ibrahim Al-Balawi, President of Al Ittihad FC, said: "We are delighted to team up with Etihad Airways. We are confident this partnership will have a positive impact on Al Ittihad FC, because it allows the club to extend its reach outside our home market."

"It will also help the club supporters to travel seamlessly on Etihad Airways' global network and to enjoy its leading services and premium products."

Al Ittihad FC plays its home games at King Abdullah Sports City Stadium. It has won the Abdul Latif Jameel League on eight occasions and has won the Asian championship three times. Etihad Airways operates 55 return flights a week between Abu Dhabi and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia including 16 return flights between Abu Dhabi and Jeddah, 19 to Dammam, 13 to Riyadh and daily to Madinah.

BELL LIFTS STEELERS PAST CHARGERS

SAN DIEGO: Le'Veon Bell's one-yard scoring run with no time remaining lifted the Pittsburgh Steelers past the San Diego Chargers 24-20 Monday night. The Chargers grabbed the lead on rookie Josh Lambo's 54-yard field goal with 2:56 to play. The Steelers then drove 80 yards in 12 plays for the win.

On first-and-goal at the San Diego one-yard line with five seconds remaining, Bell took a direct snap and ran to the left side. The running back was wrapped up by linebacker Donald Butler, but was able to stretch the ball over the goal line for the win.

"To win the game, the game-winner on the last play of the game, that's what you dream about it," said Bell who rushed for 111 yards on 21 carries.

Steelers coach Mike Tomlin said he never hesitated in going for the win instead of kicking the tying field goal. "We have to run the football," Tomlin said. "We have Le'Veon Bell. It was time to go to the mattresses so to speak. "Le'Veon gave us an opportunity to win, and we were trying to do everything we could to move the football."

Chargers tight end Antonio Gates returned from a four-game suspension and caught two touchdown passes. He finished with nine receptions for a game-high 92 yards. San Diego quarterback Philip Rivers completed 35 of 48 passes for 356 yards with two touchdown passes and one interception.

Pittsburgh quarterback Michael Vick was 13 of 26 for 203 yards with a touchdown and an interception. San Diego scored the first 10 points of the fourth quarter to take a 17-10 lead, but Pittsburgh tied the game one play after the Chargers went ahead.

Josh Lambo had given San Diego a 20-17 lead with his before they charged back down to field after Lambo had given the Chargers a 20-17 lead with his second field goal before the Steelers replied through Bell. "They made one more play," San Diego coach Mike McCoy said. "He's a special back and a great player, and we knew what we were dealing with." —Reuters



SAN DIEGO: Pittsburgh Steelers wide receiver Darrius Heyward-Bey can't hold on the ball as San Diego Chargers cornerback Brandon Flowers (24) breaks up the pass during the second half of an NFL football game. —AP

FIFA BANS THAI FOOTBALL CHIEF FOR ETHICS BREACH

LAUSANNE: FIFA's ethics watchdog on Monday banned Thai football chief Worawi Makudi for 90 days as acting president Issa Hayatou delayed his arrival at football's corruption-hit ruling body by 24 hours. The ethics committee said it had moved to sideline Worawi "on the grounds that a breach of the Code of Ethics appears to have been committed and a decision on the main issue may not be taken early enough." Worawi was a FIFA executive committee member for 18 years until May - including for its 2010 vote for the 2018 and 2022 World Cups - and has faced multiple allegations of wrongdoing.

The 63-year-old was found guilty in July by a Thai court of forgery in his reelection as head of the Football Association of Thailand.

Worawi told AFP he would fight to save his name and intended to stay in the Thai

election even though he is banned immediately "from all football activities at national and international level for 90 days." "I am confused by this, I just heard the news," he said.

"I am not guilty of anything. Under Thai law I still have the right to appeal (the July court decision). I did not falsify anything, what I did was absolutely legal." His ban follows matching suspensions handed out to embattled outgoing FIFA president Sepp Blatter and European football boss Michel Platini last Thursday.

Hayatou had been set to turn up at FIFA's Zurich headquarters to assume command yesterday, but the 69-year-old African football boss's arrival is "now expected on Wednesday", a FIFA press spokesperson revealed.

He was appointed caretaker boss of FIFA in his capacity as its oldest serving

vice-president. Hayatou was in his native Cameroon at the weekend, and has since moved on to the Gabon capital Libreville to take charge of a Confederation of African Football meeting.

Blatter was relieved of his duties by FIFA's ethics committee as Swiss prosecutors investigate him for criminal mismanagement.

The 79-year-old, who was due to stand aside from the organisation he has run since 1998 in February, is appealing his suspension. On Sunday, a defiant Blatter told Swiss weekly Schweizer am Sonntag: "I'm a fighter. They can destroy me, but they can't destroy my life's work."

Platini, the UEFA president and a front runner to succeed Blatter, is also appealing his ban.

The former French football legend has denied any wrongdoing in accepting a

\$2million payment from FIFA in 2011 for consulting work he undertook years earlier and called the ban "farical."

European football's ruling body is holding crisis talks Thursday to discuss Platini's plight followed by a press conference. The seemingly never-ending turmoil at the top of football has prompted a hastily-convened meeting of FIFA's executive committee on October 20.

And some reports suggest one topic on the menu will be the delaying of the February 26 election to find Blatter's replacement, following Platini's ban and the six-year suspension meted out to another potential presidential candidate, South Korea's Chung Mong-joon.

But the FIFA spokesperson said: "Up to now there has been no official request for that." Michel Zen Ruffinen, a former FIFA secretary-general, said Monday he was

mulling over whether to throw his hat into the presidential ring. "I'm reflecting on a number of scenarios including putting forward my candidature," the 56-year-old Swiss lawyer told AFP.

The deadline for would-be candidates who must have the backing of five football federations, is on October 26. The extraordinary meeting of FIFA's top brass "is going to last a day", FIFA said, without confirming whether, like UEFA, it would be followed by a press conference.

FIFA's Reform Committee meanwhile is due to hold a three-day session starting Friday in Bern. This is the second time the committee set up in August and presided over by Swiss lawyer Francois Carrard, has met. A third meeting is planned after which it will present its proposals to overhaul the sleaze-tainted organisation. — AFP

BRAZIL, ARGENTINA AIM TO BOUNCE BACK

MONTEVIDEO: Brazil and Argentina head into the second round of qualifiers for the 2018 World Cup yesterday looking to get their campaigns back on track after opening round defeats which have left the South American giants in disarray.

The pall of gloom enveloping Brazilian football since their humiliation against Germany at the World Cup last year darkened last week when they were humbled 2-0 by Copa America champions Chile in Santiago. Argentina, still struggling to shake off the disappointment of losing the Copa America final in July - the team's second defeat in a major final in 12 months - were stunned by a 2-0 reverse at home to Ecuador. While there is still plenty of time in South America's marathon 2018 qualifying campaign for Argentina and Brazil to turn their fortunes around, the opening defeats have left both sides determined to halt the slide.

Brazil face Venezuela yesterday in Fortaleza, a game that in previous years would have been regarded as a straightforward assignment against opponents who have never qualified for the World Cup. But in a sign of how far Brazilian expectations have fallen, midfielder Willian revealed on Sunday that victory by a single goal would be viewed with satisfaction.

"To be honest 1-0 would be a good result for us," Willian said. "We want the three points. Football today is different. All the teams are fit and well trained. Maybe in the past this game would have been a sure win for us, but today it's not like that - we only beat them 2-1 in the Copa America after all," he added. Willian insisted that Brazil had done enough to earn a result against Chile until they were sunk by late second half goals on Thursday.

"We knew Chile would be difficult. But we marked them well for a lot of the game. We just

couldn't take advantage of the opportunities we created." Brazil badly missed the suspended Neymar against Chile, who remains banned for Tuesday's game against Venezuela. Striker Hulk, who deputised in Santiago, said he understood the criticism of the team's attacking display.

"There is always pressure for anyone who plays as a forward for Brazil; it is our obligation because we have quality players. "We know the size of those demands and will try to answer in the best way possible," the Zenit St Petersburg striker said.

Argentina meanwhile travel to Asuncion to face Paraguay grappling a mounting injury crisis that has deprived them of their most lethal strikers. Captain Lionel Messi was already injured before the qualifiers started and Sergio Aguero joined him on the casualty list after tearing a hamstring in the defeat to Ecuador. Lucas Biglia is also out injured.

Veteran striker Carlos Tevez, who is likely to start in Aguero's absence, issued a defiant rallying cry as the two-time world champions prepared to face the Paraguayans, who will be desperate to avenge their 6-1 defeat to the Argentinians in the Copa America semi-final in June. Tevez said the Ecuador loss was the team's worst performance since coach Gerardo Martino took over, and insisted the squad should not use the absence of Messi as an excuse. "We are a team, and now is the moment for us to prove it," Tevez said. "Obviously it hurts us not to have the best player in the world but we will try not to notice it much; yesterday is a chance for us to get revenge," he said. Elsewhere late yesterday, Chile face historic rivals Peru in Lima in the latest instalment of the 'Clasico del Pacifico' while Uruguay host Colombia in Montevideo and Ecuador face Bolivia in Quito. — AFP



LUXEMBOURG: Slovakia's Marek Hamsik celebrates after scoring during a Group C Euro 2016 qualifying soccer match between Luxembourg and Slovakia at the Josy Barthel stadium. — AP

SLOVAKIA BOOK EURO TRIP

PRAGUE: Marek Hamsik scored twice and Slovakia netted three goals in a six-minute span to beat Luxembourg 4-2 in Group C on Monday as they booked a place at Euro 2016 in France.

The Slovaks are set to make their first trip as an independent nation to the European Championship after finishing second in Group C behind leaders Spain, who beat third-placed Ukraine 1-0 to end their hopes of an automatic berth.

Ukraine, who finished with 19 points, three behind Slovakia (22), will now feature in next month's playoffs. European champions Spain topped the group with 27 points from their 10 games.

Slovakia coach Jan Kozak's side were anxious to put behind them the struggles of their previous three matches, in which they took only one

point and failed to score after starting the qualifying campaign by reeling off six straight wins.

The team squandered a chance last Friday to wrap up its Euro 2016 spot but lost 1-0 to group minnows Belarus. However, Kozak said he never worried.

"I never doubted (qualification) for a second," he told Slovak news website SME.sk after the match. "This team has character, quality, and I was convinced we could do it ... To advance to the European Championships is something fantastic."

Leading scorer Hamsik ended Slovakia's scoring drought in the 24th minute, collecting a Vladimir Weiss pass on the right wing and launching a left-footed shot into the net.

Weiss assisted again five minutes later, placing the ball in the front of the goal where Adam

Nemec tapped it in. Moments later, Weiss completed a trio of assists, this time finding Robert Mak alone in front of goal for another easy tap-in.

Hosts Luxembourg, though, battled back in the second half when Mario Mutsch's punt sailed over the keeper's head in the 61st minute. Lars Gerson then scored with a penalty a few minutes later. But that was as close as Luxembourg would get as Slovakia's defence prevented an equaliser. Hamsik then capped the scoring for Slovakia with a goal in added time, striking home Stanislav Sestak's pass in the box to the delight of a vocal legion of Slovak fans that had made the trip. "We achieved another historic success for Slovak football and we are just happy we can be a part of it," Hamsik said. — Reuters



SPAIN: Real Madrid's striker Cristiano Ronaldo poses with the Golden Boot award for scoring the most goals in Europe's domestic leagues last season, during a ceremony in Madrid. This is the fourth Golden Boot award Ronaldo has won during his career and his third since joining Real Madrid. — AP

RONALDO WINS FOURTH GOLDEN BOOT

MADRID: Real Madrid star Cristiano Ronaldo admitted yesterday he felt no satisfaction despite winning a record fourth Golden Boot as the top scorer in Europe's domestic leagues last season.

"It's a special moment," said the 30-year-old Portuguese striker during a ceremony in the Spanish capital. "But I'm not satisfied, I always want more."

"I know I'm the only one to have won four Boots but I want more, I want the fifth and sixth if possible."

Ronaldo scored 48 goals in 35 Spanish league games last season to claim his third Golden Boot with Real Madrid after 2011 and 2014. He also won one with Manchester United in 2008. No other player has won four. His Argentinian rival Lionel Messi, who scored 43 goals with Barcelona to finish second top scorer last season, has won the award three times in 2010, 2012, 2013.

Messi however is the only player to win European football's top individual award, the Ballon d'Or, four times, with Ronaldo winning three times.

Ronaldo won the Ballon d'Or title for the top European footballer for the past two years but Messi guided Barcelona to the triple of La Liga, Copa Del Rey and Champions league titles.

"Obviously (winning a new Golden Boot) implies also winning things collectively, trophies with the team," said Ronaldo, whose side failed to win a major trophy last season.

"Real Madrid is a team that must win titles every year. This season it's the same, we want to win the championship, the Champions League if possible, and the Cup."

Two weeks ago Ronaldo scored his 500th career goal and then equalled Raul's club record tally of 323 goals for Real Madrid. — AFP

FEELING IN SPAIN IS FOR DE GEA TO REPLACE CASILLAS IN GOAL

BARCELONA: Ever since that unexpected loss at the start of last year's World Cup, there has been a growing feeling in Spain that it's time for David de Gea to take over as national team goalkeeper.

The 24-year-old De Gea's series of superb saves in Monday's 1-0 win over Ukraine has added some extra zeal to the argument, with many hoping he will replace long-time captain Iker Casillas immediately. "Should Manchester United's goalkeeper be a backup to Porto's?" the ABC newspaper asked yesterday. Casillas, now 34 and with 164 appearances for the national team, has been captain since 2006 and led Spain to three major titles in a row at the 2008 European Championship, the 2010 World Cup and Euro 2012. With the former Real Madrid goalkeeper between the posts, Spain has a record of 119 wins to go with only 26 draws and only 19 losses.

But De Gea's succession has been a possibility since that stunning 5-1 loss to the Netherlands at the World Cup in Brazil. "De Gea is now unquestionable," newspaper El Mundo wrote in a headline yesterday. After Spain was eliminated in the group stage at the World Cup, coach Vicente del Bosque promised to carry out a "sweet revolution" of his team by mixing in younger players with the remaining veterans from his championship sides. But so far he has stuck with the old guard in important matches.

Casillas, for instance, was in goal Friday when Spain beat Luxembourg 4-

0 to clinch its spot at Euro 2016. Monday's match was only the seventh for De Gea, who nearly left Manchester United for Madrid at the start of the season.

"As I have said before, I want to play my best and I want to make it tough for the coach," De Gea said when asked if he would be upset if not picked as a

starter in France for Euro 2016.

De Gea's long list of saves, including some reflex stabs with his feet, helped a Spain side that arrived in Kiev already qualified from Group C and with a team packed with reserve players filling in for injured regulars like Andres Iniesta, David Silva and Sergio Ramos.

"De Gea's performance was very

good," Del Bosque said. "The experience has been a good one with all the changes we made. We will have to look at all the possibilities to select a squad for Euro 2016." Del Bosque's choice of goalkeeper to start Spain's next match, a friendly against England on Nov. 13, could be a clue as to what plans he is hatching for France. — AP



KIEV: Spain's goalkeeper David de Gea (center left) saves the ball during the Euro 2016 qualifying soccer match in Group C between Spain and Ukraine. — AP

FIVE ISSUES FOR ENGLAND MANAGER HODGSON

LONDON: England's 3-0 victory away to Lithuania on Monday saw Roy Hodgson's side become only the sixth team to complete a European Championship qualifying campaign with a 100 percent record.

Stern tests now await in the shape of friendlies against Spain, Euro 2016 hosts France and world champions Germany, when Hodgson is expected to put his first-choice starting XI to the test. Here are five issues the England manager will be chewing on over the coming months:

What to do with Rooney?

The qualifying campaign proved a historic one for captain Wayne Rooney, who scored his 50th international goal in last month's 2-0 home win over Switzerland to set a new national scoring record. But despite having netted 10 times in his last 12 international games, some sluggish displays

for both England and Manchester United have called into question his claim to an automatic starting place. When deployed as a lone striker, he can struggle to influence games and some prominent football journalists have called for him to be dropped.

Defensive deliberations

England's defence has appeared reasonably settled in recent matches, with Joe Hart the clear first-choice in goal behind a central defensive pairing of Gary Cahill and Chris Smalling, whose vastly improved form for Manchester United has seen him relegate Phil Jagielka in the pecking order. Liverpool's Nathaniel Clyne, meanwhile, has started seven of England's last 10 games at right-back. But elegant Everton defender John Stones is a strong contender for a starting berth at centre-back and Hodgson also has a dilemma at left-back, where

injuries to Luke Shaw and Leighton Baines have created a vacancy.

Is there a role for Barkley?

Everton playmaker Ross Barkley was the stand-out player in England's final two qualifiers, producing an assist in a man-of-the-match performance against Estonia and then opening the scoring in the win over Lithuania. Hodgson remains reluctant to talk up his chances, instead highlighting the need for the 21-year-old to improve his decision-making, but if a place for a creative central midfielder can be found in the first XI, Barkley is in pole position to claim it. "He's a typical young lad-he can be inconsistent, he can do some silly things," former England goalkeeper Peter Shilton told BBC Radio 5 Live on Tuesday. "But the main thing is, if you give him the ball often enough, he's going to create something and he's going to score goals."

Settling on a shape

During last year's World Cup, England's 4-2-3-1 formation led to them getting overrun in midfield and Hodgson changed tack in the Euro 2016 qualifying campaign. His side now line up with three players in the centre of midfield, either in a 4-3-3 system or the 4-4-2 shape with a midfield diamond that they used at the start of the campaign. The diamond system, with Raheem Sterling operating as a number 10 behind Rooney and Danny Welbeck, proved an instant success, but injury to Welbeck has seen Hodgson switch to a 4-3-3. The fitness of key individuals such as Jack Wilshere, Welbeck and Daniel Sturridge could determine which shape England adopt in France.

The great unknown

England could not have qualified in

more impressive fashion, but they have been here before. They won nine of their 10 qualifiers prior to the 2010 World Cup and went unbeaten in qualifying for both Euro 2012 and the 2014 World Cup, only to disappoint at each respective tournament. It is a routine of which England's fans have grown weary and as Hodgson himself has acknowledged, there is nothing, yet, to suggest things will be any different in France.

In tournament matches against other leading nations, England are frequently let down by their game management and can appear frazzled when events conspire against them. "We're not deluding ourselves," Hodgson said recently. "We can be rightly proud of the achievements since the World Cup, but we know there are big games ahead." — AFP

DE GEA-INSPIRED SPAIN DENY UKRAINE

KIEV: Spain ended Ukraine's hopes of automatic qualification for Euro 2016 as Mario Gaspar's solitary goal on his international debut handed the European Champions a 1-0 win in Kiev on Monday.

Cesc Fabregas also missed a penalty on his 100th cap, but Spain were grateful to a fantastic goalkeeping display from David de Gea to seal an eighth consecutive win in Group C.

Slovakia's 4-2 win over Luxembourg ensured they qualify for next year's finals in France in second place. Ukraine finished third and will now face a two-legged playoff in November to try and make it through. "I always try to do my best and today I played well, but the most important thing was to win," De Gea told Television Espanola.

De Gea has had to wait for his opportunities in the national team despite stunning performances for Manchester United in the past two seasons, but his latest display will only add to the call for Vicente del Bosque to start him ahead of captain Iker Casillas at the finals next June.

"I have to compete as best I can. Today I had some luck, but I need to continue playing like this," added De Gea. Del Bosque made 10 changes to the side that sealed their place in France with a 4-0 win over Luxembourg on Friday with only Fabregas keeping his place.

Ukraine had plenty of opportunities to take advantage of an inexperienced Spanish back four that had just 11 caps between them prior to kick-off, but a combination of some poor finishing and De Gea kept the hosts at bay.

De Gea was called into action for the first time as he turned Kravets's shot from a narrow angle behind before somehow turning Rotan's

volley over the bar with an outstretched leg on 15 minutes. However, the hosts were caught out by a wonderful move from the visitors five minutes later to open the scoring as Nolito and Thiago Alcantara exchanged passes and the latter marked his first international appearance for 19 months with a lovely cross for Gaspar to head home.

Del Bosque's men had a great chance to double their lead moments later when Fabregas was brought down by Oleksandr Kucher inside the area. However, Spain's captain for the evening couldn't convert from the spot as Andriy Pyatov flew to his left to pull of a fine save.

De Gea denied Kravets twice more before the break and Denys Garmash headed over from point-blank range as Ukraine piled forward in the search of an equaliser. Yet, they were nearly caught on the break when Nolito placed his shot too close to Pyatov with the goal at his mercy. Chelsea boss Jose Mourinho was in the crowd reportedly keeping an eye on Dynamo Kiev winger Andriy Yarmolenko ahead of the English champions clash with the Ukrainians next week.

And Yarmolenko came alive at the start of the second period as he smashed a shot off the outside of the post. Spain should have sealed all three points when Paco Alcacer was denied by Pyatov after brilliant skill by Isco and Thiago to set up the Valencia man and Nacho was penalised for a foul on Yarmolenko before Mikel San Jose smashed home the rebound.

However, De Gea had to come to his side's rescue again with brilliant saves from Garmash and Oleksandr Zinchenko's late volley to seal a frustrating night for the hosts. — AFP



VILNIUS: Lithuania's Deimantas Petravičius (right) and Vyktintas Slivka (left) mark England's Ross Barkley during the Euro 2016 Group E qualifying soccer match. — AP

PERFECT 10 FOR ENGLAND AFTER LITHUANIA VICTORY

VILNIUS: England made it a perfect 10 wins out of 10 in their Euro 2016 qualifying campaign as they completed the road to France with a 3-0 defeat of Lithuania on Monday.

Roy Hodgson's side had long since booked their place in next year's tournament, but they were keen to finish with an impressive 100 percent record before focusing on the December draw for the finals. And even with an under-strength team, there was never any doubt England would do just that after Everton midfielder Ross Barkley opened the scoring midway through the first half at the LFF Stadium.

Lithuania goalkeeper Gedrius Arlauskis unluckily deflected Harry Kane's shot into his own net for the second and Arsenal's Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain struck after the interval to seal the stroll.

England are just the sixth team to win all of their matches in a European Championship qualifying campaign. It is also the first time England have gone through qualification, in its current format, without dropping a point.

Spain were the last team to achieve a 100 percent qualification record in the Euros en route to winning the 2012 tournament.

But, despite being unbeaten in 15 matches, the low standard of their Group E opposition means Hodgson's team are still something of an unknown quantity and have plenty to prove before they can

dream of emulating Spain's achievement.

"This is an achievement. I am very proud of the players' performances," Hodgson said. "I thought we were excellent, in the first half especially. There was a lot of hard work put in. The quality of play was good and 10 wins out of 10 is very satisfying. We've got to take a lot of pride in that."

Although it was a smooth night on the pitch, the English FA will be concerned by a brief outbreak of crowd trouble before kick-off as England supporters at one end of the stadium traded punches with their Lithuania rivals. With top seeding and qualification as group winners already confirmed, Hodgson selected an unfamiliar side that the generous would politely label as experimental rather than severely weakened. Stoke City's Jack Butland started in goal three years after his last cap and Jonjo Shelvey, Jamie Vardy, Kyle Walker and stand-in captain Phil Jagielka also featured among eight changes from Friday's 2-0 win over Estonia.

Initially, England's reserves seemed troubled by the slippery surface and the bounce of the ball, but they soon found their footing.

Kane's stinging strike from the edge of the penalty area was pushed onto a post by Arlauskis, who kept out another effort from the Tottenham Hotspur striker moments later.

Kane forced Arlauskis into action again with a

long-range shot that had the Watford 'keeper sprawling to his right to save. England's pressure was rewarded in the 29th minute when Barkley took possession 20 yards from goal, cut inside his marker and, from a central position, unleashed a fierce strike that took a deflection off Tomas Mikuckis's back and looped past Arlauskis.

The 21-year-old's latest demonstration of his vast potential was a reminder he could yet force his way into Hodgson's first-choice XI.

And, after Butland made a good stop to deny Lukas Spalvis, it was Kane's turn to underline his credentials in the 35th minute.

Playing a one-two with Adam Lallana, Kane surged into a dangerous position and hammered a rasping effort that hit the near post and rebounded into the net off the diving Arlauskis's head.

England remained well on top after the break and Arlauskis had to make smart stops to repel a shot from Kane, who then fluffed the rebound, and a Barkley header.

Liverpool forward Danny Ings came on for his England debut and Tottenham youngster Dele Alli was introduced for his second international appearance.

But it was Oxlade-Chamberlain who had the last word when he took Walker's pass and fired into the roof of the net in the 62nd minute. — AFP



KIEV: Ukraine's Yevhen Konoplyanka (left) fights for the ball against Spain's Mario Gaspar Perez during the Group C, Euro 2016 qualifying soccer match. — AP

RUSSIA CLAIM EURO 2016 BERTH

MOSCOW: Russia secured their qualification for Euro 2016 with a confident 2-0 Group G win over Montenegro in Moscow on Monday.

A goal by right-back Oleg Kuzmin and an Alexander Kokorin penalty set Russia on their way to a fourth win in as many matches since Leonid Slutsky took over in August from sacked Italian Fabio Capello. Russia had needed just a point to go through as Group G runners-up behind already-qualified Austria, who thrashed Liechtenstein 3-0 in Vienna.

The result condemned Sweden to third place and a spot in the play-offs next month, despite their 2-0 win at home to Moldova.

"My men were really great. They've got our team out of trouble in an almost dead-end situation in this campaign," said Slutsky, who took over when former England manager Capello was sacked after the team achieved just two wins from six matches in their Euro qualifying campaign.

"But as usual the last step was the most difficult one," Slutsky continued. "We were the favorites on paper but we needed to prove it on the pitch. Luckily, everything went our way. We wrapped up the match in the first half and allowed Montenegro to create minimum threats to our goal tonight."

Russia, who needed a draw in the sold out match at 45,000-seater Otkrytie arena to guarantee themselves a top-two finish, started in a lively fashion pinning the visitors back from the kick-off.

Midfielder Alan Dzagoev had a chance to open the scoring in the seventh minute but Montenegro 'keeper Milan Mijatovic stopped his low shot confidently from the edge of the area.

The guests, who came to Moscow without injured Inter Milan forward Stevan Jovetic and Mirko Vucinic, who has been sent off in the match with Austria,

replied with an angled close-range shot by Stanisa Mandic, which flew over the crossbar.

In the 33rd minute Igor Denisov lobbed the ball into the area over the line of the visiting side defenders and the 34-year-old Kuzmin poked into the net past Mijatovic from just outside the six-yard box.

Four minutes later Russia were awarded a penalty

kick after Vladimir Rodic fouled Dmitry Kombarov in the area and Kokorin made it 2-0 sending Mijatovic the wrong way from the spot. After the interval Russia continued testing the defence of Montenegro, who were without coach Branko Brnovic, serving a touchline ban after being sent off against Austria, but failed to improve the scoreline. — AFP



MOSCOW: Russia's Oleg Kuzmin (left) challenges the ball with Montenegro's goalkeeper Vukasin Poleksic during a Euro 2016 Group G qualifying soccer match. — AP

Euro 2016 Qualifying Tables

PARIS: Euro 2016 qualifying tables after Monday's matches:

Group A	Group F
Iceland 9 6 2 1 17 5 20 - qualified	Northern Ireland 10 6 3 1 16 8 21 - qualified
Czech Republic 9 6 1 2 16 12 19 - qualified	Romania 10 5 5 0 11 2 20 - qualified
Turkey 9 4 3 2 13 9 15	Hungary 10 4 4 2 11 9 16
Netherlands 9 4 1 4 15 11 13	Finland 10 3 3 4 9 10 12
Latvia 9 0 5 4 6 18 5	Faroese 10 2 0 8 6 17 6
Kazakhstan 9 0 2 7 6 18 2	Greece 10 1 3 6 7 14 6
Group B	Group G
Belgium 9 6 2 1 21 4 20 - qualified	Austria 10 9 1 0 22 5 28 - qualified
Wales 9 5 3 1 9 4 18 - qualified	Russia 10 6 2 2 21 5 20 - qualified
Bosnia-Herzegovina 9 4 2 3 14 10 14	Sweden 10 5 3 2 15 9 18
Israel 9 4 1 4 15 11 13	Montenegro 10 3 2 5 10 13 11
Cyprus 9 4 0 5 14 14 12	Liechtenstein 10 1 2 7 2 26 5
Andorra 9 0 0 9 4 34 0	Moldova 10 0 2 8 4 16 2
Group C	Group H
Spain 10 9 0 1 23 3 27 - qualified	Italy 9 6 3 0 14 6 21 - qualified
Slovakia 10 7 1 2 17 8 22 - qualified	Norway 9 6 1 2 12 8 19
Ukraine 10 6 1 3 14 4 19	Croatia 9 5 3 1 19 5 17
Belarus 10 3 2 5 8 14 11	Bulgaria 9 2 2 5 7 12 8
Luxembourg 10 1 1 8 6 27 4	Azerbaijan 9 1 3 5 7 16 6
Macedonia 10 1 1 8 6 18 4	Malta 9 0 2 7 3 15 2
Group D	- Croatia have had one point deducted
Germany 10 7 1 2 24 9 22 - qualified	Group I
Poland 10 6 3 1 33 10 21 - qualified	Portugal 8 7 0 1 11 5 21 - qualified
Ireland 10 5 3 2 19 7 18	Albania 8 4 2 2 10 5 14 - qualified
Scotland 10 4 3 3 22 12 15	Denmark 8 3 3 2 8 5 12
Georgia 10 3 0 7 10 16 9	Serbia 8 2 1 5 8 13 4
Gibraltar 10 0 0 10 2 56 0	Armenia 8 0 2 6 5 14 2
Group E	- Serbia have had three points deducted
England 10 10 0 0 31 3 30 - qualified	
Switzerland 10 7 0 3 24 8 21 - qualified	
Slovenia 10 5 1 4 18 11 16	
Estonia 10 3 1 6 4 9 10	
Lithuania 10 3 1 6 7 18 10	
San Marino 10 0 1 9 1 36 1	

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.

Sports

Ronaldo wins
fourth Golden
BootPerfect 10 for
England after
Lithuania victory

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2015

FIFA BANS THAI FOOTBALL CHIEF FOR ETHICS BREACH

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KUWAIT: Kuwaiti player Sultan Al-Enezi (right) fights for the ball against a Lebanese player during the AFC qualifying football match for the 2018 FIFA World Cup yesterday at the Kuwait Sports Club Stadium. The match ended in a goalless draw.

—Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

FEDERER STUNNED BY WORLD NUMBER 70

SHANGHAI: Seventeen-time Grand Slam champion Roger Federer crashed out to little-known Spanish left-hander Albert Ramos-Vinolas in a major shock in his opening match at the Shanghai Masters yesterday. Defending title-holder Federer was stunned 7-6 (7/4), 2-6, 6-3 by the world number 70, who is yet to claim his first career title and has only won three matches in total at the Grand Slam tournaments. Federer, 34, gave a thin smile and a wave to the crowd, which included his idol Rod Laver, as he left a shocked Qi Zhong Stadium, where he lifted the trophy last year and won the 2006 and 2007 Tennis Masters Cup.

"I just think the first round here in Shanghai has always been historically quite difficult, getting used to the conditions and the surface and the balls," said Federer, who saved five match points against Leonardo Mayer in his opening match last year.

"The balls play very different than in

other places. Last year I got lucky. This year I didn't. So it's a pity." Ramos-Vinolas is the lowest-ranked competitor to beat the world number three in more than two years, since he lost to Argentina's 114th-listed Federico Delbonis in the Hamburg semi-finals in July 2013. Federer, who had a bye in the first round, had played Ramos-Vinolas only once before, in the first round of Wimbledon in 2012, dropping just three games in a 6-1, 6-1, 6-1 dismissal of the Spaniard. "Before the match I thought I'm not going to win. But when I saw how I was playing, it was not the same as Wimbledon," said the Spaniard. "It was my first Wimbledon. I didn't feel comfortable during the match. "But here, when I saw that we were very, very similar during the first set, I thought, 'Okay, maybe I can do a good match.'"

And it was a very different story in the Shanghai second round on Tuesday as Federer struggled to

impose himself in the first set and collapsed in the tie-breaker with a string of unforced errors. Order was seemingly restored as the great Swiss broke early in the second set and again for 5-2, before calmly serving it out to level the match.

But disaster struck as Federer served at 2-3 down in the third, when he dished up a double break point and then clipped the net before Ramos-Vinolas punched away a forehand for his first break of the night. And Federer caused his own downfall in the final game as he netted a forehand to bring up match point, and then misfired a backhand return to leave a disbelieving Ramos-Vinolas saluting the crowd. "I played him at Wimbledon before, so I knew him. I've seen him play. He's definitely improved since then. That was a while back and that was not his favorite surface," Federer told reporters.

"I was aware that he could give me a tough workout and even beat me. I'm

always cautious. I don't underestimate or lack respect for anybody out there. These guys are all touring professionals, they know what they're doing.

"The margins are so small, that's why I sometimes struggle to talk to you guys about, 'Yeah, I'd like to play Novak (Djokovic) in the finals, Rafa (Nadal) in the semis, (Jo-Wilfried) Tsonga in the second round.' "It's not like that. Now you're not asking me those questions. I wonder why, you know. Because I'm on a flight." Meanwhile, Novak Djokovic yesterday said the Rio Olympics would be one of his top priorities next year as he looks to add a gold medal to his haul of Grand Slam titles.

Top-ranked Djokovic, a 10-time Grand Slam-winner, said he had already started planning his schedule for next season with the Rio de Janeiro Games marked out as a major target.

He added that he was considering skipping the second round of the Davis Cup, which falls between Wimbledon and the Olympics. Djokovic won Olympic bronze at Beijing 2008.

"Everybody is looking forward to being part of the Olympic Games. I'm not an exception. I really would love to be part of the Olympic Serbian team," he told reporters at the Shanghai Masters.

"That's definitely one of the highlights and one of the priorities of the next season, is to try to get a medal for my country. I'm going to do everything I can possibly to achieve that."

As well as the 2008 bronze, Djokovic narrowly missed out on honours in 2012 when he lost in the semi-finals to Andy Murray, and was beaten in the bronze medal match by Juan Martin Del Potro.

"The way it looks now, I would be surprised if many top players would play that second round (of the Davis Cup). But, again, you never know," said the Serb. "I mean, Davis Cup is also an important competition for us because it's the only official team competition we have in our sport. Again, between Olympic Games and Davis Cup, I think there is logical conclusion what the player is going to choose, but you never know." —AFP



HONG KONG: US tennis player Venus Williams returns the ball against Yuliya Beygelzimer of Ukraine during the WTA Hong Kong Open in Hong Kong. —AFP

VENUS BATTLES TO NEXT ROUND IN HONG KONG

HONG KONG: Seven-time Grand Slam winner Venus Williams battled through a gruelling first-round match at the Hong Kong Open yesterday, taking three sets to beat unseeded Yuliya Beygelzimer.

The American finally sealed victory 2-6, 6-4, 6-4 after more than two hours on court. Williams, 35, is fighting for a place in the eight-player WTA Finals in Singapore later this month with Hong Kong her last chance to get the points she needs.

She is currently 11th in the Road to Singapore rankings. Williams has had a resurgent season, winning her biggest title in five years in Wuhan at the beginning of October.

But Ukrainian Beygelzimer, who came into the competition as a last-minute Lucky Loser from the qualifying rounds, outpaced her in the first set with blistering returns.

Williams hobbled around the court with a strapped left thigh but managed to claw her way back to one set all. Both players dropped

their serve in the third but Williams finally turned on the power to take the set with a scorching pass.

"At first I really wasn't that confident, but I didn't want to lose. I just kept fighting," Venus said after the match. "There are no givens—she came out and played the match of her life."

Williams added she was trying to "play smart" so as not to aggravate the thigh injury, which she picked up in Wuhan. "I'm just trying to make sure that I stay out on court," she said.

Williams will play China's Wang Yafan in her second round match Thursday. Former world number one Jelena Jankovic also struggled to find her rhythm against Romanian qualifier Ana Bogdan but went on to seal a 6-4 6-2 win.

Australia's Samantha Stosur and Caroline Garcia of France went through to the second round, as did Britain's Heather Watson.

World number 10 Angelique Kerber takes on former French Open winner Francesca Schiavone in the final match of the day. —FP



SHANGHAI: Albert Ramos-Vinolas of Spain celebrates after defeating Roger Federer of Switzerland in his men's singles second round match at the Shanghai Masters tennis tournament. —AFP

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NBK REPORTS NET PROFITS OF KD 227.9M FOR 9M 2015

AL-SAYER: BANK'S UNDERLYING PERFORMANCE REMAINS SOLID • AL-SAGER: NBK CONTINUES WITH ITS DIVERSIFICATION STRATEGY

KUWAIT: National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) reported net profits of KD 227.9 million (\$754.5 million) for the first nine months of 2015 compared with KD 203.9 million (\$675.0 million) for the same period in 2014, growing 11.8 percent year-on-year.

Net profits for the 3Q 2015 reached KD 64.5 million (\$213.6 million), a year-on-year increase of 9.1 percent.

Total assets as of end-September 2015 reached KD 23.8 billion (\$78.7 billion) up 9.4 percent compared to September 2014, while total shareholders' equity increased by 4.2 percent to KD 2.7 billion (\$8.9 billion). Customer loans and advances reached KD 13.2 billion (\$43.8 billion) as of end-September 2015, growing by 14.2 percent year-on-year, while customer deposits grew by 7.9 percent during the same period to reach KD 11.6 billion (\$38.5 billion).

NBK continued to improve its asset quality ratios with NPL/Gross Loans ratio dropping to 1.41 percent as of end-September 2015 down from 1.45 percent a year earlier, and NPL coverage ratio increasing to 301 percent, up from 275 percent in September 2014.

Solid growth

Nasser Al-Sayer, NBK's Chairman, said "NBK remains on track to deliver solid growth and healthy performance in 2015. Net profits in 9M 2015 reached KD 227.9 million, 11.8 percent year-on-year growth. This is a testimony to NBK's strong financial position, its market leadership and successful strategy".

Al-Sayer added that the solid results of the 9M 2015 reflect the Group's focus on core banking businesses. During the 9M 2015, net operating income grew by 9.0 percent year-on-year to KD 544.1 million (\$1,801 million) confirming NBK's strong domestic and regional market positions.



NBK Chairman Nasser Al-Sayer



NBK's Group CEO Isam Al-Sager

This solid operational performance is mainly attributed to the continued improvement in NBK's main income drivers where net interest income and fees and commissions income delivered strong year-on-year growth rates reaching 12.5 percent and 6.9 percent, respectively.

"The ongoing pickup in spending by the Kuwaiti government on mega projects created growth opportunities for the banking industry generally and for NBK specifically. NBK is very well positioned to continue benefiting from such growth opportunities due to its leadership in trade and project finance and the size of its balance sheet relative to peers," Al-Sayer added.

Al-Sayer also highlighted that "the concern that declining oil prices would negatively affect regional economic growth has largely been counterbalanced in Kuwait as the Government validated its intentions to maintain capital spending and to continue investing in infrastructure projects.

Additionally, the low debt levels with easy access to debt markets, and the healthy sovereign reserves are comforting buffers for the government if low oil prices are here to last."

Strategic direction

Isam Al-Sager, NBK's Group Chief Executive Officer reaffirmed NBK's strategic direction as a leading bank in Kuwait and the region with the aim to further diversify its income sources. "In Kuwait, the bank continued to strengthen its market position, delivering strong growth among all business lines. Additionally, the increase in NBK's stake to 58.4 percent in Boubyan Bank in 2012 remains a differentiator for NBK's operations in Kuwait and Boubyan continues to offer strong growth outlook for the Group."

"Regionally, NBK's strategy remains focused on growing its operations in the MENA region with a special focus on the

GCC markets, where strong economic fundamentals and more political stability are present. Aside from the GCC, business sentiment in Egypt continued to improve against a backdrop of political and economic stability. Our operations in Egypt remain strategic for the group as one of the most important markets in the region offering a significant growth opportunity", Al-Sager highlighted.

Following the implementation of Basel 3 in Kuwait, NBK boosted its capital base through issuing \$700 million Additional Tier-1 (AT-1) bonds at a rate of 5.75 percent. "The transaction was the first investment grade-rated issue of its kind in the Middle East, highlighting the underlying credit strength of NBK. Demand for the issuance was such that the order book was in excess of \$1.4 billion in 6 days" says Al-Sager. "Moreover, we are considering issuing Tier 2 subordinated bonds worth up to KD 125 million. The issuance would be used to

boost NBK's capital as per Basel III requirements and the directives of the Central Bank of Kuwait" Al-Sager added.

NBK continues to enjoy collectively the highest ratings among all banks in the Middle East from the three international rating agencies Moody's, Fitch Ratings and Standard and Poor's. The Bank's ratings are supported by its high capitalization, prudent lending policies, and its disciplined approach to risk management, in addition to its highly recognized and very stable management team. NBK was also named among Global Finance's list of the 50 safest banks in the world for the tenth consecutive time.

NBK enjoys the widest banking presence with a local and international network reaching 4 continents. NBK's international presence spans many of the world's leading financial centers including New York, Europe, GCC, Middle East, Singapore as well as China (Shanghai).

227.9 Million KD

Net Profit for the 9 Months - 2015

	30/09/2015	Growth
Net Profit	227.9 Million KD	11.8%
Net Operating Income	544.1 Million KD	9.0%
Shareholders' Equity	2.7 Billion KD	4.2%
Total Assets	23.8 Billion KD	9.4%

Moody's
Aa3

FitchRatings
AA-

Standard & Poor's
A+



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nbk.com

BOUBYAN REPORTS NET PROFIT OF KD 25 MILLION FOR 9 MONTHS

NET PROFIT GROWTH OF 24% UNTIL SEPT 2015, INDICATORS REFLECT SOLID GROWTH

KUWAIT: Boubyan Bank witnessed an increase in its net profit by 24 percent during the first nine months of the current year, amounting to KD 25 million compared to KD 20 million of the same period in 2014. The earning per share amounts to 12.2 fils compared with 9.83 fils during the same period last year.

Vice-Chairman & CEO of Boubyan Bank, Adel Abdul-Wahab Al-Majed said: "Q3 indicators make us more confident that the current year will be remarkable for everyone and will be a continuation to the successes achieved by the bank throughout the previous years, especially, from the restructuring journey that started in 2010".

He added that the achievements once more highlights the bank's competitive abilities in one of the most significant markets in the region, and confirms the bank's ability to increase its market shares at all levels.

Positive indicators

Al-Majed explained that the bank's indicators showed a remarkable growth up to the end of the 3rd Quarter of the current year where the total assets increased to KD 3 billion, growing by 19 percent, while the operating income increased to KD 67 million, growing by 15 percent in addition to the increase in customers' deposits to reach KD 2.3 billion, growing by 22 percent.

"Furthermore, the Bank's total equity increased to KD 307 million compared to KD 287 million for the comparative period of the previous year, while the financing portfolio increased to KD 2.1 billion, growing by 21 percent, in addition to the continuous growth in the Bank's customers' base.", Al-Majed stated.

Al-Majed also stated that the market share, in financing portfolio, increased from 2 percent in 2009 to approximately 6.5 per-

cent currently, while Boubyan Bank's share of the consumer finance significantly increased from 1 percent to approximately 10 percent currently. Also, around 16 percent of Kuwaiti adults maintain accounts with the bank.

Branches' expansion

Al-Majed went on to state that the current year witnessed a continued geographical expansion for the bank in addition to offering more outstanding services and products, some of which were offered for the first time in the Kuwaiti market, making the name of Boubyan Bank a synonym for innovation and creativity in the banking services' domain where the bank surprises the market with innovative products and services.

He also added that the number of the bank's branches reached 32 branches by the end of Q3 2015, while targeting 40 branches, as planned, by the first half of the next year.

"The bank managed to establish itself as one of the best institutions in the Kuwaiti private sector in the field of customer service evidenced by its recent accomplishments whereby the bank has received three awards from Service Hero, the international consumer-driven customer satisfaction index. The most prominent of these awards was the 1st Place in Customer Service atop all companies in Kuwait.", Al-Majed added.

He further stated: "This kind of awards reiterate our bank's superb competitive abilities, and its ability to provide its customers with the highest levels of services and the best products customers may seek, whether they are existing customers or potential customers targeted in the Kuwaiti market."

"Customer service has always been our recipe for success, as we have always taken

into account that all our customers are special and that they deserve the best because meeting their aspirations and ambitions should be up to the level of their expectations when they chose us. In other words, by choosing us, customers should be rewarded with special care and attention," Al-Majed stated.



Vice-Chairman & CEO of Boubyan Bank, Adel Abdul-Wahab Al-Majed.

The Leading bank in technology

On the other hand, Al-Majed stressed that Boubyan Bank continues to invest in banking technology to stress its leadership in this domain by offering several services which are new to the Kuwaiti market in addition to being the only bank to provide such services so far.

He stated: "The current year witnessed the launch of a number of technological services such as the qualitative leap taken by Boubyan Bank in the market when it was the first to launch Tap&Pay credit cards (MasterCard and Visa) in the state of Kuwait. Such cards are distinguished by the ease of use upon paying at any stores that accept Near Field Communication "NFC" credit cards.

The bank has also launched the application for "Apple Watch" which is considered the latest addition to the communications family around the globe. This app serves as an extension to Boubyan Bank mobile banking service, allowing the bank's customers to manage their accounts anytime, anywhere, while maintaining the highest standards of security and information confidentiality."

Al-Majed went on to add: "The Bank has also launched the virtual credit cards product which provides customers with greater online shopping options in addition to offering the K-Net instant depositing service allowing customers to deposit funds instantly to their accounts from any other account in Kuwait using any card with the K-Net logo. The bank has also developed the "3Saree3 Save" service launched previously by the bank several months ago".

Al-Majed said that by launching e-banking products and services, Boubyan Bank emphasizes its leadership in this domain in the Kuwaiti market. He added: "In light of the developments witnessed by today's world, which became a "digital world", the challenges grow for banks whose only choice is to keep up with such developments."

Al-Majed further stated: "This is the fruit of a strategy which focused on investing in technological banking services and keeping up with the most recent developments in order to make our customers more comfortable, especially that customer service is the main pillar of our strategy."

He added: "One of the most significant values of Boubyan Bank is Innovation. Therefore, the bank is keen on reinforcing this value and on reflecting the same in innovative products and services, most of which are offered for the first time in the Kuwaiti market."

News

in brief

Kuwait oil price falls to \$46.56 pb

KUWAIT: Kuwait oil price dropped \$1.06 to \$46.56 per barrel in Monday's trades from \$47.62 pb on Friday, according to Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC). In international oil markets, crude prices fell on Monday by five percent amid reports stating that OPEC continued hiking output after traders generated profits, following last week's prices' rise-the highest since 11 weeks ago. Brent crudes dropped \$2.79 reaching \$49.86 pb. The American crude also went down by \$2.53, settling at \$47.10 pb.

US dollar firms against Kuwaiti dinar

KUWAIT: The US dollar yesterday stabilized against the Kuwaiti dinar, trading at 0.301, as well as against the euro, 0.343, as compared to Monday's rates, the Central Bank of Kuwait said. The Sterling Pound steadied at KD 0.462, the Swiss franc dropped to KD 0.313 while the Japanese yen remained

India pays 2nd tranche of \$700m to Iran

NEW DELHI: Indian refiners have paid a second installment of \$700 million to Iran to partly settle pending oil dues, two industry sources said, after a July deal that set out a roadmap for the lifting of sanctions over Tehran's nuclear activities. India last month cleared a similar amount to Iran, the first release of such funds since Iran in August asked India to release \$1.4 billion in oil dues in two equal installments. Essar Oil yesterday paid about \$338 million, followed by about \$299 million from Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd, the sources said, adding Indian Oil Corp paid about \$60 million and Hindustan Petroleum Corp about \$3 million.

Egypt's FIHC receives offer in vegetable oils tender

ABU DHABI: The lowest offer for sunflower oil presented in Egypt's state-owned Food Industries Holding Company (FIHC) tender yesterday was at \$829 a ton cost and freight (C&F), traders said. The offer was made by ADM for 9,000 tons for arrival Feb 1-20, they said. The lowest offer for soybean oil in the tender was also made by ADM for 15,000 tons at \$741 a ton C&F for arrival Jan 1-20. No purchase has yet been made and a decision is expected later. FIHC is seeking at least 9,000 tons of sunflower oil for arrival between Jan. 1-20 and/or Feb. 1-20, 2016. The agency is also seeking at least 25,000 tons of soybean oil for arrival between Dec. 10-30, 2015, and/or Jan. 1-20, 2016.

Qatar Islamic Bank beats forecasts with 27% profit jump

DUBAI: Qatar Islamic Bank (QIB), the Gulf state's largest sharia-compliant lender by assets, beat analyst forecasts as it reported a 27 percent jump in third-quarter net profit yesterday, according to Reuters calculations. The Islamic lender made a net profit of 514.9 million riyals (\$141.43 million) in the three months to Sept. 30, compared with 404.8 million riyals in the same period a year ago, Reuters calculated from QIB's financial statements in the absence of a quarterly earnings breakdown. Five analysts polled by Reuters had forecast on average the bank would make a quarterly net profit of 479.4 million riyals. QIB made a nine-month net profit of 1.41 billion riyals, up from 1.13 billion riyals a year earlier, a statement from the bank said.

AZERBAIJAN'S BIGGEST BANK CLOSES ISLAMIC BANKING DEPT

BAKU: The International Bank of Azerbaijan (IBA), the country's largest and the only state-owned bank, has closed its Islamic banking department, a senior manager said yesterday. Behnam Gurbanzade, IBA's director of Islamic banking, told reporters the department was closed last week, but did not give the reasons. The department started the service in April 2013.

According to Azeri media, the decision was linked to structural changes in the bank. "The agreements signed with international financial institutions within the framework of Islamic banking, as well as the bank's liabilities in this area remain in force," Yadigar Jafarli, IBA's spokesman, told Trend news agency. The bank's Islamic assets rose to \$526 million at the end of 2014 from \$160 million a year earlier. It has been offering sharia-compliant products

through an Islamic window, a practice which allows conventional lenders to provide Islamic financial services as long as client money is segregated from the rest of the bank.

IBA raised \$252 million through an Islamic syndicated loan in 2014 from Al Hilal Bank, Barwa Bank, Citigroup, Dubai Islamic Bank, JP Morgan and Noor bank.

In July Azeri President Ilham Aliyev ordered IBA to be privatized after undergoing a clean-up to get rid of distressed assets resulting from poor management. IBA is the only state-owned bank in the oil-producing former Soviet republic, with the finance ministry holding 51.1 percent. It holds 35 percent of banking assets in Azerbaijan. Islamic finance has developed slowly in the former Soviet state, where an estimated 93 percent of the 9 million people are Muslim. — Reuters

DUBAI NAMES HARBIN, ACWA PREFERRED BIDDERS FOR \$1.8BN CLEAN COAL PLANT

DUBAI: Dubai has chosen a consortium including China's Harbin Electric and Saudi Arabia's ACWA Power as the preferred bidder to build and operate a 1,200 megawatt clean coal power plant, the state utility said, as the emirate seeks to diversify its energy mix to meet rapidly rising demand.

The plant is the first phase of the \$1.8 billion Hassyan clean coal project under planning by Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (DEWA). One unit of 600 MW is to be operational by

March 2020 and another unit of the same size by March 2021. Lacking the huge oil reserves of its neighbor Abu Dhabi, Dubai is striving to broaden its sources of energy as the population rises. It has set a target to diversify its energy mix by 2030 to include 7 percent from clean coal, 7 percent from nuclear power, 15 percent from solar and 71 percent from gas. Currently, a larger proportion of Dubai's energy comes from gas.

DEWA will be the major stakeholder with a 51 percent share in the company established to

build and operate the Hassyan plant. But the bulk of the cost will be shouldered by the consortium. It is talking to Chinese-state owned credit agency Export-Import Bank of China and lenders including Industrial and Commercial Bank of China, Bank of China, Standard Chartered and Abu Dhabi's First Gulf Bank about a \$1.4 billion loan for the project, Paddy Padmanathan, chief executive of ACWA Power, told reporters yesterday on the sidelines of an event to announce the preferred bidder.



ORLANDO: Johnson & Johnson products are displayed in Orlando, Florida. — AP

JOHNSON & JOHNSON BEATS Q3 PROFIT FORECASTS

ORLANDO: Health care giant Johnson & Johnson posted a 29 percent drop in third-quarter earnings, hammered by plunging sales of its hepatitis C medicine and unfavorable currency exchange rates that reduced the value of overseas sales. Its year-ago results had also included a big gain from the sale of its Ortho-Clinical Diagnostics business. For the second quarter in a row, the bright spot for the New Brunswick, New Jersey-based company was the US performance of its consumer health business, which has finally recovered after a long and embarrassing spate of recalls dating to 2009.

The maker of Tylenol, medical devices and Xarelto, for preventing heart attacks and stroke, yesterday reported third-quarter net income of \$3.36 billion, or \$1.20 per share, compared with \$4.75 billion, or \$1.66 per share, a year ago. Adjusted net income, excluding the impact of the Ortho-Clinical business and higher charges for litigation and writedowns in the value of assets, was \$4.17 bil-

lion, or \$1.49 per share. That topped the expectations of analysts surveyed by Zacks Investment Research, who expected adjusted earnings of \$1.44 per share, on average. But Wall Street didn't like the results, and J&J shares dropped \$1.38, or 1.4 percent, to \$94.61 in premarket trading about an hour before the stock market opened.

The world's biggest maker of health care products increased its 2015 profit forecast to \$6.15 to \$6.20 per share, excluding one-time items. That was up from the company's July forecast of \$6.10 to \$6.20 per share. It also said its board of directors has approved a \$10 billion stock buyback plan, but noted it will be financed through the issuance of debt. J&J posted revenue of \$17.1 billion in the quarter, which also missed analysts' forecasts for \$17.41 billion. The strong dollar reduced revenue by 8.2 percent, the company said. Pharmaceutical sales declined 7.4 percent to \$7.7 billion, hurt by sales of hepatitis C drug Olysio plunging 90 percent to just \$79 million. — AP

EXCHANGE RATES

AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

ASIAN COUNTRIES

Japanese Yen	2.518
Indian Rupees	4.676
Pakistani Rupees	2.896
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.161
Nepali Rupees	2.924
Singapore Dollar	216.490
Hongkong Dollar	39.052
Bangladesh Taka	3.890
Philippine Peso	6.601
Thai Baht	8.531

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	155.840
Jordanian Dinar	427.110
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.018
Syrian Lira	2.158
Morocco Dirham	32.026

EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES

US Dollar Transfer	302.650
Euro	345.780
Sterling Pound	465.480
Canadian dollar	234.980
Turkish lira	103.100
Swiss Franc	316.580
Australian dollar	223.360
US Dollar Buying	301.450

GOLD

20 gram	235.55
10 gram	120.47
5 gram	60.92

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	2.163
Indian Rupees	4.672
Pakistani Rupees	2.897
Bangladesh Taka	3.885
Philippines Peso	6.604
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	0.456889	0.465889
Czech Korune	0.004666	0.016666
Danish Krone	0.042016	0.047016
Euro	0.338347	0.346347
Norwegian Krone	0.033382	0.038582
Romanian Leu	0.077788	0.077788
Slovakia	0.009018	0.019018
Swedish Krona	0.032889	0.037889
Swiss Franc	0.308008	0.318208
Turkish Lira	0.097608	0.107908

Australasia	BUY	SELL
Australian Dollar	0.213299	0.224799
New Zealand Dollar	0.196246	0.205746
America	BUY	SELL
Canadian Dollar	0.228707	0.237207
US Dollars	0.298550	0.303050
US Dollars Mint	0.299050	0.303050

Asia	BUY	SELL
Bangladesh Taka	0.003486	0.004086
Chinese Yuan	0.046353	0.049853
Hong Kong Dollar	0.036961	0.039711
Indian rupee	0.004380	0.004770
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000018	0.000024
Japanese Yen	0.002433	0.002613
Kenyan Shilling	0.002930	0.002930
Korean Won	0.000254	0.000269
Malaysian Ringgit	0.069289	0.075289
Nepalese Rupee	0.002899	0.003069
Pakistan Rupee	0.002835	0.003115
Philippine Peso	0.006488	0.006768
Sierra Leone	0.000069	0.000075
Singapore Dollar	0.212740	0.218740
South African Rand	0.016594	0.025094
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001859	0.002439
Taiwan	0.009234	0.009414
Thai Baht	0.008190	0.008740

Arab	BUY	SELL
Bahraini Dinar	0.795156	0.803156
Egyptian Pound	0.037809	0.040639
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000085
Iraqi Dinar	0.000196	0.000256
Jordanian Dinar	0.422863	0.430363
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000150	0.000250
Moroccan Dirhams	0.020468	0.044468
Nigerian Naira	0.000917	0.001552
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	0.152061	0.160061
Turkish Lira	0.097608	0.107908
UAE Dirhams	0.081419	0.082568
Yemeni Riyal	0.001368	0.001448



ROME: The Italian post (Poste Italiane) at the entrance of a Post Office in Rome. Italy on Monday launched its biggest privatization since the late 1990s with the sale of a near 40 percent stake in sprawling mail-based conglomerate Poste Italiane. — AFP

SAUDI MULLS STATE SPENDING DEADLINE IN BUDGET CURBS

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia's finance ministry is closing the national accounts one month earlier than usual this year, suggesting it is tightening its control over spending as low oil prices create a record state budget deficit.

The world's top oil exporter is grappling with a budget deficit which economists estimate could total \$120 billion or more this year, and the finance ministry has taken other unusual steps recently to clamp down on excess spending. In its latest step, a document sent by the ministry to government bodies this week and seen by Reuters instructs them to "bring forward the final date to make payments from budget allocations and other accounts for the current fiscal year".

The new deadline to make payments is Nov. 15, the document says. In past years the deadline fell in mid-December; last year it was Dec 18. The document does not

elaborate on the reasons for the change, or say how government bodies are expected to cope with the earlier deadline. Calls to the finance ministry seeking comment were not returned.

Earlier this month, the ministry told government bodies that if budget allocations were not fully spent on the projects for which they were originally earmarked, the remaining money must be sent back to the Treasury. Previously, government bodies were free to transfer money from one project to another as they wished.

Since August last year, the government has sold more than \$80 billion of foreign assets via the central bank. Last month Finance Minister Ibrahim Alassaf said his ministry was "working on cutting unnecessary expenses." Many economists expect next year's national budget to include spending reductions in some areas. — Reuters

IRELAND TO REVERSE CUTS IN BUDGET WITH EYE ON POLL

DUBLIN: Ireland's finance minister effectively kicked off the government's re-election campaign yesterday when he presented his 2016 budget, with a booming economy meaning he can offer to cut taxes and spend more on services. Ireland brought an end to seven years of austerity last year and has up to 1.5 billion euros - or about 0.75 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) - to further bring down personal taxes, offer relief on childcare and reverse some of the most unpopular cuts imposed during a three-year international bailout.

Ireland will still comfortably cut its budget deficit below the European Union target of 3 percent of GDP this year, even with the measures and a 1.5 billion euro (\$1.7 billion) overspend, thanks to a fast recovering economy set to grow by over 6 percent.

With the economy forecast to be Europe's best performing for a third successive year in 2016 and expand by at least 3 percent every year until 2020, Finance Minister Michael Noonan will use his speech to lay out a plan predicated on the coalition government being re-elected.

"I will be looking at the budget as the first budget of a new phase, budget one of five,"

Noonan told national broadcaster RTE last month. "I'll be starting off things and saying, look, I can't afford to do everything that I think should be done in this budget but this is the first instalment and we'll do more next year and more the year after depending on who is in government."

Prime Minister Enda Kenny on Sunday said he did not intend to call a parliamentary election in Ireland before early next year, seeking to halt widespread speculation that he would call a snap vote following the budget. By next February or March, voters would be starting to feel the benefits of Noonan's 2016 tax cuts, public sector wage rises and a hike in the minimum wage, potentially spreading the recovery to hard-hit rural areas.

Noonan will also seek to tackle a severe shortage of housing in urban centres for the third budget in a row, possibly bringing in legislation to link residential rents to the rate of inflation to temporarily control soaring costs. He will announce details of the new "knowledge box", Ireland's latest corporate tax measure similar to patent boxes elsewhere aimed at its large multinational sector, though its scope has been limited by new international tax guidelines. — Reuters



DUBLIN: Irish Finance Minister, Michael Noonan (center), poses with a copy of the 2016 budget during a photocall in front of the government buildings in Dublin, Ireland yesterday. — AFP

EX-ANGLO IRISH BANK CEO TO FACE EXTRADITION HEARING IN BOSTON

BOSTON: The former chief executive of Anglo Irish Bank is due in federal court in Boston yesterday for a hearing on whether he will be sent back to Ireland to face 33 criminal counts related to his role in the collapse of that bank. The executive, David Drumm, was arrested on Saturday in the tony Boston suburb of Wellesley, where he had been living since the bank was nationalized in early 2009, and has been in custody since awaiting Tuesday's hearing.

An Irish court in July sentenced three lower-ranking executives of the bank to serve 18 to 36 months in prison, making them the first bankers jailed since the country's financial crash. Anglo Irish's failure, linked to casino-style lending that drove Ireland's "Celtic Tiger" boom, cost the state 30 billion euros (\$34 billion) in bailout funds.

Drumm faces charges in Ireland related to fraudulent loans the bank made in 2008 intended to help prop up its share prices,

which was falling sharply during the global crisis, according to papers unsealed in US District Court in Boston yesterday.

The charges include forgery, conspiracy and false accounting, for loans to the family of businessman Sean Quinn, who had amassed a 28 percent share in the bank through contracts for difference, a financial instrument that did not have to be publicly declared.

The bank lent Quinn's family hundreds of millions of euros to help it cover margin calls on the shares he held. The loans went to a group of clients nicknamed the "Maple 10."

"The letters to the Maple 10 were inaccurate in that they suggested the loans were intended for a 'multi-currency share dealing facility,' when they were in fact intended solely for the purchase of the bank shares," Irish prosecutors contend, according to the court filings. An attorney for Drumm declined to comment ahead of the hearing. — Reuters

GLOBAL OIL DEMAND GROWTH TO SLOW IN 2016, SAYS IEA

OIL AT \$50 'A POWERFUL DRIVER IN REBALANCING MARKET'

PARIS: The world's demand for oil is expected to slow in 2016 in response to a more pessimistic outlook for the global economy, likely keeping the crude market oversupplied, the International Energy Agency (IEA) said yesterday. "Global demand growth is expected to slow from its five-year high of 1.8 million barrels per day in 2015, to 1.2 mb/d in 2016," moving closer toward its long-term trend, the IEA said in its monthly oil market report.

That will probably mean a continued oil supply glut next year, especially with the expected arrival of Iranian crude. "A projected marked slowdown in demand growth next year and the anticipated arrival of additional Iranian barrels-should international sanctions be eased-are likely to keep the market oversupplied through 2016," it said.

Citing the International Monetary Fund's recent downward revisions on global growth estimates by one-fifth of a percentage point, "projections for commodities demand logically require some trimming," the report said. Global consumption is expected to average 95.7 million barrels a day next year, down 100,000 from estimates in last month's report.

One surprise is the resilient oil demand in China despite its economic slowdown. "Our preliminary August estimate posted a near double-digit percentage point gain in year-on-year terms despite the otherwise ailing macroeconomic backdrop," the Paris-based agency said.

Crude oil prices were relatively stable in September and rallied early this month on "expectations of a lower US output and rising tension in the Middle East," the IEA said.

But they dipped yesterday following the IEA's latest forecasts, Brent North Sea crude for delivery in November shedding 13 cents to stand at \$49.73 per barrel in afternoon London deals.

US benchmark West Texas Intermediate for delivery in November slid 26 cents to \$46.84 per barrel compared with Monday's close.

Rebalancing market, when?

The IEA, which analyses energy markets for advanced oil-consuming nations, noted that oil prices at \$50 per barrel was "a powerful driver in rebalancing the global oil market, but the big question is just when will equilibrium be restored." Russia's military intervention in Syria has raised international political tensions and

created uncertainty-although for now the global oil supply glut is tempering market reaction. "Some of this uncertainty may start to clear next year although, considering Iran, the market may be off balance for a while longer," the report said.

Crude output by the 12-nation OPEC cartel rose by 90,000 barrels a day to 31.72 million in September driven by Iraq, now the world's biggest source of additional supply.

Iraq's banner month to a record 4.3 million barrels per day was due to a recovery in northern exports from disruptions along the country's pipeline to Turkey.

"But severe budgetary strain and ongoing issues with security and infrastructure are likely to limit supply growth in the near-term for Iraq," the IEA added.

As for non-OPEC producers, supply growth is eroding with the sharpest slowdown in the United States. In September non-OPEC oil production is estimated to have dropped by 180,000 barrels per day to 58.3 million. In 2016 lower oil prices and steep spending cuts are expected to reduce non-OPEC output by nearly 500,000 barrels per day, the report added. — AFP



ATHENS: Disabled people and their families demonstrate outside the finance ministry in Athens yesterday in protest against the new austerity measures affecting their pensions and allowances. The Greek parliament began debating the first bill containing tough austerity measures and economic overhauls agreed under its new bailout program. — AFP

OPEC CRUDE PRICE FALLS

VIENNA: Price of OPEC's basket of crudes dropped 63 cents in September, in contrast to the previous month, standing at \$48.83 per barrel, according to the regular monthly report by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

Despite some negative market factors, crude prices gradually grew with the Brent standing at \$48.54 pb, a 33 cents rise compared to the past month. West Texas crude rose to \$48.47, climbing by \$2.85.

Turning to global economic growth, the report indicated that it would remain unchanged in the region by 3.1 percent, in 2015, 3.4 percent, 2016. Key emerging economies are increasingly facing challenges and while the growth forecast for China and India remains unchanged, both Brazil's and Russia's growth have been revised down by 0.2 percentage points for

2015 and 2016. As to world oil demand, it is foreseen to rise by 1.50 mb/d, following an upward revision of around 40 tb/d, mostly due to better-than-expected data in 3Q15. Total oil demand is now forecast at 92.86 mb/d. In 2016, world oil demand is anticipated to rise by 1.25 mb/d, following a downward revision of 40 tb/d, mainly to reflect the high base-line effect. As a result, world oil demand is forecast to reach 94.11 mb/d.

On the world oil supply, non-OPEC oil supply growth in 2015 now stands at 0.72 mb/d, following a downward revision of 0.16 mb/d from the previous report, attributed mainly to a downward adjustment in the US. For 2016, non-OPEC oil supply is expected to show a clear contraction of 0.13 mb/d, following a downward revision of 0.29 mb/d compared to the previous assessment. — KUNA

VW SCANDAL SOURS GERMAN INVESTOR SENTIMENT

FRANKFURT: Investor sentiment in Germany slumped in October as the Volkswagen pollution cheating scandal and slowing emerging markets growth dampen the outlook for Europe's top economy, a leading survey said yesterday.

The widely watched investor confidence index calculated by the ZEW economic institute sank 10.2 points from 12.1 last month to just 1.9 points, its lowest level since October 2014, the think-tank said in a statement. "The exhaust gas scandal of Volkswagen and the weak growth of emerging markets has dampened economic outlook for Germany," said ZEW president Clements Fuest.

"However, the performance of the domestic economy is still good and the euro area economy continues to recover. This makes it rather unlikely that the German economy will slide into recession," Fuest said. For the survey, ZEW questions analysts and institutional investors about their current assessment of the economic situation in Germany, as well as their expectations for the coming months.

The sub-index measuring financial market players' view of the current economic situation in Germany also declined, falling by 12.3 points to 55.2 points in October, its lowest level since March, ZEW said. The latest drop in the headline index was steeper than analysts had expected, and came on the day Volkswagen said it would slash its annual investment budget by one billion euros (\$1.13 billion) for its main VW brand.

"It confirms that concerns over the global environment and the scandal at Volkswagen are taking a toll on investor confidence, which might affect economic activity in the months ahead," said Jennifer McKeown of Capital Economics.

"The fact that the index is now only just above zero means that only a small majority of investors see economic conditions improving in the next six months."

Has economy peaked?

The data were a "warning that Germany's economic cycle may already have passed its peak. In all, the survey supports our view that German growth is likely to slow in the coming months," McKeown said. The head of the German machine tool manufacturers' federation, Reinhold Festge, agreed.

"It's clear we're currently in a phase of weakening," he told a congress in Berlin. McKeown at Capital Economics said she was penciling in overall economic growth of 1.5 percent this year, to be followed by a slowdown to 1.2 percent next year-considerably weaker than the government's expected new forecasts, which are set to be published on Thursday.

Natixis economist Johannes Gareis also said the renewed decline in the ZEW index-the seventh consecutive monthly drop-"adds further downside risks to Germany's economic growth outlook". "Despite the growing concerns over Germany's economy, however, we keep our growth forecast unchanged for now at 1.5 percent this year and next," Gareis said. Germany's domestic fundamentals remained healthy, as reflected by a robust labour market and solid retail sales, the expert argued. Moreover, many euro-zone countries had been seeing an uptick in their economy, and solid growth in the US and other important export markets should help counter the weakness in trade with China and the wider emerging markets. "In light of this, other sentiment readings and hard data for September should provide a clearer picture on Germany's true economic condition," Gareis concluded. — AFP

GULF SLIPS SLIGHTLY ON OIL; EGYPT OUTPERFORMS

MIDEAST STOCK MARKETS

DUBAI: Most Gulf stock markets pulled back slightly yesterday because of a plunge of oil prices, while Egypt's bourse bucked weakness in other emerging markets and held firm.

Brent crude oil sank 5.3 percent to below \$50 a barrel on Monday, denting - though not destroying - hopes in the Gulf that oil prices have finally bottomed out. This dampened some of the petrochemical stocks which had surged in the previous several days in response to stronger oil. Saudi Basic Industries, which had jumped 12 percent in the past four days, fell back 1.1 percent as the petrochemical index lost 0.6 percent. A few petchems stayed firm, however, with Saudi Kayan gaining 2.5 percent. The Saudi stock index dropped 0.5 percent to 7,777 points, retreating from technical resistance at 7,812-7,953 points, its highs in September and at the end of August. Arab National Bank, the kingdom's seventh-largest lender by assets, fell 0.7 percent after reporting a 2.2 percent rise in third-quarter profit, marginally missing analysts' forecasts.

Qatar's stock index edged down 0.3 percent as drilling rig provider Gulf International Services, which had jumped as oil rebounded in the past several days, fell by the same margin. However, Islamic Holding edged up 0.2 percent after an extraordinary general assembly of shareholders approved a 50 percent capital increase via a rights issue. Gulf Warehousing soared 11.2 percent, largely because of an adjustment to its reference price as the rights

to subscribe in its capital increase expired.

Dubai's stock index slipped 0.3 percent although the most heavily traded stock, commodities shipper Gulf Navigation, jumped 11.5 percent to its highest level this year. Abu Dhabi's index edged up 0.1 percent. National Bank of Kuwait, the country's biggest bank, closed flat after reporting a 9.1 percent rise in third-quarter net profit to 64.5 million dinars (\$214 million), missing estimates; analysts polled by Reuters had forecast NBK would make a quarterly profit of 71.0-71.8 million dinars. Kuwait's stock crept down 0.1 percent. Egypt's index edged up 0.2 percent, outperforming MSC's main emerging markets index, which was down 1.2 percent. The Egyptian market remains technically bullish after the index established an uptrend channel from its August low. Trading volume in the past few days has jumped to its highest levels this year, another positive technical sign.

Amer Group gained 2.3 percent, continuing a surge that began on Monday when the exchange said it would suspend trading in the company's shares from next Monday until it completed its planned split into two companies. Real estate developer Emaar Misr rose 3.4 percent after saying its post of non-executive chairman, held by Mohamed Alabbar, would be converted to an executive post. Alabbar founded Dubai's Emaar Properties, parent of Emaar Misr, and investors may expect closer cooperation between the two companies under the new arrangement. — Reuters

SHARES FALL AS CHINESE DATA DIMS OUTLOOK

LONDON: World share prices fell yesterday, snapping their longest winning streak since February after Chinese trade data gave a further sign the world's economic growth engine is sputtering.

A big fall in oil prices also weighed. Chinese imports plunged 20 percent in September, casting doubt on the strength of domestic demand in the economy, while oil fell more than 5 percent overnight after a report that OPEC continued to boost production. Those factors overshadowed a bumper merger deal, which saw the world's largest brewer Anheuser-Busch InBev

take over number two producer SABMiller in a cash and share package worth \$104.4 billion.

Bond yields and emerging market currencies fell too, while dimming prospects of a US interest rate hike this year pushed the dollar lower and lifted the euro above \$1.14 for the first time in a month. Weaker-than-expected UK inflation and German investor sentiment reports also pushed bond yields lower.

"The spectre of slowing growth in the world's second biggest economy is now again presented in sharp relief - this in spite of the myriad of stimulus measures undertaken by the PBOC

(central bank) over the past number of months," said Brenda Kelly, head analyst at London Capital Group.

The MSCI world share index fell 0.5 percent, its first fall in 10 sessions, ending the longest winning streak since February.

In Europe, the FTSEuroFirst 300 index of leading European shares was down 1.1 percent at 1,414 points, Germany's DAX was down 1 percent, France's CAC 40 was down 1.2 percent and Britain's FTSE 100 was down 0.8 percent.

In Asia earlier, MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan fell 1 percent from a

two-month high touched on Monday, while Japan's Nikkei fell 1.1 percent. Futures markets pointed to a fall of around 0.4 percent at the open on Wall Street, where investors will also focus on third quarter earnings from Intel and JPMorgan.

THE DOLLAR YIELDS

China's trade data for September showed a 3.7 percent fall in exports from the same period last year, less than the 6.3 percent drop forecast by economists in a Reuters poll. Imports, however, tumbled 20.4 percent. The weakening economy prompted China's central bank on Monday to expand a scheme that increases banks' ability to lend, lifting mainland Chinese shares to seven-week highs.

Yesterday, Shanghai shares edged up around 0.2 percent. It was the index's fifth straight gain, a run not seen since July. Oil prices recorded their biggest fall in six weeks on Monday after a report that OPEC continued to boost crude production triggered a wave of profit-taking from last week's 11-week high. Crude prices struggled to recover any of that ground yesterday, with Brent futures up only 0.2 percent at \$49.97 per barrel and US futures flat at \$47.12.

The soft Chinese data and oil price weakness were reminders that inflation is not a problem, which fed into the view that

the Fed is in no hurry to raise rates. Fed Governor Lael Brainard reinforced such expectations, saying late on Monday the Fed should hold off on any interest rate hike until it is clear that a global slowdown, difficulties in China, and other international risks will not push the US recovery off course. The yields on 10- and 30-year US Treasury bonds fell 4 basis points to 2.05 percent and 2.88 percent, while benchmark German Bund yields were down around 1 basis point.

The dollar's value against a basket of six major currencies dropped to 94.5 yesterday, its lowest in almost a month, and the euro rose as much as 0.5 percent to \$1.1410. "The drop in oil prices has taken Treasury yields back down again, and tightening in the Treasury/Bund spread encourages euro/dollar to probe the top of the current range - \$1.1460 is the key level ... and a test looks likely," said Societe Generale currency analysts in a client note yesterday.

Commodity-linked currencies also slipped, with the Australian dollar falling 1 percent to \$0.7285, off a two-month high of \$0.7382 set on Monday. Emerging market currencies also lost momentum after recent gains. The Indonesian rupiah and the Malaysian ringgit, big winners last week from broad relief rally in risk assets, both fell about 1 percent. — Reuters

Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report

Tuesday 13 October 2015

Index	Change	Closing	Last Closing	High	Low
Price index	▼ -2.81	5,731.26	5,734.07	5,737.33	5,714.17
Weighted Index	▼ -1.76	387.16	388.92	388.69	384.35
KXS 15	▼ -5.36	923.53	928.89	928.00	914.39

Volume	Value (KWD)	Number of Trades
125,062,349	13,058,881	3,306

Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	Change
MARIN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	114	▲ 0.0
IKARUS	104	100	280,600	28,343.8	8	104	▲ 2.0
IPG	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	315	▲ 0.0
NAPESCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	620	▲ 0.0
ENERGYH	46.0	45.5	5,000	230	3	45.5	▼ -1.5
GPI	46.0	44.5	5,065,220	229,446.86	86	45.5	▲ 0.5
ABAR	79	75	163,053	12,231.14	14	79	▼ -1.0
Oil & Gas			5,613,873	270,250	111	799.13	▲ 1.62

Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	Change
KFOUC	242	242	629	152	1	242	▲ 0.0
BPCC	520	500	279,188	140,815.21	21	520	▼ -10.0
ALKOUT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	610	▲ 0.0
ALQURAIN	180	178	334,225	60,105.21	21	180	▼ -0.0
Basic Materials			614,042	201,074	43	989.08	▼ -6.72

Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	Change
KCEM	365	365	50,000	18,250	2	365	▲ 0.0
REFRI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	320	▲ 0.0
CABLE	430	420	74,554	31,527.9	9	430	▲ 0.0
SHIP	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	132	▲ 0.0
PCEM	1,140	1,120	39,382	44,308.8	8	1,140	▲ 0.0
PAPER	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	390	▲ 0.0
MRC	75	75	100	8	1	75	▲ 5.0
ACICO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	290	▲ 0.0
GGMC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	550	▲ 0.0
HCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	144	▲ 0.0
KPAK	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	395	▲ 0.0
KBMM	210	210	10,000	2,100	3	210	▼ -10.0
NICBM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	210	▲ 0.0
EQUIPMENT	67	61	2,814,595	180,375.111	64	▲ 2.0	
NCCI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	84	▲ 0.0
GYPSUM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	102	▲ 0.0
SALBOOKH	84	82	975,526	80,985.39	83	▲ 2.0	
AGLTY	550	540	712,237	388,200.35	56	▼ -10.0	
EDU	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	216	▲ 0.0
CLEANING	41.5	41.0	256,000	10,557	10	41.0	▲ 0.5
CITYGROUP	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	400	▲ 0.0
KGL	44.0	44.0	125,000	5,500	5	44.0	▲ 0.0
KPCP	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	216	▲ 0.0
HUMANSOFT	1,060	1,020	143,428	148,765.8	1,040	▼ -20.0	
NAFAIS	132	128	90,000	11,680	2	128	▼ -4.0
SAFWAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	330	▲ 0.0
GFC	86	86	1,500	129	2	86	▼ -5.0
MAYADEEN	25.5	25.0	2,982,698	75,800.59	25.0	▲ 0.0	
CGC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	780	▲ 0.0
MTCC	60	57	4,543,084	268,493.105	60	▲ 5.0	
UPAC	780	740	60	45	2	740	▲ 0.0
ALAFCCO	220	218	31,003	6,759	4	220	▲ 0.0
MUBARRAD	81	78	2,019,372	161,151.36	79	▲ 0.0	
LOGISTICS	53	52	110,250	5,735	4	52	▲ 0.0
SCEM	88	86	187,057	16,138	5	88	▲ 2.0
GCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	83	▲ 0.0
QCEM	81	81	200,122	16,210	5	81	▲ 0.0
FCEM	75	73	315,452	23,294	9	75	▲ 1.0
RKWC	106	106	107,100	11,353	4	106	▲ 0.0
SPEC	85	80	45,000	3,601	2	85	▲ 0.0
Industrials			15,833,520	1,508,960	470	1070.18	▼ -2.13

Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	Change
SOKOUK	48.5	48.0	222,938	10,788	13	48.5	▲ 0.5
KRE	60	60	702,000	42,120	18	60	▲ 0.0
URC	93	93	11,000	1,023	2	93	▼ -4.0
NRE	79	77	425,370	33,093	13	77	▼ -3.0
SRE	315	310	51,000	15,815	2	315	▼ -5.0
TAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	450	▲ 0.0
AREEC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	178	▲ 0.0
MASALEH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	52	▲ 0.0
ARABREC	32.5	32.0	291,100	9,341	10	32.5	▲ 0.5
ERESCO	64	61	523,336	32,399	13	63	▲ 2.0
MABANEE	880	860	419,384	364,835	22	870	▼ -20.0
INJAZZAT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	64	▲ 0.0
INVESTORS	30.5	30.0	3,350,200	100,632	52	30.0	▲ 0.0
IRC	32.0	31.0	945,000	29,496	35	31.0	▼ -1.0
ALTUJARIA	82	82	328,915	26,971	6	82	▲ 0.0
SANAM	41.0	39.0	94,530	3,700	6	39.0	▲ 0.5
AAYANRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	80	▲ 0.0
AQAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	79	▲ 0.0
ALAQARIA	29.0	28.0	17,179	491	4	29.0	▲ 2.5
MAZAYA	108	104	2,268,721	240,062	68	106	▲ 4.0
ADNC	31.5	30.5	3,390,067	105,393	57	31.5	▲ 0.5
THEMAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	95	▲ 0.0
TIJARA	42.0	42.0	7,000	294	1	42.0	▲ 0.0
TAAMEER	31.0	31.0	1,000	31	1	31.0	▲ 0.5
ARKAN	110	110	40,000	4,400	3	110	▼ -4.0
ARGAN	170	168	451,000	76,610	26	170	▲ 0.0
ABYAAR	32.5	31.5	5,385,700	171,044	36	32.5	▲ 0.5
MUNSHAAT	92	91	346,513	31,779	17	92	▼ -1.0
FIRSTDUBAI	56	52	4,083,552	224,035	153	56	▲ 5.0
KBT	40.0	38.0	3,146,673	123,681	85	40.0	▲ 1.5
REAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	130	▲ 0.0
MENA	30.5	30.0	1,500	46	2	30.0	▲ 0.5
ALMUDON	34.0	32.5	1,509,386	50,237	43	33.5	▲ 0.0
MARAKEZ	25.5	25.0	48,600	1,216	7	25.5	▲ 0.0
REMAI	41.0	40.5	810,200	32,870	19	41.0	▲ 0.0
MASHAER	108	104	21,500	2,236	3	104	▼ -2.0
Real Estate			28,893,364	1,734,636	717	941.74	▲ 4.06

Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	Change
KINV	114	108	244,613	26,850	23	114	▲ 2.0
FACIL	198	196	78,551	15,493	9	198	▲ 8.0
IFA	36.5	35.5	1,530,307	55,090	65	36.5	▲ 0.0
NINV	110	108	90,000	9,770	8	108	▼ -2.0
KPROJ	580	570	568,003	326,816	40	580	▲ 0.0
COAST	38.0	37.5	488,591	18,536	11	38.0	▼ -0.5
SECH	48.0	46.5	910,270	43,116	43	47.0	▼ -0.5
SGC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	112	▲ 0.0
ARZAN	43.5	42.0	74,000	3,148	8	43.0	▲ 2.0
MARKAZ	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	100	▲ 0.0
KMEFIC	32.0	30.5	275,000	8,485	13	31.0	▲ 0.5
ALAMAN	57	55	210,964	11,981	12	57	▲ 1.0
ALOLA	67	66	292,500	19,308	5	67	▲ 0.0
ALMAL	37.0	37.0	113,900	4,214	7	37.0	▼ -0.5
GIH	31.5	30.5	416,631	12,930	15	31.0	▼ -1.0
AAYAN	46.5	45.0	946,736	43,337	39	46.0	▲ 0.5
BAYANINV	40.5	40.0	2,379,935	95,554	55	40.0	▼ -0.5
OSOUL	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	41.5	▲ 0.0
KFIC	45.0	45.0	36,750	1,654	5	45.0	▲ 0.0
KAMCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	102	▲ 0.0
NIH	66	65	51,224	3,361	4	66	▲ 0.0
ISKAN	29.5	29.0	466,500	13,529	20	29.0	▼ -0.5
MADAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	20.5	▲ 0.0

TUNISIA STRUGGLES TO REFORM ECONOMY IN FACE OF PROTESTS

TUNIS: Tunisia is under pressure to speed up economic reforms, especially after two deadly attacks this year on its tourism industry, but the government is struggling with internal splits and resistance from trade unions and political opponents.

Since its 2011 revolution, the North African state has completed a transition to democracy, an achievement for which a quartet of organizations won the Nobel Peace Prize last week, but international leaders want more economic reforms to curb high public spending.

Against those demands, the government must manage the frustrations of ordinary Tunisians, mindful that it was poverty and lack of economic opportunity that prompted a young street vendor to burn himself to death and set in motion the uprising that ousted veteran autocrat Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. How it resolves these tensions will determine whether the country that launched the Arab Spring can also take the lead in delivering stability and prosperity for its people.

Tunisia has taken some modest reform steps: last month it injected \$440 million into state-owned banks SociÉTÉ Tunisienne de Banque and Banque de l'Habitat, which International Monetary Fund chief Christine Lagarde said would help the lenders out of a difficult financial situation.

Not for the first time though, the government was forced to respond to social pressures. After negotiations with the powerful labor union UGTT, it raised the wages of 800,000 public sector employees for the second time this year. Officials say this will cost the treasury about \$1.2 billion.

Prime Minister Habib Essid said that these steps were essential to calm tensions and stop strikes, and to raise the confidence of foreign investors. "We know very well reforms come at an expensive price, but we need social peace in the coming period to push ahead with urgent changes due the critical economic situation," Essid told Reuters.

The country is at a critical moment as it prepares to start negotiations with the IMF over a new credit program likely to be worth at least \$1.7 billion, according to the head of the central bank. Lagarde urged Tunisia to accelerate both banking sector reform and cuts in state spending, saying public sector pay accounted for about 13.5 percent of GDP, one of the highest rates in the world. The government's budget deficit stood at 5.8 percent of Gross Domestic Product last year.

DIFFICULT BALANCE

The recent wage hike was not the first sign that the government is struggling to balance lenders' demands with the realities

of delivering unpalatable reforms on the ground. Earlier this year, it gave in to the pay demands of striking teachers. In February it froze a border tax on travellers crossing to and from Libya after protests during which a young man was shot dead by police.

Essid's government, a coalition between the secular Nidaa Tounes party and the Islamist Ennahda, must also contend with internal tensions and opposition demands, especially in the run-up to municipal elections in 2016. "The absence of any real reforms at the economic level illustrates the lack of courage among the political parties," said Abdelhamid Jellasi, an Ennahda official.

"They know the need for urgent reforms but they cannot take any decision in that direction." Boosting the economy is all the more important given the battering the tourism sector has taken from two Islamist attacks that killed 61 people this year, one in the capital and one at a beach resort. Tourism makes up 7 percent of GDP, but the bloodshed has prompted some foreign tour companies and cruise operators to pull out.

Now Essid's government says fiscal reforms will be implemented in 2016 and that it will not raise wages in the public sector until 2018. An increase in the retirement age from 60 to 62 years is among measures that may be announced in the coming months to help cut a \$1 billion deficit in the social security fund.

"We are close to reaching an agreement with the labor union UGTT to approve a bill to raise the retirement age by two extra years as part of a plan of urgent reforms," Social Affairs Minister Ammar Younbayi said. But the coalition government is struggling to maintain cohesion, especially after a junior minister resigned last week, complaining of rampant corruption. Even some senior officials in Nidaa Tounes ranks have strongly criticized Essid's government.

Government sources say he may reshuffle the cabinet as soon as next month to inject new blood. But there is concern that a lack of political stability could disrupt reforms.

Tensions in government have risen since President Beji Caid Essebsi proposed a law that would clear businesses accused of corruption under Ben Ali if they hand back their ill-gotten gains to benefit the economy. That has angered critics who say corrupt officials should be prosecuted.

"We don't need to push reforms in an atmosphere of confrontation," Essid said calling for a consensus among unions, political parties and government. "We need to have a good climate to attract foreign investment." — Reuters



BEIJING: Women walk past a mall in Beijing yesterday. Chinese imports slumped nearly 18 percent last month, official figures showed yesterday, highlighting the task facing the country's leaders as commodities prices slump on the back of a slowing growth in the world's second-largest economy. —AFP

CHINA ECONOMIC PICTURE STILL CLOUDY; MORE STIMULUS LIKELY

SEPT EXPORT FALL EASES, IMPORTS SLUMP

BEIJING/SHANGHAI: China's exports fell less than expected in September, with monthly figures showing recovery, but a sharper fall in imports left economists divided over whether the country's ailing trade sector is showing signs of turning around.

On the surface, the trade data yesterday reinforced views that the world's second-largest economy is still slowly losing momentum, putting more pressure on Beijing to roll out further stimulus measures and keeping global markets on edge. But the numbers did not suggest a greater risk of a hard landing, either, as some investors have feared.

Exports fell 3.7 percent from the same period last year, less than a 6.3 percent drop forecast by economists in a Reuters poll and moderating from a 5.5 percent decline in August.

However, imports by value tumbled for the 11th straight month, losing over 20 percent year-on-year in September due to weak commodity prices and soft domestic demand, which will continue to complicate Beijing's efforts to stave off deflation.

Economists had expected a 15.0 percent drop, after a 13.8 percent decline in the previous month. Highlighting persistent weakness in demand at home and abroad, China's combined exports and imports fell 8.1 percent in the first nine months of the year from the same period in 2014, well below the full-year official target of 6 percent growth.

That will likely reinforce expectations that Beijing will cut interest rates again in coming months and announce other measures to avert a sharper economic slowdown. "In general, there are no green shoots in this set of data," said Zhou Hao, senior economist at Commerzbank in Singapore.

"The growth of port throughput volume still remains low." However, monthly figures were more rosy. China's exports to every major market except Taiwan rose from August, as did imports,

and some economists were inclined to give that more weight than year-on-year changes. For a table on trade with major markets, see.

Julian Evans-Pritchard of Capital Economics warned that annual export readings may be distorted downward by comparisons with strong export performance at the end of 2014, which many suspected was inflated by yuan speculation disguised as trade. He suggested paying closer attention to monthly trends, which show a steady rise to most major export markets in the US and Europe over the summer.

"Basically, exports have been doing better since the second quarter, but that recovery trend has been masked on a year-on-year basis because the second half of 2014 was so strong."

Evans-Pritchard also said that import data had become unreliable given massive swings in prices due to the commodity downturn and a divergence between prices and trading volumes.

"For the major commodities like oil, copper, etc. we're actually seeing a pretty healthy trend in import volumes." Indeed, China's imports of copper, iron ore, crude oil and coal all rose in September from August, data from the General Administration of Customs showed yesterday. Still, import volumes are a leading indicator for exports in China, given a large share of materials and parts are re-exported as finished goods, keeping the outlook cloudy.

"September's import figure does not bode well for industrial production and fixed asset investment," ANZ economists wrote in a research note. "Overall growth momentum last month remained weak and third-quarter GDP growth to be released next Monday (Oct. 19) will likely have edged down to 6.4 percent in the third quarter, compared with 7 percent in the first half." Growth below 7 percent would be the weakest since the global financial crisis. China posted a trade surplus of \$60.34 billion for September, the General Administration of Customs said yesterday, higher than forecasts for \$46.8 billion and up slightly

from \$60.24 billion in August.

While the surplus is largely due to weak imports, it does help ease pressure on the country's money supply from capital outflows, ANZ argued.

SLOWDOWN FEARS

China is widely expected to post its slowest economic growth in a quarter of a century this year amid weak demand, factory overcapacity, high debt levels and cooling investment, but there are doubts over whether Beijing can do much about it. Repeated monetary easing and fiscal stimulus over the past year have yet to revive growth as debt-laden companies are in no mood to expand as the economy cools. Beijing is also reluctant to prop up exporters at the low end of the value chain.

"I really don't think there's much the government can do policy-wise to boost exports in the short run - it primarily reflects external weakness," said Paul Tang, chief economist at the Bank of East Asia in Hong Kong. "They can do things to help boost competitiveness, but everything there is long term."

In fact, developed economies are to blame for the global economic malaise because their slow recoveries were not creating enough demand, China's Finance Minister Lou Jiwei was quoted as saying over the weekend. IMF Managing Director Christine Lagarde said last week that the world could get stuck in a muddle of mediocre growth unless policymakers take economic reforms more seriously.

"The latest snapshot of the global economy looks uneasily familiar: a brittle, uneven recovery, with slower-than-expected growth and increasing downside risks," Lagarde said. China's leaders will signal later this month that growth is their priority over reforms by setting a growth target of around 7 percent in their next long-term plan even as the economy loses momentum, policy insiders told Reuters. —Reuters



TUNIS: European Trade Commissioner Cecilia Malmstroem shakes hands with Tunisia's Trade Minister Ridha Lahouel during their meeting yesterday in Tunis. Malmstroem began talks in Tunisia towards a free trade deal with Europe, part of the bloc's wider effort to support the crisis-hit nation. — AFP

ETIHAD NOT PLANNING TO USE CASH PILE FOR NEW PLANES

ROME: Etihad Airways CEO James Hogan yesterday dashed Boeing and Airbus's hopes of a spending spree by the Abu Dhabi airline following its success in raising 700 million dollars in investment capital.

Etihad said last month that some of the cash raised from institutional investors would go on investment in fleet for itself and the string of partner airlines in which it has acquired share stakes.

But it now seems that meant investment of the kind Alitalia is now undertaking to fit out its first class cabins with leather from luxury furniture maker Poltrona Frau - rather than new planes.

Hogan told a press conference in Rome that the company was focusing on ensuring its own and its partners' fleets were used as efficiently as possible. And he dismissed speculation about possible deals at next month's Dubai airshow. "We are not doing any deals on aircraft at the airshow," Hogan said on the sidelines of a press conference called to reassure an Italian audience that Etihad's plans for reviving Alitalia remain on track, despite disappointing first-half results and the shock departure of its chief executive last month.

Hogan said Etihad had completed its fleet planning up to 2040 with major deals done in 2008 and 2013. "If you go back and look at the deals we signed in 2008 and 2013 you will see that we signed firm orders, we signed options and purchase rights. In our portfolio, our order book we have what we need," the Australian executive said.

Hogan said he saw Alitalia's long-haul fleet rising from 24 currently to 40, and "why

not 50" over the medium term. But for the moment, any expansion in the Italian carrier's long-haul network will mean making better use of its own planes and leasing extra capacity from Etihad, which has a 49 percent stake after rescuing Alitalia from bankruptcy last year.

"Each airline orders their own aircraft," Hogan said of the kind of relationship Etihad has with India's Jet Airways, Air Berlin, Air Serbia and Air Seychelles, as well as Alitalia.

"What we have is the capability to move aircraft into other airlines because the deals we signed with both Boeing and Airbus means we can move them across. "Normally airlines do their own specific deal because they are confidential agreements but because we invested in these other airlines we are able to move both aircraft and engines across the group."

The revamp of Alitalia's cabins and service at the front end of its planes is projected to cost 170 million euros over the next 12 months and is part of a broader investment program of 280 million euros which will include new financial and organizational systems and a refurb of its passenger lounges worldwide.

This will account for over half of the cash it has raised this year through a 375 million euro bond issued in July and its share of the Etihad cash call (\$123 million).

In theory, Alitalia could soon be in a position to buy new planes but that looks unlikely with Hogan stressing its fleet was relatively young at an average age of eight years per aircraft and the company still losing money. —AFP

BENIN'S AILING RAILWAYS PASS INTO PRIVATE HANDS

COTONOU: Hundreds of workers sit between out-of-date machinery and old carriages in the main workshop of Benin's struggling state rail firm for their last staff meeting as public sector employees.

Today, the OCBN becomes Benirail, a new public-private partnership between the Benin and Niger governments, investors from both countries and the French industrial giant Bolloré.

The countries' prime ministers and the Bolloré group in August signed a 30-year deal to construct and run the rail line between Benin's financial hub Cotonou and Niger's capital, Niamey. The line makes up a third of the 3,000 kilometres (1,860 miles) of an ambitious project to link Cotonou with Abidjan via Niger, Burkina Faso and Togo and costing some 2.5 billion euros, \$2.85 billion), Bolloré told French media in August.

In doing so, it's hoped it will kickstart growth in five of the world's poorest countries and wider West Africa.

Full steam ahead?

Last month, Bolloré, which holds 40 percent of Benirail, paid 19 months in salary arrears to 629 OCBN workers as well as to hundreds of retired railwaymen. "It was like a dream. When I went to the bank, they told me the money was there," said Gilbert-Leonard Aidofi, head of rolling stock, who has worked for the OCBN for 20 years. Train driver Benoit Gandaho said lack of financial resources meant he had to send his family back to his village 140 kilometres from Cotonou. "I was sleeping in the sheds," he said. "Now I'm renting (a house) and I've brought them back. Bolloré's arrival has changed my way of life." Joseph Adjanothou, who has also driven trains for the last 20 years, still proudly wears his khaki uniform but said he was pleased conditions were changing.

"We're all ready to get down to work," he said. Bolloré has transferred the jobs of all 629 railway workers, despite the lack of activity on the tracks. The last passenger train in Benin ran in December 2005. Freight still operates but the OCBN has been struggling for the last decade. "Bad management, ageing equipment, competition from road transport. The states abandoned the railways," said union chief Arsene Adjovi.

Major assets

The railways came to Benin, then called Dahomey, in 1936. The forerunner of the OCBN, the OCBN, was launched in 1959 — a year before independence from France — but stopped at the border, at Parakou, 438 kilometres north of Cotonou. A Benin businessman, Samuel Dossou, then won the tender to own 20 percent of Benirail. In 2013, Bolloré, which was operating in Benin's main port in Cotonou, emerged as a major contender. An agreement was signed to create a new company with a capital of 70 billion CFA francs.

In the workshop, the railwaymen praise Benin's President Thomas Boni Yayi and Niger's President Mahamadou Issoufou for having asked for and secured their backpay.

In reality the payment is an advance that the two countries will have to pay back to Bolloré under an agreement finalized earlier this month in Paris. "We have undertaken to pay within two months 10 percent of the capital and the back pay," said Gustave Depo Sonon, Benin's minister of transport and public works.

"We had envisaged compensation but we have to first evaluate financial and property assets." The OCBN, which was formally wound up in March, has major assets and has been living

off the rent for the last 10 years. The Bolloré group itself estimates the holdings are worth 22 billion CFA francs.

Niger's transport minister Saley Saidou, in Cotonou for a meeting of the body heading up the assessment of assets, said that is yet to be confirmed, as has what transfers to the new company.

All change

The railway workers, most of them in their mid-40s, are aware everything will change with private ownership. "When the rhythm of the drum changes, the tempo changes too. But railwaymen are ready for a fight. We're going to double our efforts," said Benoit Gandaho.

Arsene Adjovi added: "It's a new company with its own rules and we're going to respect that. We will do everything not to disappoint our employer. They shouldn't disappoint us."

Bolloré is expected to comment in the coming days. In the meantime, they are counting on the railwaymen, promising training for future projects. From early 2016, the first trains should be running on the coastal route, linking 45 kilometres between Seme, on the border with Nigeria to the east, Cotonou and Pahou, to the west. —AFP



COTONOU: A worker stands to view the environment in a coach of Benin's state-run railways OCBN at the main workshop in Cotonou on Monday. Today, the OCBN will become Benirail, a new public-private partnership between the governments of Benin and Niger, investors from both countries and the French industrial giant Bolloré. — AFP

CANON UNVEILS NEW POSSIBILITIES IN THE WORLD OF IMAGING

EXPO PARIS 2015

PARIS: Canon, leader in imaging solutions, yesterday opened EXPO 2015 in Paris. At this once-every-five-years global event, the company will unveil its strategic priorities and showcase exciting technologies that are pushing the boundaries of what is possible in the world of imaging today, tomorrow and into the future.

At EXPO 2015, Canon is showing how the world of imaging is expanding rapidly in the age of the Internet of Things. In the future nearly everything will be connected through smart devices. These rely on built-in cameras or sensors and the data they generate. As a result, Canon predicts that the Internet of Things will largely depend on the 'Imaging of Things'.

To deliver new possibilities in the world of imaging, Canon is building a 'Network of Canon Companies' - an ecosystem designed to harness innovation and creative talents from across the regions.

Fujio Mitarai, Chairman and CEO, Canon Inc., ahead of his keynote speech at Canon EXPO Paris 2015, commented: "I am delighted to welcome our valued partners and customers to Paris today and to explain my vision for a future Canon, where both regional independence and international collaboration is put into practice."

In the new network of companies, each regional headquarters will manage local R&D and manufacturing, as well as service and support customised to its market. Europe will focus on printing and network video surveillance (NVS) and Canon has already brought on board strong leaders in these business areas such as Océ, Axis and Milestone Systems. As a result, in addition to its global reputation for cameras, Canon is now the largest printing and network surveillance system company in the world.

Rokus van Iperen, President and CEO, Canon Europe, Middle East and Africa, added: "We are excited about the huge opportunities the shifting landscape presents and believe that in the future every image should have a connection with Canon. Whether it is taking the image, recording, storing, editing or printing it we want to play a part and are building businesses to do this."

While capitalising on strong positions in its core markets, examples of how Canon is driving future business growth in EMEA include:

- NVS - The combination of Canon, Axis and Milestone brings together complementary technologies and solutions to respond to society's ever-expanding monitoring needs. Ground-breaking new solutions, such as the

concept high-sensitivity network camera with ultra-telephoto lens on show at EXPO, demonstrate what's possible for the security market and beyond

- 3D printing-As a first step in this young but promising market Canon is partnering with 3D Systems in Europe. For customers in manufacturing, architecture, education and engineering sec-



tors, Canon will provide solutions that provide smart alignment between data, imaging capture and output

- Graphic Arts - Canon is continuing to invest in digital print technologies to be able to cost-effectively print ever-more complex applications on demand. For example, the OcéColorwave 910, the fastest digital wide format colour printer on the market will be demonstrating high speed colour poster print-

ing at EXPO

- B2B solutions and services - Canon's B2B solutions are built to address the needs of specific customer verticals such as financial services, insurance, manufacturing or health. At EXPO, Canon is demonstrating what is possible in areas like document management, data management and mar-

EZ - a new smartphone app that intelligently selects the best images from picture and movie libraries and automatically creates a personalised photobook

Technology highlights at Canon EXPO Paris 2015

Canon also has many advanced imaging technology concepts for the future on display in Paris including:

- A 250 megapixel CMOS sensor, the world's highest pixel count for its size. When installed in a camera, the new sensor is capable of capturing lettering on the side of an aircraft 18 kilometres away, far beyond what the human eye can see

- A network camera with a new ultra-telephoto lens which achieves eight times the brightness of conventional lenses, making night filming possible for the first time without need of infrared lighting

- A concept called Intelligent Imaging for Life, which allows people to share and print their photos from an interactive table in the living room, so a family can find photos and share memories as easily as placing an object such as a favourite child's toy on the table

- A range of ultra-high definition imaging technologies for the future including 8K cameras, displays and projector demonstrations.

MAINTAIN YOUR BALANCE TO INCREASE YOUR CHANCES IN BECOMING GULF BANK'S AL-DANAH MILLIONAIRE

KUWAIT: Gulf Bank advises all its Al-Danah customers to keep their money saved in their accounts to enhance their chances of winning one of the major cash prizes of KD50,000, KD250,000 and 1 million KD in the annual Al-Danah millionaire prize draw for 2015. Any withdrawal before the closing date of 31 October, 2015 would reduce chances of winning.



Opening an Al-Danah account merely requires a minimum balance of KD 200 to be deposited as to allow active participation in the Al-Danah draws. Minors wishing to open an account require their parents or their legal guardian to open the account on their behalf. Customers are advised to maintain the minimum balance, allowing them to automatically enter the Al-Danah draws. The Al-Danah account offers the daily draw, 3 Quarterly draws as well as an annual draw. The daily draw has two winners drawn for every working day and accordingly up to 10 winners announced the following week with each receiving KD1000. The 3 quarterly draws take place every 3 months; their cash prizes range

from KD25,000 - KD500,000. Finally, the annual draw, offers the biggest single prize in the Middle East, that being the KD 1 million cash prize. The more customers save, and the longer the duration, the more chances they have to be one of the lucky winners of Al-Danah's draws.

Five reasons why the Al-Danah account is the best:

- 1- Kuwait's single biggest yearly cash prize of KD 1 million
- 2- Kuwait's biggest quarterly cash prizes, up to KD500,000
- 3- Two winners of KD1,000 every working day
- 4- The most opportunities to win (64 draws a year, and up to 532 winners)
- 5- Only Bank that transfers your chances to win from year to year

Open an account and Deposit now to Win Big, Live big, with Al Danah 2015.

Gulf Bank would like to remind its customers that opening an Al Danah Account is quick and simple through its 58 branches strategically located throughout Kuwait. Customers are encouraged to go to their nearest Gulf Bank branch or call the Customer Contact Center on 1805 805 and the Customer Care Center representatives will be delighted to assist with any further information or questions on Al Danah or on any of the Bank's products and services.

AUSTRIAN ECONOMY TO GROW 1.5% A YEAR IN 2016-2020

VIENNA: Austria's real gross domestic product (GDP) is expected to grow on average 1.5 percent a year from 2016 to 2020, slightly higher than the 1.0 percent of 2011-2015 and roughly in line with the euro zone as a whole, the WIFO research institute said yesterday. WIFO, whose forecasts help shape government economic policy, said a planned reform that is expected to lower taxes for many Austrians would bolster private consumption but unemployment would continue to rise until 2018. "The unemployment rate should reach a high point in 2017/18 of close to 10 percent and fall back to roughly 9-1/2 percent by the end of the forecast period,"

WIFO said in a statement. Unemployment stood at 8.3 percent in September.

In a forecast last month, WIFO predicted GDP growth of 0.7 percent this year and 1.4 percent next year. Austria's central bank meanwhile said it expected inflation to follow a pattern similar to that of economic growth.

In a quarterly report, it said it expected the harmonized index of consumer prices to rise on average 0.9 percent in 2015, and to increase to 1.6 percent next year.

Core inflation, which usually strips out items such as energy and food prices, would rise 1.8 percent this year and 1.9 percent next year, it said. —Reuters



DUBAI: Participants of the FERG's AML & Operations Heads Meet at Shangri-La Hotel in Dubai on Sunday.

UAE'S FERG LAUNCHES AML STANDARDIZATION MANUAL

DUBAI: The UAE's Foreign Exchange and Remittance Group (FERG) officially launched the Anti-Money Laundering (AML) Standardization Manual during their AML & Operations Heads Meet in Dubai recently.

FERG has about 70 members under its umbrella and there are more than 100 exchange companies with over 1,000 branches in the UAE. The newly launched manual is in line with the group's objective to curb money laundering and advocate the transfer of money globally through channels that are secure, transparent and governed by regulations as posited by the Central Bank of the UAE.

The event was graced by Osama Al-Rahma, Chairman, FERG, Adeb Ahamed, Treasurer, FERG, Mohamed El Sherief, STR analyst from the Central Bank of UAE and other representatives of FERG member organizations and financial institutions.

"FERG has always been at the forefront in the fight against money laundering, which is one of

our industry's major challenges. The new AML Standardization Manual is in line with our vision and mission of fostering the development of a dynamic, innovative and stable foreign exchange and remittance industry that contributes to the economic and social wellbeing of our customers and position UAE as the market leader in money exchange and remittance business," said Mr. Ahamed, Treasurer, FERG.

Gurminder Kaur from UAE Exchange gave a detailed briefing about the newly launched AML Standardization Manual. Meanwhile, Christos Christou, Chief Compliance Officer from LuLu International Exchange, made a presentation on the foreign currency transactions.

"Such discussions and interactions have helped FERG formulate a number of steps over the years to curb non-compliant financial transactions and unethical business practices and we will keep evolving our policies and directives in line with global practices," concluded Ahamed, who is also the CEO of LuLu Exchange.



DUBAI: Adeb Ahamed, Treasurer, FERG delivers the vote of thanks during FERG's AML & Operations Heads Meet at Shangri-La Hotel in Dubai on Sunday.

GAZPROM TO OFFER MORE GAS AT SPOT PRICES VIA NORD STREAM II

MOSCOW/MILAN: Russian energy producer Gazprom is preparing to offer to sell more natural gas to Europe at spot prices to ensure European companies' support for a planned pipeline bypassing Ukraine, industry sources say.

Worried that conflict-ridden Ukraine is not a reliable transit route, the state-run company signed a shareholders' agreement with five European firms last month to build the Nord Stream II pipeline under the Baltic Sea to Germany. But Gazprom is under pressure from the European Union to change its policy of selling gas through long-term contracts linked to the price of oil because the European Commission, the EU's executive, says this leads to overcharging.

Gazprom sources said the firms that signed the shareholders' agreement - Germany's E.ON and BASF, Austria's OMV, France's ENGIE and Royal Dutch Shell - had done so in expectation of a change in the huge Russian company's export pricing policy. "There are some agreements between European partners and Gazprom that they will be guaranteed more gas will be sold on a spot basis if Nord Stream II is supported (by them)," a Gazprom source said. "In fact, more flexible pricing may be introduced, without a rigid link to the oil 'take-or-pay' (condition)."

A second Gazprom source said the European firms that had shown support for Nord Stream II had largely done so because they had "a hope" of receiving more gas at spot prices.

Gazprom has already tested a new pricing mechanism, by selling just over 1 billion cubic metres (bcm) of gas through a tender - its first ever - in the former imperial capital St Petersburg last month. This, industry sources say, paves the way for introducing a new trading and pricing model more

widely, especially now the peg against oil is less profitable because the oil price is low.

The gas price set in Gazprom's long-term contracts is now lower than the price on the European spot market - where buyers pay the price on the day of purchase or a price set in the future, rather than being locked into a contract where the gas price usually lags oil price moves by six to nine months. Changing the terms of the contract appears intended by Gazprom to boost sales by offering gas priced in a way that encourages consumption in Europe and so appeals to Gazprom's European partners.

It could also help defend Gazprom's gas market share in Europe from LNG exporters such as those in the United States and Qatar who might try to dump supply in Europe due to a global glut of the fuel.

DIVISIONS OVER NORD STREAM

Gazprom is fighting to defend market share in Europe, which is now oversupplied, betting on rising long-term demand as Europe's indigenous gas sources decline. It is also looking for ways to deliver gas to Europe without sending it through Ukraine. Russia provides around a third of EU energy needs but about half the gas the EU imports from Gazprom is shipped via Ukraine, whose relations with Moscow have soured since Russia annexed the Crimea region in March 2014 and pro-Russian rebels rose up in eastern Ukraine shortly afterwards.

Gas pricing disputes between Moscow and Kiev have at times led to disruptions in supplies to Europe but Russia, whose relations with the West have sunk to post-Cold War lows over its role in the

Ukraine crisis, says there is no political motive in trying to bypass its fellow former Soviet republic.

"Nord Stream has no connection to (Ukrainian) transit and does not harm anyone," Russian President Vladimir Putin told an investment conference yesterday. European countries are divided on the project, with some opposing the route as it may result in lower transit fees. The European Commission has underlined that the project must comply with EU laws.

Nord Stream II would consist of two lines, doubling the 55-bcm annual capacity of the Nord Stream offshore pipeline which already runs from Vyborg near Russia's border with Finland to Greifswald in Germany.

The new pipelines are due to start transporting gas by the end of 2019. Gazprom which has put the cost of the plan at up to 9.9 billion euros (\$11.28 billion). Gazprom had planned another route known as South Stream but scrapped it last year following objections by the European Union and proposed a new project, TurkStream, under which gas would flow under the Black Sea to Turkey and then on to the EU. The TurkStream project is also now in doubt after Gazprom altered the proposed capacity and postponed its launch.

TRANSIT RISKS

"Industry doesn't trust Ukraine. We don't know how good or bad its pipeline infrastructure is," said Thierry Bros, energy analyst at French bank Societe Generale. "Gazprom's transit contract with Ukraine expires in 2019 you will see further muscle-flexing and arm-twisting around that time by Ukraine to extend the deal on identical terms. This will raise transit risks." — Reuters



CHONGQING: A worker welding a part of a cargo ship in a shipyard in China's southwest Chongqing municipality. Chinese imports slumped by nearly 18 percent year-on-year in September, Customs said yesterday in the latest poor figures from the world's second-largest economy. —AFP



HONG KONG: A special GPS equipped electronic collar for dogs is displayed at the Hong Kong Electronics Fair in Hong Kong yesterday. From a camera-enabled collar dubbed the "smartphone" for dogs to a calorie-counting "smart cup", health and lifestyle technology is at the forefront of what's on show at the Hong Kong Electronics Fair this week. — AFP



HONG KONG: A man walks past a display of electronic devices at the Hong Kong Electronics Fair in Hong Kong yesterday. — AFP



HONG KONG: A man browses smart rear mirrors equipped with touch screens at the Hong Kong Electronics Fair. — AFP

'STEVE JOBS' AN ENGAGING PORTRAIT: EX-APPLE CEO

NEW YORK: In the four years since his death, Apple co-founder Steve Jobs has emerged as one of Hollywood's favorite subjects, though his brilliant but testy persona has proved tough to capture.

But in the latest biopic to tackle the Silicon Valley legend's life, former Apple CEO John Sculley and co-founder Steve "Woz" Wozniak saw a glimmer of their old friend.

"There are many times in this movie where both Woz and I said, 'Wow, this really did feel like Steve,'" Sculley told Reuters in an interview, saying he had discussed the film with Wozniak.

Sculley, who led Apple from 1983 to 1993, is one of the key characters in "Steve Jobs," a movie from Oscar winners Danny Boyle and Aaron Sorkin that centers on three product launches:

1984's Macintosh, 1988's NeXT cube and 1998's iMac. Arriving in theaters across the US this week, "Steve Jobs" is the third film focused on the tech guru's life and, like its predecessors, has been met with protests from insiders who say it presents an unduly harsh portrait.

Sculley echoed those concerns, saying the film, which delves into Jobs' strained relationship with his daughter, shows just one side of a complicated man. "I knew the young Steve Jobs really well, and he

was a much bigger, better person than one could come to the conclusion if they only saw the movie," he said.

The film devotes great attention to Jobs' relationship with Sculley, now 76, who is depicted as both a father figure to the entrepreneur and a target of his famous temper. Some of the film's most heated scenes show the men feuding over Apple's advertising and Jobs' ouster.

The scenes were embellished, but the filmmakers made an effort to capture Sculley's experiences, inviting him on set to learn his mannerisms, Sculley said. Sorkin has said he created an "impressionistic" portrait of Jobs, and his depiction of the dynamic between Sculley and Jobs largely rings true, Sculley said.

"People loved working for Steve," Sculley said. "He had a vision that excited all of us." Decades after leaving Apple, Sculley's path has converged with his old company's. Among his many ventures, he co-founded Obi Worldphone, which makes smartphones featuring Silicon Valley design at a lower price point for emerging markets. The company addresses a hole in the market, much as Jobs' Mac delivered a computer for everyday consumers, Sculley said. "I've always looked for opportunities to fill design gaps," he said. — Reuters

SMARTPHONES LEND NEW DYNAMIC TO ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT

ISRAEL TRIES TO TAMP DOWN AND TRACK ACTIVISTS' SOCIAL MEDIA

JERUSALEM: Surrounded by Israeli police, Israa Abed holds a knife in one hand and a cellphone in the other before shots ring out and she falls to the ground. The incident, filmed by passersby on their smartphones, has been viewed thousands of times since it was posted online last Friday, one of dozens of such videos encapsulating a new dynamic in what looks like a third Palestinian uprising, or intifada.

Four Israelis and 25 Palestinians have died in 12 days of bloodshed partly fuelled by Muslim agitation over high-profile Jewish visits to a contested holy site in Jerusalem.

Video clips exhorting attacks on Israelis - and often spiced up with animation, catchy tunes and the Twitter hashtags "Jerusalem Intifada" or "Intifada of the Knives" - are popular on Palestinian social media, as is whatever footage emerges of the violence when it happens.

That, in turn, can inflame resentment further, especially if Palestinians see in Israel's response a demonstration of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's vow to crack down on unrest that has simmered since peace talks collapsed a year ago.

"Today we're in a different era, in which a great, great many people are incited by publications on their personal smartphones and end up making individual decisions to go out and stab, to go out and blow themselves up with

gas balloons," Security Minister Gilad Erdan told Israeli Army Radio on Monday.

Police said Abed, an Arab Israeli, was being treated in hospital having been shot four times in the legs after she tried to stab a security guard at a bus station in the northern Israeli town of Afula, and ignored orders to disarm.

Many Israelis saw the police action depicted in the video as appropriate. Some Palestinians circulated rumours she was dead rather than in hospital. According to a report by the news website Al Wattan Voice which was shared 3,500 times over Facebook, Abed, 30, was making a distress call when she was shot. "Dad, I don't want to die!" it quoted her as saying - suggesting she might have surrendered.

ONLINE SURVEILLANCE

Another video, showing police shooting dead a Palestinian suspected in an Oct 4 stabbing in Jerusalem, has been cited by the minority rights group Adalah in its demand for a Justice

Ministry probe. <http://bit.ly/1VO4C6k>. It argues the Palestinian posed no danger and police may have been egged on by pedestrians seen chasing him.

There was a similar outcry after a Palestinian woman was accused by Israel of attempting to detonate a makeshift car bomb - potentially a

major escalation - when police pulled her over on a West Bank road into Jerusalem on Sunday.

Unconscious in hospital with burns, the woman could not immediately be interrogated, police said. Her family denied the Israeli account, saying a malfunction had set off a fire in the car. Images showing minimal external damage to the vehicle circulated among Palestinians, who said it showed Israel was exaggerating the threat. <http://bit.ly/1jkigCE>

Having long relied on its advanced eavesdropping apparatus and Palestinian informants to thwart militant organisations, Israel is scrambling for a response to the latest violence, which has been made up predominantly of "lone-wolf" attacks.

Palestinian activists and the Hamas militant group complain of having Facebook and YouTube accounts being shut down as a result of requests filed with the firms by Israel's government. Israeli security sources said they were working to expand keyword-search and other surveillance technologies in hope of being able to spot, in good time, suicide notes on social media by Palestinians who are about to carry out violence.

Their surveillance efforts may have been helped, inadvertently, by those Palestinians who take selfies at rock-throwing protests and post them online. — Reuters

TWITTER PURGING 336 WORKERS AS NEW CEO SLASHES COSTS



NEW YORK: In this November 7, 2013 file photo, a banner with the logo of Twitter is set on the front of the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) in New York. Twitter said yesterday it was cutting eight percent of its workforce, or 336 jobs. (Inset) Twitter chief executive officer Dick Costolo speaking to journalists. — AFP

SAN FRANCISCO: Twitter is laying off 336 employees, signaling CEO Jack Dorsey's resolve to slash costs while the company struggles to make money. The cutbacks announced yesterday equate to about 8 percent of Twitter's workforce of 4,100 people.

The purge comes two weeks after Twitter brought back one of its co-founders as permanent CEO in hopes that Dorsey would be able to resolve problems that have slowed user growth at the messaging service and compounded an uninterrupted cycle of financial losses.

Cutting costs can boost profits but at Twitter, it has also raised uncertainty about the future and the company's desire for aggressive growth and the larger audience it has sought for so long. The layoffs may be a sign of desperation at a sinking company, said Edison Investment Research analyst Richard Windsor.

"It is important to run a tight ship, but simply cutting jobs is often the action of a company that does not know what else to do," Windsor said. Yet Twitter's workforce has nearly doubled over the past two years, weighing on efforts to turn a profit for the first time in its nine-year history. Since Dorsey and his partners started the service, Twitter has lost nearly \$2 billion; investors are now worried that the company's third-quarter results, scheduled for October 27, will be another disappointment.

Dorsey has acknowledged that Twitter is too confusing for many people to use, turning off new users at a time when other social services such as Snapchat and Facebook's WhatsApp have grown in popularity. As part of its revival plan, Twitter last week unveiled a new feature called "Moments" that packages commentary, video and photos about major events that have captured people's attention. The work on Moments began while Dorsey's predecessor, Dick Costolo, was still Twitter's CEO.

After returning as CEO, Dorsey promised to make Twitter more accessible to the masses next year. Jettisoning jobs will give Twitter more financial leeway while it designs new tools. Twitter's expenses through the first half of the year climbed 44 percent to \$1.2 billion. The company's revenue totaled \$938 million during the same period. — AP

DRIVERLESS BUSES, PLATOONS OF TRUCKS TO SHAPE SINGAPORE'S FUTURE

SINGAPORE: Singapore unveiled its public transport future yesterday, and it was a vision of passengers commuting in driverless buses along roads and free-ways populated by platoons of autonomous trucks following a single driver. The city state's plans to streamline its transport future have begun with two self-driving vehicles going through their paces in a Singapore estate that is home to research facilities and educational institutes. The vehicles are the vanguard of two projects - one run by the Singapore-MIT Alliance for Research and Technology (SMART) with the National University of Singapore and one by the Agency for Science, Technology and Research.

Some US states and countries including Germany also allow testing of driverless vehicles on public roads. Singapore, with its limited land and workforce, is hoping that autonomous vehicles will encourage its residents to use more shared vehicles and public transport, and avoid further congestion on its roads.

"Trying to look for bus drivers, truck drivers - big challenge for us," said Pang Kin Keong, permanent secretary in the ministry of transport. "We don't have a huge population and these are not some of the professions which Singaporeans aspire to," Pang said after taking a ride in SMART-NUS's driverless car - a modified Mitsubishi Motors Corp electric vehicle with a top speed of 30 km per hour (20 mph).

The government and port operator PSA Corp also said on Monday that they would seek proposals to design and implement autonomous truck platooning trials, in which a human-driven truck is followed by other driverless trucks. Autonomous vehicles could spur the mass-market adoption of ride sharing, ultimately resulting in a marked reduction in personally owned vehicles and in the total number of cars on the road, at least within cities, according to a Boston Consulting Group report in April. — Reuters

BIG TECHNOLOGY DEALS DON'T ALWAYS COMPUTE FOR BUYERS

NEW YORK: Dell's proposed \$67 billion acquisition of data storage company EMC is the most expensive ever done involving two technology companies. Many of the tech industry's other notable deals haven't panned out as well as the buyers planned. Here's a look back at some of those past acquisitions: Avago Technologies Ltd. agrees to buy Broadcom Corp. for \$37 billion in May of this year. This deal isn't expected to be completed until next year, so it's still too early to assess. By joining forces, the rival chipmakers are hoping to make a bigger dent in the rapidly growing wireless device market.

Facebook buys WhatsApp for about \$21.8 billion in 2014

The social media company expanded its messaging service capabilities with this purchase, which seems to be progressing well for Facebook so far. WhatsApp now has more than 900 million

users, doubling its audience at the time Facebook Inc. announced the deal. It remains unclear, though, whether WhatsApp will turn into a major money-maker for Facebook.

Hewlett-Packard Co. buys Compaq for about \$19 billion in 2002

This deal was championed by then-CEO Carly Fiorina as a way for HP to become a more formidable rival to computer maker IBM, but faced staunch resistance from some prominent shareholders, including some of the heirs to the HP's founders. The acquisition helped establish HP's largest maker of personal computers for many years, but the deal has lost its luster as sales of desktop and laptop machines have declined with the growing popularity of smartphones and tablets.

Symantec Corp. buys Veritas for about \$13.5 billion in 2005

The security software company

expanded its storage software capabilities with the buyout. This deal turned out to be another mismatch, culminating in Symantec's decision this summer to sell Veritas for \$8 billion to the Carlyle Group and Singapore's sovereign wealth fund, GIC.

Hewlett-Packard Co. buys Electronic Data Systems for about \$13 billion in 2008

The computer maker aimed to bolster its technology consulting services with the purchase, but HP has had trouble retaining customers. EDS will be part of a new spin-off called HP Enterprises, which will start out by laying off 25,000 to 30,000 people, or 10 percent to 12 percent of its workforce.

Google Inc. buys Motorola Mobility Holdings Inc. for \$12.4 billion in 2012

The Internet company primarily

bought Motorola for its portfolio of 17,000 mobile patents, but Google also inherited an unprofitable division that made smartphones. After losing more than \$2 billion in less than two years, Google sold Motorola's smartphone business to the Lenovo Group for \$2.9 billion and held on to the patents. Google had previously sold a Motorola division that makes television set-top boxes to the Arris Group for \$2.35 billion.

Oracle Corp. buys PeopleSoft for \$11.1 billion in 2005

The purchase of the maker of human resources software turned Oracle in to a more formidable rival to SAP in the market for business management applications. In recent years, Oracle has been contending with a new threat from Workday, a specialist in online personnel services that was started by PeopleSoft founder David Duffield.

Hewlett-Packard buys Autonomy for about \$10 billion in 2011

The computer maker aimed to bolster its software and services offerings with the buyout, but this deal blew up quickly amid allegations that Autonomy had misled HP about its sales. HP absorbed an \$8.8 billion charge to reflect that Autonomy wasn't worth the price that HP paid for it.

Microsoft Corp. buys Skype for about \$8.5 billion in 2011

The software company bolstered its online video calling technology with this buyout.

Oracle Corp. buys Sun Microsystems for \$7.4 billion in 2010

The buyout gave Oracle ownership of the Java programming language and catapulted the software company into the hardware business. Analysts have been generally unimpressed with the payoff that Oracle has gotten from Sun Microsystems so far. — AP

SEA LEVEL RISE WILL SWALLOW MIAMI, NEW ORLEANS

MIAMI: Say goodbye to Miami and New Orleans. No matter what we do to curb global warming, these and other beloved US cities will sink below rising seas, according to a study Monday. But making extreme carbon cuts and moving to renewable energy could save millions of people living in iconic coastal areas of the United States, said the findings in the October 12 edition of the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, a peer-reviewed US journal.

Scientists have already established that if we do nothing to reduce our burning of fossil fuel up to the year 2100, the planet will face sea level rise of 14-32 feet (4.3-9.9 meters), said lead author Ben Strauss, vice president for sea level and climate impacts at Climate Central. The big uncertainty is the issue of when. "Some of this could happen as early as

next century," Strauss told AFP. "But it might also take many centuries," he added. "Just think of a pile of ice in a warm room. You know it is going to melt, but it is harder to say how quickly."

To bring this issue home for people in the United States, the study pinpoints at-risk land where more than 20 million people reside. The authors projected business-as-usual carbon emissions, in addition to the complication of the melting West Antarctic ice sheet, a process some experts fear is irreversible. They also considered what might happen if the world were to make a big turnaround, reaching peak carbon emissions by 2020. This radical scenario would have to occur far earlier than the current aim of some world powers to peak by 2050, said Strauss. A global version is expected in the next month, Strauss said.

Too late?
The tool shows which US cities may face "lock-in dates beyond which the cumulative effects of carbon emissions likely commit them to long-term sea-level rise that could submerge land under more than half of the city's population," said the study. "Norfolk, Virginia, for example, faces a lock-in date of 2045 under a scenario of unabated carbon emissions." For cities like Miami and New Orleans, the limits are already exceeded. "In our analysis, a lot of cities have futures that depend on our carbon choices but some appear to be already lost," Strauss said.

"And it is hard to imagine how we could defend Miami in the long run." Miami's low elevation and porous limestone foundation mean that sea walls and levees will not help, he said. The state of Florida has the most number of big

cities at risk from sea level rise, holding 40 percent or more of the US population living on potentially affected land. After Florida, the next three most affected states are California, Louisiana and New York. One beloved American city, New Orleans, home to jazz music and some of the nation's most beloved cuisine, is already sinking.

"New Orleans is a really sad story," Strauss said. "It is a lot worse looking than Miami." New York is also in peril, and under a worst-case scenario, the city could be consigned to an unlivable future by the year 2085, according to the study. But strong action-the kind that would reduce carbon emissions in the year 2050 to levels that more closely resemble those seen in 1950—could make a difference.

A total of 14 cities with more than 100,000 residents could avoid locking in this century,

including Jacksonville, Florida; Chesapeake, Norfolk, and Virginia Beach in Virginia; and Sacramento and Stockton in California. "We were really trying to show what the consequences of our carbon choices are going to be," said Strauss, whose study was co-authored by the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research in Germany and edited by renowned NASA climate scientist and author James Hansen.

According to earth scientist Michael Mann, a well-known author on climate change, the latest findings are a "useful contribution to the literature." The study provides a "better quantification of the detrimental impacts of the magnitude of sea level rise we may commit to in the decades ahead if we continue with business-as-usual policies of fossil fuel burning," said Mann, who was not involved in the research. — AFP



KRYNICA MORSKA, Poland: Ornithologist Izabella Olejniczak (center) examines a blue tit bird in a remote ornithological camp run by ornithologist and volunteers near Krynica Morska, northern Poland. — AFP photos

CLIMATE CHANGE CLIPS WINGS OF MIGRATORY BIRDS

'GLOBAL WARMING, URBANIZATION AND DEFORESTATION'

KRYNICA MORSKA, Poland: It takes the dexterity of a lacemaker to remove the tiny bird caught in nets strung between pine trees on Poland's Baltic coast, a veritable paradise for dozens of migratory species. Polish ornithologist Jaroslaw Nowakowski delicately unravels the Goldcrest, among Europe's smallest bird species, placing it inside a muslin bag before moving it to a make-shift laboratory in a tent for measuring and tagging with rings. The hulking professor says studies by the University of Gdansk over the last 55 years show a disturbing trend in the wings of certain species.

"Pointed wings better adapted to travelling long distances are giving way to more rounded ones that work better on shorter trips," Nowakowski told AFP, blaming "global warming, urbanization and deforestation" for the change. "Thanks to our extensive records, we have solid proof of the change and have



KRYNICA MORSKA, Poland: Ornithologist examines a Jack snipe bird in a remote ornithological camp run by ornithologist and volunteers.

raised the alarm, but generally to no avail. "Climate change is nothing new, but today humans are triggering very rapid changes and certain species aren't able to adapt—that's the greatest risk." Migratory birds face a myriad of other man-made threats. Hundreds of thousands, if not millions, end up on dinner plates around the Mediterranean basin.



KRYNICA MORSKA, Poland: Amateur bird spotters are seen at a beach during an annual "Bird Picnic".

Snipes, with their long, slender bill, are considered a delicacy from Cyprus to France, even though they provide precious little meat. "Sometimes our bird rings return to us, as it's a rule to return them to the country of origin. I'm sure more than one Frenchman has cracked a tooth eating pate made using our birds," he told AFP. He explains that rings often return with documents marked "pate" as the location they were found.

Migration crossroads

The colorful Goldcrest that Nowakowski has just removed from the net is tiny, yet mighty. Weighing in at just 4.5 grams (0.16 ounces), it can easily fly cross the Baltic. "It can weigh up to six grams, but then we'd say it's a bit obese," he chuckles. After weighing it and measuring its wings and tail, Nowakowski fastens a numbered ring around one of its legs that will help track its winter migration south or west. Fifteen volunteers including pensioners, engineers and bank employees, help Nowakowski and fellow ornithologist Michal Redliski check 50 nets for new birds around the clock. Any delay in removing them could prove fatal.

Volunteers on the night shift wear head-lamps as they wander the forests like ghosts checking the nets for freshly snared birds. "Some days our nets catch just 30 birds, while on others there are 1,000 to 2,000. We don't really sleep

much. Without the volunteers, our research would be impossible," says Nowakowski. Ornithologists have been studying birds annually on Poland's Vistula Spit using the same methods and

measurements for the last 55 years, creating an unparalleled treasure trove of data. "This is how we managed to create the world's largest and most comprehensive continuous data base of measurements," he told AFP. At 96 kilometers (60 miles) long and two kilometers wide, the spit located on Poland's Baltic sea coast just east of Gdansk is considered one of the world's most important habitats for migratory birds, alongside Gibraltar and the Bosphorus strait.

Nowakowski explains the area is a crossroads for three migratory routes. "Flocks from Scandinavia rest there en route to the Balkans and Africa via the Middle East. Others from northern Russia, Finland and the Baltic states pass through while flying to France, Spain and West Africa. Yet another route leads from northern Europe to Africa via the Alps and Sicily." — AFP



KRYNICA MORSKA, Poland: Ornithologists set jay birds free in a remote ornithological camp.

LAST S KOREA MERS PATIENT REDIAGNOSED WITH VIRUS

SEOUL: A South Korean man believed cured of Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) has been re-diagnosed with the deadly virus, health officials said yesterday. The diagnosis deals a blow to Seoul's hopes of being declared free of a disease that has infected 186 people in South Korea, killing 36 of them, since its outbreak in May. World Health Organization standards call for a four-week waiting period after the last MERS patient fully recovers before an outbreak can be said definitively to be over. MERS is believed to have originated in camels in the Middle East. Its symptoms include fever, coughing and shortness of breath.

The 35-year-old man was initially diagnosed in May, and released from hospital on October 3 after twice testing negative for the virus. But he was readmitted with a fever on Sunday and diagnosed with MERS Monday,

the health ministry said in a statement. Officials said doctors detected virus genes in his system, but could not confirm whether it was a fresh case or if the previous infection had returned. Authorities scrambled to quarantine 61 people who had come into contact with the man, though experts said the chances of the disease having spread were small.

"It is hard to say that the virus is alive and multiplying in the patient's body," Professor Kim Nam-Joong of Seoul National University told reporters. "There is little risk of the patient infecting others," he added. Before Monday's diagnosis, no new MERS cases or fatalities had been reported since July. The virus is considered a deadlier but less infectious cousin of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), which killed hundreds of people when it appeared in Asia in 2003. — AFP

BUSH OFFERS PLAN TO REPEAL, REPLACE FEDERAL HEALTH CARE LAW

MIAMI: Republican presidential candidate Jeb Bush is proposing to repeal and replace President Barack Obama's health care law with one that would increase tax credits for individuals, allowing them to buy coverage protection against "high-cost medical events." But the two-page proposal, which would give more power to states to regulate health insurance, contained no specific details on how many people could be left without coverage. It does, however, guarantee coverage for people with pre-existing health conditions, which is part of Obama's 974-page federal health law. Bush was expected to release more details yesterday, during a three-day swing through New Hampshire.

The Bush campaign says the former Florida governor's plan, in broad terms, would accomplish three goals: promote innovation, lower costs and return power to states. In a statement, the Bush campaign slammed Obama's health care law, saying it "epitomizes why Americans are fed up with Washington." "Jeb believes we must repeal Obamacare and offer a conservative vision and plan of health care for the future," said Allie Brandenburger, a Bush spokesperson. Under Bush's plan, individuals could get higher tax credits for purchasing health insurance and would be allowed higher contribution limits on

health savings accounts for out-of-pocket expenses.

He also would overhaul the regulations imposed by the Food and Drug Administration to help spur innovation in the health care industry and would put limits on malpractice lawsuits. And he would put caps on federal payments to states and create a "transition plan" for 17 million people "entangled" in Obama's Affordable Care Act. Bush also proposes to limit the tax-free status of employer-provided health insurance, an idea labor unions fiercely oppose. Polls show Bush attracting single-digit support in New Hampshire, where he's trailing GOP rivals Donald Trump, Carly Fiorina and Ben Carson. Nationally, Bush is mired in the middle of the pack of Republican competitors.

Bush and his GOP presidential rivals are united in their calls for repealing the Affordable Care Act, but have been unable to find agreement on what should replace it. Experts say any plan to repeal the federal mandates and reduce insurance subsidies under the current law would increase the number of uninsured. The number of people without health insurance coverage declined to 33 million in 2014, down from 42 million in 2013, according to the latest Census figures. — AP



DAVENPORT, Iowa: Republican presidential candidate former Florida Gov Jeb Bush greets audience members after speaking at the Scott County Republican Party's Ronald Reagan Dinne. — AP

HOSPITAL WORKERS OFTEN TRANSFER GERMS WHEN REMOVING GLOVES, GOWNS

NEW YORK: Fluorescent lotion and black light revealed that health care workers often contaminate their skin and clothing while removing their protective gear, researchers say. This contamination can spread germs and place the health care workers at risk for infection, the authors write in JAMA Internal Medicine. "It was surprising for the participants in the study to see that they frequently contaminated themselves during (personal protective equipment) removal," said senior author Dr Curtis J Donskey of the Cleveland Veterans Affairs Medical Center. "Most of the participants appeared to be unaware of the high risk for contamination and many reported receiving minimal or no training in putting on and taking off (personal protective equipment)," he told Reuters Health by email.

Contaminated personnel can also spread pathogens to other susceptible patients. The researchers recruited doctors, nurses and other health care personnel such as phlebotomists and physical therapists at four Cleveland-area hospitals to participate in the simulations. More than half of the 435 simulations were performed by nurses. The participants put on protective gowns and gloves in their usual manner and then had a small amount of fluorescent lotion placed in the palm of their hands, which they then rubbed between their hands for 15 seconds to simulate dirtied gloves, then smeared the gloves over the chest and abdomen area of the gown. Then the gloves were exchanged for clean ones. After they removed their gloves and gowns in their usual manners, researchers used a black light to check for lotion contamination of the hands, forearms, neck, face, hair or clothing.

Proper technique

Skin or clothing contamination happened 46 percent of the time, more frequently during glove removal. Researchers also noted whether participants had used proper protective equipment technique, e.g., wearing gloves extended over the wrists of the gown, gown removed first by pulling away from the neck and body, and gloves removed second. Contamination happened 70 percent of the time when proper technique was not followed, compared to 30 percent of the time when it was followed. "When dealing with

pathogens that are potentially fatal, the goal has to be zero contamination," Donskey said. "In routine care settings, we would like personnel to be well trained and confident that they can minimize contamination, but would not insist on zero contamination." It is important for personnel to perform hand hygiene after removing gloves and gowns since contamination could have happened, he said. The researchers also conducted these tests with a group of personnel who had attended special infection control sessions, with a 10-minute video presentation and 20 minutes of demonstrations and practice in using and removing protective gear.

Before the training sessions, these individuals contaminated themselves 60 percent of the time, compared to almost 19 percent after the sessions. The improvements were still seen at re-tests done one and three months later. "This suggests that training using fluorescent lotion can be useful to identify minor deficiencies in technique that lead to contamination," Donskey said.

Multiple levels

Recent experience with the Ebola virus in the US demonstrated that self-contamination during removal of protective equipment does occur, but this study exposes a more widespread issue that may be happening during routine patient care, said Dr Michelle Doll of Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond who coauthored a commentary on the new study. "Use of gowns and gloves for contact precautions on a busy inpatient unit is costly on multiple levels," Doll told Reuters Health by email. "In situations when we do decide to use these tools (for infection prevention), we need to optimize techniques to achieve the best efficacy possible. Otherwise it is wasteful of health-care worker efforts and hospital resources." The sight of fluorescent dye on one's face and hands would be a powerful and lasting lesson, she said. "Being able to see where contamination occurs allows personnel to make adjustments in their technique," Donskey said. "Because training alone did not result in zero contamination, there is a need for other approaches such as improving (equipment) design or disinfection of (equipment) prior to removal." — Reuters



KRYNICA MORSKA, Poland: Amateur bird spotters are counting migrating birds.

HOT OR NOT: WERE DINOS WARM-BLOODED?

PARIS: A new method to chemically analyze dinosaur egg shells has allowed scientists to gauge the extinct lizards' body temperature, researchers said yesterday. The findings support recent work by other teams that dinosaurs were neither warm- nor cold-blooded, but somewhere in between, researchers wrote in the journal *Nature Communications*. But it also indicated that body temperature differed between dinosaur species. "The temperatures we measured suggest that at least some dinosaurs were not fully endotherms (warm-blooded) like modern birds," said the study's lead author Robert Eagle of the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA).

"They may have been intermediate-somewhere between modern alligators and crocodiles and modern birds." This meant they could produce heat internally and raise their body temperature, but not maintain it at a consistently high level. Warm-blooded animals, or endotherms, typically maintain a constant body temperature while cold-blooded ones, called ectotherms, rely on external heat

sources to warm up-like lizards lazing in the Sun.

Scientists have been debating for 150 years whether dinosaurs were warm-blooded hunters, like mammals, or cold-blooded and sluggish like many reptiles. "If dinosaurs were at least endothermic (warm-blooded) to a degree, they had more capacity to run around searching for food than an alligator would," Eagle said. Warm-blooded animals typically need to eat a great deal to stay warm, forcing them into frequent hunts or to eat large quantities of plants.

The team said it used a pioneering procedure to measure the internal temperature of dinosaur mothers which lived some 71-80 million years ago. They examined the chemical makeup of the shells of 19 fossilized eggs from two types of dinosaur, unearthed in Argentina and Mongolia's Gobi desert.

'Not truly cold-blooded'

One was a large, long-necked titanosaursauropod, a member of the largest animal

group to ever to walk the Earth, and the other a smaller oviraptorid-closely related to Tyrannosaurus rex and modern birds. The team analysed the behaviour of two rare isotopes in calcium carbonate, a key ingredient in egg shells. The isotopes-carbon-13 and oxygen-18 — tend to cluster together more closely at colder temperatures. "This technique tells you about the internal body temperature of the female dinosaur when she was ovulating," said Eagle's colleague, Aradhna Tripathi.

The titanosaurs mother's temperature had been about 38 degrees Celsius (100 degrees Fahrenheit), the team found. A healthy human temperature is 37C. The smaller dinosaur was substantially cooler, probably below 32C-but was probably able raise its temperature above that of its environment, said the team. Fossilized soil from around the nest area in Mongolia had been about 26C. "The oviraptorid dinosaur body temperatures were higher than the environmental temperatures-suggesting they were not truly cold-blooded but intermediate," said Tripathi. — AFP



MERCK CHOLESTEROL DRUG'S ODDS DIM AFTER LILLY FAILURE

NEW YORK: The odds that Merck & Co's high-stakes cholesterol drug will succeed have dropped dramatically after Eli Lilly and Co said its similar medicine failed to reduce heart attacks and strokes, top US heart doctors said. Lilly on Monday said it was halting a 12,000-patient study of its drug, evacetrapib, an oral medication. In earlier studies, the treatment cut "bad" LDL cholesterol by 30 to 35 percent and doubled the levels of "good" LDL cholesterol. But the influence on cholesterol levels did not ultimately improve patients' health, dashing hopes for this approach to treating heart disease.

Merck's anacetrapib is now the only drug in a novel class known as CETP inhibitors that remains in late-stage trials. Data from a 30,000-patient study is expected by 2017 to show whether it reduces the incidence of heart attack and strokes. Wall Street analysts have estimated the drug could reap eventual annual sales of up to \$10 billion, if approved. But with the outlook dimmed for CETP inhibitors, Wall Street analysts on Monday predicted a boost to a competing class of drugs just approved for the US market that work by sharply lowering LDL cholesterol. Shares in Amgen Inc and Regeneron Pharmaceuticals rose on expectations the Lilly decision removed a competitive threat to sales of their injectable drugs, which block a protein

called PCSK9.

"CETP inhibitors as legitimate drug targets are dead as of today," said Dr P.K. Shah, director of atherosclerosis research at Cedars-Sinai Heart Center in Los Angeles, referring to Lilly's setback. "For cardiologists looking for heart protection, these drugs were a dream, but they haven't come true."

Lack of benefit

Dr Steve Nissen, head of cardiology for the Cleveland Clinic, noted that Lilly's failure follows the demise of two other high-profile drugs in the same class. Pfizer's Inc's torcetrapib was discontinued in 2006 due to safety worries, while Roche Holding AG's dalcetrapib was terminated in 2012 for lack of benefit. "In baseball you don't get four strikes," he said of prospects for Merck's candidate. Nissen was chairman of the halted Lilly study, which involved trials at 540 sites in 37 countries.

Merck, in an emailed statement, said it looks forward to better understanding Lilly's decision to pull the plug on evacetrapib, but remains confident in its own drug's potential success. CETP inhibitors block a protein that transfers HDL cholesterol to LDL cholesterol, resulting in higher levels of HDL and lower LDL levels. Statins, by contrast, work by reducing the liver's

production of cholesterol.

Amgen and Regeneron's treatments work by blocking a protein named PCSK9 whose normal function in the body is to maximize the presence of LDL cholesterol that enters the bloodstream.

Unwise to assume

However, investors are still waiting for proof that PCSK9 inhibitors actually reduce heart attacks and strokes, and don't just reduce cholesterol. Data from such an "outcomes" trial for Regeneron's Praluent are expected by late 2016, while those from Repatha's trial are due in 2017. Dr Allen Taylor, chief of cardiology at MedStar Heart and Vascular Institute in Washington, DC, said it would be unwise to assume the PCSK9 inhibitors are heart-protective just because they slash LDL levels. "Until you see the trial results, all bets are off," he said.

Should Merck's own outcomes data for anacetrapib prove positive, the pill could be a much preferred method for patients over the injections required for PCSK9 treatments. Lilly shares closed down 7.8 percent on Monday. Merck slipped 0.5 percent. Regeneron shares jumped 4.5 percent, while its PCSK9 partner, Sanofi SA, rose 1.3 percent in Paris. Amgen shares rose 2.4 percent. — Reuters

ABBOTT DISSOLVING STENT SUCCEEDS IN PIVOTAL US TRIAL

NEW YORK: A novel dissolving heart stent developed by Abbott Laboratories proved comparably safe and effective as its market-leading Xience stent in a large, late-stage trial that will be used to seek US approval of the device, according to data presented at a medical meeting on Monday. The bioabsorbable Absorb stent succeeded in demonstrating non-inferiority to Xience up to one year after implantation in the 2,008-patient study called Absorb III, researchers at the Transcatheter Cardiovascular Therapeutics meeting in San Francisco reported. The primary data point measuring target lesion failure, a combination of heart disease-related death, heart attacks associated with the treated blood vessel and need for repeat procedures in the treated area, occurred in 7.8 percent of Absorb patients versus 6.1 percent for Xience. The difference was not deemed statistically significant, researchers said. On a variety of secondary measures, Xience also appeared to be numerically better at one year, but with no statistically significant differences. "The trial met all its major endpoints, and given all the attributes my opinion is that it should be approvable,"

Dr Gregg Stone, global chairman of the study, said in an interview. Absorb is already used in more than 100 countries.

Tiny tubes

Researchers believe advantages of Absorb will reveal themselves over time once it has fully dissolved. Patients in the trial will be followed for at least five years. "We've got good reason to be very hopeful that the long-term outcomes for patients will be improved with this device compared with a normal metallic drug-eluting stent," Stone said. Stents are tiny tubes used to prop open arteries cleared of blockages. They are coated with drugs that help prevent relogging.

Absorb, which is made of a plastic similar to that used in dissolving sutures, is designed to fully disappear by three years after implantation, returning the treated blood vessel to its natural, flexible state. That is in contrast to the just-approved Synergy stent from Boston Scientific, in which the polymer coating used to deliver the drug disappears over time, leaving a bare metal stent in place. — Reuters



AGE-ASSOCIATED FINANCIAL VULNERABILITY OFTEN OVERLOOKED

WASHINGTON: A new report says doctors and consumers both tend to overlook one of the most common and devastating problems of aging - the decline in patients' ability to manage their own financial affairs. The first step to fixing this problem is giving it a name, according to Dr Mark Lachs of Weill Cornell Medical College in New York and Duke Han of Rush University Medical Center in Chicago, coauthors of the report, who want to describe the condition as "age-associated financial vulnerability."

"It is my hope that by coining this term - age-associated financial vulnerability - it will begin to get physicians to think about this in all older people with and without cognitive problems in the same way they have begun to ask about advanced directives and driving safety as people age," Lachs said by email. Writing in *Annals of Internal Medicine*, Lachs and Han define age-associated financial vulnerability as a pattern of risky behavior related to money that places an older adult at substantial risk for a considerable loss of resources that might

result in dramatic changes in their quality of life and is inconsistent with choices the person made when they were younger.

Doctors need to understand how the aging brain, with or without neurological disease, influences financial decision-making, because elderly patients may not have earned income or a long enough investment horizon to recover from losses, Lachs said. Financial exploitation is also the most common form of elder abuse, accounting for about half of cases, and this in turn can lead to bad health outcomes including depression, nursing home placement and increased mortality, he added.

Manage their money

Factors that can contribute to financial vulnerability among the elderly include cognitive or emotional decline; impairments in vision, hearing or mobility; serious progressive illness; and social isolation. Certain diseases and medications can also hasten cognitive decline and make it harder for old-

er adults to manage their money. While more research may be needed before doctors embrace age-associated financial vulnerability as a medical term or as the basis for a new clinical diagnosis, it remains important for doctors to understand the connection between money mistakes and cognitive decline, said Dr Eric Widera, a geriatrics specialist at the University of California, San Francisco.

When a person starts to make even minor financial missteps as they age, this may be an indication of dementia, Widera, who wasn't involved in the article, said by email. "Financial impairment is often one of the earliest clinical signs of emerging dementia, that often goes undiagnosed," Widera said. "It becomes exceedingly important that when these diagnoses are made, and when individuals still have the ability to make decisions, to think about things like advanced financial planning - assigning someone such as a family member to make designated financial decisions on their behalf." —Reuters

CLINIC
PAGE

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Dr. Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem
فهد علي المخيزيم

استشاري أطفال
M.B. Bch. FRCPC. FAAP. PEM



ABS TAKES PART IN CLEANUP DAY

The American Baccalaureate School High School students took part in the International Coastal Cleanup Day, organized by the US Embassy, by participating in a beach clean up at the

Sulaibikhat Mangrove beach, a key ecologically rich marine habitat which is home to flamingos and many other species of migratory birds. EQUATE sponsored the event and upkeeps Kuwait's

Mangrove Beach at Sulaibikhat which is protected by the Kuwait Society for the Protection of Animals and their Habitats (KSPATH) marine conservation program. A team of volunteers from the US

Embassy were also present at the cleanup, as well as the Kuwait Divers and several volunteers from other schools across Kuwait. The students had a great time, and the sense of reward they expe-

rienced was quite evident as they participated in this community event giving back to Kuwait.



ASSE KUWAIT ORGANIZES 200TH TECHNICAL MEET

American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE), Kuwait Chapter is a premier voluntary, non-profit making Health, Safety and Environmental organization, which strives to provide professional guidance, training, consultancy and resources to the industrial and social sectors in the region. As a part of continuous efforts in its professional journey, ASSE-Kuwait Chapter organized the 200th Technical Meet and 2nd for the year 2015-16; "Seminar on Industrial Protection" in Safir Hotel, Fintas, Kuwait on 5th October 2015.

The Technical Meet started with the welcome address by Jignesh Shah, Chapter Secretary. The Chapter President G Sampath Reddy in his address informed that this is the 200th Technical Meet by ASSE Kuwait Chapter conducted in a span of 15 years. He emphasized the importance of attending such Technical Meets by ASSE Members and the importance of emergency Escape Respiratory Protection Devices and personal gas monitoring equipments in saving lives of employees at workplace, it is ASSE - Kuwait Chapter's efforts in bringing such excellent Technical Meets, where in new technologies and developments happening in the world of HSE is introduced to the members.

Sunil N Sadanandan, Head Technical Event Committee introduced the speakers Hans Cray and Sebastian Pohl, Global Business Managers from the M/s Dräger a renowned company in manufacturing of safety equipments. Hans explained about the Respiratory Protection Device (RPD) Standard which is under development. Sebastian presented the latest innovation technologies in the field of gas detection. The presentation was followed by an interactive question and answer session with the speakers and participants. Jignesh Shah, Chapter Secretary briefed about the upcoming events and training program like HAZOP Leader Training, BOHS Certified Training Program on INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE and the 8th International Professional Development Conference.

The Speakers were appreciated for their excellent presentation and a memento was presented by The President, ASSE-Kuwait Chapter. The event sponsor M/s Fire & Safety Expert was also felicitated for their support extended to the Chapter. Dinesh Dutta in his closing address thanked the Speakers and sponsors for the conducting the seminar, where the participants acquired knowledge on the recent development of life saving safety equipments. He thanked the ASSE members, Technical Committee and Chapter officials for making the 200th Technical Meet a knowledgeable one. Around 90 members participated in the Technical meet. For more detail visit www.assekuwait.org



ST PETER'S CSI, INDIAN PENTECOSTAL CHURCH RAISE CUP OF TALENT TEST

The Talent Test conducted by the Kuwait Town Malayalee Christian Congregation (KT MCC) at National Evangelical Church in Kuwait (NECK) has pronounced St Peter's CSI and Indian

Pentecostal Church as the overall winners securing Tie points. From 30 different congregations more than 500 participants competed for different events held at nine different venues. The mega event was

inaugurated by KP Koshy, executive administrator of NECK. Dignitaries and large numbers of different church members were among audience. The closing ceremony and prize distribution was inaugurated by

St Thomas Evangelical presiding Bishop Most Rt Rev Dr C V Mathew and the dignitaries distributed the prize. General Convener Roy K Yohannan, K P Koshy, Joseph MP, John M John, Thomas John M, M

V Varghese, Cyriac George and Giby Varghese Tharakan delivered felicitation speeches. The event was telecast live.

ABK'S INITIATIVES TO RAISE BREAST CANCER AWARENESS



Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) yesterday announced several initiatives during October in recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness Month. This important annual international campaign is held each October to increase awareness and understanding of the disease and raise funds for research into its diagnosis, prevention and treatment. During October, ABK female customers and staff will

receive discounts on mammogram screening tests at Kuwait's leading hospitals and clinics, additionally ABK female staff aged over 40 will get a free mammogram screening at Al Zahra Health Center.

During October, the Bank will also raise awareness of the disease by sending out weekly cancer awareness messages on Instagram and internally to staff with facts and tips regarding

the disease. Alongside these initiatives, the Bank will distribute pink ribbons across ABK's branches throughout the month in recognition of the campaign. ABK is the main sponsor of the Cancer Aware Nation (CAN) marathon, which will be held later in the year to support the cause and raise funds for further research and the development of preventative treatment. For more information about Al

Ahli Bank of Kuwait please visit www.eahli.com, contact an ABK representative via 'Ahli Chat' or a customer service agent via 'AhlanAhli' at 1899899.

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THE 8TH ANNUAL SCOTT KELBY WORLDWIDE PHOTO WALK

The Scott Kelby Worldwide Photo Walk, dubbed the world's largest global and social photography event, has grown immensely in size and popularity since the inaugural walk in 2007. Last year, more than 30,000 photographers of all walks of life and skill level converged to explore their corners of the world through photography and social community. In Kuwait the event was led by FQ8, from Kuwait towers and along the seaside strip up to Applebee's. The event happened along with other thousands of cities all over the world.

In Kuwait, the Walk Leaders were led by Binu Puliayath and Sheheer Rayams. More than 80

photographers from different nationalities attended the event. Event consisted of discussion and activities about Panning shots, Freestyle photography, Playing with lights (blending natural and artificial lights in outdoors) and ended with blue hour, night shots and night portraits. Renowned Kuwaiti photographer Majed Sultan Al Zaabi, also attended the event and shared his experiences and stressed on the importance of these sort of social events. The event was also backed up by Nikon Kuwait.

In addition to the event, photo walkers will be able to upload their favorite picture to the popular Photo Walk contest for a chance to win a

digital copy of the Adobe Photoshop Lightroom CC book for Digital Photographers by Scott Kelby. A Grand Prize winner will be named and 10 finalists will be selected by Scott Kelby himself! This year, photo walker is encouraged to help support the initiative to "Walk with a Purpose" by donating \$1 to the Springs of Hope Orphanage in Kenya! Additionally, participants can connect socially before, during and after the event using the hashtag #WWPW2015 hash tag on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram. Connect with us on our flickr page at <https://www.flickr.com/groups/wwpw2015>



GULF BANK PRIORITY BANKING CUSTOMERS ENJOY SPECIAL DISCOUNTS AT SHERATON

Gulf Bank yesterday announced that its Priority Banking Customers can take advantage of 10% special discounts at the Sheraton Kuwait's fine dining restaurants and Four Points by Sheraton Kuwait. This special offer from the bank is valid until 31st August 2016. Gulf Bank's priority banking customers will enjoy 10% special discounts at numerous Sheraton Kuwait and Four Points by Sheraton Kuwait restaurants. Sheraton Kuwait is a prestigious five star hotel in the heart of Kuwait's commercial and business center, and it is part of the Starwood Hotels and Resorts Worldwide, holding the brand name "Luxury Collection Hotel" and operates restaurants on its hotel premises and at The Grand Avenue - The Avenues Mall.

Restaurants included in the discount are: Riccardo's Fine Dining Italian Restaurant at Sheraton Kuwait in addition to; Bukhara Indian Restaurant; Shahrayar Iranian Restaurant; Le Tarbouche Lebanese Restaurant; The English Tea Lounge and Al Hambra Restaurant all located at Sheraton Kuwait and the The Avenues Mall while Four Points by Sheraton Kuwait which has become a truly convenient destination to

all of its customers, offers Asseff Restaurant with a variety of delicious dishes in its daily buffet.

Gulf Bank is committed to offering its Priority clients with added value benefits and privileges in addition to a wide range of financial and investment products and Banking services. Gulf Bank also strives to provide the best in customer service and was recently named "Best Customer Service in Kuwait" from Banker Middle East- Industry Awards.

To take advantage of this latest special offer, customers should identify themselves and use their Gulf Bank Visa Infinite, World MasterCard, Platinum MasterCard, Platinum Visa and Priority Banking Premium Debit ATM card when paying at Sheraton Kuwait and Four Points by Sheraton Kuwait's restaurants. To best serve you, please book in advance in any of Sheraton Kuwait or Four Points by Sheraton Kuwait's restaurants. For more information about Gulf Bank's exclusive campaign, or about the bank's latest products and services, visit the Bank's bilingual website www.e-gulf-bank.com, or one of Gulf Bank's 58 branches, or call the Customer Contact Center on 1805805 for assistance and guidance.



The Ambassador of Spain Carlos Saenz Tejada recently hosted a reception at the embassy on the occasion of its National Day at Symphony Hotel. The event attracted lots of dignitaries and top ranking officials.

—Photos by Joseph Shagra

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 www.kuwaittimes.net
 e-mail: info@kuwaittimes.net



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	JAZBAA THE MARTIAN 12:15 AM	JAZBAA THE MARTIAN 9:15 PM 12:15 AM	JAZBAA THE MARTIAN 6:15 PM 9:15 PM 12:15 AM
SHARQIA-2 PAN 12:15 PM PAN 2:45 PM HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA23 5:15 PM AHWAK 7:15 PM PAN 9:45 PM PAN 12:15 AM	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	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	
SHARQIA-3 THE MARTIAN 12:45 PM THE MARTIAN 3:45 PM RUDHRAMADEV 3:45 PM THE MARTIAN 6:45 PM RUDHRAMADEV 6:45 PM JAZBAA 6:45 PM RUDHRAMADEV 10:00 PM BLACK MASS 1:00 AM BLACK MASS 10:00 PM THE MARTIAN 12:30 AM	FANAR-5 BLACK MASS 11:30 AM BLACK MASS 1:45 PM BLACK MASS 4:15 PM NO FRI RUDHRAMADEV 3:45 PM THE WALK 6:45 PM RUDHRAMADEV 6:45 PM RUDHRAMADEV 9:45 PM RUDHRAMADEV 10:00 PM THE WALK 9:45 PM BLACK MASS 1:00 AM BLACK MASS 12:45 AM	360*-2 HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA2 11:30 AM THE WALK 1:30 PM THE WALK 4:15 PM THE WALK 7:00 PM THE WALK 9:45 PM THE WALK 12:30 AM	
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	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	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	
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CHANGE OF NAME
I, Mohammad Imran (P.No: M7063192) r/o Peeli Haveli Chowk Kamptee 441002 Dist. Naggur (MS) India, would like to correct my son's name on the passport bearing No. L8616706 from "Yousuf" to "Yousuf Mohammad Imran". Hereafter in all his dealings and documents, he will be known by the name "Yousuf Mohammad Imran". **(C 5054)**

I, Satish Kancharam holder of Indian Passport No. J3955960 r/o H. No: 5-136, Tondamgattu, Kalingagudem Giddapuram Akijidu, West Godavari - 534235, hereby change my name to Satish Kancharani. **(C 5055) 14-10-2015**

SITUATION WANTED
Required maid for house, knows-well washing & ironing, Filipino or Srilanka or Nepali or Ethiopia, for work in small flat, preferred not married, salary KD 120/-
 Tel: 99827598 **(C 5053) 14-10-2015**

Prof. Qualified & well Exp. Sr. Finance Exec., seeks Sr. position job, Co. having Sr.

NOTICE
 September 22, 2015

Mr. Biju Elamkutt Chandran son of Mr. Chandran, Indian national, resident of Elamkutt House, Perinjanam P.O. West Pathramukku, Trichur, Kerala and Miss Marivic Caadlawan Judilla daughter of Mr. Herculano, Philippines national, resident of 93 3rd Street, Countryside, Stalucia Pasig City, Philippines, both presently residing in Kuwait, have given notice of intended marriage between them under the Foreign Marriage Act, 1969. If anyone has any objection to the proposed marriage, he/she may file the same with the undersigned according to the procedure laid down under the Act/Rule within thirty days from the date of publication of this notice.

(K.K. Pahal) First Secretary (Consular) and Marriage Officer Ph.00965-22533315

level vacancy, may pls. Contact Mob.# 50519450 or e-mail: smart_finance@yahoo.com **(C 5052) 12-10-2015**

Automated enquiry about the Civil ID card is **1889988**

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Fajr: 04:28
Shorook 05:47
Duhr: 11:35
Asr: 14:53
Maghrib: 17:22
Isha: 18:38

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TEXT OF ADVERTISEMENT TO BE PUBLISHED

CONDITION

1. Ads must be on the original coupon.
2. Ads of personal nature. will be accepted for **KD 2 for 3 days.**
3. Semi-commercial ads i.e. Baby-Sitting, Matrimonial, Tuition & Transport available will be accepted for **KD 5 for 3 days.**
4. Ads must not exceed 25 words.

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Flight Schedule

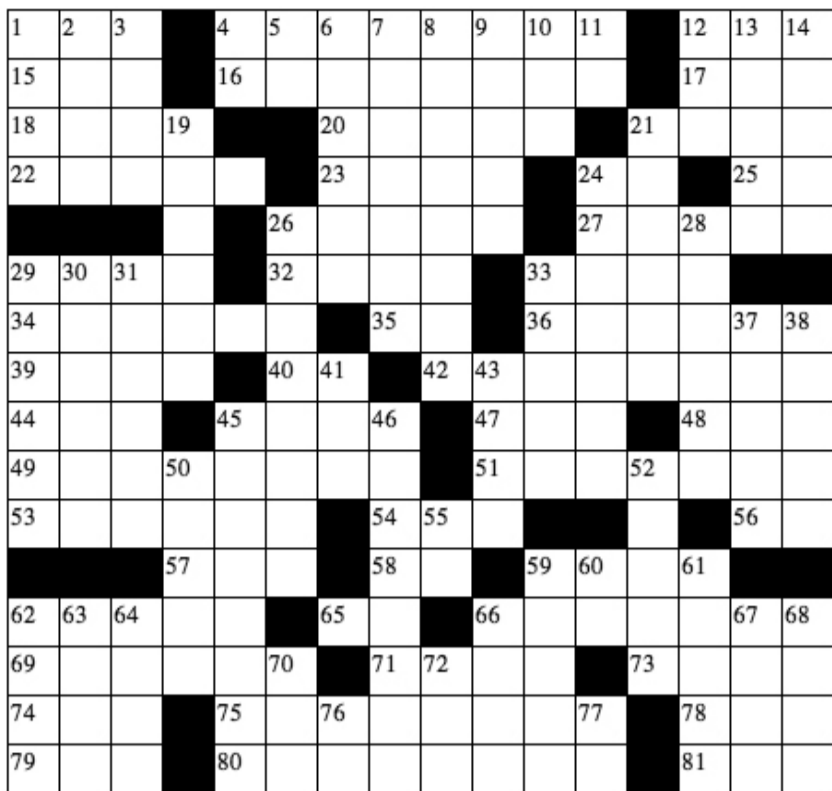
Arrival Flights on Wednesday 14/10/2015				Departure Flights on Wednesday 14/10/2015			
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
JZR	239	Amman	00:20	AIC	988	Hyderabad/Chennai	00:05
JZR	677	Beirut	00:30	BBC	044	Dhaka	00:10
DLH	657	Dammam	00:35	JAI	573	Mumbai	00:25
THY	772	Istanbul	00:35	UAE	981	IAD	00:25
JAD	301	Amman	00:45	FDB	072	Dubai	00:45
FDB	069	Dubai	00:55	JZR	502	Luxor	01:10
JZR	539	Cairo	01:30	JAD	302	Amman	01:30
PGT	558	Istanbul	01:40	DLH	637	Frankfurt	01:35
RJA	642	Amman	01:45	THY	773	Istanbul	02:05
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	01:50	ETH	621	Ababa	02:50
OMA	643	Muscat	02:05	PGT	859	Istanbul	02:55
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15	KKK	6508	Istanbul	03:10
KKK	6507	Istanbul	02:15	MSC	404	Sohag	03:30
UAE	853	Dubai	02:25	OMA	644	Muscat	03:35
MSC	403	Sohag	02:30	UAE	854	Dubai	03:35
QTR	1076	Doha	02:55	FDB	068	Dubai	04:00
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:05	ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	04:05
CEB	7694	Manila	03:10	MSR	613	Cairo	04:15
FDB	067	Dubai	03:15	CEB	7695	Manila	04:40
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	PGT	861	Istanbul	04:45
SYR	341	Latakia/KAC	03:25	THY	1465	Istanbul	04:50
KAC	1544	Cairo	03:35	THY	765	Istanbul	04:55
THY	1464	Istanbul	03:55	MSC	406	Sohag	05:00
MSC	401	Alexandria	04:00	JZR	560	Sohag	05:00
PGT	860	Istanbul	04:05	QTR	1077	Doha	05:05
THY	770	Istanbul	04:40	RJA	643	Amman	06:35
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10	GFA	212	Bahrain	06:50
KAC	412	Manila/Bangkok	06:15	FDB	077	Istanbul	06:50
BAW	157	Luxor	06:35	ETD	302	Dubai	07:05
JZR	503	Luxor	07:20	JZR	164	Dubai	07:15
KAC	382	Delhi	07:30	BAW	156	London	08:30
KAC	206	Islamabad	07:45	FDB	054	Dubai	08:30
KAC	204	Lahore	07:50	KAC	539	Sharm el-Sheikh	08:50
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	QTR	1087	Doha	08:55
QTR	1086	Doha	07:55	KAC	671	Dubai	09:25
KAC	354	BLR	07:55	KAC	619	Doha	09:30
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:55	KAC	787	Jeddah	09:30
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	08:00	KAC	117	New York	09:40
KAC	154	Istanbul	08:10	JZR	482	Istanbul	09:40
KAC	344	Chennai	08:15	ABY	126	Sharjah	09:45
KAC	352	Kochi	08:15	UAE	856	Dubai	09:50
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	ETD	302	Dubai	10:00
KAC	362	Colombo	08:30	NIA	262	Luxor	10:10
KAC	288	Dhaka	09:00	KAC	511	Mashhad	10:20
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:05	IRM	1181	Mashhad	10:25
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:10	IRA	664	Shiraz	10:25
NIA	261	Alexandria	09:15	QTR	071	Doha	10:40
IRM	1186	Tehran	09:15	FDB	056	Dubai	10:40
QTR	1070	Doha	09:25	KAC	501	Beirut	11:00
IRA	665	Shiraz	09:25	KAC	175	Frankfurt/Geneva	11:15
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	KAC	561	Amman	11:25
KAC	350	Kochi	09:40	GFA	214	Bahrain	11:35
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	JZR	356	Mashhad	11:40
UAE	873	London	10:40	KAC	741	Dammam	11:50
MEA	404	Beirut	10:55	MEA	405	Beirut	11:55
AXB	889	Mangalore/Bahrain	11:15				
MSC	405	Sohag	11:20				
JZR	561	Sohag	11:25				
AGY	680	Alexandria	11:40				
IRM	1188	Mashhad	11:45				
JZR	165	Dubai	11:50				
IAW	157	Al Najaf	12:00				
FDB	075	Dubai	12:25				
SAW	701	Damascus	12:35				
IRC	6511	ABD	12:40				
UAE	871	Dubai	12:45				

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

DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

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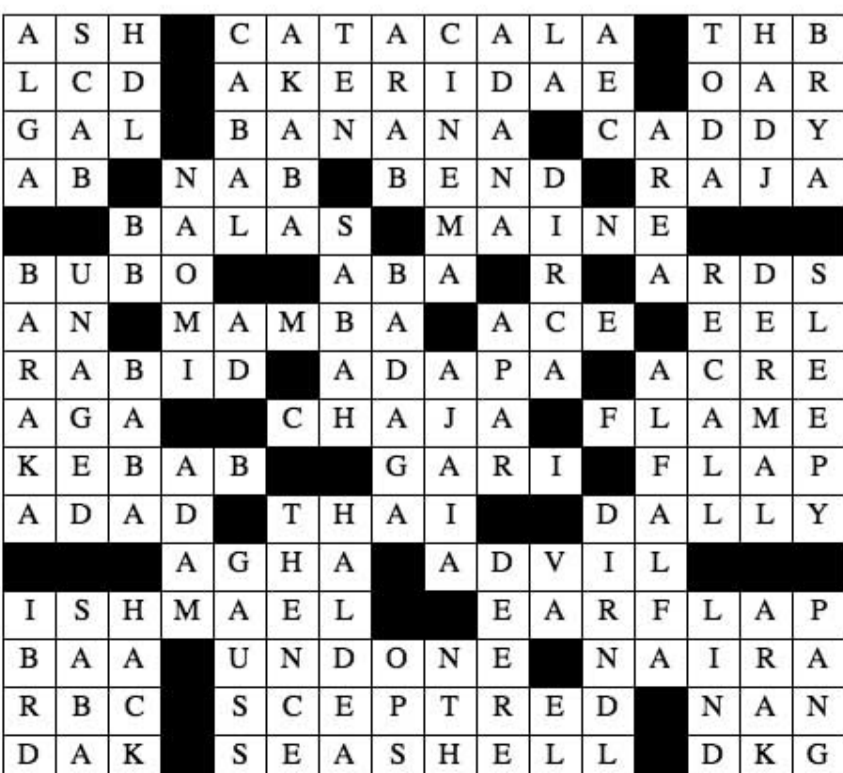
ACROSS

1. An associate degree in applied science.
4. A broad band that passes over the back of a horse and supports the shafts of a vehicle.
12. A master's degree in business.
15. (British) A waterproof raincoat made of rubberized fabric.
16. Imperfect development.
17. Consisting of or made of wood of the oak tree.
18. Toward the mouth or oral region.
20. Evergreen shrubs of north temperate regions.
22. Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
23. A facial expression of contempt or scorn.
25. The blood group whose red cells carry both the A and B antigens.
27. Long-tailed arboreal mustelid of Central and South America.
29. Any of a number of fishes of the family Carangidae.
32. A republic in the Middle East in western Asia.
34. An esoteric or occult matter that is traditionally secret.
35. The 17th letter of the Hebrew alphabet.
36. Tell or deposit (information) knowledge.
39. A Kwa language spoken in Ghana and the Ivory Coast.
40. A metallic element of the rare earth group.
42. Small family of usually tropical butterflies.
44. (usually followed by 'of') Released from something onerous (especially an obligation or duty).
47. Flower arrangement consisting of a circular band of foliage or flowers for ornamental purposes.
48. The month following March and preceding May.
49. Causing alarm or fear.
51. Appearing in a Biblical canon.
53. Make numb or insensitive.
54. South American wood sorrel cultivated for its edible tubers.
56. A Mid-Atlantic state.
57. Mature female of mammals of which the male is called 'buck'.
58. A silvery soft waxy metallic element of the alkali metal group.
62. Sour or bitter in taste.
65. Being one more than one hundred.
69. An Anatolian language.
71. Type genus of the Sulidae.
73. Essential oil or perfume obtained from flowers.
74. Being one more than two.
75. Undergo ulceration.
78. Ancient Hebrew unit of liquid measure = 1.5 gallons.
79. (Irish) Mother of the ancient Irish gods.
80. Good weather with comfortable temperatures.
81. An agency of the United Nations affiliated with the World Bank.

DOWN

1. In a murderous frenzy as if possessed by a demon.
2. A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
3. Someone who works (or provides workers) during a strike.
4. A soft silvery metallic element of the alkali earth group.
5. A soft white precious univalent metallic element having the highest electrical and thermal conductivity of any metal.
6. The lowermost portion of a structure partly or wholly below ground level.
7. A small flat triangular bone in front of the knee that protects the knee joint.
8. Clothed or adorned with finery.
9. Earlier a god.
10. Game in which matchsticks are arranged in rows and players alternately remove one or more of them.
11. An official prosecutor for a judicial district.
12. Extinct flightless bird of New Zealand.
13. An imaginary elephant that appears in a series of French books for children.
14. Jordan's port.
19. A native of ancient Troy.
21. Large shrimp sauteed in oil or butter and garlic.
24. Any of various amines (such as putrescine or cadaverine) formed by the action of putrefactive bacteria.
26. Thunderous verbal attack.
28. A large Yoruba city in southwestern Nigeria.
30. Small genus of succulent annual herbs found on sandy shores of North America and Europe.
31. A port city in southwestern Iran.
33. Infections of the skin or nails caused by fungi and appearing as itching circular patches.
37. Done or occurring in a brief period of time.
38. The third canonical hour.
41. (in Scotland or Ireland) A mountain or tall hill.
43. Type genus of the Alcidae comprising solely the razorbill.
45. Any plant of the genus Ammobium having yellow flowers and silvery foliage.
46. Expressing pain or agony.
50. Father of the storm gods Marut.
52. A member of the Siouan people formerly living in the Missouri river valley in NE Nebraska.
55. A white metallic element that burns with a brilliant light.
59. A United States youth subculture of the 1950s.
60. A radioactive element of the actinide series.
61. Club consisting of a heavy stick (often bamboo) bound with iron.
63. (Old Testament) Cain and Abel were the first children of Adam and Eve born after the Fall of Man.
64. English essayist (1775-1834).
66. (Scottish) Bluish-black or gray-blue.
67. A sudden short attack.
68. The template for protein synthesis.
70. A user interface in which you type commands instead of choosing them from a menu or selecting an icon.
72. A large vase that usually has a pedestal or feet.
76. Being ten more than one hundred forty.
77. A radioactive transuranic element produced by bombarding plutonium with neutrons.

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

You aren't willing to give up your freedom, even in a trade for a less stressful path in life. However, you might choose being responsible today over being independent — although you may not be happy with your decision. Unfortunately, clinging to your annoyance can create serious problems. Expressing your negativity and then letting it go enables you to avoid feeling resentment later on. Living an ordinary life in an extraordinary manner inspires you to reach spiritual satisfaction.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Recent promises have you climbing the walls today, leaving you with little time to enjoy life's pleasures. Although your goals are straightforward, nothing is simple while everyone is making demands on your time. Unexpressed emotions can turn a casual encounter into a tangle of intrigue. Don't wait to address the source of a problem if you already understand the current dynamics. The sooner you start untying the knots, the faster it will go.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Your passions are running the show today, making you feel less confident of your decisions. But the intensity of relationship dynamics grows stronger as your emotions sink into the shadows of your subconscious. There isn't a lot of room for faulty logic now, so think through your plan before you initiate a process that can't be stopped midstream. Taking the time to consider what your heart needs empowers you to make the right choice.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

You strive to see both sides of a relationship issue today, but are forced to take a position later on. The Moon's afternoon shift into emotional Scorpio reminds you that your feelings control so much of your behavior, you may not be able to change the outcome of the present situation. Listen to your inner voice now, but also be certain that your plan makes practical sense before doing something you soon regret. Using both your head and your heart allows you to see the full picture.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

There is still a lot of hard work to do over the next few weeks and you're thankful that all the noise is beginning to settle down. But instead of trying to tie up loose ends, you're more likely inclined to take the day off for rest and relaxation now. Balancing your hectic schedule with a bit of peaceful solitude at home today may be the smartest use of your time. Stepping away from the fray can be enough to revitalize your sense of purpose.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

You're able to assimilate big changes into your life without too much difficulty now. However, you're not interested in simply trading a relaxing day for one filled with distractions. Happily, making a commitment to express yourself creatively motivates you to realize your greatest potential. Share whatever thoughts come to mind, even if it complicates the picture today. It really doesn't matter what artistic medium you choose, just let your imagination be your guide.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

You can't find enough time to kick back today, but you might believe you will get away without fulfilling all of your responsibilities. However, there is a difference between pursuing ambitious goals and simply honoring your promises. You may have to make up for lost time later in the evening if your laziness gets the best of you early on. Balancing work with play is a safer strategy than going to either extreme. Shuffling your priorities allows you to manage your calendar with finesse.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

You reach a significant fork in the road today, yet your current map isn't clear about where either path leads. Unfortunately, your decision-making process is a lot more complicated now because of this ambiguity. Nevertheless, the Moon's shift into your sign later in the day triggers your final answer, emboldening you to paint your future exactly as you visualize it in your imagination. Follow your heart and you can't go wrong.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

It's a whole new ballgame once you decide that you're ready to step up to the plate and get to work. Surprisingly, you may procrastinate for a while, yet the momentum shifts so quickly today that you need to make pragmatic choices or you'll drift off course. Ironically, your dreams reveal the most sensible strategy at this time. Integrating your most creative visions with your current reality is your best recipe for a winning season.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Your social life continues to be on the move as the emotional Moon enters your 11th House of Community. Although your friends may be overwhelmed with your relentless intensity, you just want to do the right thing. You're not interested in making mistakes that will send the wrong message. However, giving yourself permission to have fun is more important than anything else now. Nevertheless, you can deepen the connections in a significant relationship if you don't try so hard.



Aquarius (January 20-February 18)

You may enjoy the thrill of imagining whatever is around the next bend, but other people's demands can squelch the excitement today. The Moon's afternoon shift into your 10th House of Public Responsibility reminds you that you're not as independent as you wish. Establishing new priorities helps you navigate your way through tricky territory. But choose your path carefully because your current choices will likely have a lasting impact.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

You aren't interested in casual conversations today because you feel as if you're running out of time to connect on an emotional level. You have no patience for social games that distract you from the real issues on your mind. However, it's not always easy to find the right person to bring into your confidence. Listen closely to your intuition and allow the universe to pick your audience. Sharing a story about your personal journey can inspire others to choose love over fear. Spreading light is what you Fish do best.

WORD SEARCH PUZZLE

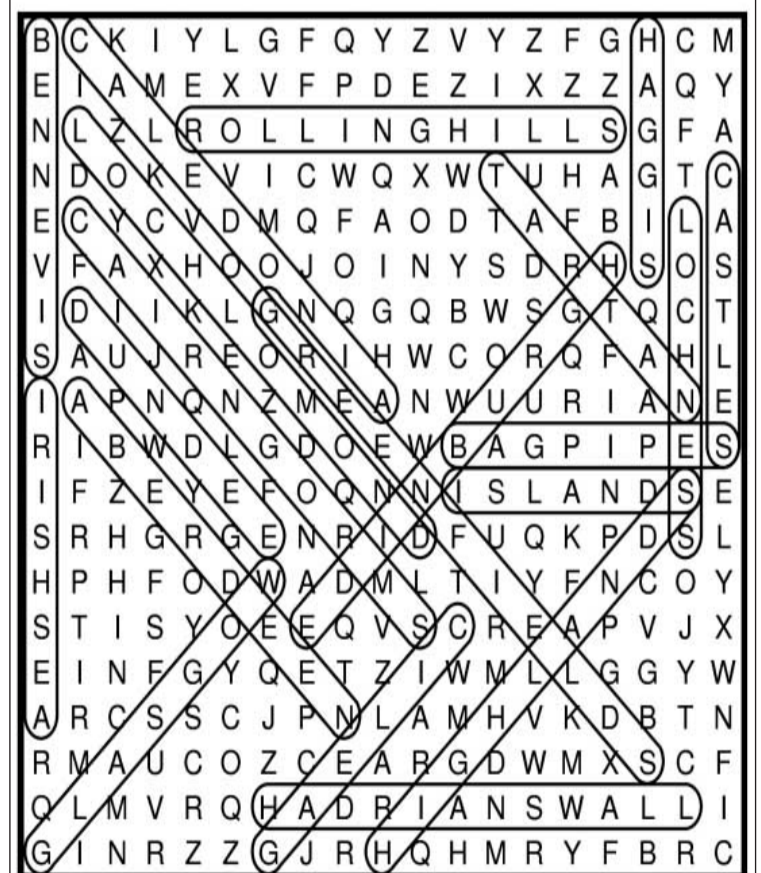
NATURAL DISASTERS WORD SEARCH PUZZLE



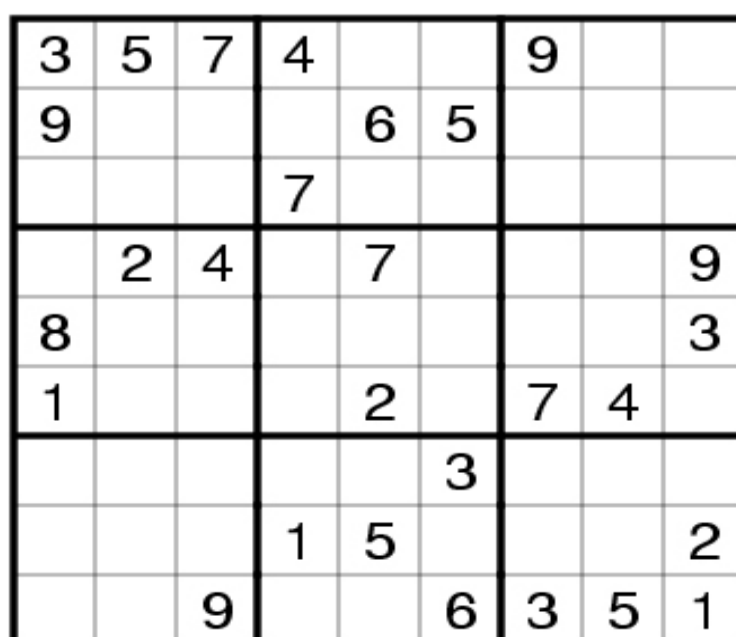
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|------------|------------|-----------|-----------|
| AVALANCHE | EVACUATION | MONSOON | TSUNAMI |
| BLIZZARD | FLOOD | RED CROSS | TYPHOON |
| CYCLONE | HAILSTORM | RESCUE | VOLCANO |
| DROUGHT | HURRICANE | SHELTER | WILDFIRE |
| EARTHQUAKE | LANDSLIDE | TORNADO | WINDSTORM |

Yesterday's Solution

SOLUTION TO SCOTLAND PUZZLE

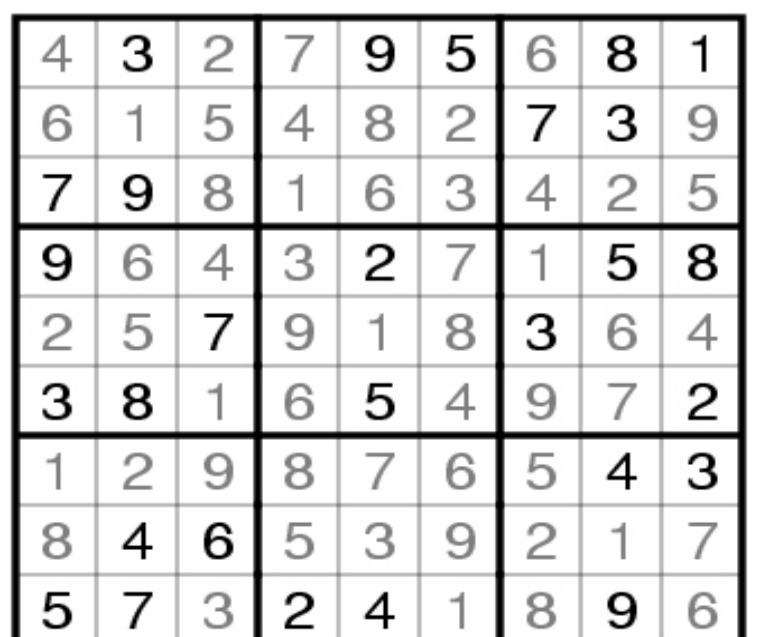


Daily SuDoku



hard

Yesterday's Solution



medium

Sting, Mylene Farmer play lovers in 'hot' new music video

Sting and French singer Mylene Farmer play steamy lovers in a new music video for their duet. In person, they play like old friends who kiss on the cheek. Farmer remade Sting's 2003 song "Stolen Car" and released the single last month. In a recent interview, the pair finished each other's sentences and Farmer even gave Sting a kiss on the cheek after gushing about the new tune.

"It's a great song. I'm very, very happy to do this and share this," she said. "And then I'm going to kiss Sting on the cheek." "Wow. I love my job," Sting said with a smile on his face. Sting, 64, and Farmer, 54, said they decided to collaborate after years of being friends. In recent years, Farmer attended a Sting concert in London and saw his musical, "The Last Ship," on Broadway in New York City. Their new video premiered yesterday. "It was hot. It was hot. And a lot of fun," Sting said. "Was it?" Farmer asked.

"I mean hot in a different kind of way than what you mean," he said as Farmer laughed. "It's a very sexy video." Sting said he originally intended to feature a female vocalist on "Stolen Car" when it was released on the 2003 album "Sacred Love," making it perfect for the collaboration. "It's a story about man who is very wealthy - he's a company director, he has a beautiful wife, two lovely children, but he also has a girlfriend. And it's ... the girlfriend's saying, 'You have to take me dancing sometimes. I live in the quiet; I live in dark the whole time,'" he said. "And I feel alone," Farmer added. They recorded the song in Paris, and it will appear on Farmer's album "Interstellaire," out Nov 6.

Farmer, who has released 10 studio albums and sold 11 million albums worldwide, rewrote the song to add her section in French. Sting compared recording "Stolen Car" with Farmer to dancing with a partner. "You know when you sing together and you sing in harmony and you have to phrase with another person, you'll have to learn how they phrase and they have to learn how you phrase, and it becomes like a dance. It's like a dance in the ear," he said. Outside of his duet with Farmer, Sting said he's working on his own music. "I'm almost thinking about it. I'm in the studio ... with younger musicians messing around," he said. — AP



French singer Mylene Farmer arrives at the Cannes festival palace, in Cannes, southeastern France. — AP

DAVID BOWIE SAYS HE'S NEVER TOURING AGAIN

David Bowie is never touring again. Bowie's booking agent, John Giddings, confirmed his retirement while speaking at the International Festival Forum in London, according to Music Week. Bowie hasn't performed on the road in over 10 years-his last tour ended in 2004. "David [Bowie] is one of the best artists I've ever worked with. But every time I see him now, before I even speak to him, he goes, 'I'm not touring' and I say, 'I'm not asking,'" Giddings said. "He has decided to retire and, like Phil Collins, you can't demand these people go out there again and again and again."

Bowie is still recording music though. He recently performed the title sequence for the British series "The Black Panther" and released the single "Sue (Or in a Season of Crime)" last year. His Off Broadway musical "Lazarus" opens in early December. The 40th anniversary picture disc of Bowie's "Space Oddity" hit number one on the UK's official vinyl singles chart this week. — Reuters



David Bowie

Now fathers, sci-fi rockers Coheed and Cambria land on Earth



Claudio Sanchez (right), frontman for the band Coheed and Cambria, and guitarist Travis Stever (left) perform on October 11, 2015 at The Stone Pony Summer Stage in Asbury Park, New Jersey. — AFP

Coheed and Cambria built an avid fan base by creating an epic new galaxy both through hard-charging guitar rock and a parallel series of comic books. But after selling more than 1.5 million albums, events here on Earth-most notably, fatherhood — have led the band for the first time to take up real-life matters directly. "The Color Before the Sun," the band's eighth album which comes out on Friday, is the first by Coheed and Cambria to break out of the fantasy concept and offers a more rugged, stripped-down feel compared with the band's trademark tightly woven, yet blaring, productions.

"When I started this idea in '98, I started it because I wasn't a secure frontman or

lyricist. I created a concept to essentially hide my feelings behind," singer and guitarist Claudio Sanchez told AFP as the band prepared to take the stage Sunday night at The Stone Pony in the New Jersey beach town of Asbury Park, the first stop on a tour of the United States and Mexico. In a novelty for the band, Sanchez and fellow guitarist Travis Stever were joined in the dressing room by their sons, each under two years old. "I was-and still am-a shy, reclusive, insecure individual. And for me it was easy to create a piece of fiction, because that way that fiction would get judged and it as a person wouldn't," Sanchez said. "At 37, I feel a little more secure. I feel like this is something I can do. I can allow the songs to speak for themselves."

Sudden 'exposure'

The concept-or lack thereof-for "The Color Before the Sun" came as Sanchez and his wife, fellow comic writer Chondra Echert, decided to leave their home in upstate New York and briefly tried Paris, Los Angeles and Florida before moving to New York City. Settled in Brooklyn's Park Slope, a tony neighborhood with omnipresent strollers, Sanchez felt a sudden, disconcerting "exposure" as he realized that he could no longer follow his long routine of writing, far out of neighbors' earshot, in the early morning. Sanchez decided to go fully for a real-world album after learning that he would become a father.

The song "Ghost" is driven almost entirely by an anxious acoustic guitar as Sanchez wonders what type of father he will be to his son Atlas, singing in an uncharacteristically gentle voice, "How am I to keep from blemishing this masterpiece?" Elsewhere on the album, "Here to Mars" is not a return to science fiction but instead a love song by Sanchez to his wife, with the guitars building to make a classic alternative rock chorus rather than one of Coheed and Cambria's sci-fi sagas. "Normally, I would flip it and create a concept that would basically act as a curtain to the real things that inspired the album," Sanchez said.

"This time around, I just thought, you know, this is such a new phase in my life-becoming a father-so why not share that artistically?" As Sanchez adapted to Brooklyn, his life came full circle as his house in upstate New York-where Coheed and Cambria wrote four albums-was partially destroyed after renters apparently turned it into a marijuana grow house.

The band mourned the house with a song, "Young Love." Adding to the direct feel of the album, "The Color Before the Sun" marks the first time that Coheed and Cambria has recorded live in a studio, working with producer Jay Joyce whose past credits includes alternative rockers Cage The Elephant. — AFP



Taylor Swift and Ed Sheeran

Swift, Sheeran lead American Music Award Nominations

Taylor Swift, Ed Sheeran and the Weeknd lead the list of nominees for this year's American Music Awards. Swift, the reigning queen of the pop world, grabbed a total of six nominations, including a bid for artist of the year. Sheeran and Canadian singer-songwriter the Weeknd tied with five apiece. Both are also nominated for artist of the year. Other contenders for artist of the year are Luke Bryan, Ariana Grande, Maroon 5, Nicki Minaj, One Direction, Sam Smith and Meghan Trainor. The field will be narrowed to five nominees based on fan voting tallied through Nov 11.

Song of the year nominees are: Wiz Khalifa Featuring Charlie Puth "See You Again," Mark Ronson Featuring Bruno Mars "Uptown Funk!," Ed Sheeran "Thinking Out Loud," Taylor Swift "Blank Space," and The Weeknd "Can't Feel My Face." Jennifer Lopez hosts this year's ceremony, to air live Nov. 22 on ABC, originating from Los Angeles' Microsoft Theater. — Reuters

Review: 'Bridge of Spies' is an absorbing slow burn

Steven Spielberg's "Bridge of Spies," much like its misunderstood litigator, is a film that plays the long game. This complex Cold War drama soaked in shadows, blues, greys and furrowed brows, is a slow burn that challenges the audience to trust where it's going. In this fictional rendering of how a Brooklyn insurance lawyer ended up negotiating a high-stakes prisoner exchange at the height of the Cold War, Spielberg and writers Matt Charman and Joel and Ethan Coen toss details at you, shake them all around and piece them back together in the third act, when the form of the puzzle starts to take shape. Only then can you begin to fully appreciate just how lean and purposeful every moment is.

Suddenly that seemingly random conversation about clients and incidents from the first act isn't an outlier after all - it means everything. As a first time viewing experience, it's like not realizing you've been playing a game of chess until you've already lost. That's all to say that "Bridge of Spies," which waxes poetic - and occasionally cynically - on patriotism, honor, and duty, echoes in your mind long after the credits roll and begs for a second viewing. On the page, "Bridge of Spies" is the story of everyman James B. Donovan (Tom Hanks), a lawyer and family man who takes on the thankless task of representing Soviet Agent Rudolf Abel (Mark Rylance) in a trial, only to then be called on to negotiate his exchange for a detained US soldier on behalf of the CIA. But that's just scratching the surface of this very thoughtful meditation on doing the right thing - embodied in the burgeoning friendship between Abel and Donovan.

Real person

Donovan fights for Abel despite the scorn of the public, the indifference of the legal system and the danger to his family. When he goes to Berlin to negotiate the exchange of Abel for a detained U-2 pilot Francis Gary Powers (Austin Stowell), Donovan decides, against



the wishes of the US, to try to tack on the release of another imprisoned American as well. This all makes Donovan sound like a martyr. The film fights against that cozy idea, though. Donovan is not sentimentalized or propped up in an unbelievable way. In Hanks' hands, Donovan is a real person, runny nose, doubts and all. Reality, tedium and wit supersede the hyperbole of the great man myth. In this way, it makes "Bridge of Spies" feel like a spiritual companion to "Lincoln."

Perhaps most unexpected, though, is how Rylance sneaks up on you and proves himself to be the heart, soul, and standout of the film. The Shakespearean actor is actually the first person we meet, in an elegant, nearly dialogue free opening showing the FBI's real time pursuit and arrest of Abel. Cold War-era fears want to paint him as the face of the enemy, but Rylance makes Abel sympathetic, and even docile. He plays him as a highly intelligent foot soldier who's seen enough to know that even possible execution isn't enough to get worked up over. — AP

Legend, Teigen announce pregnancy

John Legend and Chrissy Teigen are expecting their first child. The 36-year-old musician and 29-year-old model announced the pregnancy Monday on Instagram. A spokeswoman for Teigen confirmed the social media post.

Legend and Teigen revealed the news by posting a black-and-white photo of themselves with the caption: "We're pregnant!" Teigen wrote that conceiving a child hasn't been easy for the pair and that they are looking forward to growing their family. The "All of Me" singer-songwriter and "FABLife" co-host have been married since 2013. — AP



Chrissy Teigen, left, and John Legend arrive at the MTV Video Music Awards in Los Angeles. — AP

BOSSINI BRINGS IN FALL IN STYLE

As we slowly move towards the cooler climes, our wardrobes call out for pieces that are classic, chic and can will keep you warm when the temperature drops. Bossini has it sorted for you with its new fall collection spruced with the latest trends to keep you looking flawless. There's something special for Men, Women and kids which gives you a hassle free path to fashion success. Keeping it classy this season, the Women's collection starts off with the Mono Love trend which is all about the basics; think leggings, floral tops and lace tee blouses in hues like white black with red accents. While that moves on to the Outdoor Charm trend, infuse that bright, warm Orange color into key pieces like floral sweatshirts, parka jackets and lightweight twill shirts. Beige, creamy white and grey are the champion colors for a sophisticated look this season while you take long walks and soak in the changing weather.

For an edgy look the collection has pieces that have details such as stones, studs and PU trims. The Soft Rock trend incorporates your contrasting tastes of being feminine yet edgy; with say a simple plaid dress, rose patterns with the rock influences like the details involved.

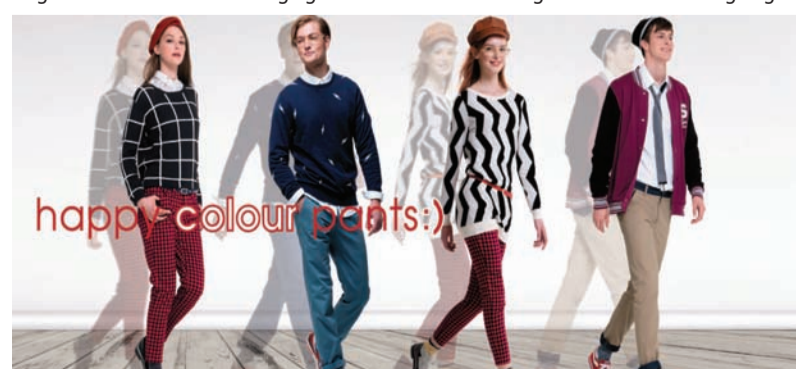
The men's collection has a modern interpretation of fashion sports with the Urban Skater trend. Metro map printed jacket, baseball jacket, denim jacket, pattern shirt is perfect to ace this look that is a rage this fall. Off white, heather grey, black, navy are some of the key hues for this collection. Drawing inspiration from the biker culture, the Frontier trend incalculates elements like the motorbike, eagle on printed tees, motif print chambray shirt ideal to get the cool biker vibe going.



Khaki, navy, olive and orange are some of the colors you can dabble with.

Girly look

The little angels can prance around in two fun trends this season starting off with Sporty Chic which will see the girls dressed in active cuts and shapes with simple patterns, tartan to graphics like numbers/letters. It's not the perfect outfit unless you have a good share of glitter thrown in on a minimal palette of navy, white and red. For the ultimate girly look you can't go wrong with the English fairy tales inspired trend with graphic sweats, sweater dresses and corduroy dresses.



Thailand bans 'Arbat' movie on religious grounds

The Thai government has banned the release of "Arbat," a locally-made horror film that was set to have released later this week. The Ministry of Culture said Monday that its Film and Media Screening Committee banned the film because it was disrespectful to monks and novices. The film, directed by Kanittha Kwunyoo, tells the story of a young man who is forced by his father to become a monk. The young man later develops an intimate relationship with a village girl.

Producer and distributor, Sahamongkol film quickly cancelled a press screening scheduled for yesterday and halted the commercial release planned for Thursday. It is allowed to appeal the ban. Following the release of the film's trailer last month, protest groups wrote to the ministry calling for a ban on the grounds that the film's depictions may cause people to lose their Buddhist faith. The ministry gave four reasons for its ban: depiction of monks engaged in violent conduct; monks drink-

ing alcohol; monks in sexual relations; portraying images that are disrespectful to Buddha. Three of these contravene the five central precepts of Buddhism. The ministry said that the ban could be reversed if cuts were made to the movie.

Thai officialdom has previously intervened to defend the public image of the Buddhist religion as portrayed by the movie industry. In 2006 Apichatpong Weerasethakul's "Syndromes and a Century" was banned for showing monks kissing, drinking and playing guitar. Weerasethakul, who went on to win the Palme d'Or at Cannes in 2010 with "Uncle Boonmee Who Can Recall His Past Lives," refused to make cuts and "Syndromes" remains unreleased in Thailand. However, Thai news media regularly carries reports of monks who have made vast personal fortunes from their religious services, become celebrities and live decadent, materialistic lives. — Reuters



A group of people pose for a photo at a 'dolphinarium' prior to a dolphin display, in Pyongyang. — AFP photos



A family watch a dolphin display at a 'dolphinarium'.



A North Korean man takes a photo of another riding a model horse at a 'Folk Park' on the outskirts of Pyongyang.

North Korea pleasure parks show nascent middle class at play

North Korea's use of its showcase capital city to promote an image of national success and prosperity has cemented Pyongyang's reputation as a Potemkin Village boasting leisure facilities that amount to little more than "playgrounds for cadres." Pyongyang has always been an exclusive city, and the 10 percent of the 25 million population allowed to live there generally enjoy a lifestyle the vast majority of North Koreans can only dream of.

But there are increasing signs that the capital's political elite are not the only ones able to indulge a taste for consumer goods and a spot of rest and recreation. A closely monitored but tolerated grassroots capitalism, born out of a spirit of survivalist self-sufficiency that got many through the catastrophic failure of the state distribution system in the famine years of the mid-to-late 1990s, has given rise to a growing entrepreneurial class with disposable income and free time.

It emerged during the leadership of Kim Jong-Il, but has only begun to prosper under his son Kim Jong-Un who took power after his father died in 2011. Its rise can be seen in Pyongyang in the number of mobile phone users, the growing fleets of taxis that ply the capital's wide avenues and the splashes of street fashion among young women. If the sort of

genuine wealth that creates car owners is still limited to a tiny minority, it seems there is larger, aspirant middle class gaining a foothold in the capital and presumably other cities.

'Authoritarian capitalism'

Some observers such as veteran North Korea watcher Andrei Lankov believe Kim Jong-Un wants to promote a style of "authoritarian capitalism" that allows room for private enterprise while maintaining absolute political control over its development. The rewards for those who benefit from such a system include the ability to afford a meal at one of Pyongyang's new restaurants or a family outing to watch a dolphin show. Since taking over from his father, Kim has pushed through a number of costly "leisure" projects that range in scale and ambition from theme parks to a swanky equestrian centre and ski resort.

This in a country where, according to the United Nations, 70 percent of the population remains "food insecure" and cash-starved infrastructure leaves millions vulnerable to floods and drought. For the North Korean leadership, the projects serve the dual purpose of projecting prosperity, while also catering to the elite and satisfying the aspirations of those with



A woman talks on a mobile phone before the 'Monument to Party Founding'.

new-found disposable income. And it clearly hopes the really high-end facilities, like the Masik Ski resort, will help bring in much-needed hard currency from increased tourism. A lower-end example is a Folk Park

built just outside Pyongyang and opened three years ago. With its full-size replica of a 5th century pagoda and scaled down representations of Pyongyang's landmark monuments, it is similar to the sort of

theme parks that proliferated in and around Chinese cities in the 1990s.

Parks and recreation

The entrance fee is low and the complex claims an average daily turnover of 5,000 visitors though nothing like that number was visible during a tour of the park last Sunday. But a fair number of families and couples strolled round the attractions, some taking smartphone pictures of each other posing before the exhibits. More than two million North Koreans have signed up for the 3G network service operated by Egypt's Orascom in partnership with North Korea's Koryolink. "Our respected Marshal Kim Jong-Un said we must make this park a great education site for the nation, and to raise people's spirits," intoned the official tour guide. More up-market is the dolphinarium completed in Pyongyang in 2012 and fed by a specially constructed seawater pipeline from the port of Nampo. While the Folk Park partly aims to educate, the dolphinarium is wholly aimed at entertainment. And apart from a brief nod to Kim Jong-Un and a message of congratulation regarding the previous day's 70th birthday for the ruling Workers' Party, it is also largely devoid of the political trappings that cling to so many aspects of North Korean public life. — AFP



Indonesian author Okky Madasari poses with her book "Gebunden", a German translation of her book "Pasung Jiwa", in Jakarta yesterday. — AFP photos

Little-known Indonesian writers tackle taboos on world stage

Little-known Indonesian writers will take centre stage at the world's largest book fair this week, led by trail-blazing women tackling taboos in their conservative homeland, from historic injustices to sex and religion. Indonesia is the guest of honor at this year's Frankfurt Book Fair, the industry's biggest annual get-together for publishers, editors and writers from around the globe, with 200 titles from the country to be showcased at the five-day event starting today. Around 70 authors from the archipelago will travel to Germany, bringing them face to face with hundreds of thousands of visitors, most of whom will be encountering Indonesian literature for the first time.

"This is a big opportunity for Indonesia," 30-year-old Okky Madasari, whose works touch on issues including discrimination against religious minorities in Muslim-majority Indonesia, told AFP. "We're not known on the literary world map, but I hope this will be the beginning to bring Indonesian literature to the world." Another female author attending is Leila Chudori, whose latest book "Home" revolves around the murky events of 1965, when at least half a million alleged communists were killed across Indonesia in military-backed massacres for which no one has ever been held to account.

Fellow writer Laksmi Pamuntjak, who will discuss her

work at Frankfurt, also explores this atrocity in her book "The Question of Red". The increasing interest in this dark chapter comes at a time when pressure is growing on authorities to atone for the orgy of violence that preceded General Suharto seizing power. It was taboo to criticize the massacres during his rule, which lasted until 1998, with the killings presented as necessary to rid the country of the communist threat. Also attending is Ayu Utami-no stranger to controversy in conservative Indonesia as her works have delved into infidelity and sexuality.

'Bringing Indonesian literature home'

Apart from the late Pramodya Ananta Toer—who was nominated several times for a Nobel Literature Prize—little is known abroad about Indonesian writers, although the country is home to a prolific band of authors. But there are hopes Frankfurt could do for Indonesia what it did for South Korea and Turkey, which both saw global demand for translations of their literary works explode after headlining at the fair. An accompanying cultural program of contemporary Indonesian art, dance and film choreographed by acclaimed poet and essayist Goenawan Mohamad is also generating buzz among critics in Frankfurt.

"Never in my life—and I have worked in the field of Indonesian literature since 1970 something—I have seen so many articles about Indonesia and its literature," John McGlynn, who is spearheading Indonesia's literary program at Frankfurt, told AFP. However, McGlynn concedes that preparing for the fair has been "a steep learning curve" for the country, which has little experience of taking a leading role in such major events. Finland, the fair's guest of honor in 2014, began translating books six years before, but bureaucratic delays and problems with funding meant Indonesia only began 18 months ago.

Against all odds, 200 books have been translated into German and English for Frankfurt. McGlynn, whose Jakarta-based publishing house Lontar translated a quarter of those titles, has also compiled an anthology of short stories from emerging Indonesian writers, boosting their chances of being spotted by a major publisher.

As well as introducing the literature of the world's biggest archipelago nation to a global audience, organizers hope they can generate enthusiasm in Indonesia, where literacy rates are high but reading is not a popular pastime. "One of the goals is not only to bring Indonesian literature to the world, but also to bring it home again," Claudia Kaiser, vice-president for South and Southeast Asia at the fair, told AFP. — AFP

Playboy to stop publishing nude photos

Playboy will stop publishing the photographs of the fully nude women so closely associated with it, declaring such pictures have become "passe" in the Internet age where free pornography is readily available. The decision came after a top editor of the adult magazine met with its founder Hugh Hefner at the Playboy Mansion last month, according to chief executive Scott Flanders. Starting in March, Playboy's revamped print edition will still include photographs of women in provocative poses. They just won't be nude anymore, Flanders told The New York Times in an interview published yesterday. "You're now one click away from every sex act imaginable for free. And so it's just passe at this juncture," he said.

It's a remarkable move for a magazine that launched in 1953 with a sultry Marilyn Monroe on its cover, breaking the taboo of showing women au naturel. But with pornographic images now so readily available online, and accessible via a variety of connected devices, Playboy is selling less and less copies. The magazine's circulation decreased from 5.6 million in 1975 to about 800,000 now, the Times said, citing Alliance for Audited Media figures. And at its peak, it sold more than seven million copies, in November 1972.

In order to be allowed on now-ubiquitous social media platforms like Facebook, Twitter and Instagram that drive Internet traffic, Playboy has already made some content safer, according



The first issue of Playboy magazine with Marilyn Monroe on the cover and signed by Hugh Hefner on page three, is displayed at Julien's Auction House in Beverly Hills, California.

to Flanders. After its website went nude-free in August 2014, the average reader age fell from 47 to just above 30, and Internet traffic soared from four million to 16 million unique visitors per month, executives told the Times. For its latest redesign, the magazine sought to answer the question: "if you take nudity out, what's left?" he explained. Cory Jones, the chief content officer who met with 89-year-old Hefner last month, told the Times that the magazine will still feature a Playmate of the Month, though the images will now be "PG-13." And it's unclear whether or not the centerfold will survive the chopping block.

What comes next?

The Playboy brand, with its trademark tuxedo bow tie-adorned bunny silhouette logo, has had a major impact on the media world. In addition to its sexy centerfolds—usually featuring a nude female model, or Playmate—and covers, the magazine is also known for its fascinating interviews with defining cultural figures of the moment. The first Playboy interview was conducted by writer Alex Haley with Miles Davis, in which the jazz great shared candid views on racism. "This whole prejudice mess is something you would feel so good if it could just be got rid of, like a big sore eating inside of your belly," Davis said at the time. —AFP



A file picture taken on January 11, 2007 at the Playboy Mansion in Beverly Hills, shows US Playboy Magazine publisher Hugh Hefner (second left) posing with his three girl friends: Holly Madison (left), Bridget Marquardt (second right), and Kendra Wilkinson (right) during a press conference to introduce the new season of Hefner's TV show "Girls of the Playboy Mansion" on E! Entertainment. — AFP photos

Shoexpress showcase autumn winter collection 2015

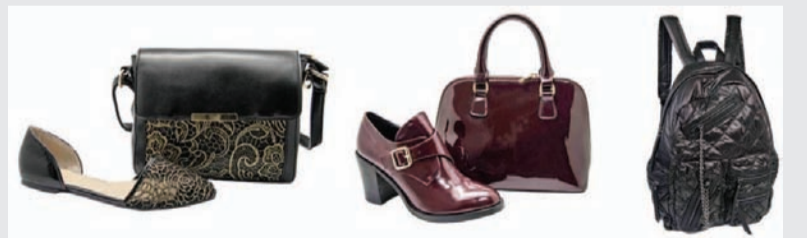
Shoexpress has concocted a creatively relaxing change for men, women and children this Autumn Winter. This season, the range is heavily influenced by new shapes and textures in all the colours of winter. Rich reds, icy blues and earthy browns all make for a dramatic day to night collection.

Trendy cut out designs, exotic animal prints, accessories and materials are the perfect choice this year. Spice up your outfit for that day-to-evening look with totes, evening clutches and shoulder bags. The collection gets updated with playful styling elements of fringing and tassels that reflects the 70s trend in structured shoulder bags, cross-body bags and backpacks! For the more sophisticated touch, clean shapes and muted colours in handbags will glam up your look. Add the finishing touch with our jewellery collection that are fun and fashionable.

Textures play an important part this season, from the brushed leather feel to the smooth glossy finish found in our range that will definitely give you that added allure this season requires. A key-buying trend is matching bags, wallets and shoes. There is a sophisticated fashionability in pairing a stunning bag and shoe or purse. These items are highlighted inside the stores so everyone can easily look elegantly polished.

Luxurious appeal

For women, you'll definitely be winter ready with this season's collection of ladies' footwear from Shoexpress, from rich shades of red supported by blue, brown and berry colors to compliment your outfit in the best way possible. Start



the season with a range of trendy wedge sneakers that gets a luxurious appeal with quilt, zipper and chain details, giving your feet the urban edge it requires!

A wide variety of ankle and high boots are also available, from classic forms to fashionable lace up style that adds femininity to your look. The reintroduction of hiking boots revives the 90's trend and gives street style appeal. In addition, Shoexpress has playful fringed footwear & chic knitted fabric collection in heels and flats to make a fresh statement this winter!

The glossy finished footwear returns this season, elevating the classic ankle boots and moccasins, making it a must-have for this season. The exciting loafers and monk shoes in chunky heels will surely make heads turn, and casual and sports shoe collection compliments the weather in style. It's a season with a wide variety of sneakers, canvas, sporty casual look, which is a big trend for men this season. The contemporary athletic look that is sophisticated and subtle is definitely the way to suit up your feet.

Suede boots with crepe sole is a key highlight for the season, along with hiking boots in low, mid and high-tops, it's a trend that will work in favor for the occasion which also has become a classic style that flatters almost everyone! When it

comes to formal shoes, direction has shifted towards the semi formal trend with comfortable line of footwear, which can be worn at work as well as casual dining to show the dapper side of you as well as the revolutionary modern man.

Optimally dependable

This Autumn Winter Range is surely going to catch the eye of young boys and girls. Be ready to be greeted with a wide variety of sporty canvas, stylishly comfortable boots, casual and active shoes that comes across as a huge trend. Metallic, patent, quilted and faux fur detail uppers, form an integral part of the Girls range. Elegant and classy materials, animal prints, lace uppers are sure to attract our little fashionistas! Boys are going to have a field day with our range of canvas sneakers, vulcanized and mid-cut shoes that are optimally dependable and come in exciting designs! Sporty and lightweight slippers that are easy to wear for a day out are a must have and staple Loafers that never goes out of trend that our Boys will love!

The Characters Range includes Cars, Spiderman, Transformers, Hello Kitty, Frozen, Princess which our kids cannot resist. Not to forget Newborns and Infants range captures the trends of the season and ensures that they are as much in trend as their older siblings.

Shoexpress Autumn Winter 2015 is available at Star Mall - Al Rai, Souk Al-Mubarakiyah, Dabous Mall - Farwaniyah and The Avenues, make sure to catch them and be season-savvy than the usual!





French spinal progressive muscular atrophy patient Alexandrine Naurice (front center) is helped by a Japanese model as they display creations by Japanese designer Takafumi Tsuruta during the "tenbo" 2016 spring/summer collection in Tokyo yesterday, during Tokyo fashion week.



Comedian Yusei Terada sits in his wheelchair as he displays a creation designed by a Japanese designer Takafumi Tsuruta.



Japanese designer Takafumi Tsuruta (second right) and models pose during the "tenbo" 2016 spring/summer collection.— AP/AFP photos

Tokyo fashion: A-bombs and equality on the runway



A 115cm tall painter Hitomi Goto displays a creation by Japanese designer Takafumi Tsuruta.

Most fashion designers try to stand out from the crowd by developing their own individual niche. Takafumi Tsuruta wants to appeal to everybody, especially those fashion often forgets. His show yesterday on the second day of Tokyo Fashion Week featured models from all different walks of life—throwing in ample references to nuclear weapons along the way. On the runway, a dancer with developmental disabilities who said he effectively stopped physically ageing at 13 played "Little Boy", the nuclear bomb dropped on Hiroshima in the closing stages of World War II.

"I am the bomb that exploded," the model, who only gave his first name Soma, told AFP. A few steps behind him, eating a piece of yellow cake meant to represent uranium, walked a significantly plus sized model. He was "Fat Man", the atomic bomb that destroyed Nagasaki three days after Hiroshima. "The theme is 1945," Takafumi Tsuruta told AFP, when asked to sum up his 2016 spring/summer collection. "It is a tough subject, but I thought I can express it through fashion," he added.

But behind his eye-raising theme was a laudably sober goal—creating clothes that better reflect real life by featuring the kind of models mainstream fashion routinely ignores. One of those modeling Tsuruta's ready to wear "tenbo" brand was disabled comedian Yusei Terada, who wore a pair of trousers boasting a pocket near the knee for wheelchair users like himself. Clothes were also designed for Ko Hamamatsu, a transgender model, as well as 1.15 meter (3.8-foot) tall Hitomi Goto who has achondroplasia. Blind accordion player Sota Nii, 31, donned a pair of wide chequered trousers, a masculine black jacket and a classic felt hat. "I cannot see myself, but for me, fashion is something to enjoy with others," he told AFP.

"I can also enjoy people's reaction to what I wear," he added. "It is just natural for me that there are models with different personalities," Tsuruta, who boasts technicoloured hair, told AFP. "You may think such a world is like a utopia, but it is the real world we live in. I want to showcase it through fashion." Akako Ozawa, 32, a singer with muscular dystrophy, walked down the runway with the help of a flower-decorated cane. "When I go on a stage, I try to wear something as lovely as I can. That keeps me upbeat and helps my audience to see you can enjoy fashion regardless of one's disabilities," she said. Alexandrine Naurice, a 25-year-old French woman in a wheelchair who also took part, said she supported the designer's equality message "As well as his will to relay the message in this tough business of fashion," she added. —AFP



Wheelchair surfer Yoshihiro Kojima displays a creation designed by a Japanese designer Takafumi Tsuruta.



Disabled model Ami Sano sits on an electric wheelchair.



Taichiro Inote, a mucopolysaccharidosis patient, sits on a wheelchair as he helped by his mother Junko while participating in Japanese designer Takafumi Tsuruta.



Singer Ayako Ozawa, a muscular dystrophy patient, displays a creation designed by a Japanese designer Takafumi Tsuruta.



A model displays a creation designed by Japanese designer Takafumi Tsuruta.



Models display creations designed by a Japanese designer Takafumi Tsuruta.



Japanese designer Takafumi Tsuruta greets the audience after his "tenbo" 2016 spring/summer collection show.



A model displays a creation designed by Japanese designer Takafumi Tsuruta.



A model displays a creation designed by Japanese designer Takafumi Tsuruta.



Fashion



Models display creations from the "Beautiful People" by Japanese designer Hidenori Kumakiri during the 2016 spring/summer collection in Tokyo.



Mannequins display haute-couture outfits by Fench fashion house Chanel during a press-view of 'Mademoiselle Prive', a joint exhibition presented by CHANEL and Karl Lagerfeld, at the Saatchi Gallery in west London. — AFP photos



Mannequins display outfits and jewelry from French fashion house Chanel's 1932 collection.

Chanel couture comes to London in 'Mademoiselle Prive' exhibit

French fashion house Chanel is putting on display its haute couture creations, dazzling diamond jewelry and the makings of its famed No. 5 scent in a London exhibition unveiling the creative history of one of the world's most luxurious brands. The "Mademoiselle Prive" exhibit, which opened at London's Saatchi Gallery yesterday, showcases the worlds and works of late founding designer Gabrielle "Coco" Chanel and creative director Karl Lagerfeld, at the helm since 1983. Coco Chanel is brought to life with recreations—both physical and virtual through a downloadable app—of her Parisian flat, first boutique and trips to Scotland, where she was inspired for her tweed jackets and skirt suits.

On display are couture gowns by Lagerfeld and a re-edition of the only jewelry collection Coco Chanel designed in 1932. The diamond pieces were modeled by celebrities such as actresses Julianne Moore and Kristen Stewart at Chanel's July haute couture show, each wearing specially-designed gowns. "Those pieces look more modern than other pieces of jewelry companies have," Lagerfeld said at a preview.

"Normally I don't take care of Chanel jewelry, but they asked me to do something special for this collection." Lagerfeld has also written a film where he imagines an encounter with Coco Chanel, played by Geraldine Chaplin. Also on display at the exhibit are a maze of fabric swatches from the Chanel atelier as well as bubbling cauldrons which open up to reveal the ingredients of the Chanel No. 5 perfume, the first fragrance bearing the name of a designer. Lagerfeld, who at 82 says he has no plans to retire just yet, is credited with having infused freshness into the label to keep it modern while faithful to its heritage. "When I started at Chanel, everybody told me 'Don't touch it, it is finished' and that amused me," he said. "It was like a challenge and it worked a 100 times better than I could have imagined." "Mademoiselle Prive" runs until Nov 1. — Reuters

A miniature bottle of Chanel No. 5 perfume forms part of an installation dedicated to the fragrance during a press-view of 'Mademoiselle Prive'.



Mannequins display black outfits and jewelry from French fashion house Chanel's 1932 collection.



An engaged couple walk across a bridge as they pose for their wedding photos, at a 'folklore' village on the outskirts of Pyongyang. — AFP

Couples get silent treatment in London's new dating game

Candles and languid electro-jazz set the scene for a romantic rendezvous at a north London bar, but the couple sitting face-to-face can use only their eyes to beguile. The 90-second silent date is the latest attempt by Londoners to reinvent the city's intoxicating world of nightclubs, bars and fleeting liaisons. It is the brainchild of Adam Taffler, actor and cultural entrepreneur, who got the idea during a visit to Australia. "I was speaking with my girlfriend on the phone every few days and we were talking, but what we really enjoyed doing is at the end of the phone call we just stopped speaking to each other, we were just like there listening to each other breathing and it was beautiful," he told AFP.

"It was so intimate we thought why don't we try doing a dating event where people don't talk and they just make eye contact. People don't make as much eye contact as they used to," added Taffler, sporting a dark jacket, white shirt, black beard and handlebar moustache. He believes it is time to move beyond the world of words, which can often be used to conceal true personalities. "With words we are presenting an idea of ourselves: this is who I say I am. But quite often we're not saying what we really are," he explained. "You can see people as they really are because you're looking into their eyes and that never lies".

Body language

The "Shhh dating" event takes place in the basement of Farr's School of Dancing, a vintage bar in the hip district of Dalston. The decor is fashionably ragged, almost derelict, and the 1970s are conjured with red armchairs in imitation leather and an orange padded bar. The walls are decorated with torn wallpaper and shelves of unusual gold objects-including a horse and a mill. "I'm quite curious about not having to speak whether you have to compensate or do something else", said graphic designer Jason Ribeiro, 33, wearing black trousers, a grey t-shirt and trainers. There is an even gender split between the 30 hopefuls, who are mostly in their thirties.

They are there to have fun, but also to meet new people-a task surprisingly difficult in a city of 8.6 million people. "People tend to stay in their own circles", explained participant Adrian Law. As 7:00 pm arrives, Taffler kicks off the event with a stern warning of "no language to be spoken". Guests are invited to break the ice by shaking hands, before settling down for a series of games designed to build relationships.

'New level of closeness'

Unable to speak, every gesture, smile and grimace is



Men and women give each other massages before taking part in an evening of 'silent speed dating'.



Men and women take part in an evening of 'silent speed dating' in a bar in east London. — AFP photos

accentuated and communication is left to facial and bodily movements. To the sound of Carl Douglas's disco hit "Kung Fu Fighting", dates show off their martial arts moves. A muscle-bound man flexes his biceps to impress his sparring partner, who responds by adopting ninja positions. Things get more serious in the evening's second act as Taffler turns the music down-tempo with British group Cinematic Orchestra and the participants are given a minute-and-a-half in which to seduce.



Men and women take part in an evening of 'silent speed dating'.



Men and women take part in an evening of 'silent speed dating'.

Lucie, a teacher with long black hair, sits opposite a young man, hands on knees. She lowers her forehead, takes a deep breath before diving into the eyes of her partner with a fragile gaze. "It was a nice experience," she said. "We reached a level of closeness and intimacy that maybe you don't get when people are talking and trying to impress each other". Further along, a statuesque blonde called India is weaving her web. Her partner's face betrays a mixture of admiration and lust,



Australian organizer Adam Taffler (right) hands out stickers to men and as they arrive to take part in an evening of 'silent speed dating'.

and he lets out a sigh when a bell announces the change of partner. But sometimes, 90 seconds can seem like an eternity filled with contorted faces and shy glances. As the evening draws to a close, the participants seem generally satisfied with their experience and make a note of those they wish to pursue. The next time, talking will be allowed. — AFP

Chinese acrobats seek great leap forward

On the outskirts of China's financial capital, members of the "Shanghai Dream" acrobatic troupe practice for up to 10 hours a day to perfect their craft. The 30 or so members juggle balls and twirl ceramic plates as well as perform gravity-defying headstands, flips and leaps through rings. Around 10 are adults, with the rest teenagers and children as young as nine, who also take school classes at the house in Shanghai's Zhoupu town where many of the troupe also live. "I started acrobatic training when I was nine," said Zhang Jianlin, 28, the group's leader. "I thought I could become a really good performer, that's the main reason I joined".

Many are from the poor central province of Henan, where the bright lights of a big city circus offer a way out. China has a long history of itinerant performers, but the training is tough. And despite their lofty ambitions, for now the

Shanghai group's audiences are the customers of a local amusement park. Yang Kexin, a shy 14-year-old, joined at age nine but still obediently follows the direction of her coaches to improve her performance. She watched a Chinese drama on her smartphone during a break from her gruelling preparations, which include whirling a "diabolo"-a yo-yo like object spun on a string-for hours on end. "This place feels like home," she said. — AFP

This picture shows Shanghai Dream acrobatic team member Yang Kexin practicing backflips during training in Zhoupu town in eastern suburban Shanghai. — AFP

