

SUBSCRIPTION

Kuwait Times



THE FIRST DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF

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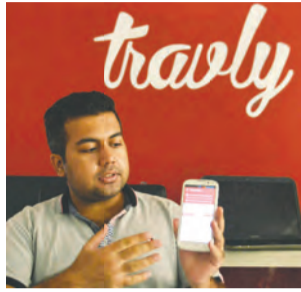
Police bust largest home-made liquor factory

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Pak entrepreneurs launch 'Uber for rickshaws'

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Asian chief poised for FIFA bid

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150 Files

FIFA SUSPENDS KUWAIT FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

DISPUTE OVER SPORTS LAW LEADS TO BAN



Min 26°
Max 38°



HEBRON: An Israeli soldier shoots and kills a Palestinian after he stabbed another Israeli soldier (seen kneeling) during clashes in this city in the occupied West Bank yesterday. — AP

HEBRON SHRINE TORCHED

JERUSALEM: A shrine in the occupied West Bank was set on fire and an attacker disguised as a journalist stabbed an Israeli soldier yesterday as tensions ran high after more than two weeks of violence. Three more Palestinians were killed by Israeli fire in clashes between stone-throwers and Israeli troops in several West Bank towns and on the Israel-Gaza border, Palestinian medics said.

Israel's military said about 100 people converged on the tomb of the Joseph in the Palestinian city of Nablus and set parts of it ablaze before Palestinian security forces arrived and pushed them back. Hours later, a Palestinian posing as a journalist wounded an Israeli soldier with a knife before being shot dead near the town of Hebron, the Israeli military added. Reuters television footage showed the Palestinian rolling on the ground and surrounded by Israeli troops after the attack. He was holding a knife and wearing a fluorescent yellow vest over a t-shirt marked "PRESS".

A military statement about the shrine attack said: "We view this incident with gravity and strongly condemn any attack on holy sites. We will find and arrest those who set the fire." Joseph's tomb has been venerated for centuries by Jews, Samaritans, Christians and Muslims. Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas condemned the attack. He ordered the damage to be repaired and opened an investigation into the arson. A statement from his office said Abbas "stressed his rejection of these actions and all actions that violate law and order, and which distort our culture, our morals and our religion".

Violence also broke out in the Gaza Strip when Palestinians approached the border fence with Israel. They threw stones at soldiers, who opened fire. The Israeli military said hundreds of people gathered along the border, some hurling rocks and burning tyres at the fence. A military spokeswoman said troops "are operating to prevent further escalation of violence using riot dispersal means and firing towards main instigators."

The unrest has erupted mostly in Jerusalem and the occupied West Bank and is the most serious in years, claiming the lives of 37 Palestinians and seven Israelis. The UN Security Council will hold a special meeting to discuss the situation. No resolution is planned for Friday, but there might be an attempt to get the council to issue a statement urging the two sides to curb the violence. Hamas, which controls the Gaza Strip, called for "rallies of anger and confrontations" yesterday in all West Bank cities. "Our decision is to pursue the intifada (uprising) and continue the resistance against the Israeli occupation," said Ismail Haniya, the group's leader in Gaza.

The unrest has been triggered in part by Palestinians' anger over what they see as increased Jewish encroachment on Jerusalem's Al-Aqsa mosque compound, which is also revered by Jews as the location of two destroyed biblical Jewish temples. The director-general of Israel's foreign ministry, Dore Gold, said: "The burning of Joseph's tomb forcefully demonstrates what would happen in the holy places in Jerusalem if they were in the hands of the Palestinian leadership." —Agencies

ZURICH: FIFA has suspended the Kuwait Football Association (KFA) after a deadline for changing a government sports law was not met, the world football body said yesterday. "The suspension will be lifted only when the KFA and its members (the clubs) are able to carry out their activities and obligations independently," FIFA said in a statement. FIFA's executive committee in September had given Kuwait until Oct 15 to make changes to the country's sports law.



Kuwaiti teams and clubs are banned from international competition, and the association and its members are barred from receiving any FIFA development assistance. Kuwait is currently second behind South Korea in Group G of Asian qualifying for the 2018 World Cup. Its next scheduled qualifying match is against Myanmar on Nov 17. Last Monday, the IOC gave Kuwait a deadline of Oct 27 to resolve the sports law issue or face suspension from the Olympic body. — Agencies

NO RADIATION LEAKAGE FROM SHUAIBA: KNPC

KUWAIT: The Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC) denied yesterday any radiation leakage from Shuaiba refinery following a fire that broke out at the refinery in August. The company is keen on working with maximum levels of safety and saving the environment, Khaled Al-Asousi, KNPC spokesman, confirmed to KUNA. KNPC has coordinated and worked with the authority specialized in radiation in the country on measuring radiation rates in the demulsifiers of heavy crude reactors, where the fire broke out, Asousi, who is also KNPC's Deputy CEO for Support Services, noted.



Khaled Al-Asousi

The reactors contain a very limited amount of radiation that contributes in measuring the level of the catalyst material inside the production unit, Asousi indicated. The official health ministry's report confirms the safety of the location and the existence of limited level of radiation that is within acceptable standards, he said, stressing the importance of following the required safety procedures in dealing with these reactors.

Asousi also affirmed the company's commitment towards all safety measures that preserve its workers' safety at the refinery, reiterating its assurance to workers and people that there is no radiation leakage and that all areas and locations surrounding the refinery are fully safe. — KUNA

KUWAIT MARKS ANTI-POVERTY DAY

POVERTY - A FERTILE GROUND FOR VIOLENCE AND CONFLICTS

KUWAIT: Kuwait, along with many nations across the globe will today mark the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty - boasting a long record of aiding the needy and soothing pain of people in hardships. Kuwait has tangibly given support for those who need help, globally, and at regional levels, backing relevant UN resolutions. During the UNESCO executive board 196th session held in Paris last April, Kuwait called anew on the international community to coordinate efforts for fighting this scourge.

The Gulf State bases its campaign for relieving the cash-strapped people on the conviction that poverty is a fertile ground for wars, violence and conflicts as well as communities' disintegration. Kuwait has also shown keenness on ensuring success of the 2014 UN development plan. Kuwait, since independence, has sought to aid those in need for a hand of mercy, both at the official and grass-root levels. The Government has hurried relief aid to peoples stricken with catastrophes throughout the globe, while devotees, namely the late iconic

philanthropist, Abdulrahman Al-Sumait, reached the poor in farther-most spots of the globe. Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development, the State's philanthropic arm, has been active since more than half a century ago, helping nations cope with poor resources or other menaces such as unemployment. Up to 101 nations have witnessed the incoming Kuwaiti aid. According to KAFED's records, its financial contributions financed development projects in agriculture, industry, transport, communication, power, energy, education and health in a long chain of countries. Moreover, Kuwait has launched several initiatives since era of the late Amir, His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, who acted globally to relieve debts' burden afflicting poor nations.

The Kuwaiti government relief efforts, since His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, was proclaimed Amir in 2006, have intensified to aid the poor, with emergence of a unique theme, "humanitarian diplomacy." In 2008, His Highness the Amir

launched the honorary living fund, contributing with USD 100 million, to help peoples cope with soaring necessities' prices. KFAED confirms that up to 22 states have benefited from this fund. Furthermore, the State of Kuwait is a main contributor to the World Food Program, in addition to its support for the jobless youth, establishing the USD two billion small enterprise fund, with a Kuwaiti contribution amounting to half a billion dollars.

In the Arab world, Kuwait has given substantial aid to Iraq, Syria, Palestine, Yemen and Sudan. The snowballing wave of Kuwaiti charities, locally, regionally and internationally, prompted the UN in 2014 to designate His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad as the world's number-one "Humanitarian Leader," along with Kuwait, named as "Humanitarian Center" of the globe. The UN has themed the renewed occasion for aiding the poor as, "acting together to eradicate poverty and indiscriminate." According to international figures, there are one billion poor people in the world. — KUNA

Photo

o f t h e d a y



KUWAIT: Photo shows a group of pigeons in the public squares in downtown Kuwait. — KUNA

KUWAIT CALLS FOR AN URGENT ARAB MEETING ON PALESTINE

GENEVA: An urgent Arab parliamentary Union meeting to discuss the situation in Palestine is important - which will address the escalation of Israeli violence against the innocent Palestinians, said Kuwaiti permanent envoy to the UN headquarters in Geneva Ambassador Jamal Al-Ghunaim. Regarding the Kuwaiti proposal to hold the urgent meeting, the ambassador said that it was welcomed by Arab and Muslim diplomats. He added that the situation in Palestine and especially in Jerusalem and the West Bank required urgent attention to help find international protection for the Palestinians.

Supporting the Palestinian cause is essential for Kuwait's foreign policy, said Ambassador Al-Ghunaim who stressed that protecting holy sites in Jerusalem was an Arab-Muslim obligation. The Arab and Muslim blocs at the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) are working on measures to bring forth the issues of human rights in Palestine and the protection of sacred sites in Jerusalem to the

attention of the international community, said the Kuwaiti diplomat. The IPU is scheduled to hold its General Assembly on October 17-21 with the participation of parliamentarians from around the globe.

Meanwhile, the UN Security Council called member states will hold an "urgent" meeting to discuss the latest Palestinian-Israeli escalation. The emergency "unscheduled" meeting was at the request of Jordan, the only Arab member at the Security Council. On Tuesday, Ambassador Riyad Mansour, the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the UN wrote to the UNSC affirming that the Palestinian civilian population including women and children have been "killed, injured and terrorized as a result of Israel's latest rampage of aggression." In his letter that was also sent to the UN Secretary General and President of the General Assembly, he said that more than 30 Palestinians were killed, and over 1,400 were injured by live ammunition and rubber-coated steel bullets used by Israeli forces.— Agencies

SCIENCE, KNOWLEDGE 'PRIORITY' FOR KUWAIT

MANAMA: Dean of the diplomatic corps, Kuwaiti Ambassador to Bahrain Sheikh Azzam Al-Sabah said that science and knowledge have always been in the bulk of the attention of the political leadership as the main engine of the Renaissance. "Science and knowledge have been an essential priority of the government for the past years", said the ambassador during a dinner he held for the Arab cultural offices and universities rectors in Bahrain. He added

that "Kuwait has made great strides in the field of human development through the development of educational and cultural institutions". He stressed the importance of developing the potential of the human element in order to achieve development for all Gulf and Arab countries, affirming that education is the most important element of raising the capacity of countries that are built only by the arms of their peoples. — KUNA



MANAMA: Dean of the diplomatic corps, Kuwaiti Ambassador to Bahrain Sheikh Azzam Al-Sabah pictured with Arab cultural offices and universities rectors.

MINISTER UNDERSCORES SIGNIFICANCE OF KUWAIT'S PRESENCE AT EXPO 2015

KUWAIT: Minister of Commerce and Industry Dr Yousef Al-Ali said Kuwait's participation in EXPO Milano 2015 sheds light on its effective charitable role at the global level and publicizes its civilization that has successfully grown despite major hurdles such as the hard desert environment. The minister, in a statement issued by his department yesterday, said Kuwait has keenly taken part in the international event due to its robust belief in sustainable development and for sake of bringing into limelight achievements of the country and the other GCC states.

The Kuwaiti pavilion has proven successful due to the high turn-up of visitors, particularly the great number of GCC citizens. It has been designated as among the top 10 pavilions at EXPO, for it portrayed Kuwait's accomplishments as blended with the country's heritage. Its participation was particularly significant this year for it coincided with the 50th anniversary of establishing ties with Italy and the 25th anniversary of the Iraqi aggression, an event where many nations of the globe sided with Kuwait.

The minister (on Thursday) accompanied by Parliament Speaker Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanim and MPs, inspected the Kuwaiti stands, showcasing the Kuwaitis' struggle in the

past and presence for developing their homeland into a modern state. Meanwhile, Al-Ghanim's visit to the Kuwaiti pavilion was met with a high praise by senior Kuwaiti government officials, confirming that his visit was a crowning moment for a six-month efforts. The Parliament Speaker and his accompanied delegation's visit is "great", Minister of Justice, Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Yaqoub Al-Sanea said in a press statement, adding that Al-Ghanim found, while touring the pavilion, several rich historic information on the Kuwaiti environment in the past such as life difficulties and lack of resources.

The Kuwaiti pavilion was among the top 10 pavilions in this expo, Al-Sanea said, adding that it succeeded in highlighting Kuwait's humanitarian and philanthropic efforts. On his part, Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education Dr Bader Al-Essa congratulated His Highness the Amir and His Highness the Crown Prince on the Kuwaiti pavilion's success, expressing pride over what he saw at the pavilion. It reflected Kuwait's modernized side, showcasing the desert and marine environments in the country, Al-Essa said, pointing out the increasing number of the pavilion's visitors that reached over 11,000 daily. — Agencies



Kuwait Minister of Commerce and Industry Dr Yousef Al-Ali visits Kuwait pavilion at Expo Milano 2015.

KUWAIT-SWEDEN TIES 'EXCELLENT'

BERLIN: Swedish-Kuwaiti relations are excellent and both nations are eager to develop ties further, a Swedish senior lawmaker said yesterday. During his reception of the Kuwaiti parliamentary delegation, headed by MP Saud Al-Herajji, Chairman of the committee on Foreign Affairs of the Swedish Parliament, Kenneth G Forslund said that relations between the two sides are strong and important, noting that both nations share common grounds when discussing international issues such as the Syrian conflict and the refugee crisis. He also said that the meeting with the Kuwaiti delegation focused on exchanging support for both countries' bid for temporary seats at the UNSC.

MP Al-Herajji said that Kuwait was keen on bolstering relations with Sweden. He noted that both countries were eager to cooperation on issues of humanitarian importance, chiefly the situation of refugees escaping violence in the Middle East. On their part, Members of the delegation, MPs Humoud Al-Hamadan and Saud Al-Hariri, both touched on the situation in the Middle East region during the meeting. They stressed that it was important to address the problems created by the Syrian crisis, the conflict in Yemen, the situation Iraq, and the escalation of violence in occupied Palestine, affirming that the delegation's current tour was to coordinate efforts with countries and partners around the globe in such regards. — KUNA

News

in brief

Kuwait contemplates opening industrial office in Guangzhou

GUANGZHOU: Kuwaiti Consul General in Guangzhou Abdulwahab Al-Sager has stressed the importance of opening a Kuwaiti industrial office in the city, Kuwaiti consulate said yesterday. This suggestion was made during a dinner banquet that was held, late Thursday, on the honor of a visiting Kuwaiti delegation from the Public Authority of Industry. The Chinese officials welcomed this suggestion that completes China's initiative of building a 21st-Century Maritime Silk Road; an initiative that aims at enhancing regional connectivity and embracing a brighter economic future. The Kuwaiti delegation, arriving in Guangzhou to attend an international exhibition, will discuss establishing an industrial office that will provide all facilitation for Kuwaiti investors and will allow Kuwaiti investors to imports Kuwaiti products to China.

Kuwait Dive team raising awareness on marine life

KUWAIT: Kuwait Dive Team (KDT), affiliated with the Environmental Voluntary Foundation (EVF), has asserted its continuing service to raise awareness on the environment and marine life projects to students in various education areas. The goal of the campaign is to establish stronger protection to marine life and encourage voluntary work, Director of the program at KDT Hamad Bouesli said, adding that such campaigns take place in Social Solidarity Society in Khalidiya. The first team from KDT witnessed the attendance of 150 female students from elementary schools, thus serving the education curriculum on raising awareness on the environment between young men and women. Bouesli noted that such programs show the relentless efforts by KDT volunteers in the protection and rehabilitation of Kuwaiti marine environment.

Dubai LNG tender marks new lows

DUBAI: The Dubai Supply Authority (DUSUP) is holding a private tender to buy between 4-6 liquefied natural gas (LNG) cargoes each in 2016 and 2017, and is nearing the final stages of the process with an award expected soon, trade sources said. Around 15 companies participated in the process via bilateral discussions and price offers were extremely aggressive, sliding below 12 percent of the price of Brent crude oil, traders that participated in the talks said. Depending on how much below 12 percent, it could work out to a price of around \$5 per million British thermal units (mmBtu) for two years' worth of supply, a trader said, a significant bearish price indicator for global LNG markets. Spot LNG prices are currently assessed at around \$6.80/mmBtu for November delivery. Medium-term LNG supply deals tend to be linked to the price of Brent crude, currently trading just below \$50 a barrel. DUSUP declined most firms offering to supply, including Swiss trading houses and banks, the trader said. Two oil majors have progressed to the final stage, making it likely that they will win, another trader said. An award is expected this weekend. "The tender was announced right after Jordan and maybe that's why prices are so low, because Jordan cargoes went at below 12 percent Brent or 12 percent flat, some companies that lost out may have decided to go extremely aggressive," the first source said. Last weekend Jordan awarded half of its four-year, up to 78-cargo LNG buy tender to Royal Dutch Shell which will cover deliveries in 2016 and 2017, overlooking commodity traders for the business.

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GCC AGREES ON JOINT CONCEPT TO PROMOTE IDENTITY

DOHA: National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL) Secretary General Ali Hussein Al-Yoha has agreed to launch a joint concept for boosting the Gulf identity during 2016. After the conclusion of the 21st meeting of GCC ministers of culture, Al-Yoha told KUNA in a statement that Kuwait will host a seminar on booting the Gulf identity in November, 2016, as a launching point for more activities and events pertaining to this concept. Al-Yoha, who is representative of Minister of

Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs and President of NCCAL Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah, said that the conferees asked Kuwait to design a logo for these events and activities through artistic competitions in which all Kuwaitis participate.

He lauded the initiative of Bahrain's Minister of Culture Sheikha Mai Al-Khalifa on the Culture Tourism Passport seeking to promote tourism and attract visitors to Bahrain's cultural sites, affirming

that the initiative forms a distinguished model for monitoring cultural and historic sites in Bahrain. Thursday's meeting stressed the need to provide full support for Qatar's Minister of Culture, Arts and Heritage Dr Hamad bin Abdulaziz Al-Kuwari who is running for a UNESCO post, Al-Yoha made clear. The meeting, he said, dealt with several topics pertaining to the joint cultural action among GCC countries to boost cooperation and integration inside these countries. —KUNA



LARGEST HOME-MADE LIQUOR FACTORY BUSTED

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Narcotics detectives in the Capital governorate raided what has been described as the largest home-made liquor factory run by three Asians in Jaber Al-Ahmed City, said security sources.

Kilo of marijuana

An Asian housemaid was arrested on arrival at Kuwait international airport with one kilo of marijuana she had concealed within nuts, said security sources. Security sources also noted that airport custom inspectors arrested an Asian arriving with two kilos of marijuana concealed in a package of tamarind. The sources added that drug smugglers have been lately attempting to smuggle drugs within foodstuff and nuts.



'I REGRET COMMITTING SUCH TERRIBLE CRIME'

KUWAIT: Following up on the murder of a Kuwaiti woman and her Saudi mother in Egypt, the suspected murderer, who abducted after promising to buy them a farm in upper Egypt and killed them there to take the cash they had, seemed absentminded during an interview with Kuwait local daily Al-Rai. The suspect, Abdul Tawwab, stressed that he knew he was going to be hanged and that he was in deep remorse, expressing his apologies to his victims' family members. "I regret committing such a terrible crime. I would have never imagined I would kill the woman I once worked for and who used to care for me," he said in tears, but justified killing the daughter in self-defence as she tried to attack him with a knife. He added that he did not kill the mother and she only slipped and fell into the well. "I cannot sleep anymore - the daughter is haunting me in my dreams", he added.

Licensed gun stolen

A citizen reported that an unidentified robber had broken into his farm and stolen a licensed shotgun and two cartridges. The man provided the police with a photocopy of his weapon license. A case was filed and further investigations are in progress. Meanwhile, a female citizen reported that on getting out of a Fintas beauty salon, she found that her vehicle had been broken into and that her purse and mobile phone, with very personal photos in it, had been stolen. A case was filed and further investigations are in progress.

Juvenile arrested with drugs

Two juvenile citizens were arrested with drugs and for driving a stolen vehicle along King Abdul Aziz highway, said security sources. Case papers indicate that a police patrol ordered the driver to pull over for a traffic violation he committed, but he refused and drove off. He was chased and compelled to stop. On searching the vehicle, that was found reported stolen, police officers found the drugs. A case was filed and both juveniles were referred to relevant authorities. In another development, an Egyptian and four European women were arrested while heavily drunk at Nuwaiseeb land border exit, said security sources, noting that losing focus under the effect of alcohol, the suspects lost their way and drove into the border exit, where they were stopped. Custom inspectors on the site found a few bottles of liquor with them. A case was filed.

Witchcraft items

A GCC woman was arrested on arriving through Nuwaiseeb land border exit with the possession of sorcery and witchcraft items.

'Your money or your life'

"Your money or your life" - this was what a mugger reportedly told a Bangladeshi in

Bayan when he placed a knife at his throat and gave him an option between having his throat slit or handing over his wallet and mobile phone, said security sources. The man said that the robber was dressed in national garb. A case was filed and further investigations are in progress.

Indecent gesture

A 40-year-old female citizen reported that the driver of a vehicle insulted her and made an indecent gesture at her when they argued over traffic priority in Adan. The woman provided the police with the man's car's license plate number.

Drug suspect arrested

A citizen called police to arrest his son when he returned home under the influence of drugs and started to smash the furniture. The man let policemen in when they arrived and the son was arrested. Also, Farwaniya patrol suspected a driver, and on stopping him, the man stepped out and ran, and policemen could not catch up with him. Searching the vehicle, detectives found 67 home-made liquor bottles. A case was filed and further investigations are in progress.

Inspection campaign

A wide inspection campaign at the livestock fodder market along Salmi highway resulted in arresting 65 people for being wanted, holding no ID or being illegal residents. The suspects were arrested pending deportation. In another campaign in Fahaheel, a wanted person and 90 illegal residents were also arrested.

Kuwaiti stabbed

A citizen was seriously injured during a fight with others in Mubarak Al-Kabeer when one of them stabbed him in the shoulder, said security sources.

KD 158,000 embezzled

Educational sources said that the Ministry of Education's Financial Department discovered that an accountant had embezzled KD 158,000 by forging some receipts and fled to his home country. A case was filed and security forces in the suspect's country are being contacted to arrest and hand him over to Kuwait.

10 undergraduates arrested

A search is on for three unidentified people who were spotted trespassing into a sanctuary in two vehicles, said security sources, noting that on stopping them, the suspects pointed a shotgun at the officers, threatening to shoot before they drove off. Meanwhile, 10 Kuwaiti undergraduates were arrested for trespassing into the same sanctuary.

—Al-Rai and Al-Anbaa

HIT BY RECALL, ASTON MARTIN'S LOSSES TRIPLE IN 2014

ASTON RAISES 200 MILLION POUNDS FROM KUWAITI, ITALIAN EQUITY FIRMS

LONDON: British luxury carmaker Aston Martin saw its losses almost triple in 2014, the fourth consecutive year it has failed to post a profit, following a recall of thousands of its cars and declining sales in China. The brand, famous for making the DB5 sports car driven by fictional secret agent James Bond, posted a loss of 71.8 million pounds (\$110.9 million) last year, compared with a loss of 25.4 million in 2013. Chief Executive Andy Palmer told Reuters earlier this week the firm would not return to profitability until at least 2017 as it pumps money into an

expansion that includes plans to build its first crossover sport-utility vehicle.

Sales of the brand's elite range of luxury sports cars fell from 4,200 in 2013 to 3,661 in 2014, Palmer said. It had to recall most of its cars built between late 2007 and the start of last year due to the use of a counterfeit plastic material. The carmaker saw revenues fall 10 percent in the period which it blamed on a drop in sales, especially in China, according to a filing posted on Britain's Companies House financial register. It said earlier this week it could axe nearly

15 percent of its workforce as it tries to turn around the loss-making business.

Following Palmer's appointment late last year, Aston raised 200 million pounds from its major shareholders, mainly Kuwaiti and Italian private equity firms, with plans to build around 15,000 cars by the turn of the decade. Aston, which is 5 percent owned by Germany's Daimler, is examining where to locate a new plant for its DBX crossover models, with a decision expected by the end of the year. —Reuters

MEASURING TIME

Time is organized for social, religious, commercial or administrative purposes, with periods in a calendar usually being synchronized with the cycle of the sun or the moon. The most common type of pre-modern calendar was the lunisolar calendar, which is a lunar calendar that compensates by adding intercalary months to remain synchronized with the solar year over the long term. The Hebrew calendar and the Chinese calendar follow the lunisolar system.

Since before the time Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) was born and until the era of Abu Bakr (the first caliph in Islam), Arabs named the months according to the lunar cycle, and chronicled years in relation to important events in their communities. For example, it is recorded that Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) was born in "the Year of the Elephant," in which a great army with elephants marched from Yemen to Makkah to destroy the Ka'bah - an attempt that God foiled. Like today, the Arabs of the past followed the lunar calendar, and the names and order to the months have not changed since before the Prophet's (PBUH) time.

A new era

It was during the reign of Umar bin Al-Khattab (the second caliph in Islam), that many events happened that were worth recording for reference, which necessitated a more accurate calendar than the month and important event system that was used at that time. It was also needed to facilitate planning. As a caliph, he would often issue decrees and rulings to his governors and viceroys in various parts of the Muslim world, which would be followed by other explanatory letters or orders to ignore them for one reason or another. This action sometimes created confusion among those governors and viceroys as to the sequence of decrees. Umar eventually decided to fix an Islamic calendar to simplify the matter for him, his governors and Muslims at large.

There were many suggestions regarding the event to which the Islamic calendar would be chronicled. Some of his companions and great thinkers suggested chronicling the calendar either back to the birth of the Prophet (PBUH), the beginning of his mission as a messenger, his emigration to Madinah, or his death. The majority of the Muslims were of the opinion that their calendar be chronicled back to the year of Muhammad's (PBUH) emigration to Madinah.

They gave many reasons for that, the most prominent of which was the tremendous achievements of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and the Muslims in Madinah. Although the arrival of the Prophet in Madinah was on 12 Rabi Al-Awwal, or the third lunar month, of that year, for consistency's sake, the calendar is chronicled back to Muharram, which is the first month in the Arab's lunar calendar. Therefore, early Muslims began to chronicle their events according to the first month in the year that Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) migrated to Madinah, an event that is called the hijra.

The Islamic calendar

Commonly known as the Hijri calendar (based on the hijra), the Islamic calendar marks the birth of an Islamic community with political, economic and legislative autonomy under the leadership of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). The Islamic calendar consists of twelve lunar months which are either 29 or 30 days each. As such, it is 11 days shorter than the Gregorian calendar. The new Islamic year, which begins on the first of Muharram, or October 14 this year, is the year 1437. The day is a marker for a new month as well as a new year, but is not customarily a cause for celebration. It is enough to recall the momentous era that is characterized by the worship of the one true god, our Creator that began 1437 years ago.

Courtesy of the TIES Center: The TIES Center is the social and educational hub for expats in Kuwait.



Charge d'affaires Mohammad Saud Al-Waqayan donates \$500,000 to support UNESCO's program for Syrian refugees.

KUWAIT DONATES \$500,000 TO SUPPORT UNESCO PROGRAM FOR SYRIAN REFUGEES

KRCS PROVIDES PLAYGROUND TO SYRIA REFUGEES CHILDREN

BEIRUT: Kuwait offered a \$500,000 donation to United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to provide education for Syrian refugees in Lebanon. Charge d'affaires at Kuwaiti Embassy in Lebanon Mohammad Suad Al-Waqayan submitted this donation to UNESCO's representative and its regional office director Dr Hamad bin Yousef Al-Hamami in a ceremony that was held at the embassy.

Al-Hamami expressed his appreciation for this donation that will support high school and college refugee students in getting their education under UNESCO's program. The program will include: enrollment, providing quality education and financially helping educational institutes in nearby countries. On his part, Al-Waqayan said that Kuwait hosted three major conferences to support UN organizations to alleviate the suffering of the Syrian

refugees. The last of them was held in March where five million dollar was given by Kuwait. Kuwaiti aid to the Syrians varies from health, education, to social and in-kind assistance. The Kuwaiti diplomat lauded Lebanon for all its efforts in providing homes for Syrian refugees who amounted to 1.3 million Syrians registered by UNHCR.

KRCS provides playground

As part of its efforts in providing assisting the children of Syrian refugees in Lebanon, Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) gifted a school for refugees here with a well-equipped playground, said a Kuwaiti official.

A ceremony was held for the opening of the new playground at Al-Andalus school, to which KRCS envoy in Lebanon, Musa'ad Al-Enezi, was invited, among other officials. The

school, located in the town of Bar Elias in East Lebanon, has 350 students, up to 90 percent of whom belong to Syrian refugee families, said Al-Enezi, in remarks to KUNA, adding that the playground would allow these students to live their childhood in about as normal a fashion as possible, given their extraordinary circumstances.

Concomitant with today's opening of the new school playground, KRCS distributed relief aid to about 1000 Syrian refugee families in East Lebanon. Al-Andalus School officials thanked the KRCS and Kuwait for their help. KRCS had opened last week a similar playground for children of Syrian refugees in the village of Ketermaya in the Shawf region in Lebanon. Another playground is set to open soon in the Wadi Khaled area in northern Lebanon. —Agencies



- ✓ بدون ألوان إصطناعية
- ✓ بدون إضافة غلوتومات أحادي الصوديوم
- ✓ بدون مواد حافظة إصطناعية

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International

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2015

Nigeria hit again, army warns on Boko Haram

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Afghanistan welcomes Obama pledge to keep US troops

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Suu Kyi takes election bid to Myanmar's strife-torn Rakhine 12



ALEPPO: Syrian regime soldiers rest in an area around Kweyris military airport, in the eastern Aleppo province yesterday. Aleppo city has been divided between regime control in the west and rebel control in the east since mid-2012. — AFP

SYRIA LAUNCHES ALEPPO OFFENSIVE

TURKEY JETS SHOOT DOWN UNIDENTIFIED DRONE

BEIRUT/ANKARA: Turkey shot down a drone yesterday in an incident highlighting the dangers of the multiple air combat operations over Syria, where government troops and their allies launched an offensive against rebels near Aleppo, backed by Russian jets.

The army offensive south of the city, backed by Hezbollah and Iranian fighters, further expands its 10-day-old counter-attack in western Syria against insurgents battling to overthrow President Bashar al-Assad.

The army campaign has been coordinated with Russian jets, which launched air strikes in support of Assad on Sept. 30, and Syria's own air force. A US-led coalition of Western and Arab forces has been flying combat missions over Syria for more than a year, while Israeli jets have also struck targets in Syria during the four-year-old civil war.

That has left Syria's airspace crowded with warplanes from rival, or even hostile powers, pursuing competing military strategies, heightening the risk of aerial confrontation. Turkey's military said its jets shot down an unidentified drone in Turkish air space near Syria yesterday.

A US official said Washington believed it was of Russian origin, but the Russian

defence ministry said all of its planes in Syria had safely returned to base and that all its drones were operating "as planned".

The Turkish military said the aircraft which was shot down had continued on its trajectory despite three warnings, in line with Turkey's rules of engagement. Broadcaster NTV said it had come 3 km (2 miles) into Turkish air space.

ALEPPO ASSAULT

Russia's air strikes in Syria appear to have struck mainly foreign-backed rebels rather than Islamic State fighters which Moscow say are the target of its campaign. Yesterday Russian warplanes hit areas in support of the army's offensive south of Aleppo, which lies around 35 km (20 miles) from the Turkish border.

The assault means the army is now pressing insurgents on several fronts near Syria's main cities in the west, control of which would secure Assad's hold on power even if the east of the country is still held by Islamic State.

Control of Aleppo, still home to two million people, is divided between the government and rebels. Yesterday's offensive

appeared to be aimed at a swathe of land south of Aleppo, rather than the city itself. "This is the promised battle," a senior military source in Syria said of the offensive backed by hundreds of Hezbollah and Iranian forces which he said had made some gains on the ground.

It was the first time Iranian fighters had taken part on such a scale in the Syrian conflict, he said, although their numbers were modest compared to the army force. "The main core is the Syrian army," the source said.

Two senior regional sources said this week that Iran sent thousands of troops to Syria to bolster an offensive already underway in Hama province and ahead of the Aleppo attack.

Iran says it has sent weapons and military advisers to support its ally Assad, but has denied providing troops. Rami Abdulrahman, director of UK-based monitoring group the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, said there were heavy clashes near the Jebel Azzan region, about 12 km (8 miles) south of Aleppo city.

The area that the army and Russian jets were targeting was close to a main road

heading south towards the capital Damascus, Abdulrahman said.

The army had recaptured the village of Abtin from rebel fighters, he said, as well as a tank battalion base close to Sabiqiya village. Both villages lie close to Jebel Azzan. Rebels had hit one army tank with a US-made TOW anti-tank missile.

The military source said the rebel fighters were mainly from the Islamist group Ahrar al-Sham and al Qaeda's Syrian wing, the Nusra Front, as well as the Suqour al-Sham and Failaq al-Sham insurgent groups.

The head of another rebel brigade Fursan al Haq, which is backed by Assad's foreign opponents and operates under the umbrella of the Free Syrian Army, said his fighters had sent more TOW missiles to the Aleppo area to try to stem the attack.

"The battle is ongoing, and the resistance is stronger than the attack," Fares al Bayoush, told Reuters. Since Russia launched air strikes on Sept. 30 in support of Assad, the army has waged offensives against several insurgent-held regions in western Syria, starting with areas of Hama, Idlib and Latakia provinces taken by the rebels over the summer. — Reuters

IS PAYS RECRUITERS \$10,000 PER PERSON: UN

BRUSSELS: The Islamic State group is paying supporters up to \$10,000 for each person that they recruit to wage jihad in Syria and Iraq, UN experts said yesterday after a visit to Belgium, one of the main countries of origin for so-called foreign fighters.

Elzbieta Karska, who chairs a UN group studying the issue, said IS is using social media and informal networks of friends and family, with many of them in Syria, to recruit new jihadists in Belgium.

The UN experts learned from Belgian contacts that 500 foreign fighters in Iraq and Syria originated in Belgium, the highest per capita of any EU country, she added.

"We have heard... about situations where recruiters were paid from two, three thousand to 10,000 dollars depending on... who was recruited," Karska told a press conference in Brussels, adding the findings were preliminary. "If somebody was well educated like computer specialists or doctors, they were paid more," the Polish human rights lawyer added.

Her colleague Patricia Arias, a Chilean lawyer, added "they are paid by Daesh," the Arabic acronym for Islamic State. The Belgian-based extremist group Sharia4Belgium enlisted the first wave of recruits for Syria in 2010, according to

Karska's UN body, which was set up by the Geneva-based UN Commission on Human Rights. With Sharia4Belgium now broken up and many of its members jailed, recruiting has changed. In the last year, "the key method of recruitment is reportedly through informal networks of friends and family, and through social media," Karska said.

"A significant degree of recruitment currently occurs through friends and family in Syria, who are also paid on the basis of the number of persons they recruit and on whether the recruits subsequently marry," she said. Karska and Arias said an increasing number of women or girls is leaving Belgium

to marry jihadists or care for those who are ill or wounded, but some may actually fight. They had no figures on how many women had left Belgium, but said the number of boys and men departing for jihad had declined from about 10 per month three years ago to about four or five per month today.

Their average age is 23 years old and declining, Karska said. The working group led a fact-finding visit to Tunisia a few months ago and plans a third trip in March to Ukraine, where the Western-backed government in Kiev is fighting pro-Russian rebels in the east. The final report is due next year. — AFP



SANAA: Shiite fighters, known as Houthis, gather at the site of a Saudi-led coalition airstrike in Sanaa, Yemen, yesterday. — AP

SUICIDE BOMBING, GUNBATTLE KILLS 12 IN WESTERN YEMEN

SAUDI-LED COALITION BOMB HOUSE OF YEMEN'S SPEAKER

SANAA: A suspected al Qaeda suicide bombing, accompanied by an attack with guns and grenades, killed 10 soldiers guarding an intelligence building in the western Yemeni city of Hodaida yesterday, security sources said. The sources said two of the assailants were also killed. "Gunmen believed to belong to al Qaeda attacked the main gate of the political security building with rocket-propelled grenades and machine guns after a car bomb driven by a suicide bomber attacked the back gate," one of the sources said. Al Qaeda and Islamic State have both gained ground in Yemen, where a war has been raging for the past seven months between a Saudi-led military coalition and Houthi militiamen allied to Iran.

The militant Islamist groups view the Shiite Muslim Houthi movement, which controls Hodaida and much of Yemen's north, as apostates deserving death. But Islamic State has also hit out against the Arab military alliance supporting Yemen's embattled government.

In a series of suicide bombings on Oct. 6, Islamic State killed 22 people, including several troops from the United Arab Emirates, at the government headquarters in the southern port of Aden and military bases in the city.

Ground fighting and Saudi-led air strikes have killed at least 5,400 people in Yemen's multi-sided conflict, which started as a civil war among competing factions but has drawn in outside powers in a regional struggle for influence

between Sunni Gulf countries and Shiite Iran.

Jets from a Saudi-led military coalition bombed the house of Yemen's speaker of parliament yesterday, residents said, as part of a wave of attacks aimed at influential politicians. The attack hit the residence of Yahya al-Ra'i in central Dhamar province, leaving him unscathed but killing his son. Residents of the Houthi-controlled capital Sanaa reported around 60 coalition air strikes in the last two days on military bases and houses belonging to family members of Ali Abdullah Saleh, a former president and important ally of the Houthis. Five civilians were killed in the bombardment of the capital on Thursday, residents said, including at least two children. — Reuters

EU TO ANNOUNCE END OF IRAN SANCTIONS

BRUSSELS: The EU will announce tomorrow the formal end to damaging economic sanctions imposed on Iran over its nuclear programme which the West feared would give Tehran the atomic bomb, Western diplomatic sources said.

They said the decision will take effect around the end of the year after the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) certifies that Iran has met its commitments under a landmark July accord with the major powers to curb its nuclear programme in return for lifting sanctions.

"The EU will adopt the legislative framework for lifting all nuclear-related economic and financial sanctions but this will of course only apply ... once the IAEA would have ticked all the boxes," one of the sources said.

"My own assessment is that implementation can be expected to take place at the end of the year, (or) the beginning of next year, but of course only once the IAEA has given the green light," said the source who asked not to be named.

Crucially, Iran will have to satisfy the IAEA, the UN nuclear watchdog, that it has taken the steps required to ensure its Arak reactor and other installations cannot be used for military purposes.

Sunday's announcement will complete the 90-day adoption stage of the July agreement reached between Iran and the five permanent UN Security Council members—Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States—plus Germany.

The United States and the European Union have hit a long list of Iranian individuals and companies, especially its banks and key oil and gas groups, with asset freezes and visa bans to pressure Tehran to open up its nuclear programme to international inspection.

The sanctions have proved very damaging, locking up billions in Iranian assets overseas and starving the oil-dependent economy of crucially needed technology and investment. Washington is expected to make a similar announcement Sunday on lifting its Iran sanctions.

In Tehran, the official Iranian News Agency (IRNA) said EU foreign affairs head Federica Mogherini and her Iranian counterpart Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif would issue a statement on Sunday.

"The ending of the sanctions will follow once we have done our part. We hope that will happen within one or two months," Iran's chief nuclear negotiator, Abbas Araghchi, was quoted as saying in the IRNA report.

The July agreement won final approval in Iran on Wednesday following US and United Nations clearance despite fierce opposition from US and Israeli critics who believe it lets Tehran off the hook too easily and from Iranian hardliners who believe it concedes too much to the West. Iran has always denied seeking nuclear weapons and the accord is meant to ensure it never does through an inspection regime over 15 years. The two sides are due to hold a first meeting Monday in Vienna of the Joint Commission which will oversee the next phase, implementation of the accord. —AFP

SYRIA KURDS DENOUNCE AMNESTY 'WAR CRIMES' REPORT

BEIRUT: Syria's Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG) denounced rights group Amnesty International for accusing its fighters of war crimes by forcibly displacing people and demolishing homes. Amnesty said this week that Syrian Kurdish forces had carried out a "campaign of collective punishment" against villages previously held by the Islamic State group.

It accused them of preventing people from returning to their villages after IS was expelled and, in some cases, destroying houses belonging to residents accused of IS sympathies. The YPG rejected the allegations and said the report would cause ten-

sions between Arabs and Kurds in Syria.

"The Amnesty International report is arbitrary, biased and unprofessional," the YPG said, also calling it "dangerous, unethical and unworthy of" the organisation. "This report will contribute greatly to the deepening of ethnic tensions and portrays things as a sectarian war between Kurds and Arabs," the statement added.

Its response includes line-by-line rebuttals of allegations including the deliberate destruction of homes and the razing of one village in northeast Syria. The Kurdish force said Amnesty had failed to take into consideration the damage caused by years of

fighting and an IS strategy of using mines and other explosives.

"Successive terrorist organisations in the region pursued a war strategy of planting improvised explosive devices and mines, using car and suicide bombs and booby-trapping houses," the YPG said.

"The authors of the report ignore what Daesh (IS) terrorists and others before them in the region did during their defeats in terms of demolition, burning and destruction."

The group also pointed to its alliance with Arab fighters, which it said "removed all doubt" that it would engage in the

forced displacement of any particular ethnic group. But Amnesty's report said the destruction it examined on a fact-finding mission to 14 towns and villages did not result from fighting. It quoted villagers who said Kurdish forces had deliberately razed the village of Husseiniya in Hasakeh province. Amnesty said satellite images showed that nearly 94 percent of the village had been destroyed between June 2014 and June 2015. The YPG cast doubt Amnesty's witnesses, saying the group had interviewed people "who fled the area with Daesh and are stained with the blood of the Syrian people." — AFP

IRAQI FORCES IN HUGE ANTI-JIHADIST PUSH

BAIJI: Iraqi forces defused booby traps and hunted down holdout jihadists in the strategic Baiji area yesterday as part of their biggest advance against the Islamic State group in months. Baiji lies at a crossroads between several frontlines and control of the area is seen as the key to progress in other regions, including Anbar province where forces were also closing in on IS strongholds. Iraq's army, police and counter-terrorism services, as well as thousands of fighters from the Popular Mobilisation (Hashed al-Shaabi), continued to gain significant ground in and around Baiji, officers said. "Iraqi forces are moving deep into Baiji, they have retaken the industrial area and several other neighbourhoods," an army colonel told AFP. "We control about 60 percent of the city, there are not so many Daesh fighters left and they are trapped," he said, using an Arabic acronym for IS. After retaking most of the refinery to the north of the city, security forces were sweeping the sprawling complex for bombs and die-hard jihadists. "Inside the refinery, our forces are defusing booby traps and looking for the last Daesh terrorists we believe are still holed up in some buildings," he said.

The refinery, which once produced 300,000 barrels per day of refined products meeting half of Iraq's needs, is said to have been damaged beyond repair and to no longer be of huge strategic interest. At least six anti-IS fighters were killed at the refinery on Thursday, several officers said. The bodies of at least 15 IS fighters were also found there and large numbers of wounded jihadists are reported to have been evacuated to the nearby IS strongholds of Hawijah and Sharqat. The same officer also said that Iraqi forces had completely surrounded Sinniya, a town west of Baiji on the road leading to Anbar. "We are firing large numbers of rockets and missiles, while Iraqi warplanes are also striking. This will prepare the ground for an operation to cleanse Sinniya," he said.

The operation launched this week to secure Baiji, which has seen almost uninterrupted fighting since IS swept across Iraq's Sunni Arab heartland in June 2014, appears to be spearheaded by the Hashed. Hadi al-Ameri, the most visible commander of the Hashed and a leading member of the Tehran-backed Shiite militia Badr, has been omnipresent on the Baiji frontlines. Qassem Soleimani, commander of the foreign wing of Iran's elite Revolutionary Guards, was also reported in Iraqi media to have played a key role. — AFP



TIKRIT: Iraqi Shiite fighters from the Popular Mobilisation units and Iraqi government forces drive a tank in the town of Baiji north of Tikrit during fighting against the Islamic State (IS) jihadist group to retake the strategic northern Iraqi town, yesterday. Iraqi forces battled the Islamic State (IS) jihadist group on separate fronts, ramping up operations to retake Baiji and Ramadi, two of the conflict's worst flashpoints. — AFP



MIDUGURI: Victims of suicide bomb blasts receive treatment at a hospital in Miduguri yesterday. At least 34 people were killed in a wave of suicide bomb attacks in northeast Nigeria, as the military warned today Boko Haram militants threaten the country's sovereignty. Thirty died in a double bombing on a mosque in Molai on Thursday night. — AFP

NIGERIA HIT AGAIN, ARMY WARNS ON BOKO HARAM MILITANTS THREATEN COUNTRY'S SOVEREIGNTY

MIDUGURI: At least 34 people were killed in a wave of suicide bomb attacks in northeast Nigeria, as the military yesterday warned Boko Haram militants threaten the country's sovereignty. Thirty died in a double bombing on a mosque in Molai on Thursday night, Mohammed Kanar, from the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) said. Three female bombers blew themselves up and killed four others in nearby Umarari early yesterday, he added.

Locals, however, said the death toll was higher from both incidents and that more than 60 may have been killed in total. Both areas are on the outskirts of the Borno state capital of Maiduguri, which has been increasingly targeted by coordinated bomb and suicide attacks in recent weeks.

The attacks came just days after Nigeria's President Muhammadu Buhari said he was "fully confident" of ending the six-year insurgency by the end of this year.

The military was "well-positioned to meet the December deadline which they have been given", he said in a statement on Wednesday. But with Maiduguri having been attacked four times this month alone, fresh questions will be asked about security in the city, where Boko Haram, which is allied to the Islamic State group in Syria and Iraq, was

founded in 2002. One area of the city, Ajilari Cross, has been hit three times in a month, killing more than 120. There have also been suicide attacks near the capital, Abuja.

Overall, some 1,350 people have been killed since Buhari came to power at the end of May, according to an AFP tally.

SOVEREIGNTY THREATENED

Buhari said on Wednesday that Boko Haram's "ability to attack, seize, ravage and hold any Nigerian territory will have been completely obliterated" by December.

This week, he met the head of the US Africa Command, General David Rodriguez, as Washington announced the deployment of up to 300 military personnel to northern Cameroon.

The US military will provide intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance expertise, the White House said, after similar multiple suicide attacks in Cameroon, Chad and Niger.

Guerrilla-style tactics against "soft" civilian targets such as mosques, markets and bus stations have increased.

Last week, 41 people were killed in triple explosions in Baga Sola, on the Chadian side of Lake Chad, where Nigeria meets Niger, Chad and Cameroon. Yesterday, Nigeria's most senior army officer, Chief of Army Staff

Lieutenant General Tukur Buratai, told troops "the next few days will be crucial" in the counter-insurgency.

"It is also crucial to our country, Nigeria. Our sovereignty as a nation is threatened. The Nigerian Army and indeed the military as the symbol of our nationhood is being challenged.

"Our ability to stand and defeat the Boko Haram terrorists in the next few weeks will determine the future of our country. We cannot afford to lose the fight," he said.

MOSQUES TARGETED

The greater sense of urgency may be attributed to fears of a resumption of attacks in hard-to-reach rural areas of northeast Nigeria once the rainy season ends.

Should that happen, troops attempting to secure towns and cities would face overstretch to tackle the Islamists in the countryside, which Boko Haram controlled last year.

A US presence in northern Cameroon could help boost intelligence efforts to thwart planned attacks across the Lake Chad region. But the repeated attacks on Maiduguri have demonstrated the difficulties in combating the threat to urban areas. — AFP

POLISH OPPOSITION TOPS POLLS WITH REFUGEE ISSUE

WARSAW: Poland's conservative opposition is on track to win general elections on October 25, according to polls yesterday which suggest it is tapping into fears over refugees to retain a solid lead over the governing centrists.

Two surveys gave the Law and Justice (PiS) party 32 and 36 percent support among the electorate, well ahead of the 22 percent for Prime Minister Ewa Kopacz's centrist Civic Platform (PO).

PiS had up to 40 percent support in two other independent opinion surveys published this week, suggesting party leader Jaroslaw Kaczynski could end up with an absolute majority.

"PiS is clearly on track to win this election—only a political earthquake could change that," Warsaw University political scientist Anna Materska-Sosnowska told AFP.

"Even if it initially falls short of the 231 seats needed for a governing majority, PiS will easily garner support from smaller like-minded parties with an appetite for power." Former prime minister Kaczynski scored a resounding victory for his party in May's presidential election when he floated political greenhorn Andrzej Duda, who easily beat incumbent and long-time PO ally Bronislaw Komorowski. Now Kaczynski has put forward Duda's campaign man-

ager, Beata Szydlo, as his choice for prime minister.

Also a newcomer to the national stage, she is wooing voters with populist promises of generous spending. Hitting the campaign trail this week, Kaczynski played up fears linked to the EU's worst migrant crisis since World War II. He claimed refugees were bringing "cholera to the Greek islands, dysentery to Vienna, various types of parasites" in comments that critics said recalled the Nazi era.

"I'm afraid this is being received well by voters. Unfortunately, playing the fear card often earns political capital," Materska-Sosnowska said. When PiS

last held power in 2005-7, Kaczynski governed in tandem with his twin brother, the late president Lech Kaczynski. The period was marked by internal political turmoil triggered by their combative style and international tensions brought on by their eurosceptic and anti-Russian views.

Lech Kaczynski died in a presidential jet crash in Smolensk, eastern Russia, in 2010. Polls vary widely on Kukiz'15, tipped by analysts as PiS's most likely coalition partner. Run by political newcomer Pawel Kukiz—a retired punk rocker—with some showing it could make its parliamentary debut with five to seven percent support. —AFP



LESBOS: European Migration Commissioner Dimitris Avramopoulos (R) meets migrants at the "Moria" camp, near the port of Mytilene on the Greek island of Lesbos yesterday. The European Union's top migration official was visiting the Greek island of Lesbos today, a day after the dangerous Aegean Sea crossing attempted by thousands of migrants claimed seven more lives. —AFP

AFGHAN MIGRANT SHOT DEAD AS EU STRIKES DEAL WITH TURKEY

MIGRANTS 'DID NOT OBEY' A POLICE ORDER TO STOP

SREDETS: The European Union yesterday grappled with a dark new turn in its refugee crisis after Bulgarian border guards shot dead an Afghan migrant in the first such fatality in the months-long humanitarian drama.

The killing—described by Bulgaria as an accident that it deeply regretted—occurred late Thursday, just before the EU and Turkey struck a deal aimed at stemming a massive influx of migrants into the bloc. The accord, meanwhile, appeared to hit an early bump in the road as Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan mocked Brussels for its contribution in tackling the Syrian refugee crisis and challenged it to take Ankara's bid for EU membership more seriously.

The fatal border shooting was the first of its kind in Europe's worst refugee crisis since World War II, the UN refugee agency said. The man was among a group of 54 migrants spotted by a patrol near the southeastern town of Sredets close to the Turkish border, Bulgarian interior ministry official Georgy Kostov said yesterday.

Officers fired warning shots into the air and "a migrant was injured by a ricochet—according to the testimony of one of the three police officers—and succumbed to his injuries on the way to the hospital," he said. The migrants "did not obey" a police order to stop, the official said.

"None of the migrants were armed, but they put up resistance." A spokesman for the UN refugee agency (UNHCR) in Bulgaria called the incident "very regrettable" and said it showed that reinforcing borders was not the answer to the crisis.

"This plan for barriers, fences and police cannot solve the problem of desperate people," Boris Cheshirkov told AFP.

'READY TO HELP'

The incident prompted Bulgarian Prime Minister Boyko Borisov to fly home from a summit of European leaders in Brussels where the agreement with Turkey was announced. Under the plan, Turkey agreed to tackle people-smugglers and take measures to keep more of the millions of refugees fleeing the Syrian conflict from crossing by sea to Europe.

In exchange, European leaders agreed to give Ankara more funds to tackle the problem and speed up working on easing visa restrictions on Turkish citizens travelling to Europe.

The deal was settled after European Commission officials visited Turkey in a last-ditch bid to persuade the government to back the plan, following a visit by Erdogan to Brussels last week.

European Council President Donald Tusk

hailed the pact as a "major step forward" but stressed "an agreement with Turkey only makes sense if it effectively contains the flow of refugees".

But yesterday Erdogan jabbed at the EU for its vaunted role in the Syrian refugee crisis. And he asked whether Ankara's long-standing bid for membership of the bloc was being taken seriously. "They announce they'll take in 30,000 to 40,000 refugees and then they are nominated for the Nobel for that. We are hosting two and a half million refugees but nobody cares," Erdogan said.

He complained that Turkey had so far spent \$8 billion (seven billion euros) on hosting refugees — 2.2 million Syrians who fled the four-and-a-half year conflict in their country and also 300,000 Iraqis.

"They keep saying 'We can't do without Turkey.' It's very clear but they are not being clear. Then why don't you let Turkey in the EU?" Erdogan said. Turkey is the main departure point for the more than 600,000 migrants who have entered Europe this year, most of them making the short but dangerous sea crossing to the Greek islands, but some also coming by land. The crisis has already claimed the lives of over 3,000 migrants this year who drowned in the Mediterranean trying to reach the continent in makeshift boats. —AFP

RUSSIA, EX-SOVIET STATES TO JOINTLY DEFEND BORDERS

BURABAI: The leaders of ex-Soviet states, led by Russian President Vladimir Putin, responded to growing instability in Afghanistan yesterday by agreeing to create a joint task force to defend their bloc's external borders if a crisis arises.

The move could mean that Russian troops, as part of collective forces, will be deployed to Afghanistan's borders as the US-led coalition gradually withdraws from the country, leaving behind a power vacuum. If Russian troops do move in, it would be a fresh sign of Putin's new military assertiveness, after his intervention in Syria. The Kremlin says Russia wants to stop the spread of Islamist militancy, but Western governments also see it as Russia trying to re-assert itself as a global power.

The leaders of ex-Soviet grouping the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) met at the Burabai resort near the Kazakh capital, Astana. They agreed on the creation of what is described in a summit document as a "grouping of border (forces) and other institutions from CIS member states designed to resolve crisis situations on the external borders".

There were no details on the composition of the force or on where it would be deployed. But Sergei Lebedev, the CIS executive secretary, mentioned Tajikistan, which has a border with Afghanistan, as the possible location for the deployment of joint forces.

"Apart from Russia, there are collective forces aimed at supporting Tajikistan against those threats from the south," he told reporters. "Whether or not Russia is going to return there (to patrol the border) is a matter that will be resolved through bilateral agreements." Russian border troops were responsible for security on the Tajik-Afghan border until 2005, when an agreement with the Tajik government lapsed and they pulled out. Impoverished Tajikistan has the longest border with Afghanistan among the ex-Soviet nations and remains volatile since a 1992-97 civil war between its Moscow-backed secular government and Islamist guerrillas. —Reuters



ASTANA: Russian President Vladimir Putin (R) meets with his Belarus' counterpart Alexander Lukashenko yesterday on the sidelines of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) leaders summit in Astana. — AFP

BJP OFFICIAL URGES MUSLIMS TO GIVE UP EATING BEEF

NEW DELHI: The head of an Indian state belonging to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ruling party has urged the country's minority Muslims to stop eating beef out of respect for the sentiments of Hindus, a call that could further inflame social divisions.

The comments by Manohar Lal Khattar, chief minister of the northern state of Haryana, come after a Hindu mob lynched a Muslim man over rumours he ate beef, fuelling a fierce debate over rising intolerance towards religious minorities in India.

Cows are considered holy by many, but not all, Hindus, who form a majority of India's population of 1.2 billion. Beef is eaten by Muslims and Christians, as well as many lower-caste Hindus.

Although Modi's Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party and its allies have long campaigned for a ban on

cow slaughter, India has emerged as the world's largest exporter of beef. The trade is mostly run by Muslims.

"In this country, they (Muslims) will have to give up eating beef," Khattar told the Indian Express newspaper in an interview. "They can be Muslim even after they stop eating beef, can't they? It is written nowhere that Muslims have to eat beef, nor is it written anywhere in Christianity that they have to eat beef."

Khattar said the killing in Dadri, in the northern state of Uttar Pradesh, just 76 km (47 miles) distant from the capital, New Delhi, was wrong, but attributed it to a "misunderstanding" caused by "loose" comments about cows.

The lynching drew widespread condemnation. More than 20 writers have returned awards in the past two weeks, saying India's secular fabric was under attack

from Modi's hardline Hindu nationalist supporters.

Modi called the lynching "sad" and "unwelcome" in his first response this week, after weeks of silence. But critics say his decision to remain silent about several incidents deemed anti-Muslim has only emboldened his hardline supporters.

Political opponents have accused Modi's party of looking to create religious tension ahead of a crucial electoral test this month in the northern state of Bihar.

Tougher measures to safeguard cows are often used as a rallying call by politicians seeking to win Hindu votes, sometimes leading to Hindu-Muslim riots.

Modi's government has clamped down on the illegal trade of cattle with Muslim-majority neighbour Bangladesh, and two states ruled by his party have tightened laws to protect cows. — Reuters



KOLKATA: Indian nuns from the Catholic Order of the Missionaries of Charity take part in a mass to commemorate the 103rd birth anniversary of Mother Teresa at the Indian Missionaries of Charity house in Kolkata. The Catholic church in India yesterday, has criticised government plans to allow single people to adopt children, a move that has prompted Mother Teresa's charity to stop adoptions from its orphanages. — AFP

INDIA'S CATHOLICS SLAM NEW ADOPTION GUIDELINES

NEW DELHI: The Catholic church in India yesterday criticised government plans to allow single people to adopt children, a move that has prompted Mother Teresa's charity to stop adoptions from its orphanages. The Catholic Bishops' Conference of India (CBCI) said some of the new guidelines went against the principles of "ethics and human dignity" established by Mother Teresa.

"It would be quite an unacceptable procedure to allow the single parent to adopt a child, as it involves many risks for the adopted children and defeats the very purpose of adoption," the CBCI said in a statement. The Missionaries of Charity—the order of nuns that Mother Teresa founded in the eastern Indian city of Kolkata—said earlier it had stopped its work on adoptions after the government introduced new guidelines. The guidelines, introduced in July but details of which have only recently emerged, allow single, separated or divorced people to adopt from registered organisations in India.

The government says the changes are aimed at boosting the number of adoptions in India. Thousands of children are orphaned or abandoned in India every year, but government data shows only 4,000 were legally adopted in the year to March. Known across the world for her charity work, Mother Teresa was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979 for her work with the poor, sick, old and lonely in the slums of Kolkata. Yesterday Sister Blesilla, the nun in charge of adoption at Missionaries of Charity, said the new guidelines had forced their hand. "We have stopped adoption of children because of the new guidelines issued by the Indian government," she told AFP.

"Complying with all the provisions would have been difficult for us," she said, adding the decision had been taken two months ago. The CBCI said the new guidelines would also allow adoptive parents to select from six children. "Equally unacceptable is the directive that six children to be shown to the adoptee to select one from among them," it said. "This would be tantamount to consider the children as mere commodities for preferential choice and a denial of human dignity to children." — AFP

AFGHANISTAN WELCOMES OBAMA PLEDGE TO KEEP US TROOPS

US TROOPS ACCUSED OF DAMAGING EVIDENCE IN HOSPITAL STRIKE

KABUL: Kabul welcomed the US decision to keep thousands of troops in Afghanistan past 2016, vowing to respond to a resurgent Taliban "with full force" even as the rebels promised to wage jihad until the last American soldier leaves.

President Barack Obama's decision Thursday to keep a 9,800-strong US force in Afghanistan through much of next year came as he admitted that Afghan forces were not ready to stand alone. Calling the plan "the right thing to do", Obama acknowledged "Afghan forces are still not as strong as they need to be".

"As commander in chief, I will not allow Afghanistan to be used as a safe haven for terrorists to attack our nation again," he said in a televised address. Afghanistan's President Ashraf Ghani welcomed the decision, saying in a statement late Thursday that his government "will respond to fear and terror with full force", but adding that it will keep "ajar the door to peace". Yesterday, he visited troops in northern Kunduz city, which was briefly captured by the Taliban in an offensive launched last month which was the insurgent's greatest military victory since 2001, sending shockwaves through the country.

"I take pride in you, thank you for your sacrifices and for your patriotism," he said at a ceremony where he issued medals for bravery for those involved in retaking the provincial capital. Intense fighting has spread in recent weeks to other parts of the country, underscoring the continued role of US troops in training the still fledgling Afghan forces and conducting vital counterterrorism operations.

'ATTACKS CONTINUE TO MOUNT'

Just this week the NATO coalition said US and Afghan forces had 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 Taliban responded to the US announcement saying they would keep fighting until American troops finally pull out. "They were the ones who decided to invade Afghanistan. But it will be us who decide when they leave," said Taliban spokesman Zabiullah Mujahid. "When the attacks continue to mount on the occupiers and when they see they have to spend more money in their meaningless war, they will be forced to change their oppressive

policy. Our jihad will continue until the last occupier is expelled," he told AFP Thursday. Regional security analyst Imtiaz Gul cautioned against linking the extension of US military presence to the fall of Kunduz, saying negotiations between the two countries had been going on for several months. "It was based on ground realities as Afghan security forces are still weak, the unity government is not stable," he said.

"There is a resurgence of the Taliban after the death of Mullah Omar and they have galvanised around Mullah Mansour," he added, referring to the group's founder and its new leader.

Coming to office in 2009, Obama had pledged to end the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, but more than six years on, thousands of troops remain in both countries. The Afghan war in particular has cost more than 2,000 US lives and wounded and maimed tens of thousands. The US decision to invade in 2001 was prompted by the Taliban's refusal to surrender Al-Qaeda leaders including Osama bin Laden after the 9/11 terror attacks.

NO COMBAT ROLE

Under previous plans for Afghanistan, the United States would have reduced its troop numbers by the end of 2016 from about 10,000 currently, to about 1,000.

But now, by late next year or early 2017 when Obama steps down, their numbers are expected to remain at about 5,500. Obama stressed the troops would not have a combat role, and would instead maintain their focus on training and counterterrorism. US Defense Secretary Ashton Carter said following the announcement that he believed NATO allies will renew or adjust their contributions to the US-led coalition. The announcement followed a series of setbacks, including a US air strike on October 3 on a hospital in Kunduz run by Doctors Without Borders (MSF) that killed at least 24.

MSF accused the US of potentially damaging evidence related to the attack by forcing a military vehicle through the gates of the hospital on Thursday. "Their unannounced and forced entry damaged property, destroyed potential evidence and caused stress and fear for the MSF team," a spokeswoman said Friday. — AFP



KABUL: In this photograph taken on May 25, 2014, US President Barack Obama greets US troops during a surprise visit to Bagram Air Field near the Afghan capital Kabul. Kabul welcomed the US decision to keep thousands of troops in Afghanistan past 2016, vowing to respond to a resurgent Taliban "with full force" even as the rebels promised to wage jihad until the last American soldier leaves. — AFP

CHINA WANTS NAVAL DRILLS WITH SE ASIA IN S CHINA SEA

BEIJING: China's defence minister said yesterday that he is willing to hold joint drills in the disputed South China Sea with Southeast Asian countries, covering accidental encounters and search and rescue, striking a conciliatory tone over an increasingly tense spat. China's relations with several Southeast Asian countries, especially the Philippines and Vietnam, have been strained over Beijing's increasingly assertive tone in pushing territorial claims in the disputed South China Sea.

China has overlapping claims with Vietnam, the Philippines, Malaysia, Taiwan and Brunei in the South China Sea, through which \$5 trillion in ship-borne trade passes every year. Chinese Defence Minister Chang Wanquan told his counterparts from all 10 members of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) at the start of an informal summit in Beijing that all parties needed to push for the "correct" development of ties.

Chang said the biggest common need was to maintain

stability. In a statement carried by the Defence Ministry on its microblog, Chang was cited as saying that all sides should manage and control the risks from their disputes. China is willing to hold joint exercises with ASEAN nations next year in the South China Sea on rules about accidental encounters at sea, search and rescue, and disaster relief, the statement added, without providing further details. China stepped up the creation of artificial islands in the South China Sea last year, drawing strong criticism from Washington.

The Philippines welcomed the possibility of joint naval drills with China, especially if they provide an opportunity to verify that China's man-made islands in the South China Sea have no military purpose, a senior naval commander told Reuters. "That's a good idea, we welcome that proposal," the commander said, declining to be named because he was not authorised to speak to the media. "It would be good if China will open its artificial islands, allow us to dock there and visit these islands."

FREEDOM OF NAVIGATION

Media reports say the United States has decided to conduct freedom-of-navigation operations inside 12 nautical-mile limits that China claims around islands built on reefs in the Spratly archipelago.

China denies it has militarised the South China Sea, saying construction work is mostly for civilian purposes, and has warned that Beijing would not stand for violations of its territorial waters in the name of freedom of navigation. The United States says, under international law, that building up artificial islands on previously submerged reefs does not entitle a country to claim a territorial limit and that it is vital to maintain freedom of navigation. Chang, speaking in front of reporters, said there were other areas to work together on, too. "At present the regional situation is generally stable, but there are obvious downward economic pressures and non-traditional security challenges are increasing," he said, pointing to the threat from terror groups. —Reuters



TAUNGOK: Supporters of Myanmar's opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi applaud as Suu Kyi delivers a speech during a campaign rally of National League for Democracy party in Taungok, western Rakhine state, Myanmar yesterday. — AP

SUU KYI TAKES ELECTION BID TO MYANMAR'S STRIFE-TORN RAKHINE

SUU KYI RECEIVES A HERO'S WELCOME

THANDWE: Myanmar's Aung San Suu Kyi began her campaign in volatile Rakhine state yesterday with a hundreds-strong security force, as she risks a rare brush with hostility in a region where Buddhist hardliners accuse her of sympathising with maligned local Muslims. The opposition leader was whisked out of Thandwe airport in a convoy surrounded by supporters of her National League for Democracy (NLD) passing on its way around two dozen riot police gathered in the town. Suu Kyi has mostly received a hero's welcome in her criss-crossing of the former junta-run nation in pursuit of victory in the landmark November 8 polls, but is braced for a mixed reception in western Rakhine. "Security will be very tight. We are going to use more than 1,000 people for security."

We are worried and taking precautions because we do not want any problem," Win Naing, chairman of Suu Kyi's NLD in Thandwe, told AFP earlier. Concerned officials had "negotiated" in the region for a peaceful trip, he said, adding that many local people would like to "welcome her warmly". Suu Kyi has opted to skirt state capital Sittwe and other more hair-trigger areas of Rakhine, which remains deeply scarred by two bouts of communal unrest between Buddhists and Rohingya Muslims that erupted in 2012 and left more than 200 dead. Most of the 140,000 people displaced as a result of the bloodshed and arson are Muslims. They remain trapped in miserable camps or have attempted to escape on rickety boats in a desperate exodus from Myanmar that has swelled in recent years.

While Suu Kyi has faced international disappointment at her reluctance to speak out in support of the minority Rohingya, she is viewed with suspicion among Rakhine hard-

liners who see her as supportive of Muslims. During a recent interview with India Today the Nobel laureate defended her reticence, saying "flaming words of condemnation" were the wrong way to achieve reconciliation.

'BIT WORRIED'

Tensions are spiking in the Buddhist-majority country as it heads towards the elections, which many hope will be the freest in generations for the former pariah state.

Suu Kyi has accused her opponents of using religion and the rise of a powerful nationalist monk-led movement as part of their political campaigns. At Thandwe—the gateway to Myanmar's upscale nearby beach resorts—dozens of supporters crowded the airport, many holding placards welcoming Suu Kyi or waving her party's flag, as the democracy icon was whisked away for her first rally.

"I am a little bit worried about her. But I think people will keep the situation calm," said 37-year-old supporter Nay Lin Oo, adding he was voting for the NLD because he wanted a "clean government". The 70-year-old will begin the two-day Rakhine campaign with an afternoon rally at Taunggote, some 45 miles (70 kilometres) away from Thandwe and one of the sites of violence that triggered the 2012 unrest. Periodic bouts of religious bloodshed have overshadowed Myanmar's reform efforts in recent years as it began to emerge from the grip of outright military rule under a quasi-civilian government, which came into power in 2011. In a statement released Thursday commending Myanmar on signing a limited truce with several ethnic minority armies, United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon called for "an open and peaceful electoral process". —AFP

AQUINO WARNS PHILIPPINES TO BE ON ALERT FOR STRONG TYPHOON

MANILA: Philippine President Benigno Aquino warned yesterday a strong typhoon set to hit the disaster-plagued nation over the weekend could cause severe flooding and wind damage in rural northern regions home to millions. In a nationally televised address, Aquino urged the estimated six million people in Typhoon Koppu's direct path to be ready to evacuate, as he stressed the government was making full preparations.

"Your government is here to help us achieve zero casualties," Aquino said. The Philippines is struck by about 20 major storms each year, with the disasters regularly killing thousands of people annually and compounding deep poverty for millions. In November 2013, more than 7,350 people were left dead or missing in the central Philippines as Super Typhoon Haiyan—the strongest storm ever recorded on land—destroyed entire towns.

Koppu was expected to make landfall on the northeastern coast of the Philippines' biggest island of Luzon on Sunday morning with wind gusts of up to 180 kilometres (115 miles) an hour, the state weather service said. The area where it is first expected to hit is a mainly farming and mountainous region, about 270 kilometres northeast of Manila. The typhoon's forecast strength was not on a par with Haiyan, which hit land with winds of 315 kilometres an hour.

However, the state weather forecasters and Aquino said a confluence of meteorological conditions, including the El Nino phenomenon and a local high-pressure area, could cause Koppu to be uniquely destructive. Aquino warned of intense rain over a long period of time. "This typhoon is different because it will have the effect of being stationary," Aquino warned, adding forecasters said it could take 12 hours for it to leave the main island of Luzon.

"Because of El Nino, evaporation at sea will be enhanced and cause the typhoon to suck up more water that it will dump on us." The state weather service also warned of storm surges of up to 1.2 metres (about four feet) in some coastal areas.—AFP



MANILA: Sen. Miriam Santiago displays her certificate of candidacy shortly after filing as a presidential candidate for next year's national elections at the Commission on Elections in Manila, Philippines yesterday. More than 70 presidential hopefuls have filed their certificates of candidacy with Sen. Grace Poe, former Interior Secretary Mar Roxas, Vice-president Jejomar Binay and Santiago considered as top contenders. — AP

MEXICO, US TO OPEN JOINTLY STAFFED BORDER STATIONS

MEXICO CITY: Mexico and the United States said on Thursday they will open two jointly staffed border stations on Mexican soil in a bid to streamline trade and improve communication at the frontier, which has suffered due to tensions over migration.

US Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson and Mexican Finance Minister Luis Videgaray announced the program at a news conference in Mexico City, saying it would help speed up commerce at a congested border.

The pre-inspection stations will allow goods to be reviewed only once, instead of two separate times by US and Mexican agents, they said. "I view pre-inspection with trusted partners like Mexico as the wave of the future," Johnson noted. The plan has been under discussion for several years but was held up by a diplomatic flap over whether U.S. agents could carry guns in Mexico.

A shared facility has been operating since last year on the US side of the border in Texas, at Laredo airport, allowing companies to ship goods into eight airports in Mexico, Johnson said. Videgaray said a new facility to process agricultural goods from Mexico would be opened near the Otay Mesa crossing in Tijuana on the border with California.

Another joint facility will operate near the crossing at San Jeronimo in the Mexican state of Chihuahua, across the US border from Santa Teresa, New Mexico, he said. The San Jeronimo station will serve a nearby factory run by Taiwan's Foxconn Technology Group, the world's largest contract electronics manufacturer.

Mexico's Congress in April approved a change in the law to allow US agents to carry arms in Mexico in certain places, removing a hurdle to the establishment of the centers. Trade between the United States and Mexico has surged since the North American Free Trade Agreement two decades ago, but trade groups complain that investments in border infrastructure have lagged while congestion has increased, costing companies billions of dollars in business due to delayed shipments. "This is a significant change in how the US and Mexico work together," said Christopher Wilson, deputy director of the Woodrow Wilson Center's Mexico Institute. "It's a step along the road to single border crossings. We could be there in a handful of years." — Reuters

VENEZUELA JAILS EX-PRESIDENTIAL HOPEFUL ON RETURN FROM EXILE 'I'M ON MY WAY TO MY BEAUTIFUL HOMELAND'

CARACAS: Former Venezuelan presidential candidate Manuel Rosales was arrested on Thursday upon his return to Venezuela from exile in Peru, six years after the government of late socialist leader Hugo Chavez accused him of illicit enrichment.

Rosales, who served two terms as governor of the most populous state of Zulia, joins a list of opposition figures including protest leader Leopoldo Lopez who have been jailed by the government of President Nicolas Maduro.

Intelligence agents took Rosales into custody after he landed in Zulia's capital Maracaibo, where hundreds of supporters had gathered at a rally to support him.

The state prosecutors' office said in a statement that it would take him to Caracas and resume judicial proceedings against him that were interrupted when he left the country.

"I feel a knot in my throat and my heart is jumping. I'm on my way to my beautiful homeland," wrote Rosales, 62, via Twitter before boarding a commercial flight from nearby Aruba.

Rosales' arrival and detention may help mobilize the opposition in the run-up to the Dec. 6 parliamentary elections, which polls show will be among the toughest ever for the ruling Socialist Party and a test for President Nicolas Maduro.

'Exile is the worst prison'

Rosales received little attention after being defeated by Chavez in 2006 and has been off the political radar since leaving the country.

He was charged in 2008 with improperly reporting his income while he was Zulia governor and of registering income the origin of which he could not explain to the comptroller



MARACAIBO: Evelin Trejo de Rosales, center, wife of Venezuelan opposition leader Manuel Rosales waits for the arrival of her husband to La Chinita airport in Maracaibo, Venezuela, Thursday. Rosales a former governor, who had been living in exile, was arrested when he returned to Venezuela. Rosales ran for president in 2006 and lost to Hugo Chavez. — AP

general, according to state prosecutors.

He fled to Peru in 2009 before the first hearing of his trial. He is barred from holding office until 2022 through a separate decision by the comptroller general.

His lawyer, Jesus Ollarves, said Rosales had expected to be arrested but returned anyway at the request of his family and political party, and because he came to believe that "exile is the worst prison."

His supporters have said the accusations

against him are part of a political witch hunt. Chavez had called him a "thief" and said "Manuel Rosales, I will sweep you from the political map of Venezuela."

Critics have said that Maduro, Chavez's successor, is increasingly criminalizing dissent and using the justice system to intimidate dissidents. Maduro has said that jailed opposition leaders sought to destabilize the country through often violent street protests in 2014 that left more than 40 people dead. — Reuters



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US DOWNPLAYS CIVILIAN DRONE DEATHS, SECRET FILES SHOW

WASHINGTON: President Barack Obama's administration has underrepresented the true number of civilians killed in drone strikes, a news site said in citing a cache of secret files it published.

On Thursday, the news site The Intercept unveiled documents leaked by a whistleblower about America's use of unmanned aerial vehicles to kill terrorist targets in the Middle East and Central Asia.

Since taking office in 2009 Obama has vastly expanded the drone program, authorizing many more strikes than his Republican predecessor, George W. Bush.

In classified slides, the US military describes fatalities from targeted strikes as "enemy killed in action," even if their identity is unknown or they were not the

intended targets, according to The Intercept.

And the attacks often kill many more people than intended, which runs counter to White House and Pentagon assertions that the strikes are precise and result in minimal casualties.

Documents detailing a mission called Operation Haymaker showed that US special operations airstrikes killed more than 200 people in northeastern Afghanistan from January 2012 to February 2013.

But only 35 of those casualties were intended targets, The Intercept said. And in one five-month period of the operation, nearly 90 percent of those killed in airstrikes were not the intended targets, The Intercept added.

The US has better intelligence in Afghanistan-scene of America's longest war-than in places like Yemen and Somalia, where the ratios may be equivalent or even worse, it said.

"Anyone caught in the vicinity is guilty by association," the unnamed source within the intelligence community who leaked the documents told The Intercept. When "a drone strike kills more than one person, there is no guarantee that those persons deserved their fate... So it's a phenomenal gamble," the source added.

'OUTRIGHT LIES'

US government statements minimizing the number of civilian casualties from drone strikes were "exaggerating at best, if

not outright lies," the source told the website. "It's a phenomenal gamble." Asked about the report, White House spokesman Josh Earnest said Obama "has obviously made a policy decision to try to be as transparent as possible about our counterterrorism operations all around the world."

Those operations "go to great lengths to limit civilian casualties," Earnest added. The report also provided details about how intelligence workers collect information on targets. Intelligence analysts, for example, create portraits of suspects and the threats they pose and present them in individual summaries known as a "baseball card." The information is then placed in a targeting package for action by higher authorities. — AFP

CLINTON OUTSPENDS ALL RIVALS IN BUILDING CAMPAIGN JUGGERNAUT

HILLARY'S CAMPAIGN OFFICIALS SAY THEY ARE ON THE RIGHT TRACK

DES MOINES: Hillary Clinton spent \$26 million over the summer building up her 2016 campaign, more than any of her rivals either within her own Democratic party or the Republican side, as she sought to build a formidable organization to help her capture the White House.

The former first lady and secretary of state who lost to Barack Obama in the 2008 campaign poured money into television advertising, the amassing of polling data and building a digital operation to reach as many voters as possible. Her biggest expense was the payroll for the 511 people her campaign employs, figures released Thursday show.

Clinton is attempting to strike a delicate balance. She's willing to spend the money to build an operation that no one else vying for the White House can compete with. At the same time, she wants to keep spending in check so that the campaign's budget doesn't spiral out of control. It's a challenge rooted in her first run for the White House in 2008, when her campaign grew so large that she spent her way into debt and internal power struggles among her large staff exploded into the public view.

Campaign aides this time around have made a big splash about their frugal ways - top officials ride the bus instead of the train, staffers share rooms in low-budget hotels. Take for example her Des Moines, Iowa office - responsible for ensuring she wins the crucial first state. The three-room suite sits atop a hair salon. No two pieces of furniture match. Duct tape holds a sign up in the makeshift kitchen. And the curtains appear to be older than anyone working there.

But even if the campaign has been mindful of trimming costs, that doesn't mean they aren't spending money. After Clinton, the two campaigns that spent the most during the quarter were those of Republicans Jeb Bush and Ben Carson. But their spending combined matched the spending her campaign racked up on its own during the three-month period.

Clinton's spending included \$560,000 on private jets and she owes the charter company another \$65,000 in billing that is still being processed. In that same time period, she spent more than \$71,000 on office security. She spent more than \$31,000 on licensing for music and other media. She spent just over \$4,000 on sign-language interpreters.

BURN RATE

The expenditures came as she raised a hefty \$28 million in the third quarter of this year and managed to build up a war chest of cash that her campaign has on hand for the coming months, according to fund-raising reports filed Thursday.

But Clinton's so-called "burn rate" - the pace at which her campaign spent money in the three months ending September 30 - was 86 percent, a number that far outpaced rivals like Bernie Sanders, who spent only 43 percent, or Republican Ted Cruz who spent 57 percent. Her burn rate was nearly identical to that of Republican Jeb Bush.

Having enough money in the bank became a significant problem for Clinton in 2008. She ran her campaign into \$12 million in debt as she tried unsuccessfully to defeat Obama in the primary. Plus, she loaned her campaign \$13 million more to keep it running.

When Clinton began to flounder in 2008, the large staff was plagued by infighting. The internal rifts went public and quickly defined her campaign.

Clinton's campaign officials say they are on the right track when it comes to fundraising. They point to the number of small dollar donors - 93 percent of donations in the previous quarter were less than \$100. Clinton's aides also say the campaign remains on target to raise its goal of \$100 million, a figure that is being used to craft the budget.

Her campaign argues that the large staff is an investment in infrastructure that will pay dividends later. The campaign has hired a data analytics team, which a campaign official said will be key to improving the ability to contact voters. "We have put a premium on organizing and built a formidable team early," a campaign official said. Between her existing sizable fundraising haul and personal wealth, it's unlikely Clinton's campaign will run out of money. But if campaign cash starts to become tight, such a large staff could become an albatross. Candidates are always loath to cut staff or scale back infrastructure for fear of creating an impression of a troubled campaign. — Reuters



WASHINGTON: Huma Abedin, longtime aide to former US Secretary of State and Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton, arrives to speak to the House Select Committee on Benghazi on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC, yesterday. — AFP



QUEBEC: NDP leader Tom Mulcair, Mayor Colette Roy-Laroche, and candidate Jean-Francois Delisle, right, walk through the rebuilt downtown, site of the train fire that killed 47 people two years ago, yesterday in Lac Megantic, Quebec, Canada. Canadians will vote in the federal election on Oct. 19. — AP

CONSERVATIVE CANADIAN LEADER FIGHTING TO STAY IN POWER

TORONTO: Conservative Prime Minister Stephen Harper's nearly 10 years in power could end next week, along with his dream of shattering Canada's image as a liberal bastion.

Harper, one of the longest-serving Western leaders, is seeking a rare fourth term in Monday's election but polls show him narrowly trailing Liberal leader Justin Trudeau, the son of late Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, one of Canada's most charismatic politicians.

A Trudeau victory could ease Canada's tensions with the administration of President Barack Obama, whose reluctance to approve the Keystone XL pipeline has damaged ties between the two major trading partners. While Trudeau supports the Alberta-to-Texas pipeline, it's not a do-or-die issue like it is for Harper, who represents a district in oil-rich Alberta. The pipeline is important to Canada, which needs infrastructure to export its growing oil sands production. But Harper's unease with Obama goes deeper, said Robert Bothwell, a Canadian history professor at the University of Toronto.

"It's ideological," he said. "Obama sees the world entirely different and Harper sees Obama and sees a liberal." Harper has done what many thought impossible since coming to power in 2006: He won three consecutive elections and nudged a traditionally center-left country to the right. He gradually lowered sales and corporate taxes, avoided climate change legislation, supported the oil industry against environmentalists and backed Israel's right-wing government. He has put a more conservative face on the nation of 35 million, deemphasizing health care and multiculturalism as the things that make Canadians proud.

DESTROYING LIBERALS

For Harper, a loss to the Liberals would be personally devastating. Former colleagues say his long-term goal is nothing short of redefining what it means to be Canadian, killing the long-held notion that the Liberals - the party of long-time leaders Pierre Trudeau and Jean Chretien - are Canada's natural party. "His whole being is about destroying the Liberals," Bothwell said. "If Justin beats Harper, Harper will just go through the roof or maybe he'll melt like the Wicked Witch of the West."

The Liberals lead the Conservatives by almost 6 percentage points. According to the CTV/Globe and Mail/Nanos Nightly Tracking Poll, the Liberals are at 36.5 percent, followed by the Conservatives at 30.6 percent. The New Democrats, a leftist party that moved to the center in a bid to get elected for the first time, are at 23.5 percent. — AP

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trend with IPO plan



QINGDAO, China: This photo taken on October 13, 2015 shows containers being transported in this port in eastern China's Shandong province. — AFP

CHINA TO DISAPPOINT WITH Q3 GROWTH

PRESSURE ON BEIJING TO DO MORE TO HEAD OFF HARD LANDING

SHANGHAI: China probably grew at its slowest pace since the depths of the global financial crisis in the third quarter, an AFP survey of economists has found, confirming investor fears following stock market turmoil and a currency devaluation. Signs the world's second-largest economy - a key driver of global growth is struggling will add to pressure on Beijing to do more to head off a hard landing. Output rose an annual 6.8 percent in the July-September period, according to the median forecast in a poll of 19 analysts carried out this week.

The figure - to be officially announced on Monday - would be the worst since early 2009 and comes after a raft of weak data has fanned concerns Chinese growth is slowing sharply, sending shivers through international markets. Those worries turned into a worldwide rout after a Chinese stock market bubble burst in June, wiping some 35 percent off Shanghai shares to date, and a surprise devaluation of the yuan currency in August stoked fears about stalling growth.

The wake-up call has slammed other emerging economies, delayed a move by the

United States to raise interest rates and sent prices of commodities such as copper and oil, which China imports on a massive scale, plummeting to multi-year lows. In March, Premier Li Keqiang forecast 2015 economic growth would be about 7.0 percent, as the country shifts to a "new normal" driven by domestic consumption instead of exports and government investment.

The AFP survey of China- and Hong Kong-based analysts for Chinese and international banks, securities firms and consultancies showed they expect China's economy to grow 6.9 percent this year, missing the target - though the qualifier of "about" would allow Beijing's leaders to declare victory. "We all know it is impossible to realise the 7.0 percent growth target this year," said Chang Jian, China economist for Barclays Capital, which is forecasting 6.5 percent for the third quarter and 6.6 percent for the full year. "The downward trend will continue next year and the slowdown will go on for quite a long time," she said.

China's GDP grew 7.3 percent last year, the slowest pace since 1990. Economic sta-

tistics in China - where the government depends on growth for legitimacy - are often viewed with scepticism, fuelling suspicion that the true growth rate is lower than stated. The International Monetary Fund this month pointed to the risk from stalling growth in China, warning the country is headed for a sharper-than-expected slowdown unless leaders get a grip on the economy.

'Slow is Healthy'

China has already cut interest rates five times in a year and slashed the amount of cash banks need to hold to boost lending, but that stimulus has yet to be seen substantially driving real economic growth. Analysts now widely expect China to further boost fiscal spending and ease monetary policy before the end of the year to prevent a "hard landing". "We expect that there will be more monetary easing in the fourth quarter... which will lead to a rebound in the economy," said Ma Xiaoping, a Beijing-based economist for HSBC.

Prominent Chinese figures have played

down the slowing trend, including Jack Ma, the founder of e-commerce giant Alibaba, which has seen its US-listed stock plunge as a proxy for the flagging economy. "Just like a human being, when you grow to 1.8 metres tall, you cannot keep up 10 percent growth every year," Ma said this week, as the company began to count down to China's biggest online shopping day on Nov 11. "Slow is good for China. Slow is healthy," he said.

But weak economic data from September has put stock markets on edge. Imports sank 20.4 percent year-on-year to \$145.2 billion last month, the government said Tuesday, in part due to weak commodity prices. Consumer inflation fell to 1.6 percent and the producer price index - which measures the cost of goods at the factory gate - dropped 5.9 percent, matching a six-year low in August. But Industrial Bank chief economist Lu Zhengwei predicted the outlook would pick up later this year: "Investment will be better than the third quarter and the loose monetary policy will start to take effect. At least the economy will not get worse." — AFP

PAK ENTREPRENEURS LAUNCH 'UBER FOR RICKSHAWS'

LAHORE: A group of young Pakistani entrepreneurs have launched an Uber-like rickshaw app service that is quickly growing popular with commuters struggling to find transport in the teeming eastern city of Lahore. Taxis and private cars are expensive to rent in the historic city, Pakistan's second largest, and public buses and vans are often over-crowded. Rickshaws are the only convenient form of transport, said Shahmir Khan, CEO of Trave.ly, the company behind the service - but many commuters struggle to catch one during the early hours or late at night.

A pilot version of the service has been launched in two upscale neighbourhoods. The response has been "mammoth", 25-year-old Khan told AFP, adding that the company was quickly expanding. "We are

getting great response from the commuters and have started receiving calls even in the late night hours," he said.

Khan and his five friends were inspired to launch the service after working on a project to develop transport apps with the help of the government of Punjab province, of which Lahore is capital. "After graduating in software engineering, we got an opportunity to be associated with the Punjab government's Plan9 which has been crafted to help young software engineers to develop their own projects, and we successfully launched transport applications for the commuters," Khan said. "Then we conceived the idea to start a rickshaw app because that is only convenient transport available in Lahore," he said. —AFP



LAHORE: Pakistani enterpriser and CEO of Trave.ly Shahmir Khan (left) uses a rickshaw booked through the app service in Lahore yesterday. — AFP

OIL RISES AFTER WEEK OF LOSSES

LONDON: Oil prices rose yesterday, snapping a week-long decline as investors closed positions at the end of a volatile week that saw prices slide nearly 10 percent on renewed signs a global supply glut was here to stay. Brent crude's new front-month December contract was up 60 cents at \$50.33 a barrel at 1338 GMT. November Brent expired at \$48.71 on Thursday, down 44 cents on the day. US crude's front-month November contract traded 99 cents higher, or 2.13 percent, at \$47.37 a barrel.

"Investors holding short positions have already started to take profit ahead of the weekend after four days of decline," said Tamas Varga, oil analyst at London brokerage PVM Oil Associates. Strong equity markets also supported gains as European shares reached a two-month high, buoyed by bullish Asian and US trading on positive US economic data. Despite making slight gains yesterday, US crude was set for its steepest weekly loss in 10 weeks and Brent in eight weeks, after the International Energy Agency predicted the market would remain oversupplied through 2016. "Even if crude prices go up now, we could be seeing Iranian crude coming back to the market, pushing it down again. I think downward movement is more likely for the rest of this year," said Daniel Ang, an investment analyst at Singapore-based Phillip Futures. Some investors pinned hopes for a price revival on forecasts of falling US shale oil production, with output expected to drop the most on record in November, according to the US Energy Information Administration. — Reuters

GOLD SLIPS FROM 3-1/2-MTH HIGH, BUT SET FOR GAIN

LONDON: Gold eased yesterday as a recovering dollar pulled prices from 3-1/2 month highs, but doubts over whether the Federal Reserve will press ahead with a US rate rise this year kept the metal on track for a second weekly rise. Prices continued a retreat that began on Thursday after upbeat US inflation data calmed some concerns about the strength of the US economy and boosted the dollar. The US currency extended gains yesterday after industrial output data.

Spot gold was down 0.1 percent at \$1,181.66 an ounce at 1400 GMT, while US gold futures for December delivery were down \$5.40 an ounce at \$1,182.10. Spot gold is on track to rise 2 percent this week after peaking at \$1,190 an ounce, its strongest since late June. Gold is currently holding near its 200-day moving average, a level it broke this week for the first time since May. However, it has struggled to maintain the week's early gains, as some are still betting on a rate hike later this year. "There is still high uncertainty in the market about when the Fed will raise rates," Commerzbank analyst Daniel Briesemann said. "Until we have seen the first interest rate hike, or at least the announcement of it, gold should still be under pressure." Gold also lost some support from physical markets, where consumer buying interest dropped due to the recent price rally. Prices on the Shanghai Gold Exchange were at a discount yesterday against a premium of \$2-\$3 earlier in the week. — Reuters

SHARES AT TWO-MONTH HIGHS, DOLLAR FIRMS AFTER US DATA

EUROPEAN STOCKS FOLLOW ASIA AND WALL ST HIGHER

LONDON: World stocks rallied to two-month highs yesterday and the dollar firmed after stronger US economic data helped allay fears about global growth. The MSCI World Index touched its highest level since Aug 21 as the pan-European FTSEurofirst 300 rose 0.4 percent, its second day on the up and reversing losses made earlier in the week after disappointing data from China. The global share index has gained 6 percent so far in October and is set for its best month since 2011 after sharp losses over the summer.

Data from Bank of America/Merrill Lynch showed that equity and bond funds both recorded inflows for first time in 10 weeks, which the bank said signalled a turn in sentiment following several tumultuous months. US stock futures were down 0.1 percent ahead of the cash market open, with investors wary of making big bets either way ahead of Chinese growth data due on Monday.

Asian and European shares tracked Thursday's gains in US stocks, which followed data showing new applications for unemployment benefits fell back to a 42-year low last week. That suggests the US labor market remains strong even though recent jobs data releases have sent mixed signals. Core inflation data also showed some signs that price pressures are beginning to build up again. The Federal Reserve seems to be in no rush to raise US interest rates, however, with policymakers expressing concern that a China-led slowdown in the global economy might pose a threat to the US outlook.

"(The employment) report should be reassuring to markets which have been on edge over global disinflation risks," strategists at BNP Paribas said in a note. "It helps keep the possibility of a move (in interest rates) at the end of this year alive, although our central scenario remains for a delay until at least March 2016."

Rekindled rate-hike expectations lifted the dollar. The dollar index, which values the greenback against a basket of six major counterparts, was up 0.3 percent at 94.624. The dollar rose 0.1 percent to buy 118.96 yen after pulling away from a seven-week trough of 118.065 struck

overnight but was still poised to lose 1 percent this week. The data and the stronger dollar pushed gold off a 3-1/2-month high.

On Wall Street, earnings from the likes of Honeywell, which beat profit forecasts, were in focus. With 10 percent of S&P 500 companies having reported quarterly earnings, 78 percent have beaten or met expectations, according to Thomson

lower energy prices, data confirmed on Friday, maintaining pressure on the European Central Bank to increase its asset purchases to boost prices.

The latest Reuters survey of over 60 economists showed euro zone inflation averaging 0.1 percent this year, rising to 1.1 percent in 2016 and 1.6 percent in 2017 — still below the ECB's target of just under 2 percent. "The medium-term prog-



TOKYO: A businessman passes by a share prices board yesterday. — AFP

Reuters Starmine data. Chinese stocks rose to seven-week highs, pushing main indexes to their strongest weekly performance in 4-1/2 months after data showed Chinese loans surged in September.

Investors remained cautious before data on Monday that is forecast to show the world's second-largest economy grew by 6.5 percent in the third quarter, falling below 7 percent for the first time since the global financial crisis. MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan edged 0.2 percent higher and Japan's Nikkei stock index was up 1.1 percent. Annual inflation in the euro zone turned negative in September due to sharply

nosis is probably as weak as it has been since (ECB President Mario) Draghi started QE," said Simon French, chief economist at Panmure Gordon, adding that recent euro strength had complicated his task further.

The euro was slightly lower at \$1.1353, down from a seven-week peak of \$1.1495 scaled the previous day when ECB governing council member Ewald Nowotny said it was "obvious" the ECB must seek more ways to stimulate the euro zone economy. The euro was on track to end the week effectively flat. Spain's government bond yields fell as expectations mounted that Moody's will upgrade its credit rating, as Standard & Poor's did on Oct 2. — Reuters

TYCOON'S PARTY EYES ECONOMY WITH ELECTION BID

CAIRO: Fireworks erupt at his rallies, his face is plastered across the streets of his Cairo constituency and children wear T-shirts printed with his image. Ahmed Mortada Mansour, the 34-year-old son of the head of Cairo's Zamalek football club, has gone all out to win votes ahead of parliamentary elections that start in Egypt on Sunday. Flush with money, Mansour and his pro-market, liberal Free Egyptians Party are mounting an ambitious bid to win support when the country votes for a new 596-member parliament, the first since the previous assembly was dissolved in June 2012. Voting will be held in two phases ending on Dec 2.



CAIRO: Ahmed Mortada Mansour, Egyptian candidate for the liberal Free Egyptians Party for the parliamentary elections, gives a speech during a campaign meeting on Oct 9, 2015 in the capital. — AFP

Newly elected lawmakers are expected to stand firmly behind President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi, who has crushed all opposition since ousting his Islamist predecessor in 2013. And with Sisi in full control of the country's politics, experts say, economic policy is likely to be the only arena in which the new lawmakers will be able to play. "Human rights, political reform and so forth - there's not going to be that much appetite for those discussions," said H.A. Hellyer of the Washington-based Brookings Center. "The exception is likely to be financial and economic policies, as big business interests will play a big role in parliament."

'Huge Money' Behind Party

The Free Egyptians Party, founded by telecoms tycoon Naguib Sawiris - who has offered to buy an island off Greece or Italy to shelter people fleeing war-ravaged Syria - has 231 candidates across Egypt's 27 provinces. Many are former members of the National Democratic Party of longtime ex-leader Hosni Mubarak, which was dissolved after the 2011 uprising that toppled him. Following a ban on NDP members being lifted, many are returning to politics even as scores of Islamists and other regime opponents face a brutal government crackdown. "We are a liberal party and we believe in the free market economy," Mohamed Farid, a youth leader of the Free Egyptians, told AFP at the party's headquarters in Cairo's upscale Zamalek neighbourhood. "We believe that only a free market economy with a vibrant private sector that is backed by political support will eradicate poverty in Egypt."

The party counts leading businessmen among its members like automobile manufacturer Raouf Ghabbour and Sawiris, who runs a multi-billion-dollar telecommunications empire across several Middle Eastern and African countries, plus Korea. The Free Egyptians are unlikely to criticise government policy directly, experts said, but will push for liberal reforms in an economy that has a long history of heavy state involvement. "The party has huge money, hundreds of millions of Egyptian pounds," said Hazem Hosny, professor of political science at Cairo University. "When it talks of being liberal... it is liberal in business. They don't want the state to intervene in anything." Farid said his party wants to unshackle the economy, for example by scrapping subsidies that they say have slowed economic growth.

'Liberal in Egyptian Context'

"By offering cheap energy we have created high energy consuming industries that are not labour intensive," limiting job growth, he said. Egypt's economic growth dropped to about two percent in 2011-2012, amid the political turmoil that followed the ouster of Mubarak. Growth is projected at around four percent this year, but the recovery remains fragile, analysts say, given that inflation and unemployment remain high at 10 and 14 percent respectively. The International Monetary Fund earlier this month urged Egypt to "create the conditions for the private sector to increase its activity" in order to boost employment, especially among youth. — AFP

SISI WALKS FINE LINE BETWEEN EGYPT TYCOONS AND GENERALS

TOP BUSINESSMEN WANT SAY IN POLICY-MAKING

CAIRO: When Egyptian general-turned-president Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi removed the unpopular Muslim Brotherhood from power in 2013, billionaire Naguib Sawiris promised to invest in his country like never before. Two years on he has no desire to spend. As Egyptians begin voting tomorrow in parliamentary elections meant to help bring prosperity, this reluctance illustrates the strained relations between Sisi and the top businessmen who so strongly supported his rise to power.

Sisi has ruled by decree in the absence of an elected parliament, doing what successive governments were too scared to do. He has cut energy subsidies that threatened to bankrupt the state and restored some kind of economic stability after the Brotherhood's turbulent year at the helm. But business leaders worry that the pace of reform has slowed since the president's election last year. They say Sisi seems suspicious of the private sector, instead using the military to oversee infrastructure mega-projects that his critics say will do little to spur long-term economic growth.

Sawiris said in March he would add infrastructure and energy projects to his core telecoms business, but admitted last month that none of the \$500 million he pledged had yet been spent. "We're still sitting on the same cash," he told Reuters. "As I pledged this money for Egypt it will not go out of Egypt... But I'm not a guy who will accept this slowness." Sisi has been compared with Gamal Abdel Nasser, the army officer who overthrew the monarchy in 1952 and embarked on state projects such as the Aswan High Dam on the Nile which swelled nationalist pride but failed to build a robust economy.

Sisi built an extension to the Suez Canal in just a year and has announced ambitious plans for a new administrative capital. While reluctant to criticise such ventures, business leaders grumble that his government has failed to deal decisively with more pressing problems, including crippling shortages of energy and foreign currency, discouraging local and foreign investors. "The general feeling in the business community right now is that the economic vision is non-existent," Tamer Badreddine, chairman of El Badr Plastic Co, a packaging company based in the coastal city of Alexandria, told Reuters.

New Order

Businessmen complain they are no longer able to influence government policies, unlike in the past. Life used to be cosy for Egyptian tycoons, especially under former President Hosni Mubarak, an ex-air-force chief who opened up the economy during his final decade in power. Mubarak's son Gamal, a former investment banker, gave big business access to the upper levels of government, and was widely expected to succeed his father. But all that ended with Mubarak senior's overthrow in a 2011 popular uprising.

Gamal's rise, tainted by allegations of corruption and crony capitalism, had antagonised the generals. They wanted another military man to succeed Mubarak. After the brief period of Islamist rule, they

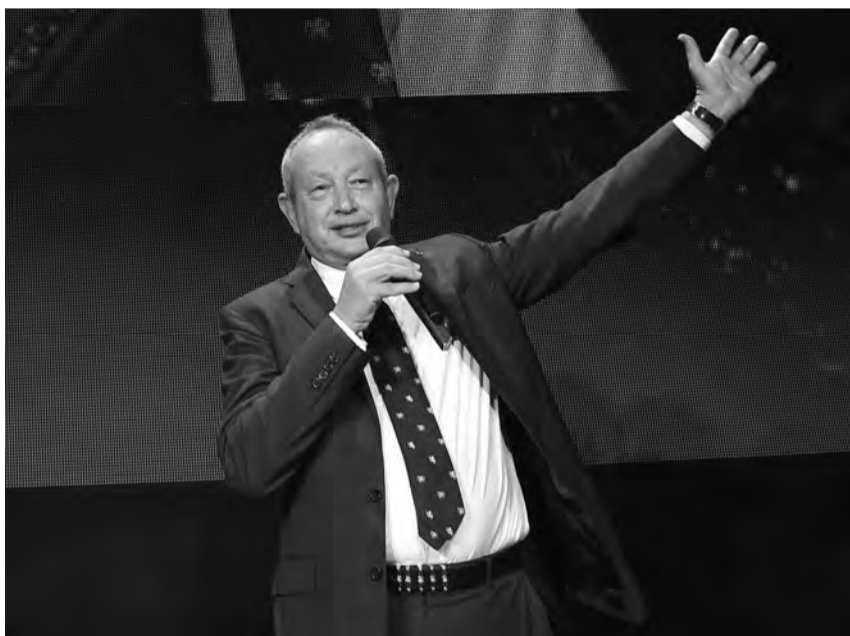
got what they wanted in Sisi. The military controls vast areas of the economy, overseeing roads and infrastructure construction, and producing everything from bottled water to pasta. The value of this business empire is a secret. Some estimates put it at as much as 40 percent of the economy; Sisi says it is no more than 2 percent.

Many analysts believe the threat to the military's interests led it to allow Mubarak's downfall, even though he was one of one of their own. So Sisi must tread cautiously, making reforms to win over foreign investors without alienating the generals. "They (big business) were briefly rule makers during the time of Gamal Mubarak, but it didn't last for long," said Amr Adly, a nonresident scholar.

reforms that could trim stifling bureaucracy have faced repeated delays. Changes to the investment code have proven more modest than expected.

Weak Parliament

Representation in parliament alone is unlikely to satisfy the business community. "Decision making is all with the government and the business sector is very far from decision-making," said Hisham Tawfiq, former chairman of Arabia Online Brokerage Company. To get something done, says Tawfiq, "you must convince someone who has connections to the presidency. By the time that happens, and the president is in a good mood to listen and be convinced, nothing happens". Some businessmen expect the



LYON: Euronews' new majority shareholder Egyptian Naguib Sawiris speaks during the official inauguration of the new Euronews worldwide headquarters in the "Confluence" district of this city in southeastern France. — AFP

are at the Carnegie Middle East Center. "You have mainly the military, the intelligence and security forces ruling the country directly and indirectly." As they try to regain their influence, businessmen are campaigning in the polls. Like Mubarak-era officials and provincial notables, they are likely to do well under an electoral system that favours those with cash and connections. Sawiris, who founded the Free Egyptians Party in 2011, has said his party will use its presence in parliament to hold Sisi to the economic reform pledges made when he was elected. "Our party has an economic plan. They will push it through the parliament and any government that will not react will be accountable, finally," said Sawiris.

Sisi has made some progress on the economy. It is projected to grow 5 percent in 2015/2016, roughly the same as in 2009/2010 under Mubarak. Unemployment is 12.8 percent but has fallen a little and credit ratings agencies are generally positive on Egypt. Still, businessmen believe Sisi needs to accelerate reforms, and they want a say in decision-making. Energy subsidy cuts, the introduction of a value-added tax and labour

new lawmakers to be ineffectual. "It's really the government that will put the policies and they will just rubber stamp it," said Gamal Moharam, CEO of MGM Banking and Financial Consultants. Sisi's government says the mega-projects aim to boost the private sector, with the military merely providing oversight. "The government will only be injecting the infrastructure portions and the rest is for private sector and international developers," Investment Minister Ashraf Salman told businessmen this week.

Sameh Seif Elyazal, a former general who knows Sisi well and heads the largest loyalist coalition running in the election, acknowledges tensions between business and the military. But he says the army complements the private sector by accelerating the pace of major projects. "We try to reduce costs as our economy is weak and is still suffering a lot. We are talking about saving money so we can use it for other projects," he told Reuters. "And projects that are with the army take one year (but they) take private companies two and three years. In the end it won't always be this way. That's for sure." — Reuters



PALEMBANG, Indonesia: A Malaysian CL415 Bombardier amphibious aircraft prepares to take off from Talang Betutu air force base in Indonesia's South Sumatra province on Oct 13, 2015. — AFP

BOMBARDIER RUNNING OUT OF OPTIONS TO RAISE CAPITAL

FAMILY RESISTS PRESSURE TO REDUCE CONTROL

MONTREAL/WASHINGTON/PARIS: Bombardier is running out of options as the Canadian aircraft maker seeks to raise the cash for the new jet that potentially would allow it to challenge the supremacy of Boeing and Airbus in global jetliner sales, according to several sources with knowledge of the situation. The sources said for Bombardier to persuade investors to provide more capital, the Bombardier-Beaudoin family will probably have to reduce its 53 percent voting control of a company which was founded by snowmobile inventor Joseph-Armand Bombardier in 1942 and moved into train and plane manufacturing through acquisitions made by his son-in-law Laurent Beaudoin.

The company recently failed to get Airbus to take on much of the future cost of the new plane, the CSeries. Airbus pulled out of discussions to buy a controlling stake in the program last week after they were first reported by Reuters. Bombardier spokeswoman Isabelle Rondeau declined to comment on any specific discussions, saying that the company is "exploring initiatives such as a potential participation in industry consolidation, but we will not discuss our activities in this regard or speculate on potential outcomes."

Development costs for the CSeries program have soared to \$5.4 billion, from an earlier projection of \$3.2 billion and Bombardier is likely to continue burning through cash for some years even after it is expected to go into service next year, according to analysts and aerospace industry executives. The family's deep ties in Quebec - it is at the heart of the French-Canadian province's political establishment - may not be as much help as it has been in the past.

While Quebec's government has said it will support Bombardier and its 18,000-strong workforce in the province, the Quebec public pension plan Caisse de depot et placement has been unwilling to increase its stake in Bombardier, according to a source at Caisse with knowledge of discussions. The fund, whose mandate includes contributing to local

economic development, owns around 2.2 pct of the manufacturer's class B shares and 1.8 pct of class A, making it a top five shareholder in both.

Another source said the relationship between Caisse and Bombardier "has been tense and confrontational" after Caisse requested early this year that the family agree to reduce the power of its 85 percent stake in the super-voting "A" shares so that they only have six times the number of votes as the "B" shares rather than the current ten times. That would have reduced the family's voting stake to around 42 percent.

The family rejected that and in response Caisse declined to serve as the lead investor for a C\$3.35 billion (US\$2.59 billion) debt and equity capital raising in February, said this source, who has direct knowledge of Bombardier's financial issues. "They lack negotiating power," said the Caisse source in reference to both Bombardier and the controlling family. "It's like you lend money to a friend who says everything's fine - only to come back a month later and ask for more money." Caisse spokesman Maxime Chagnon said "we have a longstanding relationship with Bombardier and it continues." He declined to comment on any request for a change in Bombardier's voting structure.

Strategy Questioned

Some other major shareholders are also far from convinced by Bombardier's plans. "There's a lot of confusion. I don't see a clear strategy. By now they should have one. So it's very concerning," said a fund manager at another top shareholder, speaking on condition of anonymity. Bombardier's Rondeau said that the company has a "very good" relationship with Caisse. Asked about Caisse requesting a change in the voting structure, Rondeau said: "You'll have to ask the Caisse about that."

Bombardier's Executive Chairman Pierre Beaudoin, who is the founder's grandson, declined to comment. The family's foundation, established by the founder's widow in 1965 to

continue his charitable works, referred queries to the company. With Airbus out of the picture, a longer shot is that talks with a Chinese investor over the CSeries program can be revived and ushered through a Canadian foreign investment review. Discussions ended three to four weeks ago, one of the sources said, though it was unclear why. The source did not name the Chinese investor.

Getting a deal approved that involves the transfer of aerospace technology to the Chinese will be complicated, but it may not be impossible to get support from the Canadian and the Quebec governments. Bombardier does plan to raise cash from its rail unit, with plans to list a minority stake in Frankfurt. This is its most valuable asset and is expected to be much more attractive to investors than the aircraft arm.

The company had \$3.1 billion in cash at the end of the second quarter, but faces additional costs of at least \$1 billion to \$2 billion to complete certification of the CSeries and cover early production losses in the first two to three years of delivery, according to Credit Suisse aerospace analyst Rob Spingarn. The plane may not be profitable for four years or more, according to a source briefed on the company's current financial situation. The company's debt burden has increased to \$9 billion and its share price has dropped 58 percent since the beginning of the year, valuing the entire company at just C\$3.76 billion.

'Long Putt'

The company was advised two years ago by Goldman Sachs, its longtime investment bank, to cancel the program because "continuing to fund the CSeries was a long putt," one person familiar with those discussions said. Bombardier's Rondeau denied that Goldman provided such advice. The new jet will target the 110-130 seat market, competing directly against the next generation Airbus A319neo and Boeing's 737 MAX family of jets. Until now, Bombardier's biggest jet has been the CRJ, the largest of which has 104 seats. — Reuters

MAURITIUS EYES AFRICA TO DRIVE SERVICES

EBENE, Mauritius: Mauritius beats Singapore as the world's top route for foreign investment to India and is a hub for thousands of firms managing half a trillion dollars in assets. But there are only a sprinkling of office blocks in Ebene Cybercity, the heart of the tiny Indian Ocean island's financial services industry, and the area only livens up at the weekend when a band plays in a bar of the district's only luxury hotel. Such limited activity is evidence that Mauritius is a "tax haven" for companies which generate no real business on the island yet use it to benefit from tax avoidance treaties with Asia and Africa, critics say.

"Mauritius is playing the tax competition game and they are playing it very well," said Nadia Harrison, tax policy expert at ActionAid. "The result is that they are reducing the amount of tax that can be collected from the poorest countries." Concerned about the impact of tax havens, world powers are tightening the noose on multinationals seeking tax advantages and India wants changes to its tax treaty with Mauritius, forcing the island's new government to re-examine its business model and focus elsewhere.

There is debate in the new government, which took office in December, about whether Mauritius was ever a tax haven but there is general agreement that the economy needs to shift focus to make sure firms invest locally and to prepare for any loss of business from India. "My message for the offshore sector here is: they have to move from a tax haven to a typical transparent financial sector. This is what is happening now," Finance Minister Seetannah Lutchmeenaraidoo told Reuters. He wants the financial services industry to deepen investments in Africa to help lift sluggish growth in Mauritius and make it a high-income state by 2020. "Singapore is to southeast Asia, what Dubai is to the Middle East, and what Mauritius will be vis-à-vis Africa," Lutchmeenaraidoo said.

Driven Into a Corner

New rules agreed by ministers from the Group of 20 industrialised nations this month to stop companies moving profits to low tax centres and "treaty shopping" for tax benefits combined with changes to India's tax treaty are increasing the pressure on Mauritius. "We know it is going to have a decisive impact on the future of offshore financial services worldwide," said a former minister and now a fund manager, adding that the government was being driven "into a corner" by India. India has pushed Mauritius into talks to change to its Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement. Signed in 1983, Mauritius took off as an investment route when India opened its economy in the 1990s. A Global Business Company 1 (GBC1), the title for "offshore" firms, pays zero capital gains tax in Mauritius, instead of as much as 40 percent in India on some short-term investments. — Reuters

BP, CNPC IN OIL ALLIANCE

LONDON: BP Plc and China's CNPC will next week unveil a strategic alliance to develop oil resources in Iraq and other regions, industry sources said yesterday, as Britain and China seek to tighten economic ties. The pact, one of several high-profile deals to be signed during a visit by Chinese President Xi Jinping to Britain, will aim to bolster cooperation between the two companies in Iraq, where they are developing the giant Rumaila oilfield.

Rumaila, in southern Iraq, is the world's second-largest oilfield and produced 1.34 million barrels per day in 2014, according to BP's website. The two companies will also seek to expand into new joint ventures in other parts of the world, according to the sources. No clear production or investment targets are expected to be included in the deal, they said. State-owned China National Petroleum Corp is Asia's largest oil producer and parent of PetroChina Co Ltd. BP will also seek to use the alliance to expand its operations in China, which have been limited mainly to a fuel retail joint venture. Its peers Royal Dutch Shell and Total have natural gas operations with CNPC.

For CNPC, the alliance could offer opportunities also to deepen operations in the North Sea and West Africa, where BP has extensive operations. A BP spokesman declined to comment. CNPC was not immediately available to comment. The British government wants to use Xi's Oct 19-23 visit to tighten cooperation between the two countries with a number of economic and cultural agreements. Britain hopes to sign an agreement with Chinese utility companies CGN and CNNC to finance the construction of two nuclear reactors at Hinkley Point. It was unclear, however, whether the long-mooted deal would be inked during the trip, China's ambassador Liu Xiaoming told reporters. Xi's state visit, during which he will dine at Buckingham Palace, marks a significant improvement in ties between the two countries after Prime Minister David Cameron angered Beijing in 2012 by meeting the Dalai Lama. — Reuters

SQUARE BUCKS UNICORN TREND WITH IPO PLAN

THE QUESTION IS AT WHAT VALUATION?

SAN FRANCISCO: By galloping to a life as a publicly traded company, mobile payments star Square is bucking a Silicon Valley trend of startups riding along on outlandish private valuations. Square is a prominent tech world "unicorn", a nickname given to young companies that haven't gone public but are valued at more than a billion dollars based on cash pumped into them by backers. Square formalized its intent to make an initial public offering of stock in a filing on Wednesday to the US Securities and Exchange Commission.

"Square's going IPO is good," said Global Equities Research analyst Trip Chowdhry. "But, the question is at what valuation?" Startups basking in tech industry stardom may succumb to setting unrealistic prices for shares based on "an imaginary, speculative story," according to Chowdhry. Square's debut on the New York Stock Exchange will be a real world test of whether the market agrees it is worth the \$6 billion valuation it got from a private round of funding last year. "How it goes will be a signal to others who are close to coming to market," Endpoint Technologies analyst Roger Kay said of the Square IPO, a date for which had yet to be set.

Wisdom in Staying Private

Square is among prominent Unicorns in startup rich Silicon Valley. Home sharing service Airbnb got a stunning valuation topping \$25 billion, which was trumped by a dizzying \$50 billion valuation pegged to Uber. Globally, privately held startups raised \$37.6 billion in capital in the third quarter of this year, with three quarters of that money being pumped into the technology sector, according to a study by CB Insight and KPMG. The funding level, the highest in more than a decade, brought the total for the year thus far to \$98.4 billion and already topped the total amount raised by startups last year.

Endpoint analyst Kay contends that for startups, "there are a lot of good reasons not go public." Private firms are not required to publicly report financial results and disclose competition plans to rivals the way public companies do when explaining affairs to shareholders and analysts. Private investors can also serve as "strategic partners" if they are active in similar or complementary sectors. "And then there is this fear of not going to the market at the right price" in a move that results in private investors left holding shares worth less than they bargained for, according to Kay.

Bubble Fears Rise

Proliferation of Unicorns and explosive valuations have caused some observers to wonder whether the market is on the edge of a funding "bubble" similar to the one that burst in the early 2000s. A total of 23 unicorns were created in the past quarter - 17 in the United States - bring the total to 58 so far this year. According to CB Insights, there are 104 unicorns worldwide with a combined valuation of \$503 billion. CB Insight and KPMG noted in the third quarter of this year investment money was being channeled into more mature companies and there have been fewer IPOs to recoup capital than in the past.

Wall Street debuts of private firms from all sectors stalled in recent months but the slow down was particularly noticeable when it came to technology startups which had been a cornerstone of the market for IPOs. There was only one tech company IPO in the third quarter, which was the lowest number in more than six years, Renaissance

storage specialty firm rebounded since closing its opening session last week below the \$3 billion valuation it got from private investors. GoDaddy and Fitbit are worth more than when they made their stock market debuts earlier this year, but Box and Etsy have lost 10 percent and 30 percent respectively. "The problem with



This June 10, 2015 photo shows a chip-based credit card in Philadelphia. — AP

NEW TECH IN CREDIT CARDS A HEADACHE

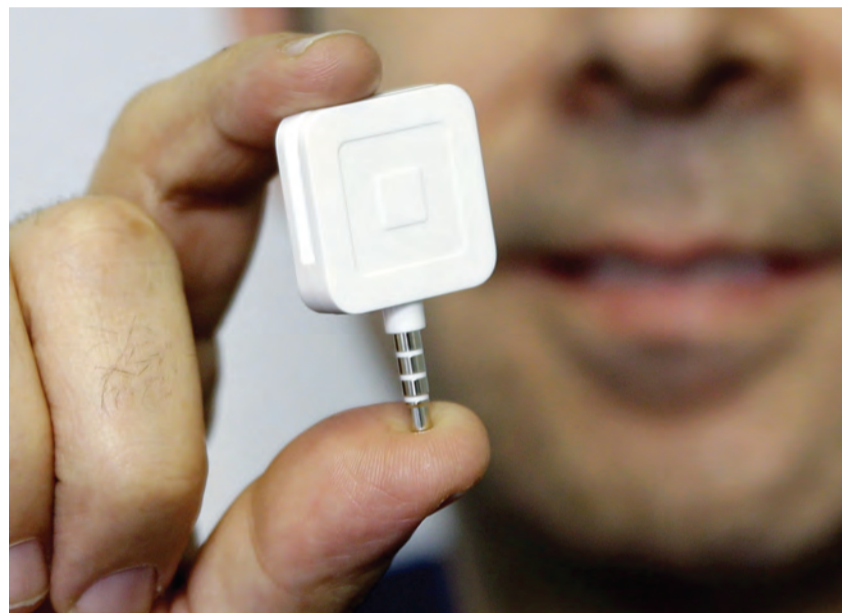
NEW YORK: Millions of Americans are getting new credit and debit cards with more secure chip technology, and that's already leading to headaches for companies that rely on working cards to charge their customers every month. Video and music streaming companies, dating websites, gyms and other subscription-based companies can take a hit when customers don't update their accounts after receiving a new card. It's always been a hassle, but with millions of cards carrying the new chip technology being mailed out all at once it's creating bigger problems.

Netflix this week said large numbers of cards that weren't updated were partly to blame for slower subscriber growth in their most recent quarter. The video steaming site said Wednesday that an unusual number of accounts were cancelled during the three months that ended in September. Netflix Inc, which has 69 million members around the world, expects the issue to continue into the next quarter as more new chip cards roll out.

With subscription services gaining in popularity, where customers have funds automatically withdrawn from checking accounts every month for a service, it has become increasingly noticeable when people don't update the cards that they use for those services, or are unaware that they need to. Often, the number on the card is still the same, but the expiration date has changed, said Matt Schulz, a senior analyst at credit card comparison site CreditCards.com. Typically, payments won't go through if the expiration date is different.

Recurly, a San Francisco company that manages bill payments for more than 1,900 subscription businesses, said it has seen a slight increase in card declines. Recurly uses a service for its clients that automatically updates when new card numbers are issued, so the customer doesn't have to do it themselves, said CEO Dan Burkhart, though not every bank participates in the service. Burkhart said subscription companies will face some "turbulence" as customers get new cards, but those issues typically resolve within a few months.

The problem has hurt Netflix before. A year ago, the Los Gatos, California, company said a number of customer's accounts were put on hold due to The Home Depot data breach, which forced many customers who shopped at the home improvements store to get new credit cards. Similarly, IAC/InterActiveCorp, a New York company which owns dating websites such as Match.com and OkCupid, said last year that credit cards that were not updated after major security breaches at Target and Home Depot cost it about \$5 million in earnings for the year before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization. New cards may continue to haunt subscription businesses in the coming months. Most cards in the US haven't been switched to chip cards yet. "This issue isn't going away anytime soon," said Schulz. — AP



NEW YORK: In this Jan 5, 2015 photo, Dr Greg Werner poses for a picture with his Square credit card reader at his office. — AP

Capital said in a recent report. The absence of tech company market debuts came "in the face of mediocre tech IPO performance and ample private funding capacity at generous valuations," according to Renaissance. First Data payment processing technologies firm on Thursday ended its first trading day below its IPO price.

Pure Storage hit Wall Street recently only to see its shares stumble. The flash

the IPOs that have happened with technology in the last two or three years is that the public market acted as a way to bail out private investors," said analyst Chowdhry. People trusted their valuations, only to realize that "they had lost money on Zynga, Groupon, Twitter, Box," he continued. "People were foolish before. People are getting a little bit sensible." — AFP

STRAUSS-KAHN FIRM UNDER SUSPICION

PARIS: French investigators have opened a preliminary probe into a bankrupt investment company partly run by the former head of the International Monetary Fund, Dominique Strauss-Kahn, a judicial source said yesterday. The investigation was opened on July 28 after a former shareholder in the now-defunct Luxembourg-based firm, LSK, lodged a formal complaint. Strauss-Kahn, once tipped as a future French president, was forced to resign from his role as head of the IMF in 2011 after being accused of sexual assault by a New York hotel maid. Those criminal charges were dropped in 2012 and the case was settled in a civil suit.

He was also dragged through French courts earlier this year, accused of being at the centre of a prostitution ring, but was found not guilty. The probe into Strauss-Kahn's business dealings in Luxembourg focuses on a former shareholder, Jean-

Francois Ott, who pumped Å500,000 (\$570,000) into the company. Ott claims he was given a misleading impression of the firm's financial situation when he made the cash injection.

As a result of the complaint, investigators are considering whether to open a formal probe into Strauss-Kahn and his business partners for alleged fraud and related offences. Strauss-Kahn was part of the company's board. Strauss-Kahn's lawyer Jean Veil told France Inter radio that his client had "no operational role" in the company and that he had been misled by his business partners. The judiciary source told AFP that investigators are set to question Ott. Strauss-Kahn had hoped to build up LSK into a \$2.0-billion investment fund, but winding-up proceedings began in Nov 2014 after its founder, Thierry Leyne, committed suicide in Tel Aviv. — AFP

WALL ST BONUSES TO PLUNGE AS REVENUE DROPS

NEW YORK: Wall Street bankers and traders are likely to get smaller bonuses for 2015 as trading revenue plunges. Goldman Sachs said on Thursday that it set aside 16 percent less money for compensation in the third quarter compared with the same period in 2014. The fourth quarter, when banks determine how much they will pay for bonuses, may bring little relief for employees. Goldman's total trading revenue dropped 15 percent in the third quarter after volume fell in fixed income, currencies, and commodities. Many investors are reluctant to take on too much risk in bonds and related derivatives until they have a better sense of when the US central bank will start raising benchmark interest rates.

Other banks set aside less money for pay in the third quarter as well. JPMorgan Chase & Co said on Tuesday that it had set aside 13 percent less money for compensation in the third quarter compared with the same period last year. When Morgan Stanley posts third

quarter earnings on Monday, Citigroup analyst Keith Horowitz estimates that it will have cut its spending on compensation by 7 percent for the quarter. Regarding the fourth quarter, JPMorgan CFO Marianne Lake said on Tuesday that "markets are pretty quiet" so far this month. Any declines in revenue may affect what the bank will spend on compensation. Bonuses across Wall Street could fall about 10 percent this year, with traders taking the biggest hit, said Alan Johnson, managing director of pay consulting firm Johnson Associates. Investment bankers, meanwhile, will likely see higher pay, as the environment for mergers and acquisitions remains strong. Deal volume in the first three quarters totaled \$1.02 trillion, up 11 percent from the same period last year, Thomson Reuters data show. Goldman tops the league tables with 299 deals as of the end of September, generating \$2.6 billion in M&A advisory fees so far this year.

Fixed Income Traders

For fixed income traders, however, "flat is the new up," said Mike Karp, CEO of financial services recruiting firm Options Group. Equities traders may fare better, he added. The weaker trading environment is hurting banks, as are the costs of complying with new rules imposed after the financial crisis. Banks "are starting to restructure their pay strategy because five or six years after the crisis they have extra costs," Johnson said. Universal banks such as JPMorgan and Citigroup are also under pressure from historically low interest rates, which depress revenue from lending.

In New York City, Wall Street pay has traditionally had an effect on things ranging from the city's budget to the price of real estate and the fortunes of local merchants. At Vintry Fine Wines, located near Goldman's 200 West Street headquarters in Manhattan, manager Mike Martin said busi-

ness has slowed in the last several weeks. "I would have to assume that it has to do something with the market," said Martin.

Belt-Tightening

To be sure, not every bank will necessarily cut bonuses by the same amount, and declines can vary dramatically from one employee to another at the same bank. The last two months of the year may end up being pivotal for bonuses and change the amount that banks pay out. But other signs of belt tightening at banks have already emerged. Contractors in the investment banking division at HSBC Holdings Plc in London will see their pay cut by 10 percent amid sluggish deal activity, Reuters reported. JPMorgan has been cutting costs all year, and is even asking some employees to pay for their own cell phones, according to the Wall Street Journal. — Reuters

CAFE PUTS LONDON GENTRIFICATION IN FOCUS PROTESTS ERUPT AS HOUSE PRICES RISE

LONDON: When two bearded brothers from Belfast opened a retro cafe devoted to cereal in the trendy London suburb of Shoreditch, they had little idea of the ire it would ignite. "Our communities are being ripped apart," the "Class War" group said on its website ahead of violent protests which saw the "Cereal Killer Cafe" daubed in graffiti and bottles hurled in the street. The activists blamed "oligarchs", "sheikhs" and "scumbag property developers" for the proliferation of luxury flats unaffordable to most people.

Northern Irish entrepreneurs Gary and Alan Keery are of course none of the above. But their cafe, bedecked in 1980s and 1990s memorabilia and selling over 120 brands of cereal at upwards of £3 (\$6) a bowl, found itself at the sharp end of a growing anti-gentrification movement in a city where the cost of living is soaring. Brick Lane, for decades the heart of London's Bangladeshi community, is increasingly populated by the trendy hipsters now seen as synonymous with the once deprived local area, Shoreditch.

'Gentrification on Steroids'

Paul Watt, reader in urban studies at Birkbeck University, London, believes last month's protest was a reaction to a process of change whereby social housing has been replaced with luxury new developments, and small retailers supplanted by big business. "It's gentrification on steroids," he said, describing the "growing corporatization of retail space and housing". "Much of it is simply unaffordable for ordinary people. People are being pushed out of the city," he said.

The average house price in the British capital stands at £430,000 and could rise to £1 million by 2020 if the rise continues at the current rate, according to property website Rightmove. In the fight for affordable homes, dozens of campaign groups have sprung up across the capital, battling to save tower blocks and housing estates, as well as markets and local shops, from developers.

"Rents and house prices have rocketed," said Eileen Conn, who runs the campaign group Peckham Vision in another rapidly changing part of London. "It is a bit like being in a flood that we are caught up in... the global financial system pouring money into London property and pushing prices up everywhere, irrespective of local needs." Conn, a retired civil servant, campaigns tirelessly on behalf of local traders in Peckham, now emerging as a desirable, fashionable area. One man who feels unjustly affected by the changes is Peckham market trader Yassine Melki who has sold home textiles there for almost 25 years. Plans for a new gym near his stall now mean he is being forced to move from a busy thoroughfare to a quieter spot where he fears custom will be harder to come by. "I feel really let down. It is these big companies - we are too small for them, they do not care how we are going to look after our families," said the Algerian-born father-of-three. — AFP

'Faceless Corporations'

Southwark Council, which ordered Melki to move his stall, argues that it is part of a bigger plan to redevelop the area that will ultimately attract more business. But Conn, who is supporting the market trader's case, sees it as a "recurring theme" of established businesses



LONDON: Pedestrians walk past the Cereal Killer Cafe in Brick Lane in Shoreditch, east London, on Oct 12, 2015. — AFP

being "brushed aside". "Self regeneration is being pushed aside for big faceless corporations," she said. In April hundreds of anti-gentrification protesters in Brixton, southeast London, took to the streets, angry that local residents and businesses were being driven out of the area by rising rents. Rioters smashed the window of an upmarket estate agents.

While the owners of the Cereal Killer Cafe can hardly be seen as representing big corporates, the area in which they operate is experi-

encing the same tensions. Kristian Niemietz, head of health and welfare for the Institute of Economic Affairs, believes anti-gentrification protesters are as irked by the erosion of "coolness" as they are by rocketing house prices. "The reason why people get attracted to these areas is they acquired a reputation as being trendy or cool... it becomes a status symbol to live there," he said. "The thing with status symbols is that they lose their value when more people acquire them." — AFP

GULF COMPANY TO BUILD €4.5BN BOSNIAN CITY

SARAJEVO: A Dubai-based developer signed a €4.5-billion (\$5.1-billion) contract on Thursday to build a "tourist city" in Bosnia, which has become a magnet for investment from the United Arab Emirates (UAE). Buroj Property Development plans to build thousands of homes, several hotels, a shopping mall and a hospital in the municipality of Trnovo at the foot of Bjelasica, one of four mountains surrounding the capital Sarajevo. Work on the complex

is set to begin in April.

"This is my life project and I hope that we will finish it without delay", the company's president Ismail Ahmed said at the signing ceremony. "I sincerely believe in this because I am convinced that Bosnia is an important global tourist destination that has yet to be discovered," he said.

The Balkan country of 3.8 million people, 40 percent of whom are Muslims, has registered a significant

increase in visitors from Gulf states such as UAE, Qatar and Saudi Arabia in recent years. The "tourist city" is the latest in a series of large property projects by Gulf companies. A tourist resort built by a Kuwaiti investor around 30 km from Sarajevo is scheduled to open today. Elsewhere, a Saudi company is building a new residential area comprising more than 200 villas in the hills of Sarajevo. The project is slated for completion by the end of 2016. — AFP

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2015

Kuwait Times

Weekender

www.kuwaittimes.net

A model displays a creation by Japanese designer Yuki Torii during her 2016 spring/summer collection at Tokyo Fashion Week in Tokyo. — AFP

'Kawaii' style: Born in Japan,
now taking on the world

SEE PAGE 28

Ellie Goulding is feeling 'broody'

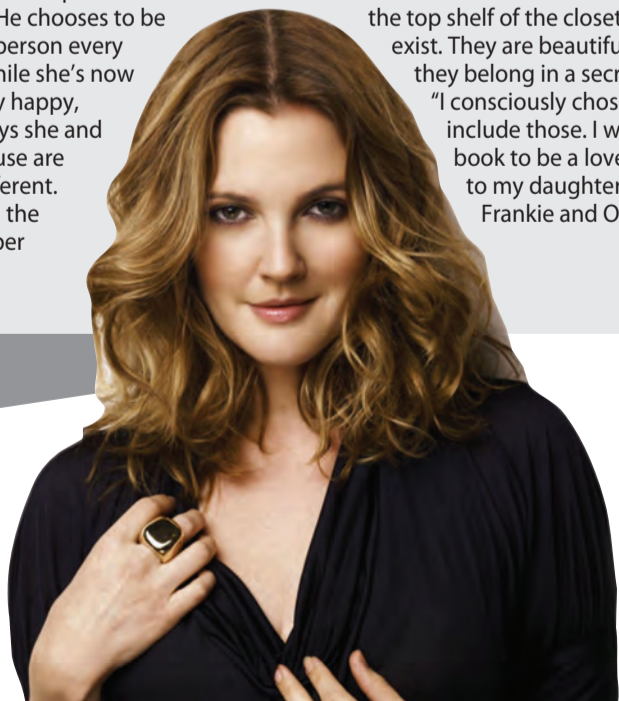
The 'On My Mind' singer has revealed she's eager to settle down with her McBusted boyfriend Dougie Poynter and has discussed having kids with him after her sister had an "adorable" kid. She explained: "My sister has a baby five months ago and she's the most adorable kid. She is gorgeous and I'm not just saying that. Having a baby is so life affirming and such a beautiful thing. "And I'm nearly 30. I'm not a teenager any more so yes, I'm broody. Dougie and I do talk about babies, it's natural I suppose. We talk without it being weird." The 28-year-old star hinted they aren't planning to have a child together any time soon though as she's so busy, meaning she doesn't even have a day off to tie the knot. Asked if they're going to get married, she said: "I just don't know. My next two years in my diary are already filled up with touring. I haven't even got time for a wedding day." But she insisted the 27-year-old hunk - who has previously battled depression and went to rehab for alcohol and substance abuse in 2011 - has eased her own worries about her appearance. She told The Sun newspaper: "I've had the same problems that a lot of women have, but mine have been out there in public. We all get insecure, tired and stressed and we all have self-doubt. "But it's good to find someone who loves you the way you are and understands my job and what comes with it. Dougie is just a very calming person. "He's been through a lot and is a pretty incredible person."



Barrymore didn't fall in love with husband at first sight

The 'Blended' star, who married the art advisor in June 2012 after more than a year of dating, admits it took her a while to realize he was the perfect man for her. Reminiscing about the beginning of their relationship, she said: "I mean, it was never really love at first sight. Will struck a lot of my pragmatic sides. He was someone who was always reachable on the phone, someone who was a classy human being, someone who had this incredible blueprint of a family that I don't have. At the same time, what I love about him is that he embodies the power of choice. He chooses to be a good person every day." While she's now blissfully happy, Drew says she and her spouse are very different. She told the November issue of

America's InStyle magazine: "We've made many compromises and concessions, but when it comes to how we deliver likes and dislikes, we're polar opposites. It's still really hard." The 40-year-old star wants her new memoir, 'Wildflower,' to be "a love letter" to their daughters, Olive, three, and Frankie, 18 months, and deliberating avoided writing about her past relationships in the book. She explained: "It's a matter of respect. I felt it was inappropriate to discuss relationships and encounters I have had with another person. Those memories are all in their boxes, up in the top shelf of the closet. They exist. They are beautiful, and they belong in a secret land. "I consciously chose not to include those. I want this book to be a love letter to my daughters, Frankie and Olive."



Hudson split with Matt Bellamy was complicated

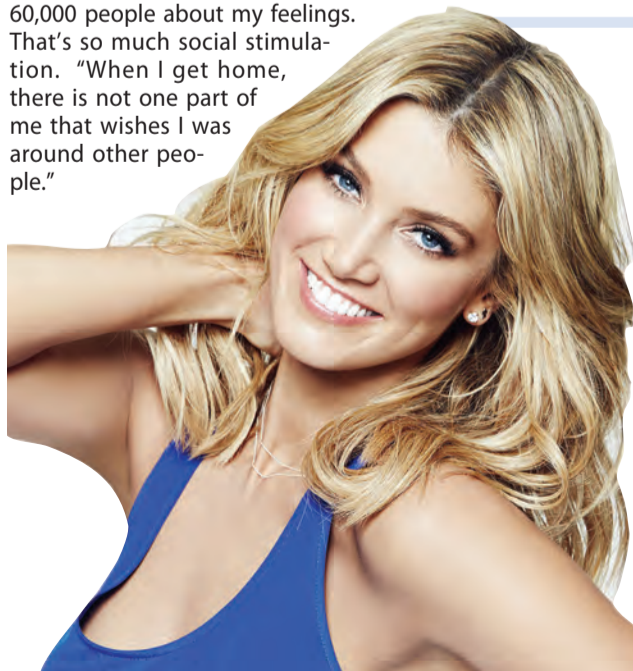
The 36-year-old star separated from her Muse frontman fiance in 2014 following four years together and she's now revealed their differing opinions of their lives together is what forced them apart. She explained: "Relationships ending are painful, and you can choose to carry that or you can choose to reframe it. If Matt and I had a great relationship, we would still be together, but we chose to move on because we had different visions of how we wanted to live our lives. "That doesn't mean, though, that we can't rebuild something that would be the best thing for the kids." The 'Almost Famous' actress - who has son Bingham, four, with Matthew, as well as Ryder, 11, from her ex-husband Chris Robinson - insisted they've stayed on good terms for the sake of their son though, having been brought up with separated parents herself. She said: "We said, 'We need to try to create something for the kids where they feel like they're gaining something rather than losing something.' "It's been a seamless transition. Kids just want to see their parents be cool. Everybody's cool; everybody's good." "Being someone who has come from a broken family and has a stepfather [Kurt Russell], I really benefited from having that very consistent [presence] in my life, and it's something I am mindful of and want in my life." Kate - who is rumored to be dating Nick Jonas, 23 - added she simply wants a "positive" situation for the youngsters. She told Allure magazine: "We create the experiences that we want to have. "If you want to create the painful experience, you can do that. You have the power to make [any] situation a painful or a difficult one. I want to try to create experiences that will be positive for my kids. "Happiness is not something that just comes to you. It's an active process."





Swift always found having friends 'hard'

The 'Bad Blood' hitmaker is famous for her female 'squad' of pals and thinks they are so important to her now because she didn't have many chums as a teenager. She admitted: "I honestly think my lack of female friendships in high school and middle school is why my female friendships are so important now. "Because I always wanted them. It was just hard for me to have friends." The 25-year-old singer recalled calling to invite several girls from her middle school to go shopping with her but they all made an excuse - and when Taylor went to the mall with her mother, she saw the whole group there without her. She added to America's GQ magazine: "I just remember my mom looking at me and saying, 'We're going to King of Prussia Mall'. Which is the big, big mall in Pennsylvania, 45 minutes away. So we left and went to the better mall. My mom let me escape from certain things that were too painful to deal with. And we talked about it the whole ride there, and we had a good time shopping." Despite cherishing her strong friendships, Taylor - who is dating Calvin Harris - also values having time alone. Asked if she ever gets lonely, she said: "I'm around people so much. Massive amounts of people. I do a meet-and-greet every night on the tour, and it's 150 people. Before that, it's a radio meet-and-greet with 40 people. After the show, it's 30 or 40 more people. "So then when I go home and turn on the TV, and I've got Monica and Chandler and Ross and Rachel and Phoebe and Joey on a 'Friends' marathon, I don't feel lonely. "I've just been onstage for two hours, talking to 60,000 people about my feelings. That's so much social stimulation. "When I get home, there is not one part of me that wishes I was around other people."



Jessie J lashes out at people for lacking empathy

The 27-year-old singer - who recently dumped her boyfriend Luke James amid fears he was using her to raise his profile - took to her Twitter account to blast people for not caring for others. She wrote: "The love people will happily give someone when it may be too late, is often the love they really needed to survive when they were falling. "Next time you think about making an Instagram joke or to judge someone. Really think. If this was about me, if I felt really low would it help? "We can save each other. But we live in a world where people will slow down at a car crash and take a picture before they jump out to help. "We are all human. We all need love." Jessie, 27, who also posted a motivational message to a follower saying "You got this girl. You are stronger than you think x," insisted that her rant was not about her own situation and hinted that she was referring to Lamar Odom, who is in critical condition after collapsing at a brothel in Nevada. She wrote: "When you are sick you put goodness into your body to feel better, right? Better food, medicine etc right? "So when your energy is low you need positivity and support. Why as a generation don't we get that yet? "Anyone who needs a little love and support. Be there. When it's the worst. Be the vitamin to their deficiency. Be a light for them. "So to anyone going through a bad time right now. (Whatever it is) Anywhere. If you see this. I care. It will get better. Don't give up."



Moore tips Hugh Jackman as next James Bond



The 88-year-old actor - who played the suave secret agent in seven films between 1973 and 1985 - has given his blessing to either of the two stars to take over when Daniel Craig retires from the franchise. And Roger tipped Dame Maggie Smith, 80, to take on a role as an unlikely Bond girl. Roger, who was the third and oldest star to take on the role of Bond, also admitted he knew it was time to quit when his granddaughter was born. He made the comments at Hush restaurant in Mayfair, where he held an exclusive pre-publication signing of his new book, 'Bond on Bond', which contains iconic images from the franchise. And Hugh or Damian could get their chance at Bond sooner rather than later as Daniel recently joked he would rather "rather slash his wrists" than do another James Bond movie. Asked if he wants to play the leading role again, Daniel told Time Out magazine: "I'd rather break this glass and slash my wrists. No, not at the moment. Not at all." He added: "That's fine. I'm over it at the moment. We're done. All I want to do is move on."

Delta Goodrem 'tying bow' on comeback album

The 30-year-old stunner has been working on her fifth studio record that includes her recent single 'Wings' - which topped the charts in Australia - and can't wait to wrap it up but revealed joining the cast of 'Cats The Musical' in Australia threw a spanner in the works for the record's title. Speaking exclusively to BANG Showbiz, Delta revealed: "I'm tying a little bow on it at the moment. While I'm doing 'Cats' I'll absolutely finish up recording it. Make sure every snare hit and every single guitar line and every single piano riff is all in alignment ... Going into 'Cats' was so crazy, way before I was offered this role by the Andrew Lloyd Webber team, I had called my record 'Feline'. I'm not calling it that now but I had called it that for ages." Meanwhile, the beauty - who judges on the Australian version of 'The Voice' - says she's been musing on what to do with the next decade of

her life. And asked whether she'll sign up for a fifth season of the talent show after her much publicised spat with fellow judge Jessie J, Delta confessed she's still "working it out". She shared: "I'm just working it out. I mean it's definitely soon (to decide), I've gotta go back and do 'Cats', so that's the next project in my life." Speaking about her music, she continued: "I feel like I've done a full circle and I've gone back to the beginning. I fell back in love with classical pop, with the piano, and I really did, I fell back in love with the instruments. Even though I've always been doing it and back home I've been doing my thing and releasing my records, there was something about the start of the year. And after I turned 30, what is it that I actually want out of life? How do I want to spend my next 10 years?"



Jan Thompson speaks to Hidetoshi Tojo during her interview.



Filmmaker Jan Thompson, (left) greets Hidetoshi Tojo, the great-grandson of wartime prime minister Hideki Tojo, who was executed as a Class-A war criminal after the World War II, prior to her interview with him in Tokyo. — AP photos



This 1940 photo provided by Jan Thompson shows her father Robert Thompson onboard submarine tender USS Canopus off the Philippine Islands. In 1942, Robert Thompson was taken to Japanese POW camps from the Philippines.

Film by POW's daughter explores Japanese reconciliation

As a child, filmmaker Jan Thompson wondered why her father would not talk about his experiences as a World War II veteran. She was angry when she finally learned about his suffering as a prisoner of war of Japan, and then started to speak up for him and his comrades.

It took Thompson, a three-time Emmy-award-winning documentary director, 22 years to craft a film telling their survival stories in the 2013 film "Never the Same," and just as long for her to find a measure of peace. With that change of heart, she's now embarking on a new film project that explores reconciliation between descendants of those on both sides of the war.

The project has connected her with Hidetoshi Tojo, the great-grandson of wartime prime minister Hideki Tojo, who was executed as a war criminal and is seen as a symbol of Japan's militarist past. Reconciliation can take generations of time on both sides, based on her experience. "When you are talking about reconciliation, everyone thinks that it can happen to the first generation, and it can't, it won't, and it doesn't," she told The Associated Press in a recent interview in Tokyo. Comparing it to a ripple effect from the pebble thrown into the water, she said: "I think our audience is going to be surprised how far these ripples go and I hope that, as a result of that, then our audience is going to understand what a war can do."

Generations of pain

Although her father never verbally expressed anger toward Japan, he never bought Japanese products. Thompson, a professor of visual media at Southern Illinois University, began contacting Tojo and others, she said, after reading an AP article about the offspring of Japanese war criminals. "I would not have thought that there was a man still feeling pain so many generations away," she said. "Mr Tojo, he is four generations down and he is still feeling (it) a little bit."

In an interview with the AP in August, the younger Tojo recounted childhood experiences of prejudice, including being called by his great-grandfather's name instead of his own. His father had trouble

finding a job, and once tried to kill himself. Seeking to surmount past enmity, Tojo contacted Clifton Daniel, a grandson of former President Harry Truman, who is remembered in Japan for ordering the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. They have exchanged emails and hope to meet.

"Reaching full reconciliation all at once would be difficult. But I'm sure we can build understanding, if we can respect each other, and that would be a first step," Tojo, a 43-year-old entrepreneur, said after the interview. Thompson, 58, stressed the importance of facing history accurately, "no matter how painful it is." Some 132,000 Allied troops were taken prisoner across Asia during World War II, including more than 30,000 in Japan, historians say. Nearly one-third died in captivity - a death rate several times higher than for prisoners held by Germany and Italy.

In 1942, Robert Thompson was among the Allied prisoners transported by "hell ships" from the Philippines to Japanese POW camps. On one of three ships that carried him, only a few hundred of the 1,600 prisoners survived. As a medic, Thompson treated many of the POWs. He avoided speaking of the experience, even after his daughter found his POW badge in a suitcase left behind by her grandmother when she died. But he did attend POW reunions, and in 1991, Jan Thompson asked to accompany him to one gathering. There, she heard stories she had never heard before, and felt inspired to share their stories.

Breaking the silence

Her father broke his silence and described his experiences in the film, including watching many of his countrymen starve to death. He died at age 92 in 2012, a year before the film was released across the US. Thompson's own resentment of her father's suffering during the war only began to thaw several years ago.

"(For) 22 years I was building anger in me, because my father wouldn't talk about it, and he never showed any anger toward Japan," she said. "But as I would learn more about what had happened to him,

I definitely got angry, like a volcano." Thompson said that when she visited Japan with a delegation of former POWs invited through a Japanese government program in 2010, she came "with a chip on my shoulder." But she was touched by an encounter with a Japanese reporter who wept and apologized because her own grandfather had been a wartime prison official. "It absolutely threw me that here is somebody down two generations away had this type of pain, had this type of shame, which really shouldn't be there," she said. "It kind of opened up my eyes about what might be happening here in Japan."

She aims to finish her new film in 18 months, as she wants aging victims from the wartime generation to watch it. Thompson, who also heads a nonprofit veterans' group, American Defenders of Bataan & Corregidor Memorial Society, accompanied nine former POWs this week to Japan at the invitation of Japan's Foreign Ministry under a reconciliation program that started five years ago. Japan has similar programs with Australia and Britain.

Many former POWs still feel resentment over the violent, brutal treatment from their Japanese captors. And 70 years after its defeat, Japan still faces pressure from neighboring nations to clearly acknowledge and atone for its wartime atrocities and invasions. On the Aug 15 anniversary of Japan's 1945 surrender, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe voiced his own apology. In July, Mitsubishi Materials Corp. offered an unprecedented apology for using about 900 American prisoners during World War II as slave labor at its mines in Japan. Some of the former POWs say their feelings were tempered by compassion for the suffering of ordinary Japanese during and after the war.

During his visit this week, Army veteran Clifford Warren, 91, of Shepherd, Texas, said that his miseries in captivity at the Kamioka mine in central Japan faded "on the spot" when he saw badly injured Japanese atomic bombing survivors. "It was so pitiful," Warren said, urging all nations to follow Japan's example of renouncing war. "We first should bring down and not use that type of a weapon on human beings." — AP

First Netflix film set for big (and small) screen

Netflix makes another play for entertainment domination when its first feature film is released simultaneously in both theaters and on its online streaming platform. "Beasts of No Nation" is the first movie produced by Netflix after the company-best known for its streaming movie and TV platform-produced several hit TV series over the past few years.

The film stars Idris Elba and tells the story of a young West African forced to become a child soldier after his father is killed. "Beasts of No Nation" was screened at film festivals in Colorado, Toronto and Venice, bringing home two prizes and now finds itself in the Oscar discussion.

Today, it will be released in 29 US theaters as well as online for Netflix subscribers wishing to view the film from home. The company, which continues to expand to new countries, said Wednesday it has 69 million users in more than 50 countries. But

the simultaneous release has drawn criticism from some theaters, traditionally the exclusive domain of new films.

"Theater owners get frustrated when, for (public relations) purposes, Netflix makes these grand pronouncements about changing the industry," Patrick Corcoran of the National Association of Theater Owners told The Washington Post. "You can't revolutionize the theater industry without bringing the theater industry along." —AFP

This photo provided by Netflix shows Idris Elba, (left) as Commandant, and Abraham Attah, (center) as Agu, in the Netflix original film, "Beasts of No Nation," directed by Cary Fukunaga. — AP



Cate Blanchett takes centre stage at London film fest



Australian actress Cate Blanchett poses on arrival for a gala screening of the movie "Carol" during the BFI London Film Festival. — AFP photos

With two new films presented and a lifetime achievement award on its way, Australian actress Cate Blanchett has taken centre stage at a London Film Festival featuring several strong female leads. Blanchett's latest film "Truth"—a story about investigative journalism and politics—had its European premiere on Thursday, a day after the star walked the red carpet at the festival to promote the much-praised "Carol", in which she plays a married woman embarking on a lesbian romance in 1950s New York.

On Saturday, the 46-year-old is due to receive the British Film Institute Fellowship, whose previous winners include actors Ralph Fiennes and Al Pacino. Blanchett's co-star in "Carol", Rooney Mara, said the Oscar-winning actress had earned the recognition. "I can't think of anyone more deserving. She is one of the greatest actresses that we have today," she said on Wednesday.

"Truth" by director James Vanderbilt is based on the memoirs of US journalist Mary Mapes and centres on the scandal caused by a report by Dan Rather, played by Robert Redford, about then US president George W. Bush's military service. The backlash against allegations that Bush was able to avoid the war in Vietnam ruined the careers of Mapes and Rather.

Blanchett said she read Vanderbilt's script in one sitting. "Once you get on it's like a freight train, and I think that must have been the experience for the actual real-life protagonists in the story. I was gripped by it," she said in a statement. "I was horrified by the personal attacks against Mary. It was really the advent of the blogosphere, and to witness someone's fall from grace via these so-called Internet reports was chilling."

The actress also took part in a discussion on the role of women in cinema a debate at the heart of this year's London



Australian actress Cate Blanchett (left) and US actress Rooney Mara pose on arrival for a gala screening of the movie "Carol".

Film Festival. "Every time there's interesting complex roles played by actresses on screen, someone says: 'Do you think this is a breakthrough? Does this mean there is going to be more of the same?'" she said. "We seem to every year find ourselves in the same conversation, that somehow it's remarkable. I think there is a swathe of great roles for women and certainly a swathe of wonderful female performers. I think it's time to get on with it," she added. — AFP

Horror king Nakata returns with evil doll

Japanese horror director Hideo Nakata, best known for terrifying audiences by bringing the vengeful demon Sadako through a television set in the smash-hit movie "Ring", wants to make a romantic comedy. But the godfather of the "J-horror" genre is not ditching his day job just yet and proves he still has plenty of devilish tricks up his sleeve in his new film "Ghost Theatre", which opens next week at the Tokyo International Film Festival.

Spine-chillingly claustrophobic, Nakata's new release revolves around a troupe of actors haunted by an evil mannequin, marking something of a departure from his previous works. "Traditionally in J-horror, a ghost-something which isn't supposed to exist—appears faintly as an apparition behind you, often out of focus," the 54-year-old told AFP in an interview. "Like Sadako in 'Ring': when the TV gets turned off, you see her reflection on the blank screen but when you turn around she's not there."

In his latest offering, the object of fear is a life-size doll being used as a prop in a theatre. "Japanese people used to decorate their homes with ornate dolls and you'd hear stories of the doll's hair growing or its head moving slightly," Nakata explained. "People would talk about dolls being possessed by spirits." Perhaps inevitably, Nakata will always be remembered for the pallid, lank-haired Sadako of the 1998 masterpiece "Ring", which triggered the global J-horror boom.

The blood-curdling scene in which the ghost climbs out of the disused well her body had been dumped in and drags herself through the TV screen to stare murderously at her victim helped the movie rake in \$100 million at the box office.

"At that time, kids had their own TV in their rooms, often with a video deck," said Nakata. "I liked the idea of using the simplest of electrical appliances as the window from which Sadako, who existed only on a videotape, emerges from Hell and comes alive." Nakata, who subsequently directed the Hollywood sequel to Gore Verbinski's 2002 version "The Ring," thinks J-horror's popularity overseas is partly down to western audiences growing tired of gory violence.

Stomach-churning gore

"American cinema-goers were more used to zombies attacking people," he said. "Maybe it was a reaction to the

extreme splatter movies of the 1980s and 90s, where the object was biting people to death. Maybe that sparked the interest." Likewise for Nakata, the western horrors that stood out for him as a kid growing up were those that terrified viewers without resorting to stomach-churning gore.

"I went to school in the 1970s and films like "The Exorcist," "The Omen" and "Suspiria" were must-see movies," he said. "But I didn't enjoy films like the "Evil Dead" as much, with all its grotesque cruelty," he added, referring to Sam Raimi's supernatural cult favorite. "It just feels too fake if there is too much blood," Nakata added. "In 'Ring' I tried to keep the blood to a minimum—I think there was just a bit of congealed blood around the fingernails, that was it."

Nakata believes the creepy ghosts made famous by himself and contemporaries such as "Juon" ("Grudge") director Takashi Shimizu should elicit sympathy as well as terror. "There is always a battle between good and evil and Christian morals at the heart of scary films made in the West," he said. "Japanese ghosts like Sadako are demons, yes, but when she was alive she was treated abominably and suffered terrible abuse before she died. "She now possesses the power to curse or kill people, but she's not pure evil. There's room, on an emotional level, to feel sorry for her."

Nakata insisted that his future remains in horror, despite a desire to cast off the shackles and make a romantic comedy. "The late Wes Craven once told me: don't do more than two horror movies," he said. "But I guess it's my destiny. "I want to do something like 'The Intern' (starring Robert De Niro and Anne Hathaway)," he laughed. "But horror is an indestructible genre and as long as there are people out there who want to be scared to death, I'll keep striving for new ways to scare them." — AFP



Japanese filmmaker Hideo Nakata talks to AFP during an interview in Tokyo on October 15, 2015. Nakata, best known for terrifying audiences by bringing the vengeful demon Sadako through a television screen in the smash-hit movie "Ring", wants to make a love-comedy. — AFP



A screenshot from Hideo Nakata's 1998 horror film 'Ring'.

Cookbooks: A recipe for success in publishing world

Visitors to the Frankfurt Book Fair are greeted by images of aromatic spices, mouth-watering desserts and beaming chefs as cookbooks, once a niche segment, take the publishing world by storm. "Twenty years ago, cookbooks were hidden, cookbooks were not respected," said Edouard Cointreau, president of the Gourmand World Cookbook Awards. "You had to be specialist and if you were specialized, you never went very far in a big publishing house." But nowadays "people need comfort in a world that has become more and more difficult with crises. And cookbooks are one of the ways to be happy. Cookbooks are to dream, to feel good, to travel," Cointreau said. In the sprawling exhibition halls hosting the world's biggest book fair until Sunday, the Gourmet Gallery is dedicated exclusively to cooking, with recipe books on display from all over the world. A stand from Gaza sits alongside one from Israel, there are books ranging from Russian specialities and Indonesian dishes to the secrets of celebrated French cuisine maestro Alain Ducasse.

A trend in Iran

Cookbooks are a runaway success in almost every corner of the world, including Iran. "Five years ago, our market was not like that, but now, cookbooks are more popular in Iran," said chef Samira Janatdoust, presenting her own books despite Tehran's boycott of the fair sparked by an appearance from British-Indian writer Salman Rushdie, author of "The Satanic Verses".

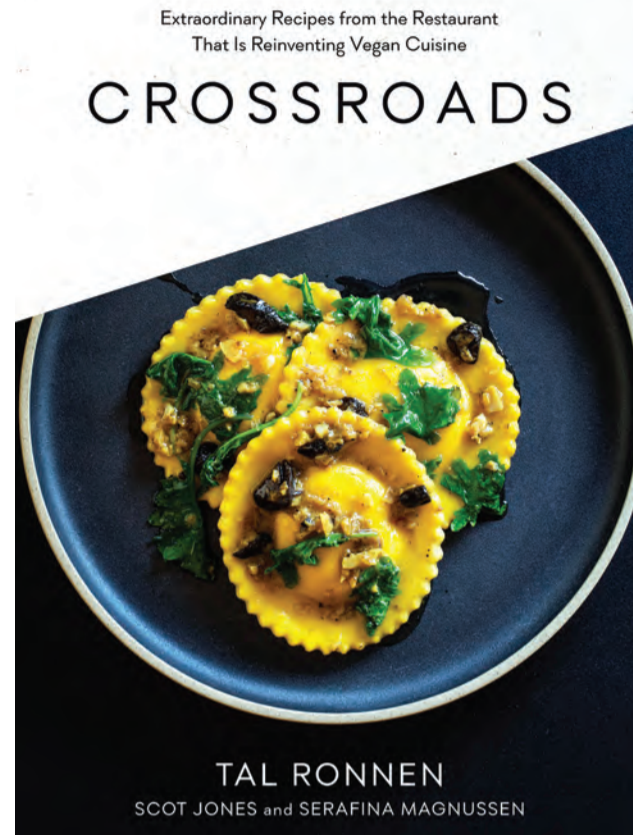
In such a crowded global market, it is often difficult to stand out. Sofia Piqueras, an artist from Barcelona, offers eye-catching one-off editions with handmade covers decorated with aromatic herbs and spices. "There are definitely trends emerging all over the world," said

Pixie Shields, international rights director at Marabout (Hachette Livre), one of the big players in the sector. Particularly en vogue at the moment are books on healthy eating, on vegetarian and vegan cooking and recipes for kale dishes or green smoothies. People tend to go for brightly presented books, full of photos, which they can show off in their kitchen and leaf through occasionally, said Shields.

For most people, cookbooks are like glossy fashion magazines. "Statistically, people cook between one and three recipes from a book," she said. Among the other trends, Cointreau points to manuals on increasingly specific themes, such as cupcakes, regional cuisine, but also cookbooks for children and self-published books.

Stagnating French market

Cointreau said the annual market for cookbooks is estimated at around six billion dollars and is growing at between three and five percent, with television programs the prime growth driver. The market is also still very much for printed rather than electronic books, he said. But growth can vary from country to country. In France, for example, the market appears to be running out of steam, at least for now. According to the specialist magazine Livres Hebdo, around 1,760 new cookbooks or new editions appeared in 2014, which represented a stagnation compared with previous year, after the segment had notched up consistent growth between 2006 and 2012. In Germany, books on food and drink make up around 28 percent of sales of what are generally classified as guide or instruction books. But that proportion has also remained unchanged for the past two years, after growing consistently in the preceding years. — AFP



This photo provided by Artisan Books shows the cover of the book "Crossroads," by Tal Ronnen, with Scot Jones and Serafina Magnussen.—AP

Frankfurt fair reaches out to refugees with books

Food and shelter may be a priority for the record numbers of often desperate refugees arriving in Germany but they also need "intellectual nutrition", say experts at the Frankfurt Book Fair. Underlining the crucial part education plays in migrants' integration, the fair's organizers and the German book trade association launched a special initiative entitled "Books Say Welcome" last month.

"The ability to read is a basic condition for participating in society and in democracy," said Juergen Boos, organizer of the Frankfurt exhibition—the world's biggest book fair which opened this week. Under that scheme, around 6,000 bookshops across the country are collecting financial donations from their customers. The money will help purchase books, primarily school books, language teaching material and dictionaries, but also novels and literature. These will be distributed to special reading and learning corners close to the refugee homes around the country, said Boos.

Basic condition for democracy

"We have to go to where the refugees are and make learning material and books readily available to them." "Our industry is driven by the idea that a free society cannot function without the book," said the head of the German book trade association, Alexander Skipis. "We want to help and live up to our responsibility in society and that means making books accessible, not only as education, but as intellectual nutrition."

Skipis insisted that the two-week-old initiative was already working very well and had been enthusiastically received. But he pointed out that it would be a long-term project. "This is not just a seasonal thing. We must be aware that we're in it for the long haul."

Aiman Mazyek, head of the central council of Muslims in Germany, insisted that the conditions for the successful integration of the refugees were much better than in the past. Unlike earlier waves of immigrants such as the Turkish "guest workers" who came

to Germany in the 1950s, a "large part" of the refugees arriving now were highly educated, Mazyek said.

"That means the points of contact, particularly when it comes to education, the willingness to read and to learn the language, are very much more positive," he argued. Top education expert Wassilios Fthenakis agreed, arguing that the refugees could also help to enrich Germany as a whole.

'Yeast in the dough'

"The starting conditions for this new integration process are incomparably better than ever before, because the intellectual qualifications of the people coming to us are very different," he said. "These people are like the yeast in the dough. They want to rise to the top. That brings movement into the system and the whole system can benefit from this," Fthenakis said.

The German population has largely welcomed the massive influx of refugees, primarily from Syria, with open arms, even if critics are becoming more vocal about the economic and social consequences. But experts agree that, given the demographic change in Germany, with its rapidly ageing population, Europe's biggest economy needs additional workers in order to maintain its prosperity.

Estimates put the number of qualified workers that Germany will lack by 2020 at 1.8 million. Mazyek pointed out that the refugees also represented a potential new target audience for Germany's publishing industry. "But that's not going to happen so quickly. I wouldn't look at it in purely economic terms like that," countered Boos. "I feel the integration aspect is much more important."

As another gesture of welcome, the fair is offering free passes to refugees this year, when it opens to the general public today and tomorrow. The organizers were working together with refugee aid organizations to organize special visits accompanied by designated mother-tongue experts, said Boos. The refugees would be able to visit the stands of publishers from their home countries, such as Syria.

And enquiries had already been received from groups from Eritrea and Syria. The Frankfurt fair dates as far back as the Middle Age with the invention of the Gutenberg press, and this year, some 7,300 exhibitors will be present, with 300,000 visitors expected. — AFP



A woman looks at books on display at the Book Fair in Frankfurt am Main, western Germany. — AFP



Forensic artist Joe Mullins, of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, works with fellow artists.



Forensic artist Samantha AJ Molnar works on facial reconstructions.

Forensic artists bring the dead back to life

In a basement classroom on the University of South Florida campus, Joe Mullins is bringing the dead back to life. He's doing it with clay, scalpels and 3D printing technology in hopes of reviving a cold case out of Alachua County, Florida. In 1987, a teenager was driving a stolen Corvette when he struck a tractor-trailer head-on. The teen was burned beyond recognition.

No one ever came forward to report him missing or claim the body. Now Mullins, who is a forensic imaging specialist with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, is recreating the teen's skull and face. It's part of a weeklong class put on by the center, Tampa-area law enforcement agencies and the university's Forensic Anthropology and Applied Science school.

There are a dozen students in the class, which is led by Mullins. They're working on sculptures for unidentified people from nine cold cases, some of which have been unsolved for 40-plus years. The first step is to construct the skull. Since the forensic artists can't use the actual skulls because they're evidence, Mullins figured out that skulls can be 3D printed from plastic. It takes hours for each skull to be printed as a thin thread of plastic feeds into a machine, which builds the skull layer by layer. Then the clay is put over the plastic model of the skull.

Sculpting the human face

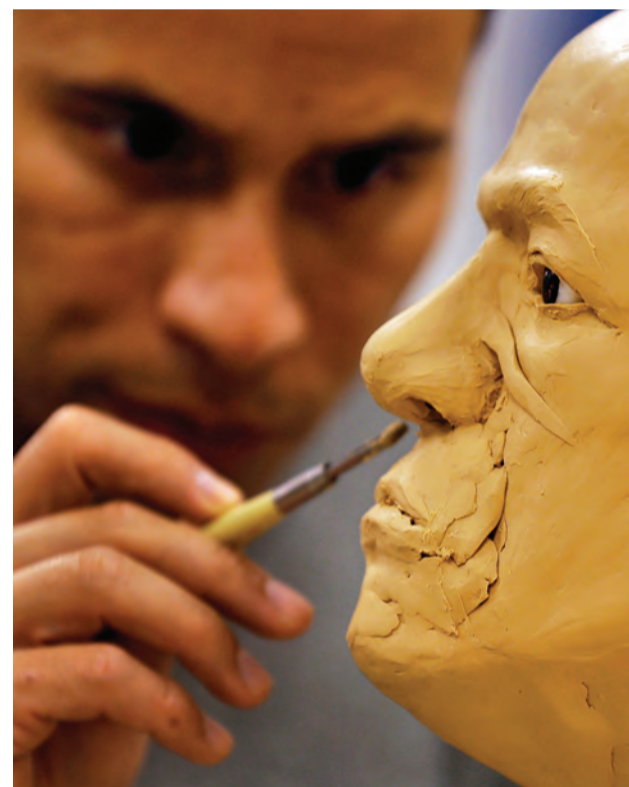
"It's a bit of a challenge to create a face from a skull," said Mullins. "You have to have that artistic ability flowing through your body." The artists smooth over, pinch and sculpt the faces out of the clay. Eyeballs are inserted into sockets. Among the most challenging tasks: forming lips. "Has anybody gotten frustrated yet?" Mullins asked the class. "Today is going to be the worst day ever. Lips are going to be the hardest thing you've ever tried to sculpt in your entire life." He showed how the instinct will be for the artists to pinch the clay to form the mouth - but that will result in duck

lips. Instead, they should mold the lips around the curve of the face, so they look more natural. The students are spending the week sculpting, never forgetting that the works of art in front of them were once someone's husband, daughter or mother. At the end of the week, there will be a show - "The Art of Forensics" - and the images and information will be released to the public and featured on law enforcement websites, in hopes of generating leads and solving the cold cases. "What you're doing is fantastic," Hernando County Sheriff's Det. George Loydgren told the class. "It's priceless, to be able to identify somebody for a family. Somebody hopefully reported these people missing."

The Tampa workshop is the second such session. Earlier this year, Mullins held a similar class at the New York Academy of Art, and one of the 11 unidentified victims from that workshop was positively identified. More workshops are planned in Tampa.

The students and Mullins are also working with Erin Kimmeler, an anthropology professor who explains details about each unidentified person - gender, age range, ancestry. She's known for her excavation of unidentified graves and DNA testing of students at the now-closed Dozier reform school on Florida's Panhandle.

"The first thing the artist has to do is take their artistic license and set it aside, because they don't have any," said Mullins. "They have to stick with what that skull is telling them ... There's no wiggle room. An artist can slap a face on here but that's not going to do any good if you don't capture the unique characteristics of this individual." Mullins said that it takes days to capture the right face and the proper feel of a victim. "The hardest part of sculpting the face is the emotional impact it has on you," said Mullins. "I stop when I see somebody stare back at me." — AP



Forensic artist Gerald Theckson works with fellow artists on facial reconstructions at the University of South Florida in Tampa, Florida. — AP photos



A facial reconstructions sits on a stand.



Forensic artist Beth Buchholtz



Models display the creations from "Dresscamp" by Japanese designer Toshihikazu Iwaya at the 2016 spring/summer collection show during Tokyo Fashion Week in Tokyo. —AFP photos

'Kawaii' style: Born in Japan, now taking on the world

Bubblegum-pink hearts, tulle skirts and polka dots: the unabashedly feminine fashion that originated in Tokyo has exploded in the West with Hollywood celebrities earning brickbats for adopting the "girly" style.

The hugely popular "kawaii" (cute) look, which blends traditional Japanese concepts of purity and innocence with the doll-like aesthetic embodied by Hello Kitty and other beloved mascots, traces its roots to the late 1970s. While it made significant inroads into Southeast Asia throughout the 1990s, western fashion sentiments had remained largely impervious to—and even somewhat sneering about—its cutesy charms.

The vivid aesthetic occupies pride of place in Japanese pop culture, particularly in the visual styling of 22-year-old "kawaii" entertainer, Kyary Pamyu Pamyu. But it has begun winning fans further afield, including musicians like Katy Perry, Lady Gaga and Nicki Minaj. A watered-down version of the style has made inroads into US pop culture, embodied by Disney star Ariana Grande and actress Zooey Deschanel in her leading role as a quirky schoolteacher in the TV show, "New Girl". Miley Cyrus' current psychedelic, hyper-sexualized look also contains plenty of kawaii inspiration.

As the glitterati gathered in Tokyo for fashion week, Japanese designers showcased plenty of outfits with a cute twist. Designer Keita Maruyama dressed models in feather-topped ankle socks and suits embellished with pompoms

while offbeat label DRESSCAMP opted for pink taffeta capes and sequined tulle petticoats.

Tokyo-based blogger and TV host, Misha Janette says Japan also experienced a new surge in kawaii culture after the 2011 earthquake-tsunami disaster. "I think people needed the infusion of fun, which is why we saw these colorful fashion statements emerge," she added. But the sight of women wearing items usually aimed at children—from headbands embellished with cat-ears to frothy skirts and tops showcasing strawberry cupcakes or cartoon characters—have aroused the ire of feminist commentators based in the West.

"To make a woman look like a child is to make her unthreatening, helpless and worthy of condescension. When women dress like children, they encourage this attitude," wrote Hadley Freeman, columnist for the Britain's Guardian newspaper.

Fashion playground

Industry insiders dismiss such concerns. "Just because a woman dresses like a doll doesn't mean she wants to be treated like a doll," Janette, host of popular TV show "Kawaii International", told AFP. Furthermore, in a country that values conformity, fashion offers a rare window for self-expression, Janette added.

Tokyo's streets are famous for the proliferation of fashion tribes ranging from gothic schoolgirls to pastel princesses,

with young men and women seizing the opportunity to explore subcultures and stand out from the crowd.

"Every time a new aesthetic emerges here, it really is about girls dressing for themselves as opposed to girls dressing to get a date," said Tiffany Godoy, author and editor in chief of the bilingual *The Reality Show Magazine*.

In Tokyo's trendy Harajuku neighborhood, where US clothing chain stores compete with tiny boutiques crammed with stuffed unicorns, glitter-covered ballet flats and heart-shaped bags, 26-year-old singer Momo Ninomiya told AFP she was on the lookout for a "kawaii" accessory.

"This kind of style is so girly... I love cute things, that's why I enjoy dressing like this," Ninomiya said, referring to her frilly ankle socks, headband and fifties-style skirt printed with perfume bottles and flower bouquets. "Some of my friends say they are embarrassed to walk with me when I am dressed like this... (but) I don't think there's anything wrong with the way I dress," she said.

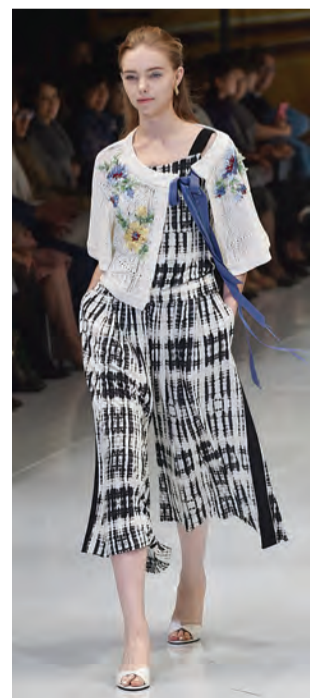
According to fashion editor Godoy, the criticism levelled at young women like Ninomiya represents a dated take on feminism. "It's such an old-fashioned way of looking at things. The way these girls dress, it's about being playful and wearing clothes that make them happy. "And (like any subculture) it makes people uncomfortable because it's not a traditional way to dress," she said. —AFP



Tokyo Fashion Week



Models display the creations by designer Tae Ashida during the 2016 Spring/Summer collection at the Tokyo Fashion Week. —AP photos



Models display the creations by Japanese designer Yuki Torii during her 2016 spring/summer collection at Tokyo Fashion Week. —AFP photos

WHEN ANALYTICS BECOMES PERVASIVE

By Jyoti Lalchandani

Ever wondered how much data floating around the digital universe at any one time? It's a difficult number to pin down exactly, but one thing we know for sure is that it is big, very big. And it's only



Jyoti Lalchandani

getting bigger. Estimates placed the figure at 4.4 zettabytes in 2013, equivalent to 4.4 trillion gigabytes. That's a lot of novelty USB keyrings, but even more astonishing is IDC's expectation for this figure to reach a truly mind-blowing 44 trillion gigabytes by the start of the next decade. It is little wonder then that worldwide spending on Big Data analytics is tipped to pass the \$125 billion mark this year. Regular read-

ers of this column will have heard me refer to Big Data plenty of times before - indeed, it sits alongside mobility, social media, and cloud as one of the four fundamental technology pillars currently transforming the world of business beyond all previous recognition. And while it may not boast the rock 'n' roll kudos of its three more poppy brethren, Big Data analytics is rapidly emerging as the place to hang out for those truly in the know.

Driving this interest is the realization of how valuable all this data can be. Internet-era behemoths like Google and Amazon became what they are today precisely because they recognized the importance of data, and there are plenty more organizations now queuing up to tap into the new wave of opportunities promised by our increasingly connected future. And with less than 15% of enterprise data currently being harnessed for analytics, the potential is huge, particularly for businesses that look across their entire organizational structures to see where more data can be used to enhance their decision-making processes.

It is here where so-called 'pervasive analytics' comes into play, with a growing number of forward-thinking enterprises now striving to deploy analytics into every nook

and cranny of their organizations. This 'pervasive' use of analytics informs decision-making processes everywhere across the enterprise, ultimately helping to create a more predictable and valuable organization. Unsurprisingly, however, while this vision is undoubtedly the utopian dream for the modern enterprise, it is not a simple state to achieve. The primary challenge facing many organizations is the lack of an organizational culture that encourages and supports the use of data analysis to inform decisions. Certain departments or groups may have their own culture dictating a propensity for analytics, but a coherent organization-wide strategy is often missing. As a consequence of this, analytics is still primarily used to guide strategic decision making, with executive management successfully tapping into its fruits while hundreds, and possibly even thousands, of day-to-day decision-making opportunities are starved of the assistance they require. The widespread use of analytics supports an organization whose culture, business processes, and technologies are designed and implemented with the goal of improving the strategic, operational, and tactical decision-making capabilities of a wide range of internal and external stakeholders. And by feeding indi-

viduals the right information, at the right time, a broad constituency of staff members can be equipped with actionable knowledge as part of their everyday procedures.

There are a number of factors that determine the relative success of making this happen, including the existence of structured performance management methodologies, the role of data governance policies, the provision of ongoing training, and, of course, the quality of the actual analytics solutions being deployed. But just as important as these more 'technical' influencers is the involvement of non-executive management, as they are key to shaping that all-important organizational culture that is so often lacking.

Statistically, non-executive management's involvement in analytics has more influence on the pervasiveness of analytics than the involvement of executive management. Yes, executives must be involved in analytics initiatives for the transformation into an analytic organization to take place, but their involvement and influence is different from that of their non-executive counterparts. The biggest impact of executives is that they often act as triggers for new analytics projects, while non-executive management can be more influential in driving

these projects once they have been launched. Indeed, the level of non-executive management involvement in promoting and encouraging the design and use of analytics across the organization is critical. These important influencers can provide context to the benefits of using analytics and can spread analytics usage widely among their peers and across other groups. And to further facilitate this, I encourage organizations to seek out 'analytics champions' from within the workforce and actively support them as they educate and illustrate the value of analytics throughout the organization.

Albert Einstein once said "Not everything that can be counted counts, and not everything that counts can be counted." And, of course, he was right. Businesses can invest in analytics and still fall behind their competitors if these other businesses are also investing in analytics. And even if analytics pervasiveness is critical to performance, it doesn't lead directly to performance - the firm must still sell products and service its customers. To that extent, pervasive analytics is not a magic wand that will suddenly cure all business ills, but as the digital universe continues to explode, its significance in enabling business success is only going to grow.

YAHOO UPDATED EMAIL APP AIMS TO KILL THE PASSWORD

US COURT RULES IN FAVOR OF GOOGLE'S ONLINE LIBRARY

FRANCISCO: Yahoo is trying to phase out passwords with an update to its mobile application for its email service. The renovated app released Thursday for iPhones and Android devices will include an option called "Account Key" that allows people to sign into their email accounts by pressing on a notification sent to their smartphones instead of typing in a password. Yahoo believes the new feature will be more secure because most people rely on passwords that are easy for hackers to guess. Yahoo's email users can still continue to type in a password if they prefer.

The Sunnyvale, California, company wants to change the way Internet security works because

Yahoo "is synonymous with the Internet in many countries," said Jeff Bonforte, the company's senior vice president of communication products. "We always feel a burden of consumer protection." Although Yahoo email remains among the world's most popular, it has been eclipsed in recent years by Google's Gmail.

Yahoo's email had 190 million users in August, a 16 percent decline from the same time last year, according to the research firm comScore. Gmail boasted 411 million, a 5 percent increase. The updated app also will make it possible to connect Yahoo email with competing services from Outlook.com,

Hotmail and AOL. The company hopes to make the app work with Gmail eventually, though it isn't giving a timetable for making it happen.

An update to the Gmail app earlier this year allowed its users to connect with Yahoo email and Microsoft's Outlook.com. The app update is important to Yahoo Inc. because more than half of its email users primarily check their messages on mobile devices. Email users also are an important source of traffic at Yahoo's other major services, including sports, entertainment and finance that help sell the advertising that generates most of the company's revenue. Yahoo's revenue has been declining or barely growing for years as advertisers pour more of their money into Google and Facebook.

Google's online library

In another development, a US appeals court says Google is not violating copyright laws by digitizing books for a massive online library. The 2nd US Circuit Court of Appeals in New York City ruled yesterday, agreeing with a judge who concluded that the snippets that Google showed customers from its database did not violate copyright laws. The Authors Guild and various authors had challenged Google, contending that the digital book project violated their rights. Google Inc has made digital copies of tens of millions of books from major libraries and established a publicly available search function. The appeals court says Google's profit motivation does not in these circumstances justify denial of what is a fair use of the books' content. Lawyers did not immediately return messages seeking comment. —Agencies

SILICON VALLEY IPO MARKET BOOM WINDING DOWN

SAN FRANCISCO: Last year, many tech IPOs enjoyed soaring valuations in their Wall Street debut, raining cash on the companies and their investors and boosting concerns about another Silicon Valley bubble. Now, the party is winding down, according to data analyzed by Reuters: Five of the 12 US-based tech companies that went public this year, or 42 percent, priced their shares at a valuation below or nearly the same as their private market value, compared to 24 percent of the 29 that went public in 2014.

"People are no longer out of their minds with valuations and expectations," said Adam Marcus, managing partner at OpenView Venture Partners in Boston. A recent example is Pure Storage, whose IPO earlier this month gave the data storage company a \$3.1 billion market cap that almost matched its valuation in the private market. The shift in the investing climate comes as payments company Square filed this week for its own IPO later this year, becoming one of the most prominent of the so-called "unicorns," or private companies valued at more than \$1 billion, to try to go public.

Even when valuations increase, they are growing by a smaller amount, according to the data, which was provided by Ipreo, a market intelligence company, and Pitchbook, a venture capital, private equity and M&A data provider, and analyzed by Reuters. Among the companies that saw their values grow in an IPO in 2014, the median increase from their value in the private market was 61 percent. Some companies saw increases of three-, four- and even five-fold. So far this year, that gain is 32 percent. —Reuters



CALIFORNIA: Photo shows a sign outside Yahoo's headquarters in Sunnyvale, Calif. Yahoo is trying to phase out passwords with an update to its mobile application for its email service. —AP

AMAZON'S GIZMOS AIM TO BE ASSISTANTS FOR YOUR ABODE

NEW YORK: When I brought home review models of Amazon's Echo speaker, a sort of smart, voice-controlled speaker, and two Dash buttons that reorder household products with a single touch, I wasn't convinced I'd find them all that useful in my daily life. I was half right. In many respects, it was surprisingly easy to get sucked into Amazon's services. Before I tried out the Echo, for instance, I wouldn't have dreamed of spending \$180 on the device. After having it around, I might still pause, but I would put it high on my Christmas list. The Dash buttons didn't do so much for me, although I can see how they might be useful for some.

Amazon began rolling out the Echo in late 2014 and started selling it broadly in June. It's one more way for Amazon to entice people into its \$99-per-year Prime loyalty program and to buy more stuff from the online superstore. Although Echo doesn't require a Prime membership, some of its functions - such as, naturally, reordering products from Amazon - won't work without one. The black, cylindrical Echo device can sit unobtrusively on a kitchen counter or table. Setting it up takes a few minutes, during which you connect it to your home Wi-Fi network using a phone app. After that, it's all about voice commands. The app keeps a handy record of everything you ask the device - which answers to "Alexa," though you can change it to "Amazon."

Google Now

In many ways, the Echo's Alexa is similar to Apple's Siri and the Google Now voice assistants. But when my phone is in my hand, I find it easier to just type. On the other hand, it feels more natural, and even fun, to speak to the Echo from around the room. And it seems to understand my voice more often than Siri or Google does, although the Echo still had problems occasionally. Although Echo has an "always on" functionality, Amazon says it's not really listening until you say "Alexa" - an assertion you basically have to take on faith. A blue ring appears at the top of the cylinder to let you know it's ready to take commands. You can then ask the device to perform any number of tasks.

When you're cooking, it's a snap to set a timer. Just say, "Alexa, set timer for 10 minutes," and the timer starts. You can ask it how many minutes are left, too. It can also convert measurements, such as ounces to cups. Saying "Alexa, play WNYC" gets me my local public radio station online through TuneIn. The Echo syncs with Prime Music, too, so you can play any song in that library. Request an artist, like Beyonce, and it picks a Beyonce song from Prime Music at random. Echo can also give you a quick snapshot of the weather before heading outside. It can answer queries with information retrieved from Wikipedia or add items to shopping or to-do lists.

Amazon is adding new features and functionality almost weekly, so you can tailor the device to your tastes, by enabling services via the app, no matter how esoteric. For example, you can enable a "Cat Facts" skillset that provides cat trivia. Alexa can even tell Donald Trump and Hilary Clinton jokes taken from Seth Meyers' and Jimmy Fallon's late night shows. Amazon recently extended its Alexa software to additional devices, including the Fire TV streaming TV gadgets. —AP



Review

File photo shows the Google Chromecast device in San Francisco. Amazon said it will stop allowing the sale of Google and Apple video-streaming devices on its site as it focuses on its own Prime Instant Video streaming service. —AP

ALIBABA MAKES OFFER FOR YOUTUBE, YOUKU TUDOU YOUKU TUDOU-CHINA'S EQUIVALENT OF YOUTUBE

SHANGHAI: Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba yesterday made a multi-billion-dollar offer to buy the outstanding shares of online video company Youku Tudou - the country's equivalent of YouTube - the firms said, in its latest push into entertainment. Alibaba, often described as China's eBay or Amazon, is king of e-commerce in the Asian country, but is making a string of acquisitions as it seeks to develop beyond its traditional transaction platforms into a broader Internet company.

Analysts said the deal could help Alibaba draw more traffic to its sites and offer a vehicle to integrate its media and entertainment assets. The firm, which already owns 18.3 percent of the New York-listed target company, is offering \$26.60 in cash per American depositary share (ADS), a Youku Tudou statement said, without giving a total value for the deal. Each ADS represents 18 ordinary shares in Youku Tudou. Alibaba had offered \$3.6 billion for the remaining stake in Youku Tudou, Bloomberg News reported, quoting a person familiar with the matter.

The deal valued the entire Internet

television company at more than \$4.0 billion, it said. The offer represents a 30.2 percent premium over the stock's closing price on Thursday, said Youku Tudou, which described the "going private" proposal as preliminary. But the statement added that Youku Tudou's chairman and chief executive officer Victor Koo and other major shareholders supported the deal, making it likely to go through.

"Alibaba needs more media resources to induce more traffic in the next quarter and it also needs a strong leader to integrate the media assets under its name," Guotai Junan Securities analyst Ray Zhao said. "But Alibaba still needs to integrate all the resources it has now to make it work," he said. The stock price of the firm, also listed on the New York Stock Exchange, has fallen around 40 percent from its peak in November, as a proxy for China's slowing economy. Founder Jack Ma has sought to reassure investors. "I do not agree with the notion that consumption will decline as economic growth slows," he said in a letter to shareholders earlier this month.

"It is inaccurate to think that the slowdown of the Chinese economy means that Chinese people are unwilling to spend." In a statement announcing the offer for Youku Tudou, Ma said his company aimed to develop the firm as China's leading digital entertainment platform. Most of Youku Tudou's online video offerings are professionally produced content licensed from copyright holders. "Youku Tudou's high-quality video content will become a core component of the digital products of Alibaba's e-commerce (business)," Alibaba chief executive officer Daniel Zhang said.

Alibaba's Taobao platform holds more than 90 percent of the consumer-to-consumer market in China, while its Tmall platform is believed to command more than half the Chinese market for business-to-consumer transactions. But Alibaba has also invested in its first Hollywood film, "Mission: Impossible - Rogue Nation", acting as promotional partner in China with Paramount Pictures for the movie. Last month, Alibaba also set up a new company to focus on professional sports, including media, events and ticketing. —AFP

BACK OFF, TABLETS: PC COMPANIES PLAN A \$70 MILLION AD CAMPAIGN

SAN FRANCISCO: So many people have gone so long without buying a new personal computer that the industry's biggest players are trying something different: a quirky advertising campaign. The \$70 million marketing push aims to highlight how much better PCs have gotten since smartphones and tablets came along. Rival PC makers Hewlett-Packard, Dell and Lenovo are joining forces with Microsoft and Intel to revive languishing PC sales with ads that don't promote specific brands. They'll be punctuated with the slogan, "PC does what?"

It's a concept similar to earlier campaigns by beef and dairy producers that sought to extol the virtues of their products. The PC campaign will tout the increased versatility of laptops that have slimmed down while adding more powerful chips, longer-lasting batteries and higher resolution screens that also respond to touch commands. Many of the screens also detach from keyboards so they can function as tablets, too. Most new PCs are now powered by Windows 10, which

Microsoft bills as its best operating system yet. "With this perfect storm of innovation, we felt it was the time to tell our story," said Steve Fund, Intel's chief marketing officer. "People think having something good is good enough because they are unaware of how much better the PCs are now."

The campaign, scheduled to begin Monday in the US and China, will include TV commercials on major networks and online ads. The participating companies will split the \$70 million cost of the campaign, which will run through November in an effort to entice holiday shoppers. The ads are primarily targeting consumers who haven't bought a new PC in at least four years - a potential audience of about 400 million people, estimated technology industry analyst Patrick Moorhead.

The PC push comes amid a 3 1/2-year decline in sales that has been driven by a shift to smartphones and tablets able to handle many of the tasks that previously required desktop and laptop computers. Even the late July release of Microsoft's Windows 10 operating system couldn't reverse the slide.

Worldwide shipments of PCs fell by 8 percent from the previous year during the three-month period ending in September, according to the research group Gartner. Lenovo, HP and Dell were the top three PC makers in the quarter.

But the pendulum may be poised to swing in the other direction. About half the consumers polled in Gartner's personal technology survey said they plan to buy a new PC during the next year, compared to just 21 percent who said they have a tablet on their shopping list. In an effort to reverse a recent decline in iPad sales, Apple introduced a larger version of its trendsetting tablet that's designed to behave much like a laptop. The iPad Pro will sell for \$800 and an accompanying keyboard will cost an additional \$169. Consumers who have owned the same PC for several years can now buy a vastly improved model for \$500 to \$700, Moorhead said, making it more likely the marketing campaign will win converts. "I think the PC might have its best hand in the past five to seven years," Moorhead said. —AP

BBC lifestyle

00:10 Bargain Hunt
 00:55 Masterchef: The Professionals
 01:45 The Roux Legacy
 02:20 Come Dine With Me
 02:45 Bargain Hunt
 03:30 Homes Under The Hammer
 04:20 Beat My Build
 05:10 The Roux Legacy
 05:40 Come Dine With Me
 06:05 Masterchef: The Professionals
 07:00 Phil Spencer: Secret Agent - Specials
 07:50 Phil Spencer: Secret Agent - Specials
 08:40 Bill's Kitchen: Notting Hill
 09:30 Marbella Mansions
 11:00 The Planners
 11:50 The Planners
 12:40 Antiques Roadshow
 14:25 Come Dine With Me
 16:25 Bargain Hunt
 18:10 The Roux Legacy
 19:15 Beat My Build
 20:50 The Good Cook
 21:15 Fat & Fatter
 22:10 Phil Spencer: Secret Agent - Specials



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



00:00 Dash Dolls
 00:55 We Have Issues
 01:25 Hollywood Cycle
 02:20 E! News
 03:15 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
 04:10 E! News
 05:05 The E! True Hollywood Story
 06:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
 06:55 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
 07:50 Style Star
 08:20 E! News
 09:15 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills
 10:15 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills
 11:10 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
 18:00 E! News
 19:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
 20:00 Dash Dolls
 21:00 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills
 22:00 E! News
 23:00 The Soup



00:10 The Chase
 01:05 May The Best House Win
 02:00 Shetland
 02:55 Emmerdale
 05:15 Coronation Street
 06:10 Keep It In The Family
 07:05 Lewis
 08:00 Paul O'Grady: For The Love Of Dogs
 08:25 Tricked
 09:20 Who's Doing The Dishes?
 11:50 Keep It In The Family
 12:45 Lewis

13:45 Agatha Christie's Partners In Crime
 14:40 Tricked
 15:35 Agatha Christie's Poirot
 17:10 Keep It In The Family
 18:05 Tricked
 19:00 Keep It In The Family
 19:45 Agatha Christie's Partners In Crime
 20:45 Lewis
 21:35 Tricked
 22:30 Eggheads
 23:00 Coronation Street
 23:25 Coronation Street
 23:50 Who's Doing The Dishes?



00:10 The Happenings
 01:00 Paranatural
 02:00 Megastructures
 02:55 China From Above
 03:50 I Wouldn't Go In There: Ww2 Special
 04:45 World's Most Extreme
 05:40 Ultimate Survival Alaska
 06:35 Engineering Connections
 07:30 Science Of Stupid
 07:55 Science Of Stupid
 08:25 Dog Whisperer
 09:20 Dog Whisperer
 10:15 China From Above
 11:10 Wicked Tuna
 12:05 9/10: The Final Hours
 14:00 Engineering Connections
 15:00 Malaysian Journey
 16:00 Science Of Stupid
 16:30 Science Of Stupid
 17:00 The Border
 18:00 Airport Security: Colombia
 19:00 Building Wild
 20:00 Science Of Stupid
 20:25 Science Of Stupid
 20:50 The Border
 21:40 Airport Security: Colombia
 22:30 Building Wild
 23:20 Malaysian Journey



00:30 About A Boy
 01:00 The Tonight Show With Larry Wilmore
 01:30 Big Time In Hollywood Fl
 02:00 Big Time In Hollywood Fl
 02:30 Family Guy
 03:30 Cristela
 04:30 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
 06:30 Til Death
 07:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers

10:30 Til Death
 11:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
 13:30 Til Death
 14:00 Cristela
 15:30 About A Boy
 16:00 The Tonight Show With Larry Wilmore
 17:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
 18:00 Baby Daddy
 18:30 Cristela
 19:00 Young & Hungry
 19:30 Young & Hungry
 20:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
 21:00 About A Boy
 21:30 The Tonight Show Global Edition
 22:00 Saturday Night Live
 23:00 Family Guy
 23:30 Late Night With Seth Meyers



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



00:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
 01:00 Good Morning America
 03:00 Salem
 04:00 Grimm
 05:00 Good Morning America
 08:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
 09:00 Suits
 11:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
 12:00 Switched At Birth
 13:00 Supernatural
 15:00 Live Good Morning America
 16:00 Suits
 17:00 Switched At Birth
 18:00 Supernatural
 19:00 Suits

20:00 Switched At Birth
 21:00 Supernatural
 22:00 Salem
 23:00 Grimm



00:00 John Wick
 02:00 Patrick
 04:00 Clockstoppers
 06:00 Marvel's Next Avengers: Heroes Of Tomorrow
 08:00 I, Frankenstein
 10:00 The Numbers Station
 12:00 Clockstoppers
 14:00 Shaolin
 16:15 I, Frankenstein
 18:00 The Numbers Station
 20:00 Days Of Thunder
 22:00 The Outsider



00:00 Patrick-18
 02:00 Clockstoppers-FAM
 04:00 Marvel's Next Avengers: Heroes Of Tomorrow-PG
 06:00 I, Frankenstein-PG15
 08:00 The Numbers Station-PG15
 10:00 Clockstoppers-FAM
 12:00 Shaolin-PG15
 14:15 I, Frankenstein-PG15
 16:00 The Numbers Station-PG15
 18:00 Days Of Thunder-PG15
 20:00 The Outsider-PG15
 22:00 Lone Survivor-PG15



00:00 Fading Gigolo
 02:00 Vamps
 04:00 Soccer Dog: European Cup
 06:00 Roommates
 08:00 Last Vegas
 10:00 Soccer Dog: European Cup
 12:00 Vamps
 14:00 Cuban Fury
 16:00 Last Vegas
 18:00 Admission
 20:00 Svengali
 22:00 The Inbetweeners Movie 2



01:30 Song For Marion-PG15
 03:15 A Walk Among The Tombstones-PG15
 05:15 Stand Off-PG15

07:00 Sunshine On Leith-PG15
 09:00 My Last Day Without You
 11:00 Stand Off-PG15
 12:45 Testament Of Youth-PG15
 15:00 Snitch-PG15
 17:00 My Last Day Without You
 19:00 Breathe In-PG15
 21:00 Devil's Knot-PG15
 23:00 Third Person-18



01:15 Rushmore
 03:00 White Bird In A Blizzard
 05:00 The Way We Were
 07:00 Diana
 09:00 Inescapable
 11:00 The Way We Were
 13:00 Next Goal Wins
 15:00 Casanova
 17:00 Inescapable
 19:00 A Mighty Heart
 21:00 Till Human Voices Wake Us
 23:00 Das Boot: Director's Cut



01:45 Non-Stop-PG15
 03:30 X-Men: Days Of Future Past
 05:45 Tinker Bell And The Legend Of The NeverBeast-FAM
 07:15 Non-Stop-PG15
 09:00 Robot & Frank-PG15
 10:45 The Hobbit: The Battle Of The Five Armies-PG
 13:15 Marvel's Next Avengers: Heroes Of Tomorrow-PG
 15:00 Romeo & Juliet-PG15
 17:00 Robot & Frank-PG15
 19:00 The Other Woman-PG15
 21:00 Ask Me Anything-PG15
 23:00 Men, Women & Children-18



01:15 Justin And The Knights Of The Valour
 03:00 Zarafa
 04:30 Hammer Boy
 06:00 Marco Macaco
 08:00 Miffy The Movie
 10:00 Garfield's Fun Fest
 11:30 Beethoven's Treasure Tail
 13:15 Zarafa
 14:45 Jimmy Neutron: Boy Genius
 16:15 The Heart Of The Oak
 18:00 Garfield's Fun Fest
 20:00 Sophia Grace And Rosie's Royal Adventure
 22:00 Jimmy Neutron: Boy Genius
 23:30 The Heart Of The Oak



00:30 Transit-PG15
 02:15 Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit
 04:15 Streetdance: All Stars-PG15
 06:15 Salinger-PG15
 08:30 Ender's Game-PG15
 10:30 10 Years-PG15
 12:15 The Hunger Games: Catching Fire-PG15
 14:45 Big Hero 6-PG
 16:30 Ender's Game-PG15
 18:30 Hercules-PG15
 20:15 Lay The Favorite-PG15
 22:00 Dom Hemingway-18



00:00 The Last Legion
 01:45 Sorority Surrogate
 03:15 Manic
 05:00 Real Steel
 07:15 The Horse Whisperer
 10:00 The Longshots
 11:45 Sorority Surrogate
 13:15 The Joneses
 14:45 The Entitled
 16:30 The Nines
 18:15 The Last Legion
 20:00 Grave Encounters
 21:30 Low Weekend
 23:00 Haldago



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



00:00 American Pickers
 01:00 Duck Dynasty
 01:30 Duck Dynasty
 02:00 Storage Wars Texas
 02:30 Pawn Stars
 03:00 American Pickers
 04:00 Search For The Lost Giants
 05:00 American Pickers
 06:00 Ax Men
 07:00 Shipping Wars
 07:30 Shipping Wars
 08:00 Down East Dickerer
 09:00 American Pickers
 10:00 Mountain Men
 11:00 Swamp People
 12:00 Gold Hunters: Legend Of The Superstition...
 13:00 American Restoration
 13:30 American Restoration
 14:00 Counting Cars
 14:30 Counting Cars
 15:00 Ice Road Truckers
 16:00 Pawn Stars
 16:30 Pawn Stars
 17:00 Pawn Stars
 17:30 Pawn Stars
 18:00 Pawn Stars
 18:30 Pawn Stars
 19:00 Alone
 20:00 Shark Wranglers
 21:00 Alaska Off-Road Warriors
 22:00 Ice Road Truckers
 23:00 Sean Bean On Waterloo



X-MEN: DAYS OF FUTURE PAST ON OSN MOVIES HD

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2015

AMC

- 03:00 Dream Lover
- 04:40 Hollywood Shuffle
- 06:00 Troll (Epic)
- 07:25 Big Screen
- 07:40 Captain Jack
- 09:20 True Heart
- 10:50 Robinson Crusoe
- 12:20 Alexander The Great
- 14:35 Big Screen
- 14:50 Still Life: A Three Pines
- Mystery
- 16:20 Everybody's Fine
- 18:00 Yours, Mine & Ours (2005)
- 19:25 Earthbound
- 21:00 The Limey
- 22:30 The Divide
- 23:30 Four Rooms
- 01:05 Hamburger Hill
- 02:55 Dead Men Can't Dance

ANIMAL PLANET HD

- 03:25 Gator Boys
- 04:15 The Lion Man
- 05:02 Treehouse Masters
- 05:49 Queens Of The Savannah
- 06:36 Call Of The Wildman
- 07:25 Tanked
- 11:55 Man-Eating Super Croc
- 12:50 Cute To Killer
- 13:45 Sharnwari: A Wild Life
- 14:40 Echo And The Elephants Of Amboseli
- 15:05 Echo And The Elephants Of Amboseli
- 15:35 Wildest Islands
- 16:30 Queens Of The Savannah
- 17:25 Cute To Killer
- 18:20 Sharnwari: A Wild Life
- 19:15 Echo And The Elephants Of Amboseli
- 20:10 Wildest Islands
- 21:05 Queens Of The Savannah
- 22:00 Megalodon: The Monster Shark Lives
- 23:50 Killer Hornets From Hell
- 00:45 Man-Eating Super Snake
- 02:35 Megalodon: The Monster Shark Lives

BBC ENTERTAINMENT

- 03:15 Getting On
- 03:45 Watson & Oliver
- 04:15 The Weakest Link
- 05:00 The Green Balloon Club
- 05:25 Nina And The Neurons: In The Lab
- 05:55 Gigglebiz
- 06:05 Mr Bloom's Nursery
- 06:30 The Green Balloon Club
- 06:50 Nina And The Neurons: In The Lab
- 07:25 The Weakest Link
- 08:10 Doctors
- 10:35 Doctor Who
- 11:25 The Cafe
- 11:50 A Farmer's Life For Me
- 12:45 Hotel Secrets With Richard E Grant
- 13:30 Casualty
- 14:20 Eastenders
- 16:20 The Weakest Link
- 17:05 The Cafe
- 17:30 A Farmer's Life For Me
- 19:10 Doctor Who
- 20:00 Alan Carr: Chatty Man
- 20:45 Live At The Apollo
- 21:30 Inside No. 9
- 22:00 Alan Carr: Chatty Man
- 22:45 Live At The Apollo
- 23:30 Inside No. 9
- 00:00 The Cafe
- 00:25 Alan Carr: Chatty Man
- 01:15 Live At The Apollo
- 02:00 Inside No. 9
- 02:30 A Farmer's Life For Me

CN CARTOON NETWORK

- 03:20 Grojband
- 04:05 Total Drama: All Stars
- 04:50 Teen Titans Go!
- 05:10 Grojband
- 06:00 Dreamworks Dragons: Riders Of Berk
- 06:25 Ninjago: Masters Of Spinjitzu

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

ID. INVESTIGATION DISCOVERY

- 03:00 Blood Relatives
- 03:45 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
- 04:30 The Haunted
- 05:20 Forensic Detectives
- 06:10 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones
- 07:00 Fatal Encounters
- 07:50 Disappeared
- 09:30 On The Case With Paula Zahn
- 11:10 The Will
- 12:50 California Investigator
- 13:40 Dr G: Medical Examiner
- 14:30 On The Case With Paula Zahn
- 16:10 Disappeared
- 17:50 California Investigator
- 18:40 Forensic Detectives
- 22:00 Scorned: Crimes Of Passion
- 22:50 Deadly Sins
- 23:40 Devil In The Details
- 00:30 Deadly Affairs
- 01:20 Blood Relatives
- 02:10 Scorned: Crimes Of Passion

SC DISCOVERY science

- 03:06 How It's Made
- 03:29 Space Pioneer
- 04:16 Deadly Dilemmas
- 05:03 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
- 05:50 How Do They Do It?
- 06:37 How It's Made
- 07:00 How It's Made
- 07:23 How Do They Do It?
- 10:23 How It's Made
- 12:38 Food Factory
- 14:57 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
- 15:44 Space Pioneer
- 19:40 Home Factory
- 20:25 The Big Brain Theory
- 21:15 Curiosity: How Does Life Begin?
- 22:00 Race To Escape
- 22:45 Deadly Dilemmas
- 23:35 Mythbusters

Disney JUNIOR

- 03:10 Henry Hugglemonster
- 03:20 Calimero
- 03:35 Zou
- 03:45 Loopdidoo
- 04:00 Art Attack
- 04:25 Henry Hugglemonster
- 04:35 Calimero
- 04:50 Zou
- 05:00 Loopdidoo

- 05:15 Art Attack
- 05:35 Henry Hugglemonster
- 05:50 Calimero
- 06:00 Zou
- 06:20 Loopdidoo
- 06:35 Art Attack
- 07:00 Calimero
- 07:10 Zou
- 07:25 Limon And Oli
- 07:35 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 07:50 Sofia The First
- 08:20 Doc McStuffins
- 08:45 Loopdidoo
- 09:00 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
- 09:30 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
- 10:00 Sofia The First
- 10:30 Doc McStuffins
- 10:55 Miles From Tomorrow
- 11:25 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 12:20 Loopdidoo
- 12:35 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
- 13:00 Sofia The First
- 13:30 Sofia The First
- 13:55 Sofia The First
- 14:20 Sofia The First
- 14:50 Sofia The First
- 15:15 Sofia The First
- 15:45 Doc McStuffins
- 16:10 Aladdin
- 16:40 Adventures Of The Gummi Bears
- 17:10 Chip n Dale Rescue Rangers
- 17:35 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 18:30 Sofia The First
- 18:55 Doc McStuffins
- 19:15 Jake And The Neverland Pirates
- 19:45 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
- 20:05 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
- 20:35 Sofia The First
- 21:00 Aladdin
- 21:30 Adventures Of The Gummi Bears
- 22:00 Chip n Dale Rescue Rangers
- 22:30 Lilo & Stitch
- 23:00 Nina Needs To Go
- 23:05 Henry Hugglemonster
- 23:20 Calimero
- 23:35 Zou
- 23:50 Loopdidoo
- 00:05 Art Attack
- 00:30 Henry Hugglemonster
- 00:45 Calimero
- 01:00 Zou
- 01:15 Loopdidoo
- 01:30 Art Attack
- 01:55 Henry Hugglemonster
- 02:05 Calimero
- 02:20 Zou
- 02:30 Loopdidoo
- 02:45 Art Attack

Disney XD

- 06:00 The 7D
- 06:10 Boyster
- 06:35 Phineas And Ferb
- 07:00 Penn Zero: Part Time Hero
- 07:25 Supa Strikas
- 07:50 Supa Strikas
- 08:15 K.C Undercover
- 08:40 Lab Rats: Bionic Island
- 09:10 Star vs The Forces Of Evil
- 09:35 Kirby Buckets
- 10:00 Annedroids
- 10:25 Disney Mickey Mouse Shorts
- 10:30 Supa Strikas
- 10:55 Mighty Med
- 11:20 K.C Undercover
- 11:45 Lab Rats
- 12:10 Kirby Buckets
- 12:35 Star vs The Forces Of Evil
- 13:00 Pokemon The Movie
- 14:15 Disney Mickey Mouse Shorts
- 14:25 Penn Zero: Part Time Hero
- 14:50 Phineas And Ferb
- 15:15 Under Wraps
- 16:00 Phineas And Ferb
- 16:10 Star vs The Forces Of Evil
- 16:35 Star Wars Rebels
- 17:00 Mighty Med
- 17:25 Avalon High
- 18:55 Penn Zero: Part Time Hero
- 19:10 Phineas And Ferb
- 19:40 Annedroids
- 20:05 K.C Undercover
- 20:30 Supa Strikas
- 20:55 Lab Rats
- 21:25 Kirby Buckets
- 21:50 Star Wars Rebels
- 22:15 Mighty Med
- 23:00 Programmes Start At 6:00am
- KSA

LE SEUL ESPOIR DE L'HUMANITÉ... N'EST PAS HUMAIN.

I, FRANKENSTEIN

PAR LES PRODUCTEURS DE UNDERWORLD

www.ifrankenstein.fr

I, FRANKENSTEIN ON OSN MOVIES ACTION HD

NAT GEO people HD

- 03:05 Dream Cruises
- 03:55 The Great Food Revolution
- 04:45 World's Best Chefs
- 05:10 Food School
- 05:35 American Food Battle
- 06:00 The Food Files
- 06:25 Wineroads
- 06:50 My Sri Lanka With Peter Kuruvita
- 07:15 My Sri Lanka With Peter Kuruvita
- 07:40 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces
- 08:30 Sara's New Nordic Kitchen
- 08:55 Wineroads
- 09:20 Poh & Co.
- 09:45 Poh & Co.
- 10:10 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet
- 10:35 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet
- 11:00 A Marriage Of Flavours
- 11:25 Tales From The Bush Larder
- 11:50 Cruise Ship Diaries
- 12:15 Cruise Ship Diaries
- 12:40 Food School
- 13:05 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces
- 14:00 The Wine Quest: Spain
- 14:30 Great Escapes
- 14:55 Dream Cruises
- 15:50 The Great Food Revolution

- 16:45 World's Best Chefs
- 17:15 Food School
- 17:40 American Food Battle
- 18:10 The Food Files
- 18:35 Wineroads
- 19:05 Dream Cruises
- 20:00 The Great Food Revolution
- 20:50 World's Best Chefs
- 21:15 Food School
- 21:40 American Food Battle
- 22:05 The Food Files
- 22:30 Wineroads
- 22:55 Food School
- 23:20 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces
- 00:10 The Wine Quest: Spain
- 00:35 Great Escapes
- 01:00 The Best Job In The World
- 01:25 Cesar To The Rescue Asia
- 02:15 Lee Chan's World Food Tour
- 02:40 Lee Chan's World Food Tour
- 03:05 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
- 03:30 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
- 03:55 Chefs Run Wild
- 04:20 Bondi Rescue Outback Adventure
- 05:10 Charlie Luxton's Homes By The Sea
- 06:00 World's Best Chefs
- 06:25 Food School
- 06:50 Valentine Warner's Wild Table
- 07:15 Valentine Warner's Wild Table
- 07:40 Dog Whisperer
- 08:30 Tripping Out
- 08:55 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
- 09:20 David Rocco's Dolce Vita

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

For total comfort, embrace these easy, potato-free gnocchi

By Sarah Moulton

You probably associate gnocchi with the Italian dumplings made from potatoes. Making that kind of gnocchi takes time and patience and is not something most people would undertake on a weeknight. But potato gnocchi aren't the only kid on the gnocchi block. There are several other varieties, including a ricotta-based type and a batter-based one, the latter of which starts with a batter similar to the one French cream puffs and eclairs are made from. That's the one I'll teach you here. But there are a few things to keep in mind when preparing these gnocchi.

Typically, cream puff dough - also known as pate a choux - starts with a pot of boiling water. Here, I am substituting chicken broth and milk for the water, which give the gnocchi a nice savory flavor. After the flour is dumped in,

you need to work quickly and aggressively with a wooden spoon to beat the mixture until it is smooth. Don't worry if you get a few tiny lumps of flour in the dough; they will get worked out when you add the eggs and beat the dough with electric beaters. Once you have successfully incorporated the flour it takes no time at all to finish cooking the paste, just a few minutes until it pulls away from the sides of the pan.

The next step is adding the eggs. It is important to cool down the paste a bit by beating it before you add the eggs so they don't scramble the second they hit it. The usual directions tell you to add the eggs one at a time, but I prefer to beat them together first, then add the beaten eggs in three batches instead. It is very hard to add an egg one at a time if you are holding hand beaters with one hand.

Once the eggs are in, it is time to add the seasonings, in

this case spinach, salt, pepper and nutmeg. Simple. Your dough is made. The rest of the procedure is straightforward. The dough gets dumped in small amounts into boiling water, cooked briefly and finished in the oven with cream and cheese. If you happen to own a 1/8 cup ice cream scoop that would be the perfect tool for dropping the dough into the water. If you don't, a tablespoon is fine, just make sure to dip it into hot water each time before you scoop up the dough and mound the dough well on top of the spoon before sliding it into the water (the hot water on the spoon helps the dough to slide off easily).

The gnocchi can be made ahead and chilled. Just let them sit at room temperature for about an hour so they can warm up a bit, then top them with the cream and cheese and bake them off. This is the essence of comfort food; your family will love you.

BAKED SPINACH GNOCCHI WITH PARMESAN CREAM SAUCE



Ingredients

Start to finish: 1 hour 10 minutes (50 minutes active)

Servings: 4

11-ounce package baby spinach
1 cup low-sodium chicken broth, divided
1/2 cup whole milk
4 tablespoons (1/2 stick) unsalted butter, cut into pieces
1 cup (4 1/4 ounces) all-purpose flour
3 large eggs, beaten lightly
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon ground black pepper
Pinch of freshly grated nutmeg, or to taste
1/2 cup heavy cream
1 ounce finely grated Parmesan cheese
1 1/2 ounces (about 1/2 cup) coarsely grated Gruyere cheese

Preparation

Pour 1/3 cup water into a 12-inch skillet. Top it with the spinach, then set over high heat. Cook, covered and stirring occasionally, until the spinach is wilted, about 5 minutes. Transfer the spinach to a colander and run cold water over it to cool it. Working with a handful at a time, squeeze the spinach with your hands over the sink to remove excess water. Finely chop the spinach; you should have about 1/2 cup packed. Set aside.

In a small saucepan, combine 1/2 cup of the chicken broth, the milk and the butter and bring to a boil. Remove the pan from the heat, add the flour and stir constantly with a wooden spoon until smooth. Return the pan to medium heat and cook the paste, stirring, until it pulls away from the sides of the pan and leaves a thin film in the bottom of the pan, 1 to 2 minutes.

Transfer the mixture to a bowl and, using an electric mixer, beat the mixture for a few minutes to cool it down. Add the eggs, a third of the mixture at a time, beating well after each addition.

Stir in the salt, pepper, nutmeg and reserved spinach. Heat the oven to 425 F. Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil. Lightly butter a 9-by-9-inch shallow baking dish or gratin dish.

Working in batches of 8 at a time, drop walnut-size balls of the dough into the water, using either a small 1/8-cup ice cream scoop or a tablespoon (you will need to mound the dough if using a tablespoon), dipped in warm water each time. Maintain the temperature of the water at a simmer and cook the gnocchi for 3 minutes.

Use a slotted spoon to transfer the boiled gnocchi, shaking off the excess water, to the buttered baking dish. Repeat with the remaining dough. In a small bowl, mix together the remaining chicken broth and the heavy cream, then pour the mixture over the gnocchi. Sprinkle both cheeses over the top and bake on the oven's upper shelf until the liquid has reduced slightly and is bubbling around the edges, about 15 minutes. Increase the heat to broil and broil the gnocchi until the top is golden brown, about 2 minutes. Serve right away. — AP



INDIA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL MANGAF CELEBRATES HINDI DIVAS

India International School Celebrated Hindi Divas on 14 September 2015. In the special assembly organized in this regard, children spoke about the importance of Hindi, highlighting the growing magnitude of the language.

A Hindi skit marked by vibrant dialogue delivery and dramatization, jokes on whatsapp and other social medias platforms and a speech paying hom-

age to Dr APJ Abdul Kalam were the main highlights of the event.

A melodious group song by the school choir and a hair-raising dance performance also added to the beauty of the day. The school director Malayil Moosakoya blessed the children and senior vice Principal Narinder Kaur addressed the assembly.



CLEAN CARE IS SAFER CARE AT IISM

The kindergarten world of IISM organized 'Clean Care is Safer Care Week', to teach our tiny buddies the basics of personal hygiene for keeping themselves healthy and clean. The kindergarten teachers organized a workshop on healthy hand wash, proper technique of brushing, and healthy diet in tiffin. Various medical assessments like eye checkup, physical checkup and dental checkup was organized.

The event was motivated and inspired by director Malayil Moosa Koya and vice principal Narinder Kaur. The amazing week came to an end with humble appreciation to Nilofar Qazi, KG Head and all the teachers for their relentless and untiring efforts.



SUPPLEMENTS BLAMED FOR 23,000 EMERGENCY VISITS EACH YEAR

MIAMI: Over the counter supplements, including vitamins, sexual enhancements and weight loss aids, are being blamed for 23,000 visits to US emergency rooms each year, according to a decade-long study this week.

The findings published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* are based on reports from a nationally representative sample of 63 emergency departments from 2004 through 2013.

The study raised new concerns among experts over the safety of an industry that critics say is largely unregulated and yet highly popular among consumers — bringing in \$14.8 billion in 2007, or one third of the out-of-pocket expenditures for prescription drugs, according to background information in the article.

More than one quarter (28 percent) of visits were by

adults aged 20 to 34. Weight loss aids were a leading culprit in this age group, causing more than half of emergency room visits, commonly for heart related symptoms including palpitations, chest pain, or irregular heartbeat.

More than one fifth (21 percent) of emergency visits were due to children swallowing supplements. "Child-resistant packaging is not required for dietary supplements other than those containing iron, and despite such packaging, iron supplements were the second most commonly implicated type of supplement in unsupervised ingestion by children," said the study.

When it came to people, swallowing problems caused nearly 40 percent of emergency department visits for supplement-related adverse events.

Just 2,000 people are hospitalized annually after taking supplements. The research did not track any deaths that might have been linked to supplement use.

The study pointed out that although the US Food and Drug Administration is tasked with overseeing supplements, "neither safety testing nor FDA approval is required before the marketing of dietary supplements."

The researchers also said their estimates are likely lower than the actual number because patients do not always report using supplements. The Council for Responsible Nutrition, an industry group, said the findings should be viewed in context, and defended the safety of supplements. —AFP

ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE THREAT TO PATIENTS

PARIS: Spreading antibiotic resistance could have disastrous consequences for patients undergoing surgery or chemotherapy, a study said Thursday. In the United States, up to half of infections after surgery and over a quarter of infections after chemotherapy are caused by organisms resistant to standard antibiotics, researchers found.

A 30-percent reduction in the efficacy of preventive antibiotics given to patients undergoing these procedures could result in 120,000 infections and 6,300 infection-related deaths each year in the United States alone, they predicted.

"This is the first study to estimate the impact of antibiotic resistance on broader medical care in the United States," Ramanan Laxminarayan, director of the Center for Disease Dynamics, Economics & Policy in Washington, said in a statement.

"A lot of common surgical procedures and cancer chemotherapy will be virtually impossible if antibiotic resistance is not tackled urgently." Antibiotics are routinely given as a precautionary measure to patients undergoing surgery and cancer treatment, to prevent infection. At the same time, however, bacterial resistance to commonly prescribed antibiotics is increasing at an alarming pace. —AFP



CREIL: A researcher at the French public research body INERIS (Industrial Safety and Environmental Protection Institute), performs tests on plants and soil on October 12, 2015 in Creil, north of Paris, as part of a study of risks and the assessment of the impact of industrial activity on the environment, and testing plants that consume the environmental chemical pollutants. —AFP

NESTLE: FRESH TESTS SHOW MAGGI NOODLES ARE SAFE

MUMBAI: Nestle said yesterday that laboratory tests ordered by an Indian court had found its popular Maggi noodles were safe to eat, paving the way for their return following a government ban.

India's food safety watchdog banned the noodles in June, saying lead levels exceeded statutory limits. But the Bombay High Court, the highest judicial body in the western city now known as Mumbai, overturned the ruling two months later and ordered fresh tests.

"All the 90 samples, covering six variants, tested by these laboratories are clear with lead much below the permissible limits," the Swiss food giant's Indian unit said in a statement.

Nestle India, which has continued to sell the product in other countries, added that it hoped to return the brand to Indian stores as soon as possible, saying it had "always maintained that Maggi noodles were safe".

"In compliance with the orders of the Hon'ble Bombay High Court, we will now commence manufacture and will start selling only after the newly manufactured products are also cleared by the designated three laboratories," the



VEVEY: Packets of instant noodles by Maggi are displayed in the showroom during a press conference of the food and beverage company Nestle Group in Vevey, Switzerland, yesterday. —AP

statement read.

"We are committed to reintroduce our beloved Maggi noodles at the earliest," it added. Shares in Nestle India rose almost eight percent on the Bombay Stock Exchange following the news. The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India imposed a nationwide ban on Maggi noodles after inspectors found excessive levels of lead, as well as traces of flavour enhancer MSG (monosodium glutamate).

It criticised the company for failing to include MSG in the list of ingredients. Nestle has said it does not use MSG in its Maggi products sold in India, but that glutamate is a naturally occurring substance and may be present in some of the ingredients.

In August, the court in Mumbai called the ban "arbitrary" and said it violated the "principles of national justice". Nestle's Indian arm has estimated that its run-in with Indian regulators will cost them 3.2 billion rupees (\$50 million).

Nestle had sold the product for over three decades in India, and had 80 percent of the country's instant noodle market before the ban. —AFP

HAITIAN CHOLERA VICTIMS CALL FOR UN ACCOUNTABILITY

PORT-AU-PRINCE: Hundreds of activists and victims of Haiti's cholera epidemic staged a demonstration Thursday in Port-au-Prince to demand an apology and compensation from the United Nations, whose peacekeepers are accused of accidentally introducing the disease five years ago. The protesters, gathered in front of the main base of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), angrily condemned the United Nations' silence regarding its responsibility in the epidemic. "If the United Nations considered us human beings, there would have been an apology," community health worker Jean Emmanuel Larose said. In October 2010, Larose lived through an outbreak of cholera in the town of Mirebalais.

"We were not informed that it was cholera, which is why many of us are dead. It was discovered that it was the MINUSTAH who had not respected us. Their infected Nepalese peacekeepers did their business in our rivers, knowing very well that it was the water we used every day," Larose said. In a statement released Tuesday, Amnesty International reiterated that "scientific reports have identified UN workers from Nepal as vectors of the disease in Haiti."

More than 8,850 Haitians, many of them poor, have died of cholera since the epidemic began in October 2010, months

after an earthquake that killed more than 200,000 people on the island nation.

According to statistics from the UN's Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, more than 746,000 people have been infected. "It is a violation of human rights," said activist Rachele Fondchaine. "Some parents are dead and their children are now the responsibility of their uncles or aunts. These cases must be supported and families must be compensated for not only the people who have died but for the ways in which cholera has plunged them into abject poverty."

The United Nations regularly expresses its commitment to eradicating cholera in Haiti, including through funding sanitation programs in rural areas, but it has so far refused to accept responsibility for the introduction of the disease.

"The UN cannot wash their hands of the suffering and the pain it caused," said Erika Guevara Rosas, Amnesty International's Americas Director. "Developing general health programs and sanitation campaigns is important, but they are not sufficient."

Families of cholera victims have filed suits against the United Nations in New York, but US courts have so far refused to hear those cases, citing the UN's immunity. —AFP

IN SUDAN'S NUBA MOUNTAINS, LONE US DOCTOR CARES FOR THOUSANDS

CAIRO: In his years as the only qualified surgeon living in Sudan's conflict-hit Nuba Mountains, American Tom Catena has treated more patients than he can remember-but some cases are etched in his memory.

As medical director, doctor and surgeon at the Mother of Mercy Catholic Hospital, Catena has treated countless patients with horrific wounds from the conflict that has ravaged the rebel-controlled area since 2011.

"The ones that are crushing blows-and they really are crushing-are not just the war cases," Catena told AFP via Skype, his voice weary after a long day's work.

Last year, a measles epidemic swept the region and the hospital treated 1,400 cases, he said. Some 30 people died.

"You'd come on a Sunday morning and find a kid who's dying from measles, gasping for breath, and the mother is just screaming, crying and rolling on the ground," Catena said.

"It can be totally demoralising and you just want to chuck it in." But, brought to the Nuba Mountains by his Catholic faith, Catena says he is determined to carry on until a doctor from the area can take his place. A lean, shaven-headed 51-year-old in photographs, Catena carries out all major surgery, delivers babies and gives check-ups at the 345-bed facility, which he says serves as many as 750,000 people living in the area.

There is just one other small hospital, run by a German NGO and staffed by a handful of expatriates and local staff, in the region.

'Traumatised by conflict'

Born in the small town of Amsterdam, New York, Catena was always interested in missionary work.



GIDEL: American doctor Tom Catena (C) performs a surgical operation at the Mother of Mercy Hospital in Gidel, near Kauda in the Nuba Mountains. —AFP

But preferring practical work to preaching, he studied medicine at graduate school on a US Navy scholarship and headed for a two-year stint in Kenya after qualifying.

In 2007, he agreed to travel to work at Mother of Mercy, set up by the then-bishop of Obeid, Macram Gassis, with money from church groups and private donors, who still fund it.

It aimed to treat all residents of the underdeveloped Nuba Mountains-which lies in the restless South Kordofan region

near the border with South Sudan-regardless of religion and free of charge.

Arriving in 2008, Catena's first impressions were of the searing heat and that he was among "people traumatised by years and years of neglect and civil war".

The religiously and linguistically diverse Nuba peoples suffered badly during the conflict between Khartoum's Arab-dominated governments and southern rebels in Sudan's 1983-2005 civil war.

The Nuba Mountains plunged back into war in 2011, when the Sudan

People's Liberation Movement-North rebelled against the Khartoum government, complaining the region was being marginalised.

Overnight, wounded civilians, soldiers and rebels streamed into the hospital and most of Catena's expatriate colleagues left.

His Nuba colleagues replaced them, quickly learning nursing and emergency trauma care on the job, and now form the core of the hospital's team.

The hospital has also faced occasional

aerial bombing from Khartoum's warplanes, with staff and patients running to nearby trenches at the sound of jets. "It's the most terrifying thing I've ever heard," Catena said.

Khartoum denies it bombs civilian targets, but in January, the Belgian branch of Doctors Without Borders (MSF) withdrew its staff from the Nuba Mountains after it said warplanes hit a hospital it operated the area.

Malaria season, HIV testing

During the rainy season, which lasts from June until November, roads in the region are rendered impassable, largely halting fighting.

The flow of civilians wounded by bombings and rebels hurt in fighting slows, but Catena still has plenty of work. "We're not idle during this time, this is malaria season," Catena said.

He has also started testing in nearby villages for HIV-the Nuba Mountains has seen a slow rise in the number of cases since 2008. This year the hospital has diagnosed 25-30 cases.

After seeing the effects of HIV in Kenya, Catena is determined to prevent the virus from gaining a foothold in the region, and has helped launch an awareness campaign and testing.

With the few moments he has free, Catena reads-he has just finished Dostoevsky's "The Brothers Karamazov"-and plans for the hospital's future. "The goal for all of us here is the transition for having all the Nuba run the show."

The hospital is funding two Nuba through medical schools in Kenya and Uganda, but Catena says his departure is still far off. "We are feverishly now trying to get people trained, but it will be at least five years." —AFP

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PAGE



Kuwait Times
THE LEADING INDEPENDENT DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF



Dr. Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem
د. فهد علي المخيزيم



Consultant Paediatrician استشاري أطفال
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KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (15/10/2015 TO 21/10/2015)

SHARQIA-1					
JUNE	11:45 AM	THE MARTIAN	6:30 PM	MOMENTUM	1:30 PM
PAN	1:30 PM	BRUCE LEE - THE FIGHTER	6:30 PM	MOMENTUM	3:45 PM
JUNE	3:45 PM	BRUCE LEE - THE FIGHTER	9:30 PM	MOMENTUM	6:00 PM
PAN	5:45 PM	BRUCE LEE - THE FIGHTER	10:00 PM	AHWAK	8:15 PM
JUNE	8:15 PM	THE MARTIAN	9:30 PM	MOMENTUM	10:45 PM
JUNE	10:15 PM	MOMENTUM	1:00 AM	MOMENTUM	1:00 AM
THE MARTIAN	12:15 AM	THE MARTIAN	12:30 AM	12:05 AM	
SHARQIA-2		FANAR-4		360°-1	
MOMENTUM	11:30 AM	MOMENTUM	12:15 PM	THE MARTIAN	12:15 PM
MOMENTUM	1:30 PM	MOMENTUM	2:15 PM	THE MARTIAN	3:15 PM
HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA 2	3:30 PM	MOMENTUM	4:30 PM	THE MARTIAN	6:15 PM
THU+FRI+SAT		MOMENTUM	6:30 PM	THE MARTIAN	9:15 PM
MOMENTUM	3:30 PM	MOMENTUM	8:30 PM	THE MARTIAN	12:15 AM
NO THU+FRI+SAT		MOMENTUM	10:30 PM		
AHWAK	5:30 PM	MOMENTUM	12:30 AM	360°-2	
VIP-36		FANAR-5		AMERICAN ULTRA	11:30 AM
MOMENTUM	8:00 PM	AMERICAN ULTRA	12:15 PM	AMERICAN ULTRA	1:30 PM
AHWAK	10:00 PM	THE WALK	2:30 PM	THE WEDDING PULLAV	3:45 PM
MOMENTUM	12:30 AM	AMERICAN ULTRA	5:00 PM	BRUCE LEE - THE FIGHTER	3:45 PM
SHARQIA-3		JAZBAA	7:00 PM	BLACK MASS	6:45 PM
AMERICAN ULTRA	11:30 AM	AMERICAN ULTRA	9:45 PM	BRUCE LEE - THE FIGHTER	6:45 PM
AMERICAN ULTRA	1:45 PM	AMERICAN ULTRA	12:05 AM	BRUCE LEE - THE FIGHTER	9:45 PM
THE MARTIAN	3:45 PM	MARINA-1		THE WEDDING PULLAV	9:45 PM
BRUCE LEE - THE FIGHTER	3:45 PM	THE MARTIAN	12:00 PM	AMERICAN ULTRA	12:45 AM
THE MARTIAN	6:45 PM	JUNE	3:00 PM		
BRUCE LEE - THE FIGHTER	6:45 PM	THE MARTIAN	5:00 PM	360°-3	
BRUCE LEE - THE FIGHTER	10:00 PM	JUNE	8:00 PM	HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA2	1:15 PM
AMERICAN ULTRA	1:00 AM	JUNE	10:00 PM	HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA2	3:15 PM
AMERICAN ULTRA	9:45 PM	THE MARTIAN	12:05 AM	HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA2	5:15 PM
AMERICAN ULTRA	11:45 PM			HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA2	7:15 PM
MUHALAB-1		MARINA-2		AHWAK	9:15 PM
JUNE	11:30 AM	AMERICAN ULTRA	11:30 AM	BLACK MASS	11:45 PM
AHWAK	1:30 PM	AMERICAN ULTRA	1:30 PM	AL-KOUT.1	
HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA2	4:00 PM	AHWAK	3:30 PM	MOMENTUM	12:30 PM
JUNE	6:00 PM	AMERICAN ULTRA	5:45 PM	MOMENTUM	2:30 PM
JUNE	8:00 PM	AHWAK	7:45 PM	MOMENTUM	4:30 PM
AHWAK	10:00 PM	AHWAK	10:15 PM	MOMENTUM	6:30 PM
JUNE	12:30 AM	AMERICAN ULTRA	12:45 AM	MOMENTUM	8:30 PM
MUHALAB-2		MARINA-3		MOMENTUM	10:30 PM
AMERICAN ULTRA	12:00 PM	MOMENTUM	12:30 PM	MOMENTUM	12:30 AM
AMERICAN ULTRA	2:00 PM	MOMENTUM	2:30 PM	AL-KOUT.2	
THE WEDDING PULLAV	4:00 PM	HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA2	4:30 PM	AMERICAN ULTRA	11:45 AM
BRUCE LEE - THE FIGHTER	4:00 PM	PAN	6:30 PM	THE MARTIAN	1:45 PM
AHWAK	7:00 PM	MOMENTUM	9:00 PM	AMERICAN ULTRA	4:45 PM
BRUCE LEE - THE FIGHTER	7:00 PM	MOMENTUM	11:00 PM	THE MARTIAN	6:45 PM
BRUCE LEE - THE FIGHTER	10:00 PM	MOMENTUM	1:00 AM	AMERICAN ULTRA	9:45 PM
AMERICAN ULTRA	1:00 AM	AVENUES-1		THE MARTIAN	11:45 PM
AMERICAN ULTRA	10:00 PM	MOMENTUM	11:30 AM	AL-KOUT.3	
AMERICAN ULTRA	12:15 AM	BLACK MASS	1:30 PM	AHWAK	11:30 AM
MUHALAB-3		BLACK MASS	4:00 PM	PAN	2:00 PM
MOMENTUM	11:45 AM	BRUCE LEE - THE FIGHTER	4:00 PM	PAN	4:30 PM
THE MARTIAN	1:45 PM	BLACK MASS	7:00 PM	AHWAK	7:00 PM
BRUCE LEE - THE FIGHTER	1:30 PM	BRUCE LEE - THE FIGHTER	7:00 PM	AHWAK	9:30 PM
MOMENTUM	4:45 PM	BRUCE LEE - THE FIGHTER	10:00 PM	AHWAK	12:05 AM
MOMENTUM	6:45 PM	THE MARTIAN	10:00 PM	AL-KOUT.4	
MOMENTUM	8:45 PM	BLACK MASS	1:00 AM	JUNE	12:00 PM
MOMENTUM	10:45 PM	AVENUES-2		HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA2	2:00 PM
MOMENTUM	12:45 AM	HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA2	12:15 PM	JUNE	4:00 PM
FANAR-1		HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA2	2:15 PM	HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA2	6:00 PM
HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA2	1:00 PM	HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA2	4:15 PM	JUNEJUNE	10:00 PM
JUNE	1:00 PM	THE WALK	6:15 PM	JUNE	12:15 AM
JUNE	3:00 PM	THE WALK	8:15 PM	BAIRAQ-1	
HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA2	5:00 PM	THE WALK	11:15 PM	MOMENTUM	12:00 PM
JUNE	7:00 PM	AVENUES-3		HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA 2	2:00 PM
JUNE	9:00 PM	AHWAK	11:30 AM	MOMENTUM	2:00 PM
JUNE	11:00 PM	THE MARTIAN	2:00 PM	MOMENTUM	4:00 PM
JUNE	1:00 AM	THE MARTIAN	5:00 PM	HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA 2	6:00 PM
FANAR-2		THE MARTIAN	8:00 PM	MOMENTUM	8:00 PM
PAN	11:45 AM	AVENUES-4		MOMENTUM	10:00 PM
AHWAK	2:15 PM	THE MARTIAN	12:15 PM	MOMENTUM	12:05 AM
PAN	4:45 PM	HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA2	12:30 PM	BAIRAQ-2	
AHWAK	7:15 PM	THE MARTIAN	3:15 PM	AHWAK	1:15 PM
AHWAK	9:45 PM	AHWAK	3:15 PM	JUNE	1:45 PM
AHWAK	12:15 AM	JAZBAA	6:15 PM	JUNE	3:45 PM
FANAR-3		JAZBAA	6:15 PM	AHWAK	5:45 PM
THE MARTIAN	12:30 PM	THE MARTIAN	9:15 PM	JUNE	8:15 PM
HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA2	1:30 PM	THE MARTIAN	12:15 AM	AHWAK	10:15 PM
BRUCE LEE - THE FIGHTER	3:30 PM	AVENUES-5		JUNE	12:45 AM
THE MARTIAN	3:30 PM			BAIRAQ-3	
				THE MARTIAN	12:45 PM



Flight Schedule

DIAL 161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

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

Arrival Flights on Saturday 17/10/2015

Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
PIA	205	Lahore	00:15
JZR	239	Amman	00:20
SYR	343	Damascus	00:25
JZR	267	Beirut	00:30
DLH	637	Dammam	00:35
THY	772	Istanbul	00:35
FDB	069	Dubai	00:55
JZR	539	Cairo	01:30
SAI	441	Lahore	01:35
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:40
RJA	642	Amman	01:45
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	01:50
OMA	643	Muscat	02:05
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15
KKK	6507	Istanbul	02:15
JZR	529	Asyut	02:20
UAE	853	Dubai	02:25
QTR	1076	Doha	02:55
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:05
FDB	067	Dubai	03:15
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15
KAC	1544	Cairo	03:35
PGT	860	Istanbul	03:45
THY	1464	Istanbul	03:55
MSC	401	Alexandria	04:00
JZR	555	Alexandria	04:15
DHX	170	Bahrain	04:20
THY	770	Istanbul	04:40
KAC	416	Jakarta/Kuala Lumpur	06:00
KAC	412	Manila/Bangkok	06:15
BAW	157	London	06:35
JZR	503	Luxor	07:20
KAC	382	Delhi	07:30
KAC	206	Islamabad	07:45
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50
KAC	204	Lahore	07:50
QTR	1086	Doha	07:55
KAC	354	BLR	07:55
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:55
KAC	154	Istanbul	08:10
KAC	344	Chennai	08:15
KAC	352	Kochi	08:15
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25
KAC	362	Colombo	08:30
KAC	284	Dhaka	09:00
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:05
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:10
IRM	1186	Tehran	09:15
QTR	1070	Doha	09:25
RJA	648	Amman	09:30
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40
KAC	350	Kochi	09:40
SYR	341	Damascus	10:00
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40
UAE	873	Dubai	10:40
MSC	405	Sohag	11:20
JZR	325	Al Najaf	11:20
RBG	553	Alexandria	11:30
AGY	680	Alexandria	11:40
IRM	1188	Mashhad	11:45
OMA	641	Muscat	11:50
JZR	165	Dubai	11:50
IAW	157	Al Najaf	12:00
FDB	075	Dubai	12:25
NIA	151	Cairo	12:35
JZR	241	Amman	12:40
UAE	871	Dubai	12:45
IRC	6511	ABD	12:50
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00
THY	766	Istanbul	13:10
FBA	831	Al Najaf	13:20
UAE	3787	Dubai	13:45
JZR	361	Mashhad	13:50
MSR	575	Sharm el-Sheikh	13:55
KAC	672	Dubai	13:55
IRC	526	Mashhad	14:00
QTR	1078	Doha	14:05
KNE	460	Riyadh	14:10
GFA	221	Bahrain	14:20
FDB	057	Dubai	14:20
IZG	4167	Mashhad	14:30
IZG	4161	Mashhad	14:50
KAC	540	Sharm el-Sheikh	14:50
ABY	127	Sharjah	14:55
JZR	359	Mashhad	14:55
RJD	135	Abu Dhabi	15:00
KAC	788	Jeddah	15:00
OMA	645	Muscat	15:05
KNE	462	Madinah	15:05
UAE	857	Dubai	15:45
NIA	251	Alexandria	15:50
RJA	640	Amman	15:55
ETD	303	Abu Dhabi	16:00
KNE	472	Jeddah	16:00
JZR	535	Cairo	16:05
FDB	051	Dubai	16:10
KAC	512	Mashhad	16:10
QTR	1072	Doha	16:20
JZR	125	Bahrain	16:25
KAC	118	New York	16:30
KNE	474	Jeddah	16:55
KAC	562	Amman	17:00
IRA	669	Mashhad	17:10
SVA	510	Riyadh	17:15

FDB	8069	Dubai	17:15
UAL	982	IAD	17:25
GFA	215	Bahrain	17:30
JZR	177	Dubai	17:45
JZR	777	Jeddah	17:50
SVA	500	Jeddah	18:00
FDB	065	Dubai	18:05
IRM	1180	Mashhad	18:10
KAC	176	Geneva/Frankfurt	18:20
KAC	502	Beirut	18:35
KAC	786	Jeddah	18:35
CLX	856	Luxembourg	18:50
QTR	1080	Doha	18:55
KAC	618	Doha	18:55
KAC	542	Cairo	18:55
KAC	742	Dammam	19:00
KAC	742	Dammam	19:00
GFA	217	Bahrain	19:05
UAE	875	Dubai	19:05
FDB	063	Dubai	19:10
KAC	614	Bahrain	19:10
ABY	123	Sharjah	19:20
JAI	572	Mumbai	19:35
KAC	774	Riyadh	19:40
FDB	061	Dubai	19:50
AGY	684	Sohag	19:50
OMA	647	Muscat	20:00
JZR	357	Mashhad	20:00
KAC	674	Dubai	20:00
KNE	480	Taif	20:10
MEA	402	Beirut	20:15
ABY	121	Sharjah	20:20
DLH	634	Frankfurt	20:20
MSR	618	Alexandria	20:40
KAC	174	Munich	20:55
ALK	229	Colombo	21:10
ETD	307	Abu Dhabi	21:15
UAE	859	Dubai	21:15
JZR	189	Dubai	21:20
KLM	415	Amsterdam	21:25
FDB	073	Dubai	21:30
QTR	1074	Doha	21:30
GFA	219	Bahrain	21:45
KNE	470	Jeddah	22:05
ETD	309	Abu Dhabi	22:10
THY	764	Istanbul	22:10
AIC	987	Chennai/Hyderabad	22:25
UAL	981	Bahrain	22:40
MSC	407	Sohag	22:45
FDB	8053	Dubai	22:45
FDB	059	Dubai	22:50
JZR	157	Dubai	22:55
JAI	574	Mumbai	23:20
MSR	614	Cairo	23:30
JZR	513	Sharm el-Sheikh	23:30
FDB	071	Dubai	23:55

Departure Flights on Saturday 17/10/2015

Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
AIC	976	Goa/Chennai	00:05
RBG	556	Alexandria	00:05
BBC	044	Dhaka	00:10
JAI	573	Mumbai	00:25
MSR	615	Cairo	00:30
FDB	072	Dubai	00:30
KLM	413	Amsterdam	00:55
JZR	502	Luxor	01:10
SYR	344	KAC/Damascus	01:25
PIA	206	Lahore	01:30
DLH	637	Frankfurt	01:35
THY	773	Istanbul	02:05
SAI	442	Lahore	02:35
ETH	621	Addis Ababa	02:50
PGT	859	Istanbul	02:55
KKK	6508	Istanbul	03:10
OMA	644	Muscat	03:35
UAE	854	Dubai	03:45
FDB	068	Dubai	04:00
ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	04:05
MSR	613	Cairo	04:15
PGT	861	Istanbul	04:45
THY	1465	Istanbul	04:50
THY	765	Istanbul	04:55
MSC	406	Sohag	05:00
QTR	1077	Doha	05:05
RJA	643	Amman	06:35
GFA	212	Bahrain	06:50
THY	771	Istanbul	06:50
JZR	240	Amman	07:05
FDB	070	Dubai	07:05
JZR	164	Dubai	07:15
KAC	173	Munich	07:45
JZR	324	Al Najaf	07:55
JZR	360	Mashhad	08:00
BAW	156	London	08:30
FDB	054	Dubai	08:30
KAC	539	Sharm el-Sheikh	08:50
QTR	1087	Doha	08:55
JZR	358	Mashhad	09:05
JZR	534	Cairo	09:15
KAC	671	Dubai	09:25
KAC	787	Jeddah	09:30
ABY	126	Sharjah	09:45
UAE	856	Dubai	09:50
KAC	101	London/New York	10:00
ETD	302	Abu Dhabi	10:00

RJA	649	Amman	10:15
KAC	511	Mashhad	10:20
IRM	1181	Mashhad	10:25
QTR	1071	Doha	10:40
FDB	056	Dubai	10:40
SYR	342	Damascus	10:55
KAC	501	Beirut	11:00
KAC	561	Amman	11:25
KAC	165	Rome/Paris	11:25
GFA	214	Bahrain	11:35
KAC	541	Cairo	12:05
UAE	874	Dubai	12:10
RBG	554	Alexandria	12:10
JZR	776	Jeddah	12:15
MSC	402	Alexandria	12:20
AGY	685	Sohag	12:40
KAC	785	Jeddah	13:00
IAW	158	Al Najaf	13:00
JZR	176	Dubai	13:10
IRM	1189	Mashhad	13:10
FDB	076	Dubai	13:10
OMA	642	Muscat	13:15
JZR	124	Bahrain	13:30
NIA	152	Cairo	13:35
IRC	6512	ABD	13:50
MSR	611	Cairo	14:00
THY	767	Istanbul	14:10
UAE	872	Dubai	14:15
FBA	832	Al Najaf	14:20
JZR	356	Mashhad	14:30
MSR	576	Sharm el-Sheikh	14:40
UAE	3788	Dubai	14:55
IRC	527	Mashhad	15:00
QTR	1079	Doha	15:05
FDB	058	Dubai	15:05
GFA	222	Bahrain	15:05
KNE	481	Taif	15:10
KAC	617	Doha	15:15
KAC	673	Dubai	15:20
IZG	4168	Mashhad	15:30
KAC	773	Riyadh	15:55
KAC	741	Dammam	15:55
KNE	463	Madinah	16:00
KAC	613	Bahrain	16:00
OMA	646	Muscat	16:05
IZG	4162	Mashhad	16:10
RJD	136	Abu Dhabi	16:10
ABY	128	Sharjah	16:15
ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	16:45
NIA	252	Alexandria	16:50
RJA	641	Amman	16:55
KNE	473	Jeddah	16:55
JZR	188	Dubai	17:00
JZR	266	Beirut	17:05
FDB	052	Dubai	17:10
JZR	512	Sharm el-Sheikh	17:15
QTR	1073	Doha	17:25
UAE	858	Dubai	17:40
KNE	475	Jeddah	17:50
IRA	666	Esfahan	18:10
SVA	511	Riyadh	18:15
FDB	5070	Dubai	18:15
GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20
KAC	563	Amman	18:30
JZR	156	Dubai	18:35
UAL	982	Bahrain	18:40
JZR	238	Amman	18:45
FDB	066	Dubai	18:55
IRM	1187	Tehran	19:10
SVA	505	Jeddah	19:30
GFA	218	Bahrain	19:50
FDB	064	Dubai	19:50
QTR	1081	Doha	19:55
KAC	361	Colombo	20:00
ABY	124	Sharjah	20:00
CLX	856	Hong Kong	20:20
UAE	876	Dubai	20:35
JAI	571	Mumbai	20:35
FDB	062	Dubai	20:35
KAC	287	Dhaka	20:40
KAC	331	Trivandrum	20:45
AGY	681	Alexandria	20:50
KAC	543	Cairo	20:55
OMA	648	Muscat	21:00
ABY	122	Sharjah	21:00
KAC	351	Kochi	21:05
KNE	461	Riyadh	21:10
JZR	554	Alexandria	21:15
MEA	403	Beirut	21:15
MSR	607	Luxor	21:40
DHX	171	Bahrain	21:50
JZR	184	Dubai	22:00
ETD	308	Abu Dhabi	22:05
FDB	074	Dubai	22:10
KAC	381	Delhi	22:20
ALK	230	Colombo	22:20
UAE	860	Dubai	22:25
KLM	415	Dammam/Amsterdam	22:25
KAC	349	Kochi	22:30
KAC	301	Mumbai	22:30
QTR	1075	Doha	22:40
GFA	220	Bahrain	22:45
KAC	205	Islamabad	22:50
KAC	345	Ahmedabad	22:55
ETD	310	Abu Dhabi	23:00
KAC	153	Istanbul	23:00

Word Search Puzzles

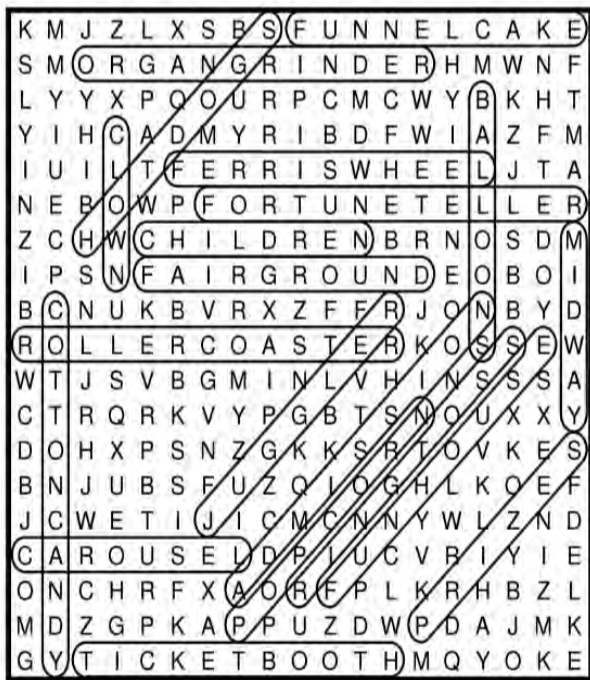
GEOLOGY WORD SEARCH PUZZLE



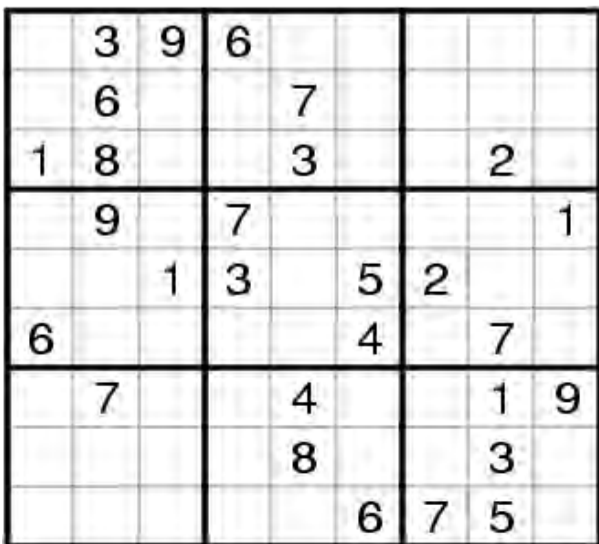
- | | | | |
|------------|--------------|-----------|-----------------|
| AFTERSHOCK | FOSSIL | LAVA FLOW | PLATE TECTONICS |
| ALLUVIUM | GLACIER | MAGMA | SEDIMENT |
| ANDESITE | ICE AGE | MANTLE | SEISMIC |
| CRUST | IGNEOUS ROCK | OBSIDIAN | SUBDUCTION |
| EARTHQUAKE | JURASSIC | PANGAEA | VOLCANO |

Yesterday's Solution

SOLUTION TO AT THE CARNIVAL PUZZLE

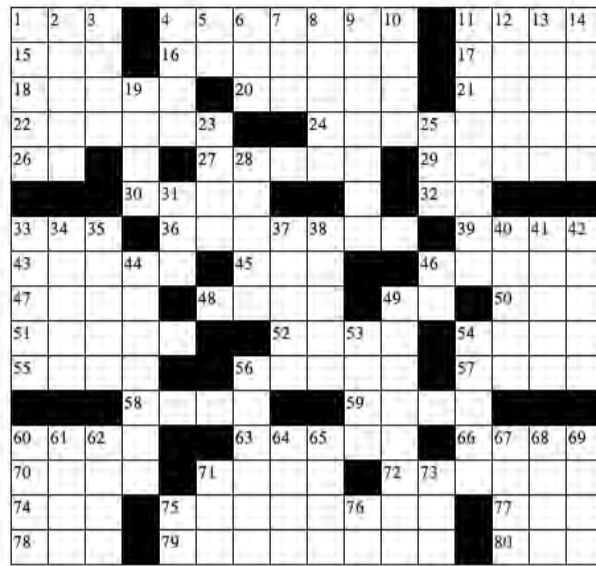


Daily SuDoku



hard

CROSSWORD 1051



ACROSS

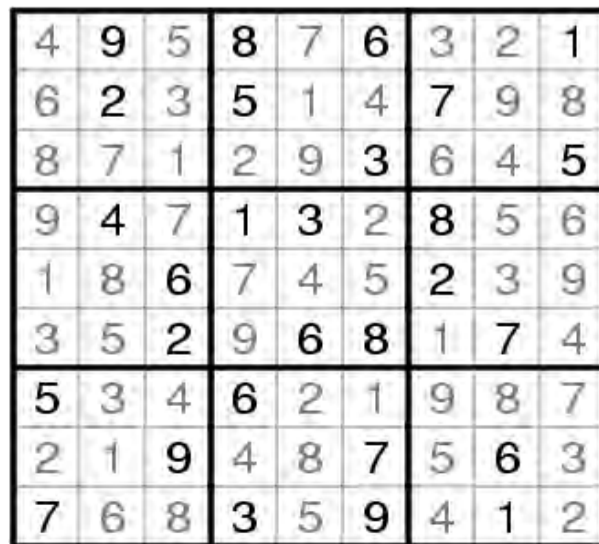
- The part of the nervous system of vertebrates that controls involuntary actions of the smooth muscles and heart and glands.
- A Dravidian language spoken in southern India.
- United States physiologist (born in Germany) who did research on parthenogenesis (1859-1924).
- Committee formed by a special-interest group to raise money for their favorite political candidates.
- Trade name for an antiemetic drug that has a mint flavor.
- Small buffalo of the Celebes having small straight horns.
- A genus of Platealea.
- A person who is gullible and easy to take advantage of.
- (computer science) A kind of computer architecture that has a large number of instructions hard coded into the cpu chip.
- A small tent used as a dressing room beside the sea or a swimming pool.
- Of or relating to or resembling a bistro.
- A radioactive transuranic element produced by bombarding plutonium with neutrons.
- The ninth month of the Hindu calendar.
- Division of a usually pinnately divided leaf.
- Denuded of leaves.
- A metric unit of length equal to one billionth of a meter.
- (Irish) Mother of the ancient Irish gods.
- Wearing a wig popular for men in the 17th and 18th centuries.
- Primitive chlorophyll-containing mainly aquatic eukaryotic organisms lacking true stems and roots and leaves.
- English theoretical physicist who applied relativity theory to quantum mechanics and predicted the existence of antimatter and the positron (1902-1984).
- The rate at which red blood cells settle out in a tube of blood under standardized conditions.
- Type genus of the Aceraceae.
- An amino acid that is found in the central nervous system.
- A guided missile fired from shipboard against an airborne target.
- Indian religious leader who founded Sikhism (1469-1538).
- Earn on some commercial or business transaction.
- (Old Testament) In Judeo-Christian mythology.
- Disabled in the feet or legs.
- The elementary stages of any subject (usually plural).
- A particular geographical region of indefinite boundary (usually serving some special purpose or distinguished by its people or culture or geography).

- A sock with a separation for the big toe.
- A native-born Israeli.
- The 11th letter of the Hebrew alphabet.
- An organization of countries formed in 1961 to agree on a common policy for the sale of petroleum.
- Deciduous round-headed Asiatic tree widely grown in mild climates as an ornamental for its heart-shaped leaves and fragrant yellow-green flowers followed by hanging clusters of fleshy orange-red berries.
- An informal term for a father.
- An emergency procedure consisting of external cardiac massage and artificial respiration.
- A constellation in the southern hemisphere near Telescopium and Norma.
- Having no sole.
- Thigh of a hog (usually smoked).

DOWN

- With rapid movements.
- Sole genus of the family Naiadaceae.
- Someone who works (or provides workers) during a strike.
- English actor noted for his portrayals of Shakespeare's great tragic characters (1789-1833).
- Before noon.
- An acute inflammatory disease occurring in the intestines of premature infants.
- Last or greatest in an indefinitely large series.
- A popular island resort in the Netherlands Antilles.
- A clergyman.
- A large mountain system in south-central Europe.
- Relating to or located near the organ that produces tears.
- Edible bulb of an onion plant.
- A red fluorescent dye resulting from the action of bromine on fluorescein.
- An indehiscent fruit derived from a single ovary having one or many seeds within a fleshy wall or pericarp.
- A metrical unit with unstressed-stressed syllables.
- A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
- Administration of a nutritionally adequate solution through a catheter into the vena cava.
- Small genus of hairy herbs with yellow flowers.
- A drug combination found in some over-the-counter headache remedies (Aspirin and Phenacetin and Caffeine).
- A rechargeable battery with a nickel cathode and a cadmium anode.
- A particular environment or walk of life.
- A member of a Turkic people of Uzbekistan and neighboring areas.
- A village of huts for native Africans in southern Africa.
- The sacred city of Lamaism.
- Something twisted and tight and swollen.
- Declare or acknowledge to be true.
- Of or relating to the ancient Aramaic languages.
- A soft silvery metallic element of the alkali earth group.
- Internal organs collectively (especially those in the abdominal cavity).
- Located in or toward the back or rear.
- Building material used as siding or roofing.
- Attack someone physically or emotionally.
- South American armadillo with three bands of bony plates.
- English monk and scholar (672-735).
- A French abbot.
- Any of numerous local fertility and nature deities worshipped by ancient Semitic peoples.
- United States writer (born in Poland) who wrote in Yiddish (1880-1957).
- Type genus of the Pipidae.
- Any physical damage to the body caused by violence or accident or fracture etc..
- In favor of (an action or proposal etc.).
- A potent estrogen used in medicine and in feed for livestock and poultry.
- A bachelor's degree in science.
- A light strong brittle gray toxic bivalent metallic element.

Yesterday's Solution



medium

Yesterday's Solution



ROYALS TAKE ON BLUE JAYS FOR AL TITLE

KANSAS CITY: A battle between home run bashers and small-ball specialists looms as the power-hitting Toronto Blue Jays and opportunistic Kansas City Royals meet for the right to represent the American League in the World Series.

The Royals, who will host the opener of the best-of-seven AL Championship Series yesterday, are striving to return to the World Series after ending a 29-year wait last year, while the Jays are determined to reach it for the first time in 22 years.

Toronto's modern day Murderer's Row of Josh Donaldson, Jose Bautista and Edwin Encarnacion combined for 120 homers in the regular season for the home run-leading Blue Jays who belted 232, while the Royals

stood 25th with 139 as a team. But there are different ways to score runs, as Lorenzo Cain showed in Kansas City's deciding game in the Division Series against Houston when he dashed home from first base on a single when the Astros' center fielder slipped while fielding it.

The Royals, who took the San Francisco Giants to a decisive Game Seven in last year's World Series with the tying run on third in the bottom of the ninth, pride themselves on putting the ball in play, rather than losing it over the outfield wall.

Kansas City struck out 973 times, the fewest in Major League Baseball, 134 less than the next most efficient team. "That's the strength of this club, the ability to put

the ball in play is key," Royals manager Ned Yost said. "A lot of times it can be a ground out, it could be a pop up, it could be a fly out.

"It's crucial in situations when you have runners in scoring position." The Blue Jays are not all-or-nothing at the plate, but their prodigious power is the heart of their attack.

In Wednesday's emotional Division Series-clinching win over Texas, Encarnacion cleared the wall and Bautista blasted a three-run, game-changing home run in the seventh that iced a win over the Rangers and sent Rogers Centre fans into delirium.

Both teams bolstered their rosters at the trade deadline. Toronto prominently added pitcher David Price, shortstop Troy

Tulowitzki and left-fielder Ben Revere. Kansas City supplemented their club with right-hander Johnny Cueto and versatile second baseman Ben Zobrist. The bullpen edge belongs to the Royals, who also possess more speed on the bases, and both teams play superior defense.

Toronto led their season series 4-3, with some bad blood emerging from the teams in August when players from each team were hit by pitches. Home field advantage belongs to the AL Central winning Royals, whose 95-67 record was better than AL East champions Toronto's 93-69, giving Kansas City top seeding. But the atmosphere in title-starved Toronto takes a back seat to no one. — Reuters

PENGUINS BLANK SENATORS, ISLANDERS STOP PREDATORS

PITTSBURGH: Evgeni Malkin scored his first goal in nearly seven months and Marc-Andre Fleury stopped 22 shots for his 39th career shutout as the Pittsburgh Penguins beat the Ottawa Senators 2-0 on Thursday night. Rookie Daniel Sprong picked up the first goal of his career for Pittsburgh, which won for the first time this season. Craig Anderson made 34 saves for Ottawa but the Senators failed to muster significant momentum a night after dropping seven goals on Columbus. Ottawa went 0 for 3 on the power play and rarely tested Fleury over the final two periods as the Senators lost on the road for the first time in four tries.

ISLANDERS 4, PREDATORS 3

John Tavares and Nikolay Kulemin scored in the third period and New York handed Nashville its first loss of the season. Anders Lee and Kyle Okposo scored in the second period to tie the score for the Islanders after they fell behind by two, and Thomas Greiss finished with 44 saves. Tavares and Lee also had an assist and Mikhail Grabovski added two as New York won its second straight and improved to 2-0-1 in its new Brooklyn home.

Austin Watson, Filip Forsberg and James Neal scored for the Predators, who had opened the season 3-0-0. Pekka Rinne had 24 saves. Tavares' goal with 8:11 left in the third period gave the Islanders a 4-2 lead. Neal pulled the Predators within one less than three minutes later, but they couldn't get the tying goal past Greiss.

CAPITALS 4, BLACKHAWKS 1

Braden Holtby stopped 26 shots, Alex Ovechkin scored a goal in his return to the Washington lineup and the Capitals beat punchless Chicago.

John Carlson, T.J. Oshie and Matt Niskanen also scored for the Capitals, who welcomed back Ovechkin following a one-game disciplinary absence.

Coming off a 3-0 loss to Philadelphia one night earlier, the Blackhawks trailed by three goals in this one before Viktor Svedberg got his first goal of the season at 3:13 of the third period. That ended a scoreless drought of 107 minutes, 46 seconds for the defending Stanley Cup champions. Ovechkin sealed the victory at 14:18, scoring from the left side of the net after a back-and-forth with teammate Evgeny Kuznetsov.

STARS 5, LIGHTNING 3

Jason Spezza scored a momentum-shifting goal in the third period and had an

assist to lead Dallas. Tyler Seguin, Jamie Benn, Cody Eakin and Jason Demers also scored for the Stars. Steven Stamkos had two goals and an assist, and Vladislav Namestnikov also scored for the Lightning. Namestnikov and Stamkos scored 1:38 apart in the third to get the Lightning within 4-3. Spezza, coming off a three-goal game in Tuesday's 4-2 win over Edmonton, responded and gave Dallas a 5-3 lead at 10:29.

PANTHERS 3, SABRES 2

Jaromir Jagr scored twice in the first period and added an assist to lead Florida. The 43-year-old Jagr stayed hot with his third and fourth goals of the season and continues to climb the all-time leader board in scoring. Linemate Aleksander Barkov had a goal and an assist.

Rookie defenseman Jake McCabe scored for Buffalo on assists by Marcus Foligno and Nicolas Deslauriers. Tyler Ennis scored on assists from Ryan O'Reilly and Rasmus Ristolainen. Florida goalie Roberto Luongo made 24 saves for his 403rd career victory, tying him with Grant Fuhr for ninth in all-time wins.

CANADIENS 3, RANGERS 0

Carey Price made 25 saves and Montreal Canadiens made franchise history by starting a season with a fifth straight win. Tomas Fleischmann, Dale Weise and Tomas Plekanec, with an empty-net effort, scored for as the Canadiens handed the Rangers (3-2-0) their second straight defeat.



DETROIT: Pittsburgh Penguins' Beau Bennett (19) celebrates his goal in this file photo with Rob Scuderi (4) and Will O'Neill (27) during the NHL hockey game. — AP

Despite powerhouse Canadiens teams that won a record 24 Stanley Cups, the previous club record for wins to start a season was four, last accomplished in 1977-78. There was playoff-like speed and intensity in the meeting of last season's two top regular season clubs, marked by a thrilling duel between perhaps the world's two best goalies - Price and New York's Henrik Lundqvist.

BLUES 4, OILERS 2

Paul Stastny and Alexander Steen scored in the third period to help St. Louis spoil winless Edmonton's home opener. Jori Lehtera and Vladimir Tarasenko also scored for the Blues, who beat Edmonton for the eighth straight time. Stastny, Steen and Lehtera also each had an assist, and Brian Elliott stopped 24 shots. Lauri Korpikoski and Taylor Hall scored for the

Oilers, fell to 0-4-0. No. 1 draft pick Connor McDavid was held without a point in his first regular season game in Edmonton. Cam Talbot had 25 saves. Steen sent a shot in front that deflected off Stastny and in for a power play goal at 4:20 of the third to extend the Blues' lead to 3-1. Hall pulled Edmonton back within one a little more than two minutes later, but Steen sealed it with a one-time with 2:09 left.

WILD 4, COYOTES 3

Zach Parise had a goal and an assist, and Minnesota remained undefeated by holding off previously unbeaten Arizona. The Wild had fresh legs after a four-day layoff between games, jumping on the tired Coyotes for a 3-0 lead.

Parise and Thomas Vanek scored less than a minute apart in the first period and Mikko Koivu added a short-handed goal midway through the second. Mikael Granlund also scored in the second.

The Coyotes clawed their way back through a string of Minnesota penalties, pulling within 4-3 on Michael Stone's 4-on-4 goal with just over 5 minutes left.

Devan Dubnyk closed it out, though, stopping 18 shots for his 100th career win. The Wild are 3-0 for the first time since opening 4-0 in 2008-09. Anthony Duclair scored his fourth goal in two games and Max Domi had his third of the season for Arizona. — AP

NHL results/standings

NY Islanders 4, Nashville 3; Pittsburgh 2, Ottawa 0; Washington 4, Chicago 1; Montreal 3, NY Rangers 0; Dallas 5, Tampa Bay 3; Florida 3, Buffalo 2; St. Louis 4, Edmonton 2; Minnesota 4, Arizona 3.

Western Conference

Central Division

	W	L	OTL	GF	GA	PTS
Winnipeg	3	1	0	15	8	6
St. Louis	3	1	0	13	9	6
Nashville	3	1	0	10	6	6
Dallas	3	1	0	15	11	6
Minnesota	3	0	0	12	9	6
Chicago	2	3	0	10	13	4
Colorado	1	2	0	12	14	2

Pacific Division

Vancouver	3	0	1	12	5	7
San Jose	3	0	0	12	1	6
Arizona	3	1	0	13	6	6
Calgary	1	2	0	7	11	2
Anaheim	0	2	1	1	8	1
Los Angeles	0	3	0	2	12	0
Edmonton	0	4	0	5	13	0

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division

Montreal	5	0	0	16	6	10
Detroit	3	0	0	11	4	6
Florida	3	1	0	14	5	6
Tampa Bay	3	2	0	17	14	6
Ottawa	3	2	0	16	13	6
Buffalo	1	3	0	8	12	2
Boston	1	3	0	13	18	2
Toronto	0	2	1	5	12	1

Metropolitan Division

NY Rangers	3	2	0	13	13	6
NY Islanders	2	1	1	11	12	5
Philadelphia	2	1	1	7	10	5
Washington	2	1	0	9	9	4
Pittsburgh	1	3	0	5	8	2
Carolina	0	3	0	5	10	0
New Jersey	0	3	0	5	11	0
Columbus	0	4	0	9	20	0

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

SAINTS HAND FALCONS FIRST LOSS

NEW ORLEANS: Drew Brees completed 30 of 39 passes for 312 yards and Benjamin Watson caught a key fourth-down touchdown pass in the third quarter to lift New Orleans to a 31-21 victory over the previously undefeated Atlanta Falcons on Thursday.

Saints tight end Watson pulled down 10 receptions for a career-high 127 yards. The Saints (2-4) held the high-powered Atlanta offense 11 points under their 32.4-point average, forced two red-zone fumbles and blocked a punt for a touchdown.

New Orleans running back Mark Ingram scored twice on runs of two and one yards, and the Saints rolled up 207 yards of total offense and 17 points in the second half. The key sequence came with the Saints leading 17-7 late in the third quarter. Brees moved the Saints to the Atlanta six, but New Orleans gained only two yards on three plays.

On fourth-and-goal from the four, instead of settling for a chip-shot



NEW ORLEANS: Atlanta Falcons tight end Levine Toilolo (80) moves by New Orleans Saints middle linebacker Stephone Anthony (50) during the first half of an NFL football game. — AP

NFL standings

American Football Conference

AFC East	W	L	T	OTL	PF	PA	PCT
New England	4	0	0	0	149	76	1.000
NY Jets	3	1	0	0	95	55	.750
Buffalo	3	2	0	0	124	105	.600
Miami	1	3	0	0	65	101	.250
AFC North							
Cincinnati	5	0	0	0	148	101	1.000
Pittsburgh	3	2	0	1	120	95	.600
Cleveland	2	3	0	0	118	132	.400
Baltimore	1	4	0	1	123	137	.200
AFC South							
Indianapolis	3	2	0	0	99	113	.600
Tennessee	1	3	0	0	102	91	.250
Houston	1	4	0	0	97	135	.200
Jacksonville	1	4	0	1	93	145	.200
AFC West							
Denver	5	0	0	0	113	79	1.000
Oakland	2	3	0	0	107	124	.400
San Diego	2	3	0	0	116	134	.400
Kansas City	1	4	0	0	117	143	.200

National Football Conference

NFC East	W	L	T	OTL	PF	PA	PCT
NY Giants	3	2	0	0	132	109	.600
Dallas	2	3	0	1	101	131	.400
Washington	2	3	0	1	97	104	.400
Philadelphia	2	3	0	0	117	103	.400
NFC North							
Green Bay	5	0	0	0	137	81	1.000
Minnesota	2	2	0	0	80	73	.500
Chicago	2	3	0	0	86	142	.400
Detroit	0	5	0	0	83	138	0
NFC South							
Carolina	4	0	0	0	108	71	1.000
Atlanta	5	1	0	0	183	143	.833
Tampa Bay	2	3	0	0	110	148	.400
New Orleans	2	4	0	0	134	164	.333
NFC West							
Arizona	4	1	0	0	190	90	.800
St. Louis	2	3	0	0	84	113	.400
Seattle	2	3	0	2	111	98	.400
San Francisco	1	4	0	0	75	140	.200

field goal, Saints coach Sean Payton sent the offense back on the field.

Brees drew an encroachment penalty on defensive tackle Ra'Shede Hageman with a hard count, but the Saints still faced fourth down from the two. Brees faked a handoff to Ingram and Watson ran free in the back of the end zone to haul in an easy toss for a 24-7 lead. The Falcons (5-1) had rallied for victories in the fourth quarter for four of their previous five wins, but they could not get closer than 10 points late in Thursday's game. Quarterback Matt Ryan completed 30 of 44 passes for 295 yards and two touchdowns, but was sacked five times and fumbled three times. Saints defensive end Cameron Jordan had three sacks.

BLOCKED PUNT

The Falcons moved the ball up and down the field in the first half, outgaining the Saints 265 yards to 174, but a blocked punt for a touchdown and two fumbles inside the Saints 15-yard line sent New Orleans into halftime leading 14-7. The Saints took the opening kickoff 80 yards

in 12 plays- their only sustained drive of the half-to take a 7-0 lead. Brees converted three third downs on the march, and his 24-yard strike to wide receiver Willie Snead set up the Saints at the Atlanta 2. Ingram scored on the next play on a good second-effort carry.

The Saints took their biggest lead of the season — 14-0 — when linebacker Michael Mauti broke up the middle to block Matt Bosher's punt at the Atlanta 4, and Mauti picked up the ball and dived into the end zone. Ryan took the Falcons 80 yards in nine plays to cut the lead to 14-7 on a 7-yard pass to Roddy White in the left corner of the end zone. The wide receiver easily beat cornerback Brandon Browner on the throw. The Falcons drove inside the Saints 15 on their next two possessions, but the drives ended with a fumble by running back Tevin Coleman and a bad shotgun snap by reserve center James Stone. The Saints failed to convert either turnover into points, however. New Orleans kicker Zach Hocker missed a 51-yard field-goal attempt late in the half. — Reuters

IZMIR STUN BARCELONA, CSKA ROLL



Colton Iverson in action in this file photo.

BELGRADE: Euroleague debutants Karsiyaka Izmir lit up the opening day of the season with a 71-62 home win over twice former winners Barcelona while CSKA Moscow blew away Maccabi Tel Aviv 100-69 in a heavyweight clash on Thursday. Red Star Belgrade also made a perfect start with an 81-59 home rout of Strasbourg on the back of 18 points and seven rebounds from German centre Maik Zirbes. Having beaten more fancied local rivals to win the Turkish league title last season, Karsiyaka continued to punch above their weight against formidable opposition. Forward Colton Iverson racked up 16 points and eight rebounds as the home side pulled away in the third quarter, when they outscored Barcelona 25-11.

"It was a tough loss that we won't forget and we have to learn from this,"

Barcelona's Croatian centre Ante Tomic told the competition's website (www.euroleague.net).

"A lot of things happened today. Too many turnovers, lack of inspiration in offence and the third quarter of course." CSKA, six times winners of Europe's elite club basketball competition, dominated throughout against a depleted Maccabi (five titles) missing several key players through injury. Five CSKA players finished with points tallies in double-figures, led by France guard Nando De Colo with 17 and Serbia playmaker Milos Teodosic who added 15 and five assists. Former Los Angeles Lakers guard Jordan Farmar, back at Maccabi for his second spell with the club after a brief stint in 2011, was a lone beacon of light for his side with 17 points.

Red Star, who made wholesale

changes during the off-season after losing towering centre Boban Marjanovic to five times former NBA champions San Antonio Spurs, overcame an early deficit against Strasbourg. Roared on by 15,000 fans in Belgrade's Kombank Arena, Red Star fired on all cylinders as Marjanovic's former understudy Zirbes dominated the paint, with captain Luka Mitrovic adding 13 points and six rebounds. "The atmosphere was fantastic and helped us look a better side," Red Star coach Dejan Radonjic told a news conference. "It was a morale-boosting win ahead of tougher games in a fiercely competitive group." Darussafaka Istanbul completed a memorable night for Turkey with an 83-74 overtime home win against Italians Dinamo Sassari and last season's runners-up Olympiakos Piraeus beat Croatians Cedevita Zagreb 76-61. — Reuters

ROSSI RETURNS TO HAPPY HUNTING GROUND

MELBOURNE: The breathtaking renaissance of Valentino Rossi may be traced back to his last visit to Australia, so it is fitting that the Italian MotoGP great can all but seal an eighth premier class championship at Phillip Island on Sunday.

Yamaha rider Rossi will make his 328th Grand Prix start at the picturesque seaside circuit, drawing level with retired record-holder and fellow Italian Loris Capirossi.

The championship has been reduced to a two-horse race between Rossi and team mate Jorge Lorenzo with three rounds to go and 18 points separating the riders.

The gap is handy but 36-year-old Rossi was reluctant to start calculating the potential results he would need to seal a magic eighth title to match the record of another Italian champion, Giacomo Agostini. "It's quite impossible (to predict)," Rossi said this week.

"In three races, we will have completely different conditions, three different types of tracks, so I never do these types of calculation — 99 percent of the time, it doesn't happen.

"We need to concentrate on Phillip Island and try to arrive in

front of Jorge. This is the target, rather than making the calculation to arrive behind." Rossi returns to Phillip Island to defend what seemed the most unlikely of race titles.

A distant second to Honda's runaway leader Marc Marquez last year, Rossi had all but resigned himself to another podium spot behind the Spaniard but his rival spun out of the race 10 laps from the end. That gave Rossi his sixth premier class win in Australia and first at Phillip Island in 10 years.

The Italian has barely looked back on his rejuvenated Yamaha, claiming four race wins this year to draw close to another championship, five years after his last was sealed at Phillip Island in 2009.

Double world champion Lorenzo has had his troubles Down Under, slicing off part of a finger during a crash one year, but he also has some fine memories.

He claimed the second of his championships at Phillip Island in 2012 with a safe podium spot behind retiring local hero Casey Stoner.

Lorenzo is confident he can push Rossi to the wire in the remaining races of the championship and believes he can take a



PHILLIP ISLAND: Moto2 rider Tito Rabat of Spain crashes on the exit to turn 11 during free practice two for the Australian Motorcycle Grand Prix. — AP

crucial step at Phillip Island.

"I am fortunate to have competed in an era with some of the most talented riders in the history of the

sport and for sure some of the best of the last 30 years," he said this week.

"This year if I win will be a more

special feeling for me and Yamaha, especially to beat Honda after Marquez has won the past two years." — Reuters

SIZZLING KO GRABS LEAD

SOUTH KOREA: Lydia Ko carded a blemish-free seven-under-par 65 on Friday to take a one-stroke lead at the LPGA KEB Hana Bank Championship in South Korea and boost her chances of usurping Park In-bee at the top of the women's world rankings.

The 18-year-old New Zealander, the youngest woman to win a major, trailed overnight leader Park Sung-hyun by seven strokes at the start of the second round but finished on 10-under, ahead of American Lexi Thompson (67).

"When a player shoots 10-under, seven-under, eight-under, whatever, they had a great day and all you can do is play good golf yourself and just think about it one shot at a time and see the closer you are to the leader, or if you're leading, the earlier, the better," she told reporters in Incheon.

"Because if you are leading, you've got time where you can expand the lead and give yourself a little bit of breathing room.

"I put myself in good position but the weekend is where they say people try to go up the leaderboard. I'm just going to focus on one shot at a time and on my game, because I know there's going to be a lot of great golf from a lot of great players."

Ko was in the same playing group as Park In-bee, who is tied for 25th place at three-under, and could reclaim the top ranking from her South Korean rival with a victory this week after two wins and a runner-up finish in her last three starts.

"I don't think about the rankings or if



SOUTH KOREA: Lydia Ko of New Zealand watches her shot on the second hole during the second round of the KEB Hana Bank Championship golf tournament. — AP

one birdie is going to put me a couple shots in front of her," said Ko, who claimed her maiden major title at The Evian Championship in France last month.

"I feel very fortunate that there is a great competitor like her where I can work harder and be as good as her or get to that ranking.

"But when we're out there, we are

not thinking about it. I think for the crowds and for the media, it makes it really exciting when everything is close."

First-round leader Park Sung-hyun struggled in the second round and frittered away her four-shot lead by posting a 74 for a share of third-place alongside Cho Yoon-ji at eight-under. — Reuters

STEELE SETS THE PACE MCILROY FIVE BACK

NAPA: Brendan Steele charged one stroke clear after the opening round of the Frys.com Open on Thursday, though golfing heavyweights Rory McIlroy and Justin Rose were among those in hot pursuit.

American Steele took advantage of near-perfect conditions at a sun-splashed Silverado Resort in Napa, California, firing a brilliant nine-under-par 63 on the North Course to rocket to the top of the leaderboard. Steele, whose only PGA Tour victory came at the 2011 Texas Open, birdied seven of his last eight holes for a red-hot homeward nine of seven-under 29 to set a sizzling pace in the season-opening event on the US circuit's 2015-16 schedule.

Venezuela's Jhonattan Vegas carded a 64 while American rookie Harold Varner III and Britain's Martin Laird returned 65s but Steele will certainly be keeping a wary eye on world number seven Rose (67) and third-ranked McIlroy (68). "I was really comfortable," Steele, 32, told Golf Channel after racking up nine birdies in a bogey-free display in the opening round.

"I'm just trying to stick into my process and, as cliched as it sounds, just kind of get into every shot as much as I can and not really think about the results. The golf course is in perfect shape, just the right amount of bounce on the greens.

"They're not too soft, not too firm. They're rolling perfect. Everything was great," said Steele, who grew up in the small Californian town of Hemet where

was neither a golf course nor a driving range.

RIISING ROSE

Englishman Rose, who won his first major title at the 2013 US Open, mixed six birdies with a lone bogey to vault up the leaderboard. "It went well," said Rose, back in action on the PGA Tour just two weeks after tying for second place at the Tour Championship, the final event of the 2014-15 season.

"A couple of guys are going lower than that but for the first round of the season ... it was a nice way to get things going." McIlroy, making his first trip to the idyllic wine country of California's Napa Valley, bogeyed his fourth hole of the day before rebounding with five birdies to climb into contention.

"I felt like I played pretty well," said the Northern Irishman, 26, who won three tournaments earlier this year before being sidelined for almost two months after rupturing an ankle ligament while playing soccer with friends on July 4. "I got off to a bit of a slow start this morning but gradually got into the round and started hitting some better shots and giving myself plenty of chances.

"I didn't convert many of them but still a pretty solid score and in good position going into the next three days." A notable absentee this week is last year's winner, Bae Sang-moon, due to a requirement for him to complete two years of military service in his native South Korea. — Reuters

HERATH LEAVES WINDIES REELING

GALLE: Rangana Herath took six wickets first-innings wickets to put West Indies in a spin as Sri Lanka enforced the follow-on on



GALLE: Sri Lanka's Rangana Herath delivers a ball during the third day of the first Test cricket match against West Indies. —AP

the third day of the opening test at Galle yesterday.

The wily left-arm spinner picked up four wickets on the third day to complete his 23rd five-wicket haul in tests. Herath inflicted more misery on the hapless touring side by dismissing opener Kraigg Brathwaite lbw for 34 in West Indies' second innings and they finished the day on 67 for two, still needing 166 runs to avoid an innings defeat.

Shai Hope (six) was the other opener out when he was bowled by Milinda Siriwardana to become the debutant all-rounder's first test victim.

Darren Bravo (20) and nightwatchman Devendra Bishoo (six) were at the crease at stumps. Bravo (50) had offered resistance in the first session too, making his 12th half-century in tests before falling to Herath, Dinesh Chandimal completing a brilliant acrobatic catch at mid-wicket to dismiss the left-hander. Herath struck in his second over of the day with an innocuous delivery which Marlon Samuels (11) made a mess of.

The batsman failed to connect on a pull shot and the ball, going way down the leg side, hit his thigh and went on to disturb the stumps. Jermaine Blackwood (11) did not last long either, edging Dhammika Prasad to Siriwardana at slip where the fielder juggled a catch but held on.

Jason Holder (19), leading the side for the first time in tests, gave Prasad his second wicket when he edged behind to wicketkeeper Kusal Perera after hitting the paceman for two consecutive boundaries. Wicketkeeper Denesh Ramdin fell in similar fashion to fast bowler Nuwan Pradeep before Kemar Roach, who was dropped on five by Sri Lanka captain Angelo Mathews at slip off Herath, and Jerome Taylor (31) launched a counter-attack.

Taylor hit four boundaries and a six in his 31-ball knock and his 46-run stand for the eighth wicket with Roach gave West Indies hope of saving the follow-on.

Roach (22) also added 34 with Bishoo for the ninth wicket but Herath ensured they fell short by dismissing him and Shannon Gabriel off successive deliveries shortly after tea. —Reuters



ABU DHABI: England captain Alastair Cook (right) in action during the third day of the first Test match between England and Pakistan at Zayed Cricket Stadium. —AP

COOK HITS MARATHON DOUBLE AS FIRST TEST HEADS FOR DRAW

ABU DHABI: Alastair Cook played the third longest innings in Test cricket as he scored a monumental 263 to help his team into the lead over Pakistan in the first Test in Abu Dhabi yesterday.

The skipper batted for 836 minutes to guide England to 569-8 at close on the fourth day to thwart Pakistan's pace-cum-spin attack on a flat Sheikh Zayed Stadium pitch.

But even on a docile pitch it needed a strong resolve from Cook as he came to the crease in the last hour of play on the second day under the pressure of a big total of 523-8 declared by Pakistan. As well as the nominal hosts' bowling attack, Cook also battled hot conditions as the first of three matches in the series heads for an inevitable draw, barring an extraordinary batting collapse by Pakistan today.

He finally played a tired looking sweep off spinner Shoaib Malik and was caught at backward square-leg by Shan Masood, ending his 528-ball knock which had 18 boundaries. Pakistan's Hanif Mohammad holds the record of the longest Test innings with 970 minutes during his 337 against the West Indies at Bridgetown in 1958, ahead of South African Gary Kirsten's 878-minute knock during his 275 against England at Durban in 1999.

Cook added 141 for the fourth wicket with Joe Root (85) and another 91 for the sixth with Ben Stokes (57) after England resumed at 290-3.

Jonny Bairstow made just eight before becoming Wahab Riaz's third victim, trapped in front of the wicket. Left-arm paceman Riaz was the pick of Pakistan bowlers with 3-116 while spinner Shoaib Malik took 2-97. It was a nightmarish pitch for the spinners as the first wicket to a slow bowler came in the 171st over when Malik bowled Stokes.

Pakistan's frontline spinner Zulfiqar Babar managed just one wicket in his 70 overs conceding 180 runs. At close Adil Rashid was unbeaten on six and

with him Stuart Broad has yet to score as England lead by 46 runs.

It was Cook's third double century that enlivened an otherwise dull day. Cook flicked Riaz to backward square-leg for two to complete his double century off 395 deliveries, the second of the match behind Shoaib Malik's 245 for Pakistan.

Cook reached his 250 after tea, taking a single off Babar. Root said Cook's long batting has set an example. "Two days in that heat shows huge amount of skill, concentration and fitness," said Root of Cook's knock. "We spoke a lot about batting for long periods of time and how important its going to be to give ourselves a chance of winning and our captain has led from the front. "It has set an example for the rest of the series and give us some hope that we can get some sort of result tomorrow," said Root.

Riaz admitted Cook's knock had left bowlers frustrated. "The way he (Cook) batted it was frustrating at times for me as a bowler," said Riaz. "He has got a great temperament and on this pitch he exhibited all his batting skills to the fullest." Pakistan were once again sloppy in the field as they missed another chance to dismiss Cook when wicket-keeper Sarfraz Ahmed failed to take an inside edge off Riaz when the England captain was on 173. Fawad Alam had let off Cook on 147 off Babar on Thursday.

Root also survived a confident leg-before shout when fast bowler Imran Khan trapped him but Pakistan's review once again went unsuccessful. Root was finally trapped leg-before wicket by paceman Rahat Ali who finished with 1-73. Root hit seven boundaries in his 14th half-century.

Stokes also clobbered seven boundaries, reaching his fifth fifty and hit Babar for a four to give England the lead. He was finally bowled by Malik. The remaining two Tests will be played in Dubai on October 22-26 and Sharjah on November 1-5. —AFP

SCOREBOARD

GALLE, Sri Lanka: Scoreboard at stumps on the third day in the first Test between Sri Lanka and West Indies on yesterday in Galle, Sri Lanka.

Sri Lanka 1st innings 484 (D. Karunaratne 186, 171 D. Ramdin, 8-217 J. Taylor, 9-251 K. Roach, D. Chandimal 151; D. Bishoo 4-143)

West Indies 1st innings (Overnight: 66-2)

K. Brathwaite lbw b Herath	19
S. Hope b Herath	23
Da. Bravo c Chandimal b Herath	50
M. Samuels b Herath	11
J. Blackwood c Siriwardana b Prasad	11
D. Ramdin c K. Perera b Pradeep	23
J. Holder c K. Perera b Prasad	19
K. Roach st K. Perera b Herath	22
J. Taylor c Mathews b Kaushal	31
D. Bishoo not out	23
S. Gabriel b Herath	0
Extras (b-5 lb-6 nb-7 w-1)	19
Total (all out, 82 overs)	251
Fall of wickets: 1-33 K. Brathwaite, 2-49 S. Hope, 3-70 M. Samuels, 4-111 J. Blackwood, 5-132 Da. Bravo, 6-165 J. Holder, 7-	

171 D. Ramdin, 8-217 J. Taylor, 9-251 K. Roach, 10-251 S. Gabriel

Bowling: D. Prasad 15-6-38-2, N. Pradeep 15-4-56-1(nb-1 w-1), R. Herath 33-9-68-6, T. Kaushal 14-4-65-1(nb-6), M. Siriwardana 5-2-13-0.

West Indies 2nd innings

K. Brathwaite lbw b Herath	34
S. Hope b Siriwardana	6
Da. Bravo not out	20
D. Bishoo not out	6
Extras (nb-1)	1
Total (for 2 wickets, 27 overs)	67
Fall of wickets: 1-18 S. Hope, 2-60 K. Brathwaite	
To bat: M. Samuels, J. Blackwood, D. Ramdin, J. Holder, J. Taylor, K. Roach, S. Gabriel	
Bowling: D. Prasad 3-1-4-0, R. Herath 7-3-17-1, N. Pradeep 4-1-7-0, M. Siriwardana 6-1-30-1, T. Kaushal 7-3-9-0(nb-1).	

SCOREBOARD

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

Pakistan 1st innings 523-8 declared (Shoaib Malik 245, Asad Shafiq 107, Mohammad Hafeez 98; B. Stokes 4-57)

England 1st innings (overnight 290-3)

A. Cook c Masood b Malik	263	J. Butler c Shafiq b Babar	23
Moeen Ali c Ahmed b Khan	35	Adil Rashid not out	6
I. Bell c Hafeez b Riaz	63	S. Broad not out	0
M. Wood b Riaz	4	Extras: (b7, lb5, nb10, w3)	25
J. Root c Ahmed b Rahat	85	Total: (for eight wickets; 196.3 overs)	569
J. Bairstow lbw b Riaz	8	Fall of wickets: 1-116 (Ali), 2-281 (Bell), 3-285 (Wood), 4-426 (Root), 5-443 (Bairstow), 6-534 (Stokes), 7-549 (Cook), 8-563 (Butler)	
B. Stokes b Malik	57	To bat: J. Anderson	
		Bowling: Rahat 26.3-1-73-1, Khan 25-6-72-1, Babar 70-17-180-1, Riaz 33-3-116-3 (10nb, 3w), Shafiq 7-0-19-0, Malik 35-4-97-2.	

GOOD DAYS FOR RUGBY AS UNDERDOGS CLOSE GAP

LONDON: Japan's 34-32 Rugby World Cup upset of South Africa still beggars belief, confounding all the sport's received wisdom. But the man charged with boosting rugby's development allows himself just a smile. "I was not totally surprised by it actually," Mark Egan told Reuters. "Japan are so professional and committed now that they have become really competitive against higher-ranked opponents." It may have been the biggest upset in Rugby history, but Japan's victory was just one sign of a wider change that could give the sport far greater global reach.

For generations Rugby has been dominated by the 10 countries designated Tier One: those in the northern hemisphere's Six Nations Cup - England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, Italy and France - and those in the southern hemisphere's Rugby Championship - South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, and, since 2012, Argentina. Thirteen other countries are ranked in Tier Two, including 10 which made it to the World Cup this year. As is almost always the case, not one made it out of the group stage. But for the first time, none of them looked out of place.

The old expectation that matches between Tier One and Tier Two teams would be blow-outs, with score differentials sometimes topping 100 points, now looks out of date. The average margin of victory in matches between Tier One and Tier Two sides over the past four tournaments has steadily fallen from 45 to 38 to 36 to just 31 points this year. "Throughout this tournament the so-called easy games aren't easy any more," said All Blacks captain Richie McCaw. "The whole standard has been lifted and I think everyone is excited to see that." Performances by the "lesser teams" were "incredible to watch," said Ireland captain Paul O'Connell.

The story of the pool phase was of course Japan, who not only stunned the Springboks on a sunny September day in Brighton, but also beat Samoa and the United States. The three wins would have put them in the quarter finals in any other World Cup since five-team pools were introduced in 2003. In seven previous tournaments Japan had managed just a solitary win - against fellow minnow Zimbabwe - in 1991. They shipped a World Cup-record 145 points to New Zealand in 1995, and 83 against them as recently as 2011. Nor were Japan the only Tier Two team to create lasting memories. Romania had looked set for another thumping when trailing Canada 15-0, only to produce a World Cup-best comeback to win 17-15 and provide priceless images of hulking, gnarled props with tears streaming down their faces. Georgia and Tonga had their own personal World Cup final in their first game, with probable third place in their pool and therefore automatic 2019 qualification on the line.

Georgia claimed a surprise victory, then found the tables turned as they had to fight tooth and nail to scrape past Namibia. The African team, thrashed 145-0 by Australia in 2003, lost by a solitary point but claimed their first-ever bonus point, and, after the joy of ripping through New Zealand's defence for an acclaimed try at the Olympic Stadium, departed with heads held high. World Rugby (WR) claims credit for making the game more competitive. "We're investing 10 million pounds a year trying to close the gap," Egan told Reuters. "Through that combination of direct investment, extra coaching staff, more transport, medical resources, strength and conditioning programmes and competition, I think we have improved the standard of the athletes coming through the system so they are much more competitive and physically able to cope with a Tier One game when they are at the World Cup." —Reuters

HISTORY LOOMS AS WCUP Q-FINALISTS FINE-TUNE

LONDON: History looms large as the eight quarter-finalists gear up for the knockout phase of the Rugby World Cup, with some teams desperate to replicate the heroics of upsets past and others out to see familiar patterns repeated.

Wales and South Africa go first on a mouth-watering weekend of action, kicking off today afternoon at Twickenham with a match Springboks coach Heyneke Meyer expects to be an arm-wrestle. "We're playing against a well-balanced side that always likes to mix things up when it comes to physicality," he told reporters on Thursday, as teams put the final touches to their preparations and more lineups were announced.

Meyer has made just a single change to his starting XV from the side that routed the United States 64-0, with in-form winger JP Pietersen returning from injury to replace Lwazi Mvovo.

South Africa lead the countries' head-to-heads 27-2 with one draw, and Wales have been hit by a series of injuries to key players in the build-up to the tournament and during it.

But the Welsh will take heart from their triumph over adversity to make it out of a very tough group, which also included Australia and England.

Wales have made three changes to their team, centre Tyler Morgan, prop Gethin Jenkins and flanker Dan Lydiate all returning to the side.

"The physicality and intensity of the matches so far will stand us in good stead for what is going to be a huge battle against the Springboks," Wales coach Warren Gatland said.

Today's other game is New Zealand against France in Cardiff, with the formidable All Blacks favourites to progress but Les Bleus aware that they are capable of

springing a surprise, having done so at the 1999 and 2007 World Cups.

French prop Jean-Baptiste Poux, who appeared in the 2007 quarter-final, conceded that good fortune played its part. "We were kind of scared of conceding 50 points but we made it, with a bit of luck, and we gave 200 per cent," he told Reuters. New Zealand coach Steve Hansen is leaving little to chance, recalling captain Richie McCaw to lead a squad of 23 with a combined 1,295 caps and including no fewer than four men who have been named world player of the year. "The thing the old guys bring you is experience. You can't buy that. When you are under the pump, you need people in that group that can cope with it," Hansen told a news conference.

HALFBACK PAIRING

For France, Morgan Parra was named at scrumhalf to partner flyhalf Frederic Michalak, as coach Philippe Saint-Andre continued to tinker with his halfback pairing. Powerhouse centre Mathieu Bastareaud was dropped from the starting line-up and flanker Bernard Le Roux comes in for Damien Chouly.

Ireland meet Argentina on Sunday, also in Cardiff, and, if recent form is any guide, the Irish have little to fear, having beaten their opponents the last five times they have met.

But then there is history. Ireland have known only heartbreak from their previous quarter-final appearances, playing five and losing five. The Irish players need no reminding that their country has tripped up at the same hurdle so many times before and what is at stake.

"It's a big weekend for Irish rugby," prop Nathan White said. "If we get through this one it's the furthest we've ever been so there's plenty of focus around, plenty of drive in the lads."

Australia face Scotland at Twickenham tomorrow in the final last-eight clash. The build-up to that match has been overshadowed by bans that have ruled out Scotland hooker Ross Ford and lock Jonny Gray who were handed three-week suspensions for a dangerous tackle on Samoa's Jack Lam.

"We hold Ross and Jonny in very high regard and as a result will be launching a robust appeal to challenge their suspensions, which we feel are unduly harsh," Scottish Rugby Chief Executive Mark Dodson said. The suspensions have been heavily criticised, and even Australia coach Michael Cheika expressed sympathy for the banned pair.

Former Wales flyhalf Jonathan Davies described the inconsistency of the tournament's disciplinary hearings as a "disgrace". —Reuters



LONDON: South Africa's player Tendai Mtawarira with the ball during the captain's run at Twickenham stadium. South Africa will play Wales in a Rugby World Cup quarterfinal at the stadium today. —AP

JACK HOBBS TO BAT AWAY RIVALS AT ASCOT

LONDON: Jack Hobbs, named in honour of one of England's greatest cricketers, is the horse to beat in today's Champion Stakes at Ascot as trainer John Gosden seeks to add further shine to his golden season. The £1.3 million (\$2 million, 1.76 million euros) ten furlong prize is one of the showpieces of Champions Day where in 2012 the mighty Frankel signed off his racing career in style.

Jack Hobbs is the 5-4 ante-post favourite for today's edition on the strength of his performances in claiming the Irish Derby and his eye-catching second to stablemate Golden Horn in the Epsom Derby.

He runs two weeks after Golden Horn landed Gosden's first Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe at Longchamp under a masterful ride

from Frankie Dettori.

While Gosden believes Jack Hobbs has the speed to prevail at Ascot, he expressed concern Thursday over his wide draw. "It's a disappointing draw. For those that know the mile and a quarter start at Ascot, the bend comes up very quickly and you are naturally forced wide," he told The Racing Post. "One blessing is that our pacemaker Maverick Wave is drawn next door to Jack Hobbs in 13. One thing's for sure Jack won't get boxed in! I'll leave the tactics to William Buick."

Earlier in the week Gosden had spoken enthusiastically about his colt's prospects. "I feel he is happy over both 1m2f and 1m4f and he has a lot of tactical speed. It's going to ride on the slow side of good, but that won't be a problem for him."

Among his dozen rivals are Aidan O'Brien's classy filly Found, seeking to bounce back after an unlucky ninth in the Arc, and Vados.

The four-year-old's trainer, French maestro Andre Fabre, suggested his charge bore all the hallmarks of a champion-in-waiting when landing a warm-up in Germany last month. France's perennial champion trainer also has a live interest in the Group One Queen Elizabeth II Stakes with Territories. He was runner-up to fast ground specialist Gleneagles in the English 2,000 Guineas with the latter's trainer O'Brien keeping a watchful eye on the weather as unsuitably soft going would lead him to pull out his dual classic winner in favour of the Breeders Cup Classic.



Matches on TV
(Local Timings)

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

Tottenham V Liverpool	14:45
beIN SPORTS 1 HD	
beIN SPORTS 11 HD	
Chelsea V Aston Villa	17:00
beIN SPORTS 11 HD	
Everton V Man United	17:00
beIN SPORTS 1 HD	
Man City V Bournemouth	17:00
beIN SPORTS 6 HD	
Southampton V Leicester City	17:00
beIN SPORTS 8 HD	
Albion v Sunderland	17:00
beIN SPORTS 10 HD	
Crystal Palace v West Ham	17:00
beIN SPORTS 7 HD	
Watford v Arsenal	19:30
beIN SPORTS 1 HD	
beIN SPORTS 11 HD	

SPANISH LEAGUE

Real Madrid v Levante	17:00
beIN SPORTS 2 HD	
Eibar v Sevilla	19:15
beIN SPORTS 2 HD	
Barcelona v Rayo Vallecano	21:30
beIN SPORTS 2 HD	
Valencia v Malaga	23:00
beIN SPORTS 12 HD	
Real Betis v Espanyol	

ITALIAN CALCIO LEAGUE

Roma v Empoli	19:00
beIN SPORTS 3 HD	
Torino v Milan	21:45
beIN SPORTS 3 HD	

GERMAN BUNDESLIGA

Hamburger v Leverkusen	16:30
beIN SPORTS	
Augsburg v Darmstadt	16:30
beIN SPORTS	
Schalke v Hertha Berlin	16:30
beIN SPORTS	
Werder Bremen v Bayern	16:30
beIN SPORTS 4 HD	
Wolfsburg v Hoffenheim	16:30
beIN SPORTS 2 HD	
Frankfurt v Borussia	19:30
beIN SPORTS 4 HD	

FRENCH LEAGUE

Bastia v Paris Saint	18:00
beIN SPORTS 5 HD	
Saint Etienne v Ajaccio	21:00
beIN SPORTS 8 HD	
Guingamp v Lille	21:00
beIN SPORTS 7 HD	
Nantes v Troyes	21:00
beIN SPORTS 9 HD	
Stade de Reims v Caen	21:00
beIN SPORTS 10 HD	
Toulouse v Angers	21:00
beIN SPORTS 5 HD	

JUVE TITLE CREDENTIALS FACE FRESH INTER TEST

MILAN: The title credentials of champions Juventus come under fresh scrutiny in the 'Derby d'Italia' when a win for Inter Milan could see Roberto Mancini's men underline their scudetto hopes by seizing the Serie A lead.

Massimiliano Allegri's Juventus are well on their way to qualifying for the knockout stages of the Champions League, but it has been a bumpy ride on the domestic front.

A remarkably difficult start to the campaign has seen Juventus slump 10 points adrift of leaders Fiorentina and eight behind second-placed Inter.

Inter have not beaten Juventus at the San Siro since their treble-winning season of 2010, when they won league, Cup and Champions League under the helm of Jose Mourinho.

But an Inter win this time would leave Juventus 11 points adrift of the Nerazzurri, possibly too much, says Juve defender Andrea Barzagli, for the Turin giants to maintain hopes of a fourth consecutive scudetto. "It's still early in the season but if Inter go 11 points ahead, it becomes problematic for us," said Barzagli. He would do well to keep a close eye on Inter striker Mauro Icardi, who has hit six goals against Juventus in five games, three of which came while playing for former club Sampdoria.

Inter's only shock of the season was a 4-1 defeat by Fiorentina, the thrashing serving as a painful reminder to Mancini's men not to take their promising start for granted.

But Inter are back to full strength and welcome forward Stevan Jovetic back to the fold after a recent spell on the sidelines ended the on-loan Manchester City man's sterling start to the campaign.

Juventus will be missing Uruguayan defender Martin Caceres, who has a sprained ankle and will be sidelined "for 10-15 days", according to the club.

Caceres had been expected to play a role following his recent suspension for crashing his Ferrari while over the legal alcohol limit,

but he hobbled off 18 minutes into a World Cup qualifying win over Colombia following a tackle by Juve teammate Juan Cuadrado.

Napoli and Fiorentina have joined Roma and Inter in throwing down the gauntlet and the credentials of both could become clearer when they kick off in the pick of Sunday afternoon's fixtures. Fiorentina's unassuming start under new coach Paulo Sousa has been ulti-

that going," said the Albanian international.

The pressure is firmly on Rossoneri coach Sinisa Mihajlovic, and although the Serbian has the full backing of Milan, drastic improvements are expected.

On-loan Liverpool striker Mario Balotelli, who has been sidelined with a muscle injury, is expected to start on the bench, if at all, for the trip to on-form Torino today.



Andrea Barzagli

mately promising but Napoli, league runners-up in 2013, are beginning to purr.

Napoli's 4-0 away rout of AC Milan a fortnight ago came with a brace from Lorenzo Insigne and, after he missed Italy's Euro 2016 qualifiers with a sore knee, the little winger is expected to return to the fold. It will be Napoli's first home game since their San Siro feat, but winger Elsed Hysaj said they won't be taking Fiorentina lightly.

"Fiorentina aren't top of the league for nothing, but we're coming off a really good run of games and we're determined to keep

Torino sit in fifth place, only five points behind Fiorentina, and Granata striker Maxi Lopez insists there will be little respect for the seven-time European champions.

"Milan have their history, but we deserve every point we've earned so far and it's possible we'll end up fighting for a top finish this season," he said.

Elsewhere, fourth-placed Roma can close their four-point deficit with a home win over Empoli today while city rivals Lazio, in third at three points off the pace, are away to Sassuolo. —AFP

INJURY-HIT REAL, BARCA EYE RETURN TO SUMMIT

MADRID: Real Madrid will have to overcome an injury to leading scorer Karim Benzema as the spluttering capital club return to domestic duty today when they host struggling Levante. Rafael Benitez's side have slipped to second, one point behind surprise leaders Villarreal, following successive draws against Malaga and city rivals Atletico. Real remain one of two unbeaten sides, alongside Celta Vigo, but the international break came at a cost for Madrid with Benzema, scorer of six goals in La Liga this term, sustaining a hamstring injury in France's 4-0 rout of Armenia, last week, while Luka Modric picked up a thigh strain while helping Croatia qualify for Euro 2016.

Benitez will also be without right-back Dani Carvajal who was forced out of Spain's final two qualifiers with an ankle problem while there are doubts over the fitness of Sergio Ramos and Pepe as well.

With Benzema sidelined, Real, who face Paris Saint-Germain in the Champions League next Wednesday before travelling to high-flying Celta Vigo, will be counting on Cristiano Ronaldo to rediscover his top form that saw him plunder an incredible 48 league goals last season.

The Portuguese star was awarded the European Golden Shoe for a record fourth time on Tuesday as the top scorer in the continent's

domestic leagues, but he has scored in just one of seven matches this campaign, albeit a stunning five-goal haul at Espanyol.

"I still feel good and young. I'm 30 years old and I want to play five or six more years, and during this time I want to do well and try to maintain my level from recent seasons," Ronaldo told Spanish daily Marca upon receiving his award. "Real Madrid should always win trophies and this year is no exception. I'm always gunning for more," he added.

Lionel Messi's absence has been keenly felt by Barcelona since the Argentine went down with



Karim Benzema

knee ligament damage at the end of September.

With Messi out until mid-November, Luis Suarez and Neymar have the arduous task of trying to help Barca overcome the loss of the four-time Ballon d'Or winner but it hasn't been plain sailing for the Catalans, who are aiming to bounce back from a 2-1 defeat at Sevilla when they take on Rayo Vallecano at home today. "Nobody can replace Leo, and nobody should think they have to take on his role. Neymar, Sandro, Munir and myself, we all have to keep playing our role in attack," Luis Suarez told the La Liga website.

"Obviously, we feel the absence of the best player in the world, but we all have to chip in to help the team just like we've been doing these past few matches," added the Uruguayan.

The game of the weekend in Spain pits table-topping Villarreal against third-placed Celta Vigo tomorrow. Both sides will want to restore their early-season fortunes after laboring into the international break-Villarreal lost their unbeaten start at previously winless Levante while Celta's momentum has been somewhat stalled by two straight draws.

"It will be a difficult game against a direct rival. We want to pick up the three points because winning after the break is very important," defender Eric Bailly told Villarreal's club website. —AFP

MATA WANTS UNITED TO PROVE THEIR WORTH

LIVERPOOL: Juan Mata has called on his Manchester United teammates to conquer a red-hot October schedule that will have a major bearing on their hopes of winning the Premier League. United have not hit peak form consistently this season and yet sit just two points off the top of the Premier League ahead of today's tricky trip to Everton. They might have gone into the international break as leaders had they not collapsed to a 3-0 defeat at Arsenal in their last match, a performance described by their baffled manager Louis van Gaal as their worst since he took charge at the club in July 2014.

For van Gaal, that Arsenal loss was the start of a testing run of fixtures that continues at Goodison Park. His team face a long trip to Russia to face CSKA Moscow in the Champions League on Wednesday, then leaders Manchester City visit Old Trafford next Sunday before United travel to in-form Crystal Palace. Van Gaal has a number of injury concerns-most notably with his captain Wayne Rooney, who sat out England's wins over Estonia and Lithuania because of an ankle problem.

Bastian Schweinsteiger suffered a thigh injury in training while on international duty with Germany and will be assessed, as will fellow midfielder Michael Carrick who, like Rooney, missed both England matches during the international break. Defender Marcos Rojo withdrew from the Argentina squad for recent World Cup qualifiers against Ecuador and Paraguay with the hamstring trouble that has kept him out of United's last four matches. Centre-back Paddy McNair will definitely be unavailable, having only just been released from a Helsinki hospital, where he spent three nights after rupturing his liver during Northern Ireland's 1-1 draw in Finland last Sunday. Spanish midfielder Mata, though, feels United will have underlined their title credentials if they can cope with the tests that lie ahead.

"We have to get ready for a few games that are going to be tough and thrilling," Mata said. "October is meant to be a very difficult month and we must be ready for it." Everton fans could have been forgiven for fearing the worst when they saw their club's opening 10 Premier League fixtures-with eight of those games against last season's top eight.

Yet Roberto Martinez's side are seventh and have been beaten just once so far, by leaders Manchester City, and have secured impressive victories over Southampton and Chelsea in the process.

Martinez sees no reason to fear a United side who have suffered defeat on their last three visits to Goodison Park. "We should push ourselves at Goodison and use the special atmosphere that we have at home to help us," Martinez said.

The manager is helped by the fact that a number of key players are close to returning from injury. Centre-back John Stones, who has not played since suffering a knee injury during a 2-1 League Cup third-round victory at Reading on September 22, is back in full training.

So too are midfielders Tom Cleverley and Steven Pienaar. Cleverley has recovered from an ankle problem suffered against Tottenham in late August, while Pienaar is over a hamstring injury sustained in pre-season. Everton are also bolstered by the continuing impressive form of midfielder Ross Barkley, who performed well in both of England's Euro 2016 qualifiers during the international break, scoring in a 3-0 victory over Lithuania on Monday.

"What is clear is that he is a sensational prospect," Martinez said. "I'm a bit surprised by the hype that has developed because of the two performances for England, as we've seen Ross hit those levels since the first day of the season."—AFP



Jose Mourinho

MOURINHO LOOKS TO IGNITE SPLUTTERING CHELSEA

LONDON: Jose Mourinho will once again attempt to ignite Chelsea's spluttering season after an international break that offered only temporary respite from the growing pressure on the Blues manager. Mourinho's problems are highlighted by the fact today's meeting with Aston Villa at Stamford Bridge is unexpectedly a clash between two teams struggling at the foot of the table. A 3-1 home defeat to Southampton last time out left Mourinho's side two places and four points better off than Villa who lie third bottom and further underlined the rapid decline of last season's champions.

Mourinho reacted to that loss with a lengthy outburst that prompted the club to take the unusual step of issuing a statement backing the manager, while last week a number of senior players voiced their support of the Portuguese coach. Nonetheless, reports of dressing room unrest continue to emerge and Mourinho knows the only way to draw a line under a disastrous start is for his team to start producing results on the pitch. The visit of a struggling Villa side should provide the perfect opportunity, but Chelsea have looked uncharacteristically vulnerable so far and Spain midfielder Cesc Fabregas acknowledges results must improve quickly.

"It's a very strange situation for Chelsea to be in at the wrong end of the table," Fabregas said. "And, for most of us at the club, it is the first time we have ever been down there. Now we all know how it feels and we hate it. "At Chelsea, we always want to be at the top of the Premier League, fighting to win the Champions League, competing for every trophy." So it's clear this time we are doing things wrong and our performances have not been at the level required at this club." Fabregas is convinced things can turn around and believes Chelsea could yet close the 10-point gap between themselves and the head of the table and retain the title.

"We are dealing with our problems on the training ground as a group. We must work harder, plan better and compete better than we have. I still believe we can win the league," he added.

Mourinho will be forced into at least one change with defender Branislav Ivanovic-widely criticised this season after a string of poor performances out for a month after injuring his hamstring while on international duty with Serbia.

Villa will arrive in London with manager Tim Sherwood's position under intense scrutiny after a sequence of six defeats and a draw in their last seven league games.

They sit in the bottom three having failed to win since the success at Bournemouth on the opening day of the season. And the club's hierarchy are believed to be assessing the position of the former Tottenham manager, who led Villa to the FA Cup final just five months ago.—AFP



Bastian Schweinsteiger

DJOKOVIC, MURRAY SET UP SHANGHAI SHOWDOWN

SHANGHAI: Novak Djokovic beat Bernard Tomic and Andy Murray overcame heated rival Tomas Berdych as the world number one and two set up a Shanghai Masters semi-final to savor yesterday.

Djokovic had to work in a tough first set before he blew Tomic away, winning 7-6 (8/6), 6-1, and Murray saw off Berdych 6-1, 6-3 to make it three straight victories over the Czech this year.

Earlier Rafael Nadal's resurgence moved ahead with a 6-2, 6-1 win over Stan Wawrinka, setting up a clash with Jo-Wilfried Tsonga who was taken to three sets by Kevin Anderson.

Top-ranked Djokovic was pushed all the way by Tomic in a thrilling opening set but after he edged the tiebreak 8/6, it was plain sailing as the Australian capitulated.

"I think physically maybe he felt a bit exhausted. Last night he played three sets. He finished after midnight. Maybe that has influenced a little bit his game in the second set," Djokovic said.

"Then again, I've started to read his serve a little bit better, started to move him around the court. The first game of the second set was crucial, I think, making that break."

Tomic has a reputation for quick losses and was once dubbed "Tomic the tank engine". Last year he lost the fastest recorded match 6-0, 6-1 to Jarkko Nieminen in 28 minutes, 20 seconds in Miami.

But the 23-year-old, who had a late-night tussle with Richard Gasquet on Thursday, has been rising up the rankings and he is now projected to reach a career high of 18.

"For me it was very, very important this first set-after, I think I was dead," Tomic said. "I was trying to stay with him but he looked so fresh and so energetic."

Murray and Berdych, who is trained by the Briton's former coach, played a combustible four-set match at this year's Australian Open but their 13th career meeting turned out to be one-sided. Murray owned the Czech in the first set and it wasn't much different in the second as he moved quickly into a semi-final against Djokovic, a fellow two-time winner in Shanghai.

"Andy has... been on the top of the men's game for so many years, a Grand Slam winner, Olympic gold medallist, somebody that understands how to play on a big occasion," Djokovic said.

Elsewhere Nadal easily beat fourth-ranked Wawrinka to bring up his first win over a top-five player in more than a year and extend a hot streak after he also reached last week's China Open final.

Spain's Nadal was on court for just 64 minutes against the Swiss, who was also feeling the effects of his marathon three-setter against Marin Cilic late the previous night.

The French Open champion, who won last week in Tokyo, made 34 unforced errors and was on target with just 45 percent of his first serves as he folded meekly.

"Today I was just struggling a little bit. It's that simple. Against Nadal you cannot do anything if you're not 100 percent," Wawrinka said.

For Nadal, hours of extra work on the practice court look to be paying off as after a tough year, he fights to recapture the form that brought him 14 Grand Slam titles.

"Being in the semi-finals is a great result for me. I didn't play any semi-finals on hard court this year, now I am playing (them) two weeks in a row," he said.—AFP

Sports



Djokovic, Murray set up Shanghai showdown

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ST. PETERSBURG: This file photo taken on July 25, 2015 shows UEFA president Michel Platini (center) and AFC president Sheikh Salman bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa (left) arriving to attend the preliminary draw for the 2018 World Cup qualifiers at the Konstantin Palace in Saint Petersburg. — AFP

ASIAN CHIEF POISED FOR FIFA BID

KUALA LUMPUR: The head of Asian football is poised to announce a bid for the FIFA presidency, a source told AFP yesterday, in a move that would dramatically reshape the election race.

Shaikh Salman bin Ebrahim al Khalifa could make a formal announcement as early as yesterday and would be a serious contender given his position as the leader of FIFA's second-largest confederation.

A bid by the Bahraini royal would be another major blow to already suspended vice-president Michel Platini, whom he formerly backed for the FIFA job, and his Asian rival Prince Ali bin al-Hussein of Jordan. FIFA has been thrown into turmoil with outgoing chief Sepp Blatter, former favourite Platini and South Korean candidate Chung Mong-Joon all suspended, and corruption allegations engulfing the world body.

Despite mounting sleaze claims and criminal charges against senior figures including Blatter, FIFA elections are still

planned to go ahead on February 26 with Platini among the candidates who have until October 26 to register.

The other potential contenders make up a varied group that includes Brazil's Zico, former FIFA deputy secretary general Jerome Champagne and South African anti-apartheid campaigner Tokyo Sexwale. It is a situation that could leave the way clear for the soft-spoken Shaikh Salman, who was a staunch backer of the corruption-tainted Blatter until recent months.

Shaikh Salman is also an unshakeable supporter of Qatar's hosting of the 2022 World Cup, whose controversial bidding process was the subject of an internal FIFA investigation.

The Manchester United fan and one-time accountancy drop-out drifted between careers and even had a spell as a customs officer before turning his hand to football administration.

Backed by Kuwaiti powerbroker Sheikh Ahmad al Fahad al Sabah, he won a land-

slide election in 2013 to succeed disgraced Qatari Mohamed bin Hammam as president of the Asian Football Confederation (AFC). In April, he strengthened his grip when he won a fresh four-year term unopposed and became a FIFA vice-president-taking a post previously held by Prince Ali into the bargain.

Shaikh Salman has thrived in his alliance with Sheikh Ahmad, who was elected to FIFA's executive committee at the April congress and is also a major player in the Olympic movement.

The imposing Kuwaiti, a supporter of International Olympic Committee president Thomas Bach, heads the influential Olympic Council of Asia, which runs the Asian Games among other major events. He is also president of the Association of National Olympic Committees, which has more than 200 members, and chairs the Olympic Solidarity Commission, which hands out grants for athletes and sports development.

Shaikh Salman would have a major clear-up job on his hands at FIFA, a similar situation to the one he inherited at the AFC when he took over from bin Hammam promising a clean slate.

In the ongoing fall-out from bin Hammam's reign, AFC secretary general Alex Soosay was suspended in May over an alleged cover-up of financial documents in 2012. He later resigned.

Peter Velappan, a long-time AFC secretary general from 1978-2007, said he wanted an Asian candidate to lead the world body, but he warned: "Running FIFA is not a small job."

"I don't think many people are happy with him (Shaikh Salman). He is the leader of the AFC but he has not been seen as doing enough for Asia," said Velappan.

The Malaysian veteran, who supports Prince Ali's bid, added: "It's been a long time and now is the time for someone from Asia to take over at FIFA." — AFP