

Premier opens fair for national products



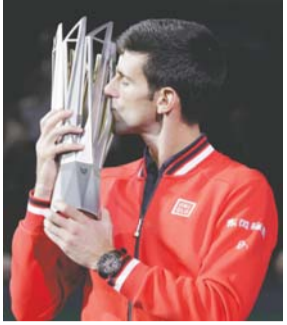
West moves to end sanctions as Iran deal adopted



Center shows conservatism still central to Saudi soul



Djokovic hammers Tsonga for Shanghai title



MPs DEMAND ACTION OVER KUWAIT SPORTS SITUATION

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KUWAIT: HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receive their portraits as gifts from Huawei CEO Guo Ping yesterday. — KUNA (See Page 2)

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: MPs Abdullah Al-Turajji and Abdullah Maayouf yesterday met HH the Amir and the prime minister over a decision by the world's football governing body FIFA to suspend Kuwait Football Association for failing to change the sports law. Maayouf said they explained to the Amir their meeting with the International Olympic Committee in Geneva, refuting allegations against Kuwait that it was not respecting the Olympic charter. The two lawmakers also told the IOC that the Kuwaiti government was not interfering in sports affairs, and on the contrary, has been providing generous aid to sports clubs and federations. The two MPs also called for putting an end to the ongoing problem in a way to comply with Kuwaiti laws and sovereignty. Meanwhile, MP Turajji called on the government to dissolve the Kuwait Football Association, claiming it was responsible for the suspension of Kuwait by FIFA. He said a temporary committee should be appointed to run the association. He also called for suing FIFA at the international sports court for taking an arbitrary decision to suspend Kuwait. Liberal MP Rakan Al-Nasef called for holding accountable those responsible for the suspension of Kuwait football. In another development, the appeals court yesterday did not issue a highly-expected ruling on the citizenship of former Islamist MP Abdullah Al-Barghash and his family after judge Najeeb Al-Majed recused himself from the case and asked it to be given to another judge. The lower court had scrapped the government's

Continued on Page 13



BENI SUEF, Egypt: An Egyptian casts his vote at a polling station during the first round of the parliamentary election yesterday. — AP

EGYPT VOTERS TRICKLE IN TO ELECT PRO-SISI PARLIAMENT

CAIRO: Egyptians trickled in to polling stations yesterday to elect a new parliament that will tighten President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi's grip on power after he crushed all opposition since ousting his Islamist predecessor Mohamed Morsi in 2013. The vote for the much-delayed 596-member parliament is being staged in two phases ending on Dec 2, with Egyptians abroad casting their votes for the first round from Saturday. But with an absence of opposition parties - including the now-banned Muslim Brotherhood that has faced a deadly government crackdown overseen by Sisi - polling has inspired none of the enthusiasm witnessed for Egypt's first democratic elections in 2011. Experts say the outcome

of the election is a foregone conclusion and only voter turnout will be a gauge of popularity for Sisi, who has enjoyed a cult-like status since he toppled his Islamist predecessor Mohamed Morsi in 2013. Voting was listless in the first few hours in 14 of the 27 provinces where polling is being held over two days. "It's expected to rise by the end of the day as many voters are working," said Refaat Komsan, an adviser to the prime minister. "Also as temperatures fall, we expect voters to come out and vote." Electoral commission spokesman Omar Marwan said participation of women voters was "four times more" than men during the first part of the day.

Continued on Page 13

OBAIDI OPENS WARD AT CHEST HOSPITAL

KHORASAN GROUP LEADER DEAD IN SYRIA AIR STRIKE

WASHINGTON: The leader of a group of Al-Qaeda veterans which Washington calls the Khorasan Group has been killed in a coalition air strike in Syria, the Pentagon said yesterday, proclaiming it another victory against a shadowy outfit it says targets the United States. Sanafi Al-Nasr, a Saudi national and trusted Al-Qaeda militant, was killed in an air attack in the northwest of the country on Thursday, according to the Pentagon. "This operation deals a significant blow to the Khorasan Group's plans to attack the United States and our allies," Secretary of Defense Ash Carter said in a statement.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a Britain-based monitoring group, had reported al-Nasr's death on Friday, saying he was killed in a strike in Aleppo province. Nasr - also known as Abdul Mohsen Abdullah Ibrahim Al-Sharikh - was listed as a "specially designated global terrorist" by the US Treasury Department in 2014. He had been erroneously reported dead in the past.

"The United States will not relent in its mission to degrade, disrupt and destroy Al-Qaeda and its remnants," added Carter. The Pentagon described Nasr as a "long-time jihadist" who funneled money and fighters for Al-Qaeda and said he was the fifth senior Khorasan Group leader killed in the last four months. US strikes in Syria have largely targeted jihadists in the Islamic State group. But Washington has occasionally also gone after what it brands the Khorasan Group, which it says is a cell of senior Al-Qaeda veterans charged with planning attacks in the West.

Continued on Page 13

KUWAIT: Health Minister Dr Ali Al-Obaidi yesterday opened the renovated Late Shaikhan Al-Farsi ward at the Chest Diseases Hospital. Obaidi said that the new ward would serve male cardiac disease, cardiac catharsis and cardiac failure patients. He added that the ward includes 27 beds and was built according to the latest and most up-to-date international specifications in terms of privacy, patient safety and infection prevention. "This donation is another bright model of Kuwaitis' contributions to support health service projects in Kuwait," he underlined, pointing out that such donations are a source of pride before various international health organizations.

Obaidi added that wards 3 and 5 of the hospital have also been renovated and turned into a lab section over a total area of 1,460 sq m including biochemistry, microbiology and blood diseases units. "Renovation and repairs cost KD 558,000," he said, noting that the hospital's newly launched services and sections match MoH's strategies and programs, especially since cardiac diseases have been the prime cause of deaths in Kuwait. The hospital's manager Dr Nader Al-Awadhi said the new ward includes two isolation rooms and that proper infection prevention protocols would be strictly applied to ensure patients' safety. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Health Minister Dr Ali Al-Obaidi opens a renovated ward at the Chest Diseases Hospital yesterday. — KUNA



NAVOTAS, Philippines: A Filipino man scavenges recyclable materials near a house on stilts stands by the bay as strong winds and rains caused by Typhoon Koppu hit this coastal town north of Manila yesterday. — AP

TYPHOON KOPPU PUMMELS PHILIPPINES

MANILA: A teenager was crushed to death as powerful Typhoon Koppu tore down trees and houses and unleashed landslides and floods across a wide area of the Philippines yesterday, forcing thousands to flee. At least eight other people have been reported missing and military and volunteer rescue teams were dispatched to the rice-farming province of Nueva Ecija where rivers burst their banks and flooded several villages, authorities said. "People are asking for help because the floodwaters are rising. The rescuers cannot penetrate the area as of now," Nigell Lontoc, the assistant civil defence chief for the region, told AFP.

Television footage showed raging brown rivers swallowing up homes and carrying off large debris including tree trunks. ABS-CBN network showed a photograph of blue-clad police holding onto a rope and wading in chest-deep floodwaters to rescue trapped residents. The government said more than 23,000 people had already been evacuated from the path of Koppu, which also disrupted ferry services and aviation.

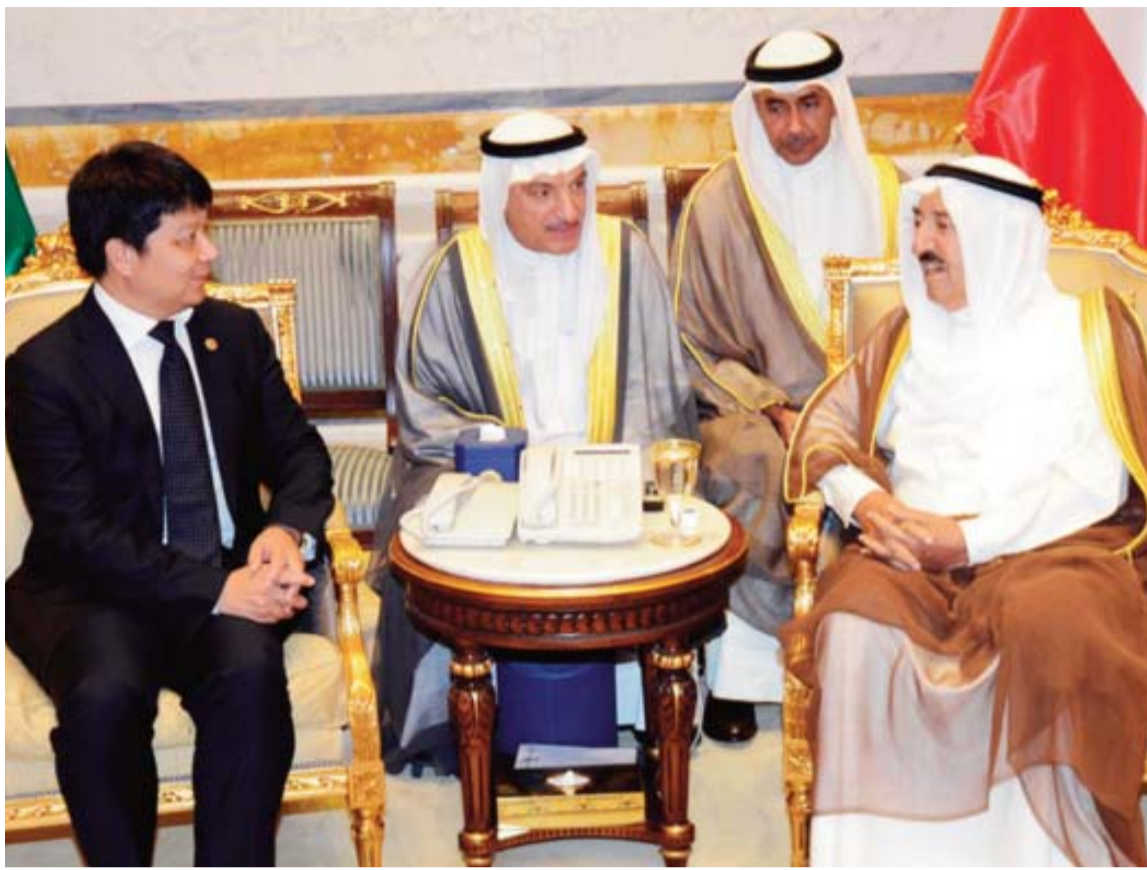
Koppu made landfall before dawn on the remote fishing town of Casiguran, whipping the coast with gusts of up to

210 km an hour for nearly seven hours before moving inland. "Koppu tore off roofs of homes made of light materials. Rivers overflowed, and the roads to the area are blocked by downed power pylons and trees," Lontoc said. It later crossed over the Pantabangan Dam in the southern foothills of the Cordillera, the country's largest mountain range, with gusts of 185 kilometres an hour.

A big tree toppled and crushed a house in Manila, killing a 14-year-old boy and injuring four other people, Alexander Pama, head of the National Disaster Risk Reduction Council, told reporters in Manila. Officials said more people are expected to flee as the now weakened storm makes its way to the northern tip of Luzon, the Asian country's largest island and home to about half its national population of 100 million people.

Aurelio Umali, governor of Nueva Ecija province that includes Pantabangan told ABS-CBN said rescuers saw two human bodies floating in one of the flooded villages. However Lontoc said the two bodies have not been recovered.

Continued on Page 13



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives Guo Ping, Huawei Technologies Co, Ltd Rotating CEO, yesterday.—KUNA

HUAWEI OFFICIALS BRIEF AMIR ON COMPANY PLANS

KUWAIT: Officials of the Chinese Huawei Technologies Co, Ltd have briefed His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on their plans for investing in Kuwait, Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA) Director General Sheikh Dr Mishaal Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah said. Sheikh Dr Mishaal made the statement yesterday after attending a meeting with His Highness the Amir with the Chinese Huawei Technologies Co, Ltd Rotating CEO Guo Ping, as the world leading telecommunications firm is opening a company in Kuwait.

He added that they explained to HH the Amir how they will help realize the goals of Kuwait's development plans and job opportunities to provide for the Kuwaiti youth. HH the Amir welcomed such companies that help achieve

state goals and bring in technology investments, creativity and innovation, to vary sources of income and provide new jobs for Kuwaiti people. HH the Amir expressed on behalf of the country his welcome and full support to all commercial projects and promising investment opportunities in the economy and investment fields and achieving better ambitious improvement toward advancement and prosperity.

Huawei CEO Guo expressed pleasure and commitment by the company to engage in the investment and participate in developing the telecommunication technology, including providing training to young Kuwaitis. The meeting was attended by Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Ali Jarah Al-Sabah and Director General of Kuwait Direct

Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA) Sheikh Dr Mishaal Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah also received yesterday the Trade and Industry Minister accompanied by Director General of Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA) Sheikh Dr Mishaal Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and Huawei mobile Co CEO Guo Ping. The guests briefed HH the Crown Prince on the company's contribution to developing technology and information sector. HH the Crown Prince thanked the guests for their efforts and contribution to improving the technology sector, stressing the importance of the communication field which serves all economic progress in society.—KUNA



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received yesterday at Bayan Palace His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. HH the Premier sought permission from His Highness the Amir to go on an official visit to France.—KUNA

FRANCE SEEKS TO BOLSTER PARTNERSHIP WITH KUWAIT

PM, HIGH-RANKING DELEGATION TO VISIT FRANCE TODAY

KUWAIT: His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah's visit to France today will further contribute to the 50 years of strong bilateral relations.

HH the Prime Minister will lead a large delegation for talks at various levels in Paris tomorrow and Wednesday. He will meet with President Francois Hollande, Prime Minister Manuel Valls and senior members of the Cabinet, including Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius.

Relations between France and Kuwait date back to August 28th, 1962, with official diplomatic ties established in April of 1964 through the appointment of the first French Ambassador to Kuwait.

The strength of Kuwaiti-French relations was evident during the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in August of 1990. France backed up its political stance with a strong contribution to the military operation against the Iraqi regime. Paris sent some 18,000 troops to partake in the desert storm operation which led to the liberation of Kuwait. In a gesture of appreciation, His Highness the late Amir Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah visited France after the liberation of Kuwait in 1991, thanking the European nation for its just stance against the Iraqi occupiers.

France hails ties

Ahead of HH the Prime Minister's visit to France, France said it wants to further develop "deep partnership" it enjoys with Kuwait and it praised HH the Amir for "his major role" in promoting peace in the region.

"This visit will be an opportunity to strengthen even more our bilateral relations in the broad domains they cover," said Romain Nadal, Director of Communications-Press and Official Spokesman at the French Foreign Ministry. The senior French official praised the multiple and growing contacts between France and Kuwait and indicated that a number of accords would be concluded during the forthcoming visit.

"This year has been rich in exchanges at very high levels," Nadal remarked, noting that French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius had been to Kuwait in January for "a much-remarked" visit and had clearly expressed the desire "to give more depth to the partnership between our two countries."

In the past four years, there have been 13 ministerial visits between France and Kuwait, going in both directions, and there have been a number of other high-level contacts in the parliamentary, finance and military areas since 2011.

France has long pointed to the "excellent political relations" that exist with Kuwait, but Paris also has noted in the past that economic ties were lagging and an effort should be made to boost the economic aspects of the partnership to the high level of constant political relations.

"The partnership is characterized today by the exceptional depth of our political contacts," the French official said, also noting the close cooperation in "the fight against terrorism and in exchanges between (the two) peoples, and in the area of trade."

In an effort to bolster "human exchanges," he indicated that France was working to improve and speed up visa policies with many countries and that Kuwaitis can now get tourist visas within 48 hours through the French embassy in Kuwait.

In 2006, the current ruler of the State of Kuwait His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah made France his first stop on his visit to Europe, reflecting the strong ties linking the two friendly nations. In reciprocity, the former French president, Nicolas Sarkozy, paid an official visit to Kuwait in 2009, thus bolstering the strategic partnership between the two countries.

For his part, National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanim also paid a formal visit to Paris in January 2014, during which he expressed hope that the Kuwaiti-French relations would be bolstered further, particularly at the economic and commercial levels. In October 2009, the two countries signed a security cooperation treaty, according to which Paris supplied military equipment to Kuwait. Among the delivered arms were gunboats and gunship helicopters—that is in addition to France's obligation to safeguard Kuwait's security and support its just causes.

Economic partnership

On the economic level, Kuwait considers France as a major partner with commercial exchange reaching around \$2.5 billion in 2014. Kuwaiti exports to France in 2014 reached \$750 million with 95 percent being oil products. France exports to Kuwait in the same year reached 500 million euro.

Kuwait Airways had worked out a deal with France to buy 25 Airbus aircraft. In a step to further develop the relations, France established back in January the French commercial mission in Kuwait as an effort to coordinate French companies' involvement in the Gulf country. More recently, French companies got involved in Kuwait's ambitions development plan with two entities developing the southern and northern Al-Zour power stations. France is a major destination for Kuwaiti recreation seekers. The French embassy issued up to 50,000 visas for Kuwaitis in 2014.—KUNA

Frankly Speaking

DEPORTATION THREAT, TAXIS AND PAKISTANI VISA ISSUES



By Talal Al-Ghannam

local@kuwaittimes.net

Good morning dear and honorable readers and I wish all a happy Hijri year full of happiness and joy. In this article I would like to pinpoint on some true and yet funny stories I was told about many of my trustworthy friends, hoping everyone learns a lesson from them.

A friend of mine traveled to Egypt last year and encountered a dispute between a Kuwaiti woman and a shop owner in downtown Cairo. As he was a shopper, he preferred to stay longer to know what was going on. Both sides were very angry and yelling at each other and all of a sudden the Kuwaiti woman shouted at the Egyptian, telling him: Will you behave otherwise I will deport you back to your country and ban you from entering Kuwait! The poor lady had forgotten that she was in Egypt and those words may have been repeatedly uttered by her long tongue back in Kuwait. The coincidence is that the shop worker used to work in Kuwait and was telling police that he used to hear that threat a lot when he was in Kuwait and now it is time others hear it while he is in his own country. What I mean by this true story is to say that no matter what you do to others, it will come around eventually back to you. The poor lady ended up being deported as that worker had connections or wasta in his own homeland.

The other issue I would like to highlight and hope it would be settled for good is the dilemma of taxi drivers and the oppression imposed on them by some of the Interior Ministry authorities. I will mention as well some of their negative points. Many of the policemen roam the roads searching for prey and they find it easy enough to fine taxi drivers even ones adhering to the traffic laws and regulations. The ministry officers want taxi drivers to pick up their customers while flying so that they do not cause traffic jams on the roads. Perhaps they think passengers can fly like bees who can quickly board the taxi while the car is moving to keep the smooth pace of traffic. Many taxi drivers stop at designated parking spots to pick up their passengers but yet get fined for no reason. Where for God's sake do you want them to stop? We all know that our roads are not as nice as those in Dubai where taxis can stop easily for passengers whereas here the roads remain unchanged since the Sixties.

The negative aspect about the majority of taxi cars are the nasty smells inside the vehicle and sometimes the smell comes from the driver himself. You board the car and tend to close your nose till you reach your destination and poor you when the destination is Jahra.

The last point I would like to touch upon is the visit or family dependence visa for our Pakistani brothers and sisters. It has been suspended for a long time. I have heard so many divorce cases taking place from wives of Pakistani brothers working in Kuwait as this matter constitutes a dilemma to them. Imagine you work abroad and are not able to see your loved ones or eat and be united with them, how would that feel? For the sake of Allah and for the sake of humanity please open up the visa for our Pakistani brothers and sisters. Pakistan is among the first countries which supported Kuwait during the Invasion and it is offering assistance to the Saudi-led coalition against Daesh. Let's wait and see.

Until the next article Insha'Allah.

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PREMIER HINTS AT LAWS TO PUSH PRIVATE SECTOR

KIU INDUSTRIAL EXPO KICKS OFF

By Faten Omar

KUWAIT: Kuwait Industries Union (KIU) kicked off the KIU Expo yesterday at Al-Baraka Hall in Crowne Plaza Hotel under the auspices of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and with attendance of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

After the opening ceremony, the Prime Minister expressed satisfaction over the organization of the fair which was exceptional in terms of participation of all national industries.

The premier asserted the keenness and seriousness of the government in improving trade and industry environment in the country and to work on preparing legislations and laws to push

forward the private sector and improve the country's industrial capabilities.

The premier also expressed hope in organizing similar fairs and raising public awareness on the role of the private sector.

Minister of Social Affairs and Labor and State Minister for Planning and Development Hind Al-Sabeeh said that Kuwait is interested in further developing national industries by including projects in a five-year plan to encourage young people to enter the industrial field through small and medium enterprises.

Al-Sabeeh added that there is an important role for cooperative societies in promoting the national product. She confirmed that the government is supporting the industrial sector in terms of legislation or to facilitate financial and

technical support offered by the Public Authority for Industry.

She explained that the Ministry of Planning and Development is interested in all employment sectors to accomplish the vision and guidance of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to transform Kuwait into a commercial and financial center.

The ceremony was attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Anas Al-Saleh, Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah, Minister of Commerce and Industry Dr Yousif Mohammad Al-Ali, state officials, ambassadors, industrialists and businessmen. The second Kuwaiti Industries Union exhibition will last until 20 October.



KUWAIT: His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah during the opening of the KIU Expo at Al-Baraka Hall in Crowne Plaza Hotel yesterday.—KUNA

OBAMA ENVOY TO GLOBAL COALITION AGAINST IS DUE IN KUWAIT

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: US President Barack Obama's envoy to the global coalition fighting Islamic State, Rtd Marine Gen John Allen is due to arrive in Kuwait on a one-week visit as part of a GCC tour. A US State Department report said that during his tour, Allen would meet with regional allies to coordinate efforts on fighting IS. The report added that Allen would also hold talks with political and security officials in five GCC capitals including Kuwait, Riyadh, Abu Dhabi, Doha and Manama.

Judicial powers

Minister of Commerce and Industry Yousef Al-Ali issued a decision granting 48 out of 220 employees working at the precious metals department judicial powers. Notably, Ali had granted 180 employees three-month judicial powers last month and withdrawn the powers from some employees, including 10 who still had them despite having retired a long time ago.

Gas station bids

Pan Arab Consulting Engineers have given the lowest bid to provide the architectural design of 26 new gas stations due to be built by KNPC, with an estimated total cost of KD 1 million. According to the contract due to be signed within a month, the project will be executed in six months.

Scholarships

CSC announced that public employees' scholarships for the academic year 2016-2017 would be restricted to medicine and allied health sciences students, postgraduate students studying at the Arabian Gulf University in Bahrain and higher institutes of music and theatrical arts teaching assistants dispatched abroad. CSC Chairman Abdul Aziz Al-Zaben announced that the education ministry has been given time till Dec 31 to notify it of the total number of employees to be dispatched on scholarships.

KAC employees

The syndicate of employees working at KAC and its subsidiary companies warned of what it described as "violations committed by the national carrier's senior management". "The administration is governed by passions, favoritism and personal considerations, which might lead to destroying the Blue Bird," said syndicate member pilot Foad Abbas, adding that the administration had paid up to KD 30,000 as travel allowance to one senior employee over a period of 150 days. "This is corruption," he charged, pointing out that the administration's plan to operate the newly-bought and leased planes would ultimately lead to considerable commercial operational losses.

MoH revenues

Revenues the health ministry obtained from selling some used items jumped to KD 200,000, while those made from selling tenders' conditions and specifications exceeded KD 220,000. In this regard, MoH said that used items and tender conditions and specification sales were always done through a special committee in coordination with the finance ministry.

Citizen acquitted

The criminal court acquitted a citizen accused of fake bidding at the Kuwait stock exchange.

FIFA presidency

National Assembly Deputy Speaker Mubarak Al-Khrajneij urged the international sports community to support and back the Arab candidate running for the FIFA presidency, Prince Ali bin Al-Hussein of Jordan.



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SYRIAN, OMANI ARRESTED IN INDIAN'S MURDER CASE

TWO DROWN AFTER STORM IN KUWAIT

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Following up the murder of an Indian two months ago in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh, detectives arrested a Syrian and an Omani while they were assaulting an expat in Farwaniya, said security sources. Case papers indicate that a police patrol saw the suspects mugging their victim, and on approaching, they fled, but policemen managed to chase and catch one of them. The arrested suspect told police that along with a

Syrian and an Omani, they had been mugging several expats and confessed that they were behind the murder of an Indian in Jleeb two months earlier. The suspect said they stabbed the man to death when he resisted. A case was filed and further investigations are in progress.

Two drown after storm

Kuwait Fire Directorate said two persons drowned in two accidents during a storm that hit Kuwait on Saturday. A boat sank in Khor

Subbiya with four people aboard - three survived, but the fourth's body was recovered by the coastguard. In the second accident, a boat flipped over near Kuwait Towers with two brothers aboard, one of whom swam to the beach and was taken to hospital in stable condition, while divers searched and found the body of the other and handed it to the coroner.

Egyptian killed

An Egyptian was instantly killed and several others injured when a vehicle they were in flipped along King Fahd expressway.

'Shemales' held

A vice squad arrested a number of Asian 'shemales' at a massage center in Mahboula, said security sources. Case papers indicate that detectives had been tipped off concerning the suspects' activity and a secret agent was assigned to go to the center before the place was raided and 11 people were arrested. A case was filed and further investigations are in progress.

Camping regulation

Director General of Kuwait Municipality Ahmad Al-Subaih said he is keen to adapt rules regulating camping in a way that ensures people's comfort. He said 19 sites were approved in the last season in three governorates - Jahra, Ahmadi and Farwaniya. He said that some of the sites will be cancelled as new ones will replace them as requested by government authorities, making sure that camps are at least 2 km away from military sites.



KUWAIT: One of the dead bodies of a person who drowned after the storm that hit Kuwait on Saturday.



KUWAIT: National Guard undersecretary Staff Lt General Hashim Al-Refaa yesterday received a military delegation from Bangladesh at his office.

KU WINS GCC PRIZE ON E-CURRICULA DESIGN

MANAMA: The Kuwait University won the second edition of the GCC Secretariat prize on e-curricula designs among the member states. The Secretariat gave the prize to Dr Abdullah Al-Mutawa, a professor of Computer Engineering from Kuwait University, during the Fifth International Conference on e-Learning. Al-Mutawa expressed his joy for winning the prize, saying he took part in the competition through submitting an e-curriculum on containing lectures for students by a videoconference that could be watched anywhere.

He told KUNA that he has implemented this curriculum since 2012 and the students' levels were greatly improved. He said that he carried out lectures through e-programs that could be seen by students at anytime, noting that lectures inside classes witness positive interaction among

all students so their levels were improved. Meanwhile, Bahraini Deputy Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammad bin Mubarak Al-Khalifa said, during his speech, that the e-learning has contributed to innovation and creativity, and preparing a qualified and trained generation on the latest knowledge. He noted that the prize is an initiative supported by the GCC leaders, affirming its vital role in serving the society and contributing effectively to the education process through transferring knowledge and expertise. On his part, Dr. Adel Al-Zayani, President of the Human and Environmental Affairs Sector of GCC Secretary, said in a speech on behalf of GCC Secretary General that the GCC governments paid a great attention to support and develop infrastructure of education and list e-learning at different levels of education. —KUNA

NATIONAL FORUM FOR SME TO OPEN ON WEDNESDAY

KUWAIT: National Fund for Small and Medium Enterprise Development Forum will kick off on Wednesday under the patronage of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the Fund's Executive Chairman Dr Mohammad Al-Zuhair announced yesterday.

In a statement to the press, Al-Zuhair said that His Highness the Amir's sponsorship of the event, which will be held at the Sheraton Hotel, reiterates his support for entrepreneurship and Kuwait's youth. Minister of Commerce and Industry Dr. Yousef Al-Ali will inaugurate the two-day forum. The forum will host local and international participants to showcase a wide variety of experiences in the domain of SME entrepreneurship. High Advisory Committee

member Lord Jonathan Marland and Senior Director at the World Bank Group Annabel Gonzalez will take part.

The forum agenda will include two significant talks: the first will be regional discussions presented by CEO of Khalifa Fund UAE Abdulla Al Darmaki; the second will be Asian discussion presented by CEO of SME Corp. Malaysia Dato Hafsa Hashim.

Other participants include the co-founder and vice chairman of Aramex and chairman and managing partner of Wamda Capital Fadi Ghandour. Dr Al-Zuhair invites all field-related experts and those who are interested in SME development to attend the forum and offer their insights, advice and suggestions to challenge and inspire the local SME sector and fur-

ther encourage and help develop SMEs and entrepreneurship in Kuwait.

There will be several panel discussions on SME development including: the role of SME in building Kuwait's economy, the National Fund's organizational structure from a strategic perspective along with the Fund's main responsibilities and building the entrepreneurship culture in Kuwait within a constrained business ecosystem. The National Fund for Small and Medium Enterprise Development was established in April 2013, with a total capital of KD 2 billion, according to law number 98 of 2013. This law is intended to help the country make a major stride in the efforts to support the youth, combat unemployment, and enable the private sector to drive economic growth. —KUNA

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Parvathy Menon**

May God Almighty rest their souls in peace

CISCO TO HIGHLIGHT ITS DIGITIZATION STRATEGY AT E-GOVERNMENT FORUM

KUWAIT: CISCO, announced yesterday their participation in the 3rd E-Government Forum (EGOV3) to be held from 15 - 17 November 2015 at Arraya Ballroom of Courtyard Marriott hotel. "It is our pleasure to participate in this technology event, especially as it convenes under the patronage of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

EGOV3 is not only enjoying Kuwaiti leadership attention, but is also attracting most industry leaders. CISCO, with its leading global position, has a lot to show and share. We are pleased to work with NoufEXPO and CAIT who are serving Kuwait's IT industry with this annual technology gathering."

"Technology trends shape our lives today and will continue to do so in the future. We realize the role that key business architectures and solutions will play in digital transformation including Security, Cloud, Data Center and Analytics, Mobility, Application Centric Infrastructure, and Collaboration. CISCO also realizes how these technologies are and will play an increasingly important role in improving the quality of life, not just for upcoming generations, but for everyone today. We believe that CISCO is in an excellent position to partner with E-Government programs that aim to shape the progress of societies and people."

The Internet of Things (IoT), the networked connection of devices where we are today, is the foundation for next wave of the internet which we are already wit-

nessing today. The Internet of Everything (IoE), which will connect people, processes, data and things, creating unprecedented opportunities. When people, process, data, and things are brought together seamlessly through intelligent networked connections - institutions are



Mohamed Bakry

transformed. They can then offer new customer and citizen experiences, improved operational efficiencies, breakthrough innovations and entirely new economic models for services and growth. Over the next decade, the IoE will deliver \$19T of value to individuals, businesses and countries and Cisco is helping its customers to take advantage of the next wave of the internet.

"In order for Middle East cities to

embrace the IoE, each institution must become fully digitized. Becoming a digital business requires an agile IT model, and the ability to rethink core processes for the digital era. Embracing new security, cloud, mobile, social and analytics technologies required to fully digitize takes imagination, investment and expertise. As the networked connection of people, process, data and things, the Internet of Everything has the potential to further accelerate the Middle East region's pace of change. Energy can be saved by equipping street lights with intelligent sensors, so they can be dimmed or brightened based on motion. Healthcare can be improved by connecting rural patients with chronic diseases to doctors, without ever having to leave their homes. These are just a few of the many outcomes that the Internet of Everything can make possible for the Middle East", said Mohamed Bakry, Head of Technology, CISCO Kuwait and Bahrain.

Commenting on the Internet of Things World Forum (IoTWF) coming up on the 6-8 December 2015 in Dubai, Bakry said, "CISCO will be hosting this IoT exclusive industry event. The IoTWF is widely recognized as the premier thought leadership forum in this rapidly growing industry, a must-attend event for key stakeholders and innovators in business, government, and academia who are driving adoption of the IoT worldwide. The 2015 IoTWF will showcase dramatic transformations now gaining momentum across every global sector, a new world of opportunities made possible by the Internet of Things."



CBK CO-SPONSORS KOGS 2015

KUWAIT: The Commercial Bank of Kuwait (CBK) recently co-sponsored the 2nd Kuwait Oil & Gas Show and Conference 2015 (KOGS) that was held under the auspices of HH the PM, Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah at Mishref International Fair Grounds. CBK had its own section in the exhibition held on KOGS' sidelines where a team from the bank's retail unit promoted CBK services to the exhibition visitors.

Cuban Minister in Town



The minister of the foreign trade and investment of Cuba Rodriguez Malmier will arrive in Kuwait today. During his two day visit he will address a conference on "Business opportunities in Cuba" at the chamber of commerce on Tuesday October 20th.

SUSPEND ISRAEL'S IPU MEMBERSHIP: AL-GHANEM

EGYPT ELECTION KEY STEP IN DEMOCRATIC TRANSITION

GENEVA: Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union (AIPU) President and Kuwaiti National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem has renewed a call for ousting Israel from the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) in reaction to its continuing insolence and brutality against the Palestinians. Al-Ghanem made the call in his speech at the 133rd session of the IPU that kicked off in Geneva yesterday.

Ejecting Israel from the IPU - as an outcast with crimes worthy of condemnation on the ethical, political and legal levels - is the least thing to be done in response to those criminals amid the Israeli insolence and the bloodshed in the occupied Palestinian land, Al-Ghanem told the general session. He added that Israeli crimes constitute a flagrant contrast to the teachings of all Holy Books, the UN Charter and the values of Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch and Doctors Without Borders and other international organizations.

These crimes are the utter opposite of the IPU Charter, Geneva Conventions and all that is human, he said. Al-Ghanem said that Israel constitutes a striking and blatant violation of Article 4 of Item 3 of the IPU Charter that demands member states to commit themselves to the values comprised in Item 1 regarding the importance of contributing to and reinforcing human rights globally.

He stressed that the Arab and the Muslims are not against "Judaism." "I say it openly that we oppose Zionism, which is, in our conventions and experience, synonymous to abhorrent racism," he stressed. "We are no warmongers, nor calling for extermination, but we are advocates of peace that is based on justice, honor and Charter of the UN and the International Law," he said, calling upon the IPU members to support the efforts to force the Israeli government to

enable the Palestinian people to establish their own sovereign state with Jerusalem a capital.

Al-Ghanem referred to the Syrian refugees crisis, almost a copy of the Palestinian Diaspora, for which the international community has failed over decades to find a just and a final settlement.

Dilemma

Kuwait foresaw the dilemma and His

Egypt parliament

Al-Ghanem said that he is looking forward to the return of the Egyptian parliament to the national and Arab political scenes. The long-awaited parliamentary vote constitutes a significant step in the democratic transition in Egypt after the constitution and the presidential elections, Al-Ghanem said in a statement in Geneva.

Yesterday, Egyptians started voting in the two-day first phase of the parliamentary elec-

liamentary Union IPU's 133rd session opened yesterday with participation of a Kuwaiti delegation headed by Ali Al-Ghanem. The session, due to proceed till October 21st, will include a series of meetings by the governing board and affiliate committees, tackling issues such as immigration, democracy and freedoms.

It will also include a forum by young parliamentarians and a meeting by the permanent committee for global peace and security, during which experts will lecture about terrorism,



GENEVA: Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union (AIPU) President and Kuwaiti National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem attends the AIPU session in Geneva yesterday. —KUNA

Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah hosted three international conferences for donors of Syria over three successive years, to spare the world the unprecedented of flooding of refugees fleeing the destructive war at home.

Drowning is not their worst choice, he said, many Syrians who drowned in the sea while running away from fighting.

tions, which covers 14 governorates. Al-Ghanem urged Egyptians to intensively take part in the vote, saying the Arabs are looking forward to the results of the elections in their Arab populous country.

Al-Ghanem noted that they have missed the Egyptian parliamentarians in the AIPU. It's high time the Egyptian legislature played a crucial role in the AIPU, he said. The Inter-par-

liamentary Union IPU's 133rd session opened yesterday with participation of a Kuwaiti delegation headed by Ali Al-Ghanem. The session, due to proceed till October 21st, will include a series of meetings by the governing board and affiliate committees, tackling issues such as immigration, democracy and freedoms.

It will also include a forum by young parliamentarians and a meeting by the permanent committee for global peace and security, during which experts will lecture about terrorism,

GREEN SCHOOLS ENCOURAGE ACTION ORIENTED THINKING

KUWAIT: The Green Schools initiative pilots active-learning approaches that encourage investigative and action-oriented thinking that enables learners to improve the wellbeing of society, Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education Essa Al-Bader said yesterday. The minister made this remark at the opening of a regional meeting to set up Green Schools in the GCC countries and Yemen.

Green Schools are an initiative for sustainable education organized by the UNESCO's office in Kuwait and Al-Saad Foundation for Knowledge and Scientific Research. This initiative promotes education as a tool to develop learners who are both capable and willing to respond to environmental issues in their communities and in the world at large, Al-Essa added.

Director of Kuwait National Commission for UNESCO Dr. Ahmad Al-Enizi stressed the importance of raising awareness and creating wider perspectives to improving human life where poverty could be non-existent and where environment could be protected from industrial and technological side effects.

The guidelines of sustainable development have already been drawn by international community, pointing out that everyone agrees that it can only be attained through economic and social growth and protection of natural resources. —KUNA



KUALA LUMPUR: Kuwait's Ambassador to Brunei Fahad Al-Thifiri met yesterday Speaker of the Legislative Council Abdulrahman Bin Mohammad Taib discussing means of enhancing bilateral parliamentary ties. —KUNA

KUWAITI AMBASSADOR, BRUNEI'S SPEAKER DISCUSS BOOSTING TIES

KUALA LUMPUR: Kuwait's Ambassador to Brunei Fahad Al-Thifiri met yesterday Speaker of the Legislative Council Abdulrahman Bin Mohammad Taib discussing means of enhancing bilateral parliamentary ties. Al-Thifiri, in a phone call to KUNA, said he conveyed greetings and wishes for success from National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem to Taib for his recent election to serve in the top legislative post.

The Kuwaiti diplomat also conveyed Parliament Speaker Al-Ghanem's official invitation to Brunei's counterpart to visit Kuwait, in order to boost bilateral parliamentary relations. Speaker Taib expressed appreciation for the National Assembly Speaker Al-Ghanem's greetings and sincere wishes, saying that he deeply admires the Kuwaiti parliamentary experience and the local political activities, noting he was looking forward to visit Kuwait soon.

Al-Thifiri noted the successful visit by a Kuwaiti parliamentary friendship group to Brunei last year; a mission that boosted parliamentary cooperation and coordination between the two states. Speaker Taib also recalled the successful visit by Brunei's President Sultan Hassanah Bolkaiah to Kuwait, and the fruitful cooperation that resulted from this event, including the signing of a memorandum of understanding for investment cooperation. —KUNA

UNION CHIEF WANTS STEPS TO PROTECT FISHERMEN'S LIVES

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: Chairman of Kuwait Fishermen Union Thamer Al-Sowayan said fishing was an arduous and dangerous profession, adding that this calls for combining relevant authorities' efforts to facilitate fishermen's mission and protect their lives. He also noted that the local catch was being sold in local markets.

Responding to what he described as a campaign launched against trap fishing by some amateur photographers, Sowayan stressed that they had legal fishing licenses like any other fishermen. He added that these photographers also accused expatriate fishermen of depleting local fish resources although they are official workers who legally came to Kuwait and contribute to securing its food supplies. "All those fishermen's catches are sold in local markets," he underlined, adding that the fishing business cannot do without them because there are no Kuwaiti substitutes.

Sowayan slammed the "amateur photographers," noting that they have been photographing fishing boats returning to the marina with their catch of mullet, claiming it had been caught within Kuwait Bay, although the boats only fish at specific spots outside the bay near Hammar Cape, Meskan Island and Failaka Island.

Passport validity

The residency affairs manager at Jahra governorate Lt Col Saud Nasser Al-Tami reminded that the residency general department would start activating a ministerial decision on limiting residency validity to expats' passports from January 2016 as stipulated by law number 17/1959 and article 15 of the foreigners' residency law number 640/1987.

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Al-Anbaa

AHMADI BREATHES AT DAWN

By Yousif Abdulrahman

After performing Fajr prayers at Haya Al-Ibrahim Mosque in Abu Al-Hassaniya, I drove to Ahmadi - the oasis founded in the heart of the desert in 1949 coinciding with the discovery of the Burgan oilfield that extends from Magwa to Wara to the south.

Ahmadi is a dream Kuwaiti city in the early morning hours, when serenity is everywhere and nobody is on the streets except for a few vehicles, laborers and passersby here and there. I believe nobody knows exactly when this city was founded at the site of a small ancient village. However, historians suggest it was founded between 1946, when the first Kuwaiti oil shipment was exported, and 1949.

Driving towards the city gateway, I recalled my memories in the 1960s and 1970s, when as young people, we used to drive our vehicles there every Friday. Ahmadi was full of wooden huts with water tanks on top and tents were used as dormitories for oil companies' workers. It is absolutely a most beautiful and clean city today.

As an Arabic teacher, I know that it was named after Kuwait's tenth ruler, the late Sheikh Ahmad Al-Jaber, because it was built between Fahaheel and Shuaiba villages during his reign and was first called 'Arab village' by the British who built it. Yet, why was it called Ahmadi rather than Ahmadiya? I believe there is not much difference in using masculine and feminine names to call a place after sheikhs, because we have Salmiya and Salmi named after the late Sheikh Salem Al-Mubarak. We also have Ahmadi (the city) and Ahmadiya (an old school) named after Sheikh Ahmad Al-Jaber.

Cruising around Ahmadi streets before sunrise, I found that the people were still the same like they have ever been. There was mixture of Arab, European and Asian nationals in addition to a growing number of citizens. Ahmadi is becoming a favorable destination during Eids and special occasions, namely the national and liberation days, when thousands of citizens and expats visit it. In addition, all visiting senior officials and leaders have been to it, like Queen Elizabeth II of UK, Egyptian President Anwar Sadat, UAE's Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al-Nahyan, the late Saudi King Faisal bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud and the Algerian revolutionist Djamilia Bouhired.

Accordingly, I do urge all visitors to Kuwait to visit Ahmadi, otherwise they will have missed a lot. Oh, how marvelous it is to drive your vehicle around this beautiful city with its Arab-European influence to watch people starting another workday amidst clean streets, houses and parks. Such days prove that Ahmadi is absolutely the bride of all cities that gets busy with sunrise when everybody springs out to work. Ahmadi will always remain beautiful and graceful! —Translated by Kuwait Times



Al-Qabas

PART OF THE PROBLEM

By Ahmad Al-Sarraf

An international education expert said that every country will bear the result of not providing good education for its students, because this will domestically destroy the country, fragment it and make it lose its existence. Countries of the Middle East neglected education, and now they are paying the price.

I believe the sentence above applies to many countries in our region, including Kuwait, where I place the responsibility of deteriorating education on the government, when it allowed the Muslim Brotherhood, which is charged with corruption, to control education for an entire generation through persons who controlled key positions in the ministry, and they are known by shape and name.

They had the most dangerous role in changing curricula and distorting the educational process under the watchful eye of the government, besides the army of politicized teachers who belong to the Salaf and Brotherhood parties, who had an additional role in corrupting an entire generation of our school students by charging them with a load of grudges, hatred and racism, as their signs began to appear consecutively, such as the large number of holders of "empty doctorate degrees" who leaked into every facility in the state, and those who forged certificates of passing language tests, as most, if not all of them, are graduates of the years of the Brotherhood party's control over public education.

The tragedy that calls for sadness and maybe despair is what we kept seeing in the repetition of electing the remnants of the Brotherhood in every student election. A reader and member of the teaching faculty at the commercial studies college, who worked in the field of training and consultation, and previously worked at the research institute and as a teacher at Kuwait University, has good knowledge about what goes on in government educational establishments. He says the problem is the PAAET, or rather the authenticity of a considerable percentage of its educational apparatus and lack of respect for academic rules.

A problem like those having certificates from a Greek university may lie on the shoulders of the authority's director and his deputy for applied education affairs, as well as on the director of the scholarships administration and the dean of the commercial studies college at the time, as all of them are responsible in one way or another about the origin of the problem, and they may have kept quiet about them then although they knew how dangerous it was.

He says that no one gives importance to the basic education college, not realizing that it is the factory of teachers for the kindergarten and elementary stages, and the danger they have on shaping the mentality of juniors. One feels sorry for the time spent by the former director of the authority Jassim Khalaf 30 years ago in preparing a supervisory program that relied on reviewing the PhD degree at the PAAET at the time, and approved good American universities for scholarships, but he was fought fiercely and forced to resign.

Following liberation, things went out of control after the authority recognized a large number of incorrect PhD degrees, some of which were obtained by correspondence, and the number of professors at the PAAET at a certain stage equaled those in other state establishments together!

—Translated by Kuwait Times

AUTHORITY EYES ROAD TOLL TO CONTROL TRAFFIC

KUWAIT: Chairman of the Board of Public Authority for Roads and Land Transport Eng Abdellatif Al-Dakheel said the authority was aiming at finding a lasting solution to the traffic problem in the country. He said "everything is possible in order to reach this goal, including imposing toll fees on using some roads."

He said there will be stations to weigh truck on all highways, so if the weight exceeds the allowed limits, the truck will be unloaded before being allowed to proceed on the road. He said there is cooperation with Kuwait Municipality to check traffic movement on all roads from city center to the Sixth Ring Road to determine the directions of vehicles, adding that suitable solutions will be found according to the results, he said. There are some ideas for quick projects that will be executed at the same time of the metro, such as a two carriage train at land level, adding that Kuwait must complete a good portion of the railways project by 2018.

He said the metro will be done in stages with a KD 8 billion budget, adding that it will cover 160 km, and the first stage of it is 50 km.



ABK SPONSORS EVENT TO MARK INT'L DAY FOR THE ELDERLY

KUWAIT: Al-Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) yesterday announced its successful sponsorship of a special event for the elderly home to mark the Annual International Day for the Elderly (World Elderly Day), which is held each year on 1 October. Conducted by the Ministry of Social Affairs, this year's event in Kuwait was held at the Ministry's theater in Sulaybiqhat on 1 October.

Fawzy Al-Thunayan, ABK's General Manager of Board Affairs said: "ABK is proud of its close ties with the local community, especially the elderly. Through our sponsorship of this event to mark World Elderly Day in Kuwait we hope to continue this tradition of bringing together people of all ages to celebrate and honor the senior members who helped shape Kuwait and are the

pillars of Kuwaiti society."

The event featured a wide variety of activities for people of all ages, including a show put on by primary school students, a performance by a local traditional singer and distribution of gifts for the elderly to commemorate the occasion.

'World Elderly Day', which is endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly, is celebrated each year to draw attention to the welfare of the elderly as well as to draw attention to their significant involvement and contribution to society. The event was the latest of ABK's corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives which are designed to support different sectors of Kuwait's society.

الأوراق النقدية الكويتية - الإصدار السادس

KUWAIT BANKNOTES - THE SIXTH ISSUE

In circulation from June 29, 2014 تاريخ الطرح في التداول اعتباراً من ٢٩/٦/٢٠١٤

SECURITY & ELEGANCE أمان وجمال

LOOK Look at the overall colours and the visuals of the banknotes انظر المظهر عن الأوراق النقدية

KUWAIT MARKS DINAR'S 55TH ANNIVERSARY

KUWAIT: The 55th anniversary of the decree for launching the Kuwaiti dinar will fall today (October 19, 2015) an occasion depicting the country's progress and prosperity, for the banknote is an iconic symbol of its sovereignty and pride.

The dinar was issued in April of 1961, to be the official currency of Kuwait. Later, it was re-printed in various versions, the first on November 17 of 1970, and the sec-

ond time on February 20, 1980.

Following the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in 1990, during which the occupation forces robbed the Central Bank, the Kuwaiti legitimate authorities cancelled the stolen banknotes, and later on, the fourth copy of the dinar was printed. The fifth edition was on April 4, 1994. The sixth was on May 19 of year 2014, before becoming officially in circulation on June 29 of the same year. —Kuna

Crime

Report

BEDOON'S QUERIES AT HUSSEINIYA RAISE SECURITY SCARE

KUWAIT: A bedoon who asked a series of questions at a husseiniya in Mansouriya prompted some people to call police. He was taken to state security before being released. His questions were about the times of gatherings, number of attendees and when it opened and closed, prompting people to call police.

Insulted

A citizen accused his ex-wife of insulting and threatening him by SMS. He told Adan police about the woman's actions and showed them the messages she sent over three days. When police called her, she did not answer, so the case was referred to detectives.

Asian held

Two Asians, one of whom is a tailor, were arrested by Ahmadi police with 61 liquor bottles in addition to 23 bags of booze. The arrest was made when a patrol suspected a car in Mahboula with the two inside. One of them said he had goods for his tailoring shop, but when they searched the car, the liquor was found. Both were sent to the DCGD.

Sponsor assault

An Asian domestic helper accused her sponsor of beating and locking her up. The woman was taken to Adan Hospital and obtained a medical report. The helper asked Ahmadi police to take her to her country's embassy. —Alrai

Al-Anbaa

DAESHMAN

By Salah Al-Sayer

It is absolutely hideous to talk about beauty during times of ugliness. It is also out of total ignorance to talk about knowledge during times of absolute ignorance. It is also insane to talk about wisdom and reason during times that are dominated by a state of complete insanity and groups of lunatic people who lost their minds long ago. It is no use to have your words fall on deaf ears!

Comic magazines have always been addressing young people using imaginary heroic characters such as Superman, Spiderman, Batman and others who all looked like ordinary, well-dressed, handsome, neat, clean and well-behaved individuals who adored good work and respected the law. Those magazines have been really teaching generations after generations of young people some very good values.

Contrarily, and in view of the ugliness surrounding us everywhere nowadays, filthy speeches and indecency, it is no wonder that some similar magazines are issued using heroes that match these twisted times only to show a 'Daeshman' (IS-man) as evil-loving, throat-cutting, dressed in filthy attire, ignorant, liar, fool and terrorist because exquisiteness, reason and literature no longer exist in our real lives and even in virtual lives on various social media networks that are only dedicated to conflicts and disputes!

—Translated by Kuwait Times



MONDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2015

MERKEL IN TURKEY TO DISCUSS REFUGEE CRISIS

TURKS DISAPPOINTED IN ONGOING EU EFFORTS

ISTANBUL: German Chancellor Angela Merkel was yesterday holding talks with Turkish leaders over ways to resolve the migrant crisis after Turkey expressed disappointment with the EU's efforts so far. Merkel was meeting Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu at the Ottoman-era Dolmabahce Palace in Istanbul ahead of talks with President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on a critical one-day visit which was only announced on October 12.

With no end in sight to the crisis which has posed the biggest challenge of Merkel's career, the flood of migrants and refugees continued to make their way across Europe, pouring into Slovenia after Hungary closed off its border with Croatia. The European Union wants Turkey to do more to tighten its border security and help contain the historic influx of people from Syria, Iraq and other conflict zones seeking shelter in the 28-nation bloc.

In return, Ankara wants greater recognition for its role in hosting over two million Syrian refugees, a concrete increase in financial help and for an acceleration of its long-stalled bid for EU membership. Germany has been Europe's top destination for refugees, most of whom travel through Turkey and the Balkans, and is expecting to register up to a million asylum requests this year—a development which has hurt Merkel politically.

But Erdogan has heaped scorn on Europe's efforts to deal with the crisis and urged Brussels to take Ankara's EU membership bid more seriously. "We are hosting 2.5 million refugees but nobody cares," he said. And Turkish Foreign Minister Feridun Sinirlioglu punctured hopes that a deal had been reached between Ankara and Brussels, saying an action plan thrashed out on Thursday was only a draft and the financial help offered was "unacceptable". With Turkey facing one of the most significant junctures in its modern history, Merkel is also expected to discuss security a week after a double suicide bombing killed more than 100 people, and as the country's heads towards parliamentary elections on November 1.

'Hopes not running high'

Research institute the European Stability Initiative said although expectations were "not running high" for yesterday's talks, Berlin and Ankara "share a capacity to bring the migration crisis back under control".

"If Germany and Turkey cannot reach a deal, there are no other solutions in sight, and the mass migration of Syrians and others into the EU will continue." More than 630,000 people fleeing war and misery in the Middle East and Africa have landed on Europe's shores this year, many making risky sea crossings from Turkey to Greece.

Another 12 people drowned off the Turkish coast on Saturday, and yesterday the Greek coastguard said five migrants including a baby and two boys had died trying to cross the Aegean Sea. Of those who make it, most try to get to Germany, after Merkel made clear her country would take in people fleeing the bloody Syrian war. While many Germans have welcomed the refugees, there has also been a backlash. Support for Merkel's conservatives dipped another point to 37 percent, a new poll said yesterday.

Simmering tensions ended in violence in the western city of Cologne on Saturday when a man with a knife attacked the independent mayoral hopeful Henriette Reker, who is active in helping refugees, leaving her with serious neck wounds and injuring four others. Police arrested the attacker who told them he had "a racist motivation" for the assault which regional police chief Wolfgang Albers described as a "political act". Investigators however said they could not rule out that the man was psychologically disturbed.

As the influx continued, Hungary closed its border with Croatia, forcing the migrants to find a new more westerly route to northern Europe through Slovenia and into Austria. Croatia on Saturday began ferrying migrants by bus and train to its northern border with Slovenia, with 3,000 crossing the frontier. Hundreds more were arriving in Slovenia yesterday aboard a special train from Croatia. Slovenia has said it would draft in the army to help police cope with the additional numbers.

Another 1,000 people crossed from Slovenia into Austria on Saturday and through the night, police said, with most headed for Germany, where debate continued over how to slow the influx. Police union chief Rainer Wendt told the Welt am Sonntag newspaper Germany should build a fence along its border with Austria. "If we close our borders this way, Austria will also close its border with Slovenia, and that's exactly the effect we need," he said, insisting that Germany could no longer send out the message that everyone was welcome. — AFP

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ACEH CLOSE CHURCHES AFTER PRESSURE

ACEH SINGKIL: Authorities in Indonesia's conservative Aceh province said yesterday several Christian churches would be shut down this week, just days after a mob burned down a church, killing one person and injuring several others. Tensions have been high among the ethnically and religiously diverse population of Aceh, raising the risk of further religious violence in Indonesia, the world's most populous Muslim population.

The vast majority of Indonesians practice a moderate form of Islam and Aceh is the only province to adhere to Islamic Sharia law, putting it at odds with the rest of the country. Aceh was granted special autonomy as part of a 2005 agreement to end decades of separatist violence, which allowed it to implement Sharia law. Christian groups in Aceh Singkil district, where the churches stand, had been consulted on the matter, authorities said, and members of as many as six churches had agreed to dismantle their houses of worship after admitting they did not have the required building permits.

"All houses of worship, regardless of the religion, need to be in accordance with the laws of Aceh," Bardan Sahidi, a member of the provincial parliament, told Reuters after attending a meeting of political and religious figures, including representatives from the religious affairs ministry in Jakarta. Local Christian groups were not immediately available for comment.

The move comes after Muslim residents, including members of the hardline group Islamic Defenders Front, demanded that the local government shutdown 10 churches, citing a lack of permits. A mob of hundreds of people burned down a small church in Aceh Singkil district last week, forcing thousands of Christians to flee to neighboring villages.

One Muslim member of the mob was killed, police said last week, adding that at least 10 people had been detained on suspicion of inciting violence. The government has since deployed 1,300 police and military personnel to the area, with hundreds more on standby, to patrol the streets and stand guard outside churches that dot the small palm oil plantations in the district.

Christian residents of the run-down village attended a service yesterday right next to the charred remains of their church, under the guard of about a dozen armed security personnel. "At the moment, things are calm but we are on standby for any further incidents," said Saladin, spokesman for Aceh police, adding that evacuees had since returned to their homes. — Reuters

IRAQ SLAPS ARREST WARRANT ON TRADE MINISTER

BAGHDAD: The Iraqi judiciary said yesterday it had issued an arrest warrant against Trade Minister Malas Abdulkarim Al-Kasnazani on corruption charges. "The central investigation court has issued an arrest warrant against the minister of trade and his brother on charges of financial corruption," judiciary spokesman Abdelsattar Bayraqdar said in a statement.

The pair's case has been transferred to a specialized anti-corruption court in Baghdad, he said. Government officials could not be immediately reached for comment. One of the minister's advisers

told AFP he was attending a cabinet session in Baghdad yesterday. The statement provided no details on the accusations against the minister and his brother. But Iraqi media reports said Kasnazani is suspected of awarding contracts without tenders to firms linked to his Jordan-based brother Nehru, a wealthy businessman who once had presidential aspirations.

Their father, a Kurd who once ran a militia backed by former president Saddam Hussein to oppose peshmerga rebels, is the leader of the largest Sufi order in Iraq, the Kasnazani order. Sufism,

which focuses on the mystical dimension of Islam, is widespread in Iraq. Orders that transcend the Sunni-Shiite divide are organized around a grand master and meet to perform specific rituals, which can include music, dance and trance.

Saddam's number two

Malas and his two brothers-Nehru and Gandhi-were arrested in the late 1990s, allegedly for forging Saddam's signature, but were released and fled to Kurdistan, an autonomous region of northern Iraq. Their father is believed to have once had close ties with Izzat Al-Duri, who was

Saddam's number two and is also a Sufi.

The highest-ranking former regime figure still officially on the run, Duri and his loyalists were allied with the Islamic State group in the early phase of the jihadist offensive in June 2014. The Kasnazanis fell out with Saddam near the end of his reign and are reported to have played a key role in assisting the United States in planning the 2003 invasion of Iraq.

Kasnazani is the highest-ranking official to be targeted by an arrest warrant since Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi promised a crackdown on graft in

August. The embattled premier, facing mounting popular discontent and large-scale protests, announced a number of measures aimed at curbing corruption and official privileges.

The trade minister is a political ally of Iyad Allawi, a politician who has been accused by the main Shiite bloc in government of abetting insurgent Sunni groups. Allawi held one of the three vice-president jobs Abadi scrapped as part of his reform package but the former interim prime minister is challenging the decision. Many of Abadi's measures have yet to be implemented. — AFP



HEBRON: Palestinian students from Palestine Polytechnic University protest against Israel and throw stones towards the Jewish settlement of Beit Hagai, at the southern entrance to the occupied West Bank city. — AFP

ISRAEL REJECTS OBSERVER PLAN, KERRY PLANS VISIT TO LEADERS

UNRELENTING VIOLENCE GAINING STEAM

JERUSALEM: Israel yesterday rejected a proposal to send international observers to a flashpoint holy site in a bid to calm unrest after five more stabbing incidents defied a security crackdown. Diplomatic moves to halt the more than two weeks of unrelenting violence gained steam meanwhile, with US Secretary of State John Kerry saying he planned to meet both the Israeli and Palestinian leaders in the coming days.

In yet another sign of tensions, ultra-Orthodox Jews illegally visiting a West Bank holy site set ablaze last week were assaulted by Palestinians, while some were also arrested. Clashes also broke out in the West Bank city of Hebron, where three attacks occurred on Saturday. The unrest and stabbing attacks or attempts on Saturday came as the violence raised fears of a full-scale Palestinian uprising.

At the start of a cabinet meeting yesterday, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu rejected an idea from France that would see international observers sent to Jerusalem's Al-Aqsa mosque compound. Clashes at the compound between Israeli police and Palestinian protesters in September preceded the current wave of violence. Muslims fear Israel will seek to change rules governing the site, located in Israeli-annexed east Jerusalem.

The site is sacred to Muslims and Jews, who refer to it as the Temple Mount. Jews are allowed to visit but not pray there to avoid provoking tensions, and Netanyahu has said repeatedly he has no intention of changing the rules. "Israel cannot accept the French draft resolution at the United Nations Security Council," Netanyahu said. "It doesn't mention Palestinian incitement; it doesn't mention Palestinian terrorism; and it calls for the internationalization of the Temple Mount."

With international concern mounting, Kerry said he would meet both Netanyahu and Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas later this week. Kerry said he would meet Netanyahu in Germany, where the Israeli leader is scheduled to travel on Wednesday, before talks with Abbas and Jordan's King Abdullah at an unspecified location in the Middle East.

Attacks defy crackdown

Checkpoints have been set up in Palestinian areas of east Jerusalem, where many of the attackers have come from, and some 300 soldiers yesterday began reinforcing police. Israel also yesterday implemented a previously approved measure allowing security forces to search people whenever they feel necessary.

As fears have mounted, Tel Aviv city officials have barred cleaning and maintenance employees from schools during times when students are present, with parents concerned over possible attacks against children. Arab Israelis account for the majority of such employees, public radio reported.

Most of the attackers have been young Palestinians wielding knives and believed to be acting on their own. Including alleged assailants, 41 Palestinians have been killed since the upsurge in violence began on October 1, while seven Israelis have died. Violent protests have also erupted in east Jerusalem, the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Israel yesterday closed the only civilian crossing from Gaza into Israel, except for humanitarian cases, while damage was being repaired. On Saturday, four Palestinians were shot dead and a fifth was wounded in attacks on Israelis in east Jerusalem and the West

Bank. All of the incidents involved a Palestinian assailant attempting to stab an Israeli.

Incident at holy site

Overnight, a group of ultra-Orthodox Jews attempting to illegally visit a holy site in the West Bank set ablaze last week were assaulted by Palestinians while five were also arrested, Israeli authorities said. Palestinians torched the site holy to Jews on Friday in an incident that threatened to further inflame tensions. The incident saw a group of about 30 religious students from a school in Jerusalem travel to Joseph's Tomb in the northern West Bank city of Nablus despite not having the required authorisation from Israel's military. They told police they intended to repaint the shrine after the fire. According to Israeli authorities, Palestinian police beat at least some of them with their batons and the butts of their guns. A group of Palestinian civilians arrived afterward and also beat them, according to Israeli police. A Palestinian security source denied that police had beat them but said that dozens of civilians arrived later and burned one of the cars used by the Jewish students.

Most of the students fled, but five were arrested by Palestinian police and later handed over to Israeli authorities, according to Israeli police. Israeli police called the students' visit "completely irresponsible" and said the incident "could have ended tragically".

Joseph's Tomb, inside a compound in the Palestinian refugee camp of Balata in Nablus, has been the scene of recurring violence between Israelis and Palestinians. The shrine is under Palestinian control and off-limits to Israelis except on escorted trips organized by the army. — AFP

BLAIR COMMITTED UK TO IRAQ WAR YEAR BEFORE INVASION

LONDON: Former British Prime Minister Tony Blair was committed to joining the United States in the Iraq war a year before the 2003 invasion, documents obtained by yesterday newspaper suggested. The revelations focus on a memo allegedly written by former US secretary of state Colin Powell on March 28, 2002 to then president George Bush a week before the US leader's meeting with Blair at his ranch in Crawford, Texas.

"On Iraq, Blair will be with us should military operations be necessary," wrote Powell, in a document the Mail yesterday published on its website. "He is convinced on two points: the threat is real; and success against Saddam will yield more regional success," Powell said, referring to former Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein, who was eventually ousted in the 2003 US-led invasion.

The Mail yesterday said the memo and other sensitive documents were part of a batch of secret emails held on the private server of Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton which US courts have forced her to reveal. A separate quote from

Powell assured Bush "the UK will follow our lead in the Middle East", while other statements suggest Blair's willingness to present "strategic, tactical and public affairs lines" to strengthen public support for the Iraq war.

Blair, who served as prime minister between 1997 and 2007, has repeatedly denied rushing to war. Under his leadership, Britain made the second biggest troop contribution to the Iraq invasion, and British forces were stationed in the country until 2011. The decision to back the invasion is now deeply unpopular in Britain and has haunted Blair's Labor Party ever since.

A controversial inquiry by former civil servant John Chilcot into the decisions leading up to the war was expected to take a year to report, but is still not public despite being announced by the government six years ago. "This story is nothing new. The memo is consistent with what Mr Blair was saying publicly at the time and with Mr Blair's evidence given to the Chilcot inquiry" said a spokesperson for Blair's office. — AFP

70 TUNISIA HOTELS SHUT SINCE JIHADIST ATTACKS

TUNIS: At least 70 hotels have closed in Tunisia since September after two deadly jihadist attacks on foreign tourists, and more are expected to follow suit, an industry official said yesterday. "The situation is very sluggish," Radhouane Ben Salah, the head of the Tunisian Federation of Hotels, told private Mosaïque FM radio.

With reservations at "no more than 20 percent, 70 hotels had to close since September because the lack of clients and more are expected to do the same," he added. Ben Salah said he expected unemployment to climb as hotel staff would be forced out of work. Joblessness already stands at nearly 30 percent, with the number even higher among youths, and one in six Tunisians lives below the poverty line.

The country's key tourism sector contributes to 10 percent of gross domestic product, and employs 400,000 people, directly or indirectly. But it has been badly shaken by attacks on foreign tourists at the National Bardo Museum in the capital in March and a beachside massacre near the coastal city of Sousse in June. The attacks, claimed by the jihadist Islamic State group, cost the

lives of 22 and 38 respectively.

Ben Salah said hotel owners and the government had agreed to look after employees who would be forced out of work. He said the government would provide them with a 200-dinar monthly subsidy (around 90 Euros, \$102) and social security coverage for a renewable six-month period. The number of visitors from Europe has halved since January, and international hotel chains have announced plans to close over the winter season. This summer Tunisia's tourism industry relied mainly on local holidaymakers or those from the region, namely from neighboring Algeria.

Several countries evacuated their citizens from Tunisia after the beachside massacre in June and others, including Britain, have warned against travel to the North African nation. Thirty of the 38 tourists killed in June near Sousse were British. Tunisia's economy has remained stagnant since the 2011 popular uprising that toppled dictator Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. The finance ministry has forecast economic growth of just 0.5 percent this year, representing half the rate for last year. — AFP

IRAN NUCLEAR DEAL REACHES SANCTION RELIEF MILESTONE

WASHINGTON: The US expects Iran will take months to live up to its end of a seven-nation nuclear pact that could eventually provide the country relief from international sanctions. The deal was formally taking effect yesterday, opening the way for Iran to make major changes to an underground nuclear facility, a heavy water reactor and a site for enriching uranium. The changes will not happen immediately, and Iran must further constrain its nuclear program before relief from sanctions will occur.

Senior administration officials said Saturday they understand it's in Iran's best interest to work quickly, but they are only concerned that the work is done correctly. They insisted that no relief from the penalties will occur until the UN's International Atomic Energy Agency has verified Iran's compliance with the terms of the agreement. They said Iran's work will almost certainly take more than the two months Iran has projected.

The administration officials spoke on a conference call with reporters, but under the condition that they not be identified by name. As part of the nuclear agreement, President Barack Obama yesterday issued pro-

visional waivers and a memorandum instructing US agencies to lay the groundwork for relieving sanctions on Iran.

Western promises

In Iran, Ali Akbar Velayati, a top adviser to supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei told state TV: "On implementation, all should be watchful that Westerners, particularly Americans, to keep their promises." Velayati said Iran expects that the United States and other Western countries that negotiated the deal will show their "good will" through lifting sanctions.

Iran's atomic energy chief, Ali Akbar Salehi, told state TV that Tehran was ready to begin taking steps to comply, and awaited an order from President Hassan Rouhani. "We are hopeful to begin in the current or next week," he said. The IAEA said yesterday that Iran has agreed to allow greater monitoring of its commitment to the deal, going beyond basic oversight provided by the safeguards agreement that IAEA member nations have with the agency. For instance, it allows short-notice inspections of sites the IAEA

may suspect of undeclared nuclear activities.

Even as the terms of the deal begin taking effect, recent developments have shown the wide gulf between the US and Iran on other issues. Fighters from Iran have been working in concert with Russia in Syria, and a Revolutionary Court convicted a Washington Post reporter who has been held more than a year on charges including espionage. The court has not provided details on the verdict or sentence. Further, two other Americans are being detained, and the US has asked for the Iranian government's assistance in finding a former FBI agent who went missing in 2007 while working for the CIA on an unapproved intelligence mission.

Also, Iran successfully test-fired a guided long-range ballistic surface-to-surface missile. But the US officials asserted that those actions would be worse if they were backed up by a nation with a nuclear weapon. The officials emphasized that the seven-nation pact is focused solely on resolving the nuclear issue. The steps being taken by the US come 90 days after the UN Security Council endorsed the deal. — AP



TEHRAN: Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, (center) and his German counterpart Frank-Walter Steinmeier, (center left) leave the Munich Security Conference venue. — AP

THOUSANDS STRANDED ON NEW ROUTE THROUGH EU

OPATOVAC, Croatia: Thousands of migrants seeking to reach Western Europe were stranded in fog and cold weather in Croatia and Serbia yesterday, a day after Hungary closed its border with Croatia and the flow of people was redirected to a much slower route via Slovenia.

Tiny Slovenia has said it will only take in 2,500 people a day, significantly stalling the movement of people across the Balkans as they flee wars and poverty in countries in the Middle East, Asia and Africa. On Saturday, over 6,000 people reached Croatia, and most of them were stuck in the country yesterday. The migrant route switched to Slovenia early Saturday after Hungary's right-wing government closed its border to Croatia for the influx, citing security concerns and saying it wants to protect the European Union from an uncontrolled flow of people.

Croatian police said yesterday nearly 4,000 people, including women holding babies in their arms, remained in the refugee camp in Opatovac, eastern Croatia, where buses

and trains were waiting to take them toward Slovenia, the next step on their journey toward richer EU states, such as Germany or Sweden. Across the border in Serbia, thousands of people have been sitting in some 50 buses since early hours yesterday waiting to cross to Croatia. More are expected to arrive during the day.

'Children are cold'

"We are waiting here 4 hours on the bus," said Muhammad Samin from Afghanistan. "The weather is too cold. We wear lots of shirts. The children are also in the cold. No food." The United Nations refugee agency warned that Hungary's decision to close its border for migrants has increased their suffering and could lead to a backlog down the so-called Balkan route that goes from Turkey through Greece, Macedonia, Serbia and Croatia.

Babar Baloch, regional spokesman for Central Europe for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, said the new

migrant route through Slovenia has significantly prolonged their already weeks-long journey. "The decision by Hungary to close its border has certainly added to the suffering and misery and the length of the journey for these desperate people," Baloch said. "There will be challenges if the process becomes slow or we have a backlog of people."

The Hungarian border closure is the latest demonstration of EU's uncoordinated response to the surge of people reaching its borders. More than 600,000 people, mostly Syrians, have reached Europe since the beginning of this year. Hungary decided to close the border with Croatia after EU leaders last week failed to agree on a plan backed by Hungary to send EU forces to block migrants from reaching

Greece from Turkey. It did the same on Sept. 15 on the border with Serbia after erecting a razor wire fence on both frontiers. German Chancellor Angela Merkel was meeting Turkish leaders yesterday to promote an EU plan that would offer aid and concessions to Turkey in exchange for measures to stem the mass movement of migrants into Europe. Merkel arrived in Istanbul as thousands of new arrivals a day are stretching Germany's capacity to house refugees and other migrants. Officials said the incentives offered to Turkey would involve an aid package of at least 3 billion Euros to help Turkey host the more than 2 million refugees that are in the country, as well as easier access to EU visas for Turkish citizens and re-energized EU membership talks. —AP



SREDISCE OB DRAVI, SLOVENIA: Dozens of migrants wait to be registered after arriving from Croatia. —AP

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EX-CHURCH MEMBERS SPEAK UP ON DECLINE

ALBANY, NY: Former members of the upstate New York church where two teens were viciously beaten paint a picture of a once vibrant and joyous house of worship that declined into a place of fear and intimidation under new leadership.

"When I first arrived, it was warm and welcoming. It was encouraging. It was helpful," said Chadwick Handville, a massage therapist in Phoenix, Arizona, who left the Word of Life Christian Church in June 2000 after 10 years that included a stint as a worship leader and trustee. Things went downhill after founder Jerry Irwin returned from some time away and reclaimed his position as pastor, Handville said. "What was off the wall was his attitude toward others," Handville said. "It wasn't happy. He accused every male of lusting after his wife."

Handville said Irwin's preaching was filled with personal attacks on parishioners, whom he forced to work long hours renovating the Irwin family's apartment on the third floor of the former school building that houses the church in New Hartford, which is 100 miles west of Albany.

"He did have good points," Handville said. "Through him I was able to memorize half the Bible. He taught me a lot. What he failed to teach me was how to use what I read, how to treat people." Handville said many current and former church members are afraid to talk publicly about the church for fear of recrimination.

In a letter to the Post-Standard of Syracuse, former congregant Nathan Ames said the church started out as a fast-growing Pentecostal church but declined after Irwin reclaimed leadership. Ames described Irwin as controlling and intimidating. Since Irwin's fatal stroke several years ago, his wife, Traci, and their children - Tiffanie, Daniel and Joseph - have been in charge. Ames said they continued in the style of the founder.

Manslaughter and assault
Six church leaders and parishioners now face charges including manslaughter and assault for a brutal beating in the sanctuary last Sunday that left 19-year-old Lucas Leonard dead and his 17-year-old brother Christopher hospitalized. Church members Bruce and Deborah Leonard, parents of the victims, face the most serious charge, manslaughter. Deborah Leonard's daughter, Sarah Ferguson, and Joseph Irwin, both face assault charges. —AP

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EXILED TIBETANS VOTE FOR POLITICAL LEADER

DHARAMSALA: Thousands of Tibetans worldwide voted yesterday for a political leader to keep up their struggle for greater freedom in China and to head their exiled government. Harvard-educated Lobsang Sangay, current prime minister of the exiled government who is re-contesting for the top job, is the front-runner ahead of four other candidates.

But rival candidate Lukar Jam Atsok is looking to make waves, advocating Tibet's complete independence from China, rather than the exiled government's more moderate stance of greater autonomy for their homeland.

In yesterday's preliminary round of voting, 87,000 exiled Tibetans in about a dozen countries from Australia to the United States are registered to cast ballots for a prime minister and for a new exiled 44-member parliament. Monks, nuns and families stood in long queues

waiting to vote at the main temple in the northern Indian hill station of Dharamsala, where the exiled government is based.

Zompa, an 85-year-old grandmother, said she would again vote for Sangay. But student Pho Nya said the younger generation was drawn to Atsok who fled Tibet in 1997 after China released him from jail for political activism. "He is a learned man and someone who has undergone suffering at the hands of the Chinese and overcame it," the 23-year-old said.

A final round of voting is scheduled for March next year when the new prime minister and parliament will be announced. The election is only the second since the Dalai Lama retired as political head of the exiled government four years ago, handing over power to elected leader Sangay to continue the fight after his death.

The 80-year-old remains the spiritual head of Tibetan Buddhism and the figurehead of the struggle for autonomy for Tibetans in China. The Dalai Lama raised concern among his millions of followers last month when he scrapped a tour of the United States for health reasons. The leader fled Tibet for exile in India in 1959 amid an abortive uprising against China's rule. China has widely been seen as waiting for the Dalai Lama's death, believing that the movement for Tibetan rights would not survive without its charismatic and globally famous leader. The Dalai Lama, an avowed pacifist, says that he recognises China's rule over Tibet and is seeking greater freedoms. China insists that the Nobel Peace Prize winner is nonetheless a "splittist," and some younger Tibetan activists in exile have advocated a more militant approach. — AFP



NEW DELHI: Tibetans-in-exile fill in ballot papers, as election officials check documentation, before casting their votes in an election for the parliament of the Tibetan government-in-exile, at a polling station. — AFP



JODHPUR: In this photograph taken on August 24, 2015, 20 year old Indian student Santa Devi Meghwal, a victim of child marriage poses in her college library. — AFP

BREAKING TRADITION: CHILD BRIDES FIGHT FOR FREEDOM

DEEP-ROOTED CUSTOM IN POOR RURAL AREAS

JODHPUR: University student Santadevi Meghwal has been threatened, harassed, ostracized and even fined by a council of male elders in her village in India. But the 20-year-old is determined to push ahead with annulling her child marriage, and join a small but growing number of youngsters in northern India rejecting the ancient tradition.

Meghwal was only 11 months-old when her elders married her to a nine-year-old boy from a neighboring village in the desert state of Rajasthan, where rates of child marriages have long been high. She recalls seeing her husband for the first time aged 16, when a friend, whose family had attended Meghwal's 'wedding' when she was a toddler, pointed out a drunk man hurling abuse outside their school.

"My friend turned to me and said 'look, that's your husband,'" Meghwal said, describing how her heart sank as she raced home to confront her parents. "I asked them, why did you marry me off like that? I was so innocent and I didn't even realize what happened, I mean, how old was I?" she said, sitting on a bench in Jodhpur University, where she is finishing her final year of arts.

Although illegal, millions in India are married as children in a deep-rooted tradition in mostly poor and rural areas. Nearly 50 percent of women, aged 20 to 24, say they were married before the legal age of 18, government figures show. The custom is particu-

larly strong in Rajasthan, a popular tourism destination, where politically powerful village councils, comprising men of the same caste, have an iron grip over social and moral life. But a small number of youngsters there are fighting back, seeking annulments to marriages they never agreed to, with the help of a local NGO and government crackdowns.

Meghwal was supposed to move in with her husband when she turned 17. But instead she has fought a three-year battle against her council, and turned away her in-laws when they came to fetch her. Meghwal's defiance had terrible consequences, with the enraged council barring her and her family from taking part in village life in Jodhpur district. It also slapped her father with a 1.6-million rupee fine which as a mason he could not afford to pay.

'Ray of hope'

Meghwal turned in May to Sarathi Trust which says it is the only charity working to annul child marriages after winning its first case three years ago. Trust head Kriti Bharti recalled stumbling on the little-known provision in India's anti-child marriage legislation that permitted annulments.

"Child marriage was like a huge, dark room. And in it, we found a ray of hope in a small law," said Bharti, sitting behind her desk in a room decorated with awards and certificates for her work. Bharti,

whose charity has helped annul 27 marriages in Rajasthan, said annulments were favored over divorce, as they were generally quicker and required less paperwork.

Granted with the consent of both parties and proof of their age, annulments also avoid the stigma of divorce for women. Meghwal is hopeful of eventually winning an annulment despite the fact her husband, with whom she has never lived, staunchly opposes one, and has threatened to abduct her.

Health problems

Every year, on the holy day of Akshaya Tritiya, authorities crack down on underage marriages. The festival, usually in April or May, is an auspicious time across India for weddings, including those between children. Police in Rajasthan together with social workers often conduct raids on villages to break up ceremonies, and pressure priests, wedding-card printers, caterers and tent operators to say no to families wanting to hire them.

Such campaigns, along with government cash incentives for families who defer marrying their daughters until they are older, have helped lower the overall numbers. But Joachim Theis, UNICEF's chief of child protection in India, warned the challenge was still huge and needed a national approach given the enormous population. — AFP

MSF SAYS BOMBING OF HOSPITAL NO MISTAKE

KUNDUZ: The head of an international medical charity whose hospital in northern Afghanistan was destroyed in a US airstrike says the "extensive, quite precise destruction" of the bombing raid casts doubt on American military assertions that it was a mistake.

The Oct 3 attack on the compound in Kunduz city, which killed at least 22 patients and hospital staff, should be investigated as a possible war crime, said Christopher Stokes, general director of Doctors Without Borders, which is also known by its French abbreviation MSF.

The trauma hospital was bombed during a firefight between Taleban and government troops, as US advisers were helping Afghan forces retake the city after the insurgents overran it and seized control on Sept 28 Afghan authorities say they are now largely back in control of Kunduz.

US President Barack Obama has apologized for the attack, and the commander of US and NATO troops in Afghanistan, Gen John F Campbell, said it was a mistake. He said the strike had been called in by Afghan forces, but has not explained exactly how it happened or who granted final approval. Internal military investigations are underway, with preliminary results expected in coming days.

According to Associated Press reporting, American special operations analysts were scrutinizing the Afghan hospital days before it was destroyed because they believed it was being used by a Pakistani operative to coordinate Taleban activity. The analysts knew it was a medical facility, according to a former intelligence official who is familiar with some of the documents describing the site. It's unclear whether that information ever got to commanders who unleashed the AC-130 gunship on the hospital.

'Doesn't indicate a mistake'

"The hospital was repeatedly hit both at the front and the rear and extensively destroyed and damaged, even though we have provided all the coordinates and all the right information to all the parties in the conflict," Stokes said, standing in the burned-out main hospital building. "The extensive, quite precise destruction of this hospital ... doesn't indicate a mistake. The hospital was repeatedly hit," Stokes said. The bombing went on for more than an hour,

despite calls to Afghan, US and NATO to call it off, MSF has said.

Stokes, who has called for an independent inquiry into the incident, told The Associated Press in an interview in the remains of the hospital on Friday that MSF wanted a "clear explanation because all indications point to a grave breach of international humanitarian law, and therefore a war crime." Afghan authorities have refused to comment before investigations are complete. President Ashraf Ghani's deputy spokesman, Zafar Hashemi, told reporters on Saturday that the Afghan government has "faith" in investigations being conducted by the US military, and by a joint Afghan-NATO team.

MSF has denied there were any armed Taleban on the hospital grounds at the time of the attack. "The compound was not entered by Taleban soldiers with weapons," Stokes said. "What we have understood from our staff and guards is that there was very strong, very good control of what was happening in and around the compound and they reported no firing in the hours preceding the destruction of the hospital."

More than 70 staff members were on duty, tending to more than 100 patients at the time, he said. According to its policy, MSF treats government troops and insurgent combatants equally. Hospitals are regarded as protected sites in war. Doctors Without Borders officials have said the US gunship made five separate strafing runs over the course of an hour, directing heavy fire on the main hospital building, which contained the emergency room and intensive care unit. Surrounding buildings were not hit. The hospital is no longer operable.

Stokes said that "until we understand what happened and we can gain guarantees that this unacceptable attack cannot happen again, we cannot reopen and put our staff in danger." MSF, a Nobel Peace Prize-winning organization that provides medical aid in conflict zones, has called for an investigation by the International Humanitarian Fact-Finding Commission, based in the Swiss capital, Bern. It is made up of diplomats, legal experts, doctors and some former military officials from nine European countries, including Britain and Russia. An IHFFC investigation needs the cooperation of both Afghanistan and the US before it can proceed, which neither government is expected to give. — AP

FUEL CRISIS HALTS AID TO QUAKE-HIT NEPAL

KATHMANDU: After months in makeshift shelters, earthquake victim Bhim Bahadur Gurung is desperate to start rebuilding his house ahead of Nepal's biting winter, but a fuel blockade has left him unable to obtain vital construction supplies.

Nearly six months after a 7.8-magnitude quake killed almost 8,900 people and destroyed about half a million homes, thousands of survivors are still living in tents and other temporary shelters, dependent on aid. But the three-week blockade of a major border checkpoint by protesters who reject Nepal's new constitution has sparked a fuel shortage and nationwide rationing, with vital supplies unable to get through.

"No cement, no rods, no roofs... how can I build my home?" 43-year-old farmer Gurung said from his village in Sindhupalchowk district, one of the areas worst hit by the devastating quake in April. "The villagers are all living in temporary shelters right now, this won't be enough when it starts snowing," Gurung said. Aid organizations say the fuel crisis has severely hampered their operations and the continued shortage could cut off relief supplies to communities in far-flung areas of the country.

The World Food Program (WFP) said it had been forced to halt distribution of relief goods and shelter supplies to 224,000 quake victims because of the shortage. "Because of the fuel crisis we've only been able to deliver 40 percent of the actual needs," said Seetashma Thapa, communications officer for WFP, which coordinates logistics for nearly 130 other humanitarian organizations. "The situation is particularly critical as we are in a race against time to reach 84,000 people with vital food and supplies before the snow sets in," she said of those in the most remote areas. The WFP's helicopter operations have only a week of fuel left, she said.

'Peak time'

For three weeks, hundreds of protesters have blocked a bridge crossing in the town of Birgunj, 90 kilometres south of Kathmandu, through which 60 percent of the country's petroleum imports pass. The protesters, from

the ethnic Madhesi minority in Nepal's southern plains, are incensed about the planned division of the country into several federal provinces under the constitution introduced last month.

Slow movement at other checkpoints has prompted Nepal to accuse India, which has expressed concerns over the constitution, of imposing a blockade. Landlocked Nepal is completely reliant on India for fuel supplies. "We have been requesting the Indian Oil Corporation continuously to resume supplies, but the response has not been satisfactory," said Sushil Bhattarai, Acting Deputy General Manager of Nepal Oil Corporation.

"Right now we are only getting 10-15 percent of our regular imports," he said, adding that the state oil company has asked international fuel companies to supply petroleum products to Nepal. Nepal's newly elected prime minister KP Sharma Oli has called on political parties representing the Madhesi community to halt their protests and hold talks. But the parties have refused to come to the negotiating table, until the government submits a concrete plan to address their demands.

This weekend, Nepal's deputy prime minister and foreign minister flew to India to hold talks on getting the fuel and other critical supplies moving again. India denies it is deliberately halting trucks at its border, insisting the disruptions are coming from the other side. Govind Raj Pokharel, chief of the National Reconstruction Authority in the process of being set up by Nepal, said the blockade was also disrupting the production of materials required for reconstruction.

"Goods are stuck at the borders and strikes have forced factories to shut down. Even if they want to operate, their raw materials aren't coming in," Pokharel said. "This is the peak time for reconstruction. But this crisis will have a long-term impact on our recovery." For victims like Gurung, the crisis translates to more immediate worries. "The earthquake has troubled us enough, this fuel crisis is only adding to our pain," Gurung said. "I pray that our government resolves this soon and pays attention to us before winter comes." — AFP

TEENS ARRESTED FOR TODDLER RAPE

NEW DELHI: India police said yesterday they have arrested two teenagers over the rape of a toddler, the latest sexual assault on a child in the capital to ignite public anger. Twenty police teams questioned more than 250 suspects before arresting the juveniles over the attack on the two-year-old girl, who was found bleeding in a park near her New Delhi home on Friday night. "Delhi police have solved (the crime) by apprehending two juveniles in the rape case of a child," Dependra Pathak, a Delhi police commissioner, told reporters. "Further investigation is on. All concerned evidences are being collected," Pathak said, adding that the two 17-year-olds arrested late on Saturday will face initial charges in 10 days.

Both boys lived in the same poor western neighborhood as the toddler and one of them was known to her family, Pathak said. The assault on the toddler, who is recovering in hospital, was the second within 24 hours after a five-year-old girl was gang-raped at a neighbor's house in east Delhi.

Three men have been arrested over that attack which also occurred on Friday evening, with both incidents sparking protests and renewed anger over sexual violence in the capital. The attacks on the girls came a week after a four-year-old girl was raped, slashed with a knife and dumped by a railway track in Delhi.

They add to a grim record of sexual assaults in India. The fatal gang-rape of a student on a bus in Delhi in 2012 unleashed a wave of public outrage. That incident prompted the national government to toughen punishments for rapists and overhaul policing to better protect women and children.

After neighborhood protests on Saturday, small ral-

lies were staged yesterday at police headquarters and the office of the city's chief minister Arvind Kejriwal, who has been blamed for failing to halt the attacks. Kejriwal has pointed the finger at the national government, as

both jostle for control of the capital's police department. India recorded 36,735 rape cases in 2014 — 2,096 of them in Delhi. Experts say those figures likely under-represent the true scale of the crimes. — AFP



NEW DELHI: Indian students shout slogans during a protest against the rapes of two minor girls outside the police headquarters. — AFP

POPE CANONIZES COUPLE, FIRST IN MODERN TIMES

PARENTS OF ST THERESE OF LISIEUX DECLARED SAINTS



VATICAN CITY: A view of St Peter's Square at the Vatican during a canonization ceremony celebrated by Pope Francis. — AFP

VATICAN CITY: Pope Francis canonized the Catholic Church's first married couple in modern times yesterday, declaring the parents of the beloved St Therese of Lisieux saints in their own right. Francis told followers gathered in St Peter's Square that the couple, Louis and Zélie Martin, "practiced Christian service in the family, creating day by day an environment of faith and love which nurtured the vocations of their daughters."

Francis is particularly devoted to the 19th century French Carmelite nun, fondly known as "The Little Flower," who died at the age of 24 in 1897 and was later honored with the title doctor of the church. Francis has had a copy of Therese's "Story of a Soul" on his bookshelf since his days as a novice. As archbishop of Buenos Aires, he had her image on his desk. And he has said that whenever he has a problem, he directs his prayers to Santa Teresita, as she is known in Spanish, and often a white rose appears to him as a sign that she has heard his prayers.

Her parents were canonized at the start of

final week of his big bishops' meeting on families. His aim is to provide Catholic families with saintly role models who took particular care to educate their children in the faith: The Martins bore nine children, only five of whom survived. All five became nuns, including the youngest, Therese, at age 15.

Going against the grain

"It's the first time a couple have been canonized as a couple, and this is a beautiful sign for Christian families, who often are left without any support and have to go against the grain, especially in the West, to live and educate their children in the truth of creation and with that love that God has given us in Christ," said the Rev. Romano Gambalunga, the postulator who followed the saint-making case through.

It is not insignificant that both miracles required for the canonization concerned the inexplicable cures of newborns born with what doctors determined to be life-ending ailments.

When the Martins were beatified in 2008, the "miracle" concerned little Pietro Shiliro, born in the Italian city Monza in 2002 with a congenital lung deformation that doctors said he could not survive. The priest who was called to baptize him encouraged his parents to pray to the Martin's intercession. After a month in the ICU, during which he came close to death, he was released and is now a healthy teenager.

The second miracle needed for the Martin's canonization concerned little Carmen, born at 28 weeks on Oct 15, 2008 in Valencia, Spain after a difficult pregnancy. Two days later, she suffered a cerebral hemorrhage that caused near-fatal blood poisoning. Her parents went to the Carmelite nuns seeking guidance; they suggested they pray to the intercession of the Martins, who had just been beatified on Oct 17, 2008 in Lisieux. After three months in the hospital, Carmen was released, cured, on Jan 2, 2009 - the 135th anniversary of the birth of the Martin's youngest daughter, Therese.—AP

NIGERIA SET TO FINALLY GET GOVERNMENT MINISTERS

LAGOS: It's taken nearly five months but Nigeria—Africa's biggest economy, most populous nation and number one oil producer—may get a government this week. Final screening of 36 ministerial nominees is due to take place from tomorrow, ending a lengthy process that has earned President Muhammadu Buhari a less than flattering nickname.

Buhari, dubbed "Baba Go Slow" for the time it has taken him to appoint ministers since he took office in May, will then assign the candidates portfolios once they are approved. Since the first names were submitted to parliament on September 30, speculation has been rife about which post goes where. But some appointments look clearer than others.

Ibe Kachikwu, the new head of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC), is a virtual certainty to serve as junior oil minister, after Buhari said he will personally oversee the ministry himself. Former army Chief Abdulrahman Dambazau is in line for the defense portfolio, which has been dominated for the last six years by the Boko Haram insurgency in the northeast. Former Ekiti state governor Kayode Fayemi has been tipped for foreign affairs.

Pragmatic, balanced

Since he was sworn in on May 29, Buhari has been running Nigeria with permanent secretaries (senior civil servants), laying himself open to charges of autocracy. But the 72-year-old, who headed a military government in the 1980s, has blamed the late reception of handover notes from the previous administration for the time taken to make his nominations.

Political commentator Chris Ngwodo suggested that as well as the "political back-and-forth" about potential nominees, he has also been looking at revamping failing government structures. "He wanted to finish all that. He wanted to be able to conduct a proper audit of the federal bureaucracy before getting ministers," he told AFP.

As for the candidates, Buhari-elected on a promise of "change"—is constitutionally bound to nominate candidates from each of Nigeria's 36 states. "The List" has much to commend and cause for thought too," said Max Siollun, a historian and author of "Oil, politics and violence: Nigeria's military coup culture (1966-1976)". "It is a pragmatic list that combines technocratic talent with the need for careful ethno-regional balancing.

"Buhari could not appoint an entire cabinet

100 percent composed of trailblazing reformers. "He had to take vested interests into account and include ministers who may not be his personal first choices but who are allied to the politicians that helped him to get elected." The technocrats include Kachikwu, a former ExxonMobil executive, and Ogun state finance commissioner Kemi Adeosun, a former investment banker and accountant, who has been tipped for finance minister.

Both reflect Buhari's priorities to overhaul the notoriously-corrupt oil sector and boost the economy, which has been battered by the fall in global oil prices since last year. Figures such as the former Lagos State governor Babatunde Fashola and Rotimi Amaechi, his counterpart in oil-rich Rivers State, were his "political IOU," said Ngwodo.

"It's generally a good balance... personally I think it's a decent list for both considerations," he added. "He's covered the right bases. A lot of it has shown his own individual mindedness. He's been able to assert himself against the interests of the party."

Corruption cloud?

Buhari declared before his election: "Corruption will have no place and the corrupt will not be appointed to my administration." He has already begun a purge of the NNPC, appointing Kachikwu and ordering an audit of the group's opaque accounting practices to identify and recover stolen funds.

At the same time, former oil minister Diezani Alison-Madueke was arrested in London as part of a British investigation into international corruption. Her arrest and the sealing of her house in Abuja by Economic and Financial Crimes Commission agents has left few in doubt at Buhari's seriousness in tackling graft. But his nomination of Amaechi, his presidential campaign manager, could muddy the waters as he is subject to a probe ordered by the Peoples Democratic Party in Rivers.

Amaechi switched sides from the PDP to the APC in 2013 and the elections in March, which the APC lost in Rivers, were marred by violence, bad blood and claims of electoral fraud. Malte Liewerscheidt, senior Africa analyst at political consultants Verisk Maplecroft, said the claims against Amaechi could dent Buhari's image as a "Mr Clean." "Buhari's open support of Amaechi, who is enveloped in corruption allegations, will furnish the opposition with opportunities to undermine Buhari's trademark anti-graft image," he said.—AFP

PAKISTAN CLAIMS IT HAS KILLED UIGHUR MILITANTS

BEIJING: Pakistan has eliminated all members of the Uighur militant group the East Turkestan Islamic Movement (ETIM) from its territory, but must remain vigilant to ensure they don't return, the country's defense minister said in Beijing yesterday. China blames ETIM for carrying out attacks in its far western region of Xinjiang, home to the Muslim Uighur people, although many foreign experts doubt the group's existence in a cohesive group.

China, Pakistan's only major ally in the region, has long urged Islamabad to weed out what it says are militants from Xinjiang, who are holed up in a lawless tribal belt, home to a lethal mix of militant groups, including the Taliban and al Qaeda. "We believe they're all eliminated," Pakistan Defense Minister Khawaja Asif told reporters on the sidelines of a securi-

ty forum. "I think there (were) a small number in tribal areas, they're all gone or eliminated. There are no more there."

It is just as much in Pakistan's interests as China's to fight Uighur militants, Asif said, denying there was any difference of opinion between Beijing and Islamabad on Pakistan's efforts to tackle the problem. "The fight against ETIM is our own fight. It's not only China's fight. It's a joint fight against ETIM, between Pakistan and China, so there is absolutely no difference of opinion on the elimination of ETIM from our tribal areas," he added "We have to be vigilant for a long time that this menace, this infection, does not return." Some Xinjiang government officials have said they believe Pakistan is not doing enough to prevent Uighurs from travelling there to become radicalized.—Reuters

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ISRAELI CITIES BAN ARAB WORKERS FROM SCHOOLS

JERUSALEM: At least four Israeli cities, including Tel Aviv, temporarily banned Arab laborers from working in their schools yesterday. Israel's cabinet also imposed more security measures yesterday, widening police stop-and-frisk powers that will effectively allow them to search anyone on the street. A party representing Israel's Arab minority called the municipalities' edicts "racist". Israel's Interior Ministry, which oversees the municipalities, said it appealed to "all mayors to continue to act with respect and equality towards all their workers, irrespective of religion, ethnicity or gender". It did not ask them to repeal the restrictions.

Forty-one Palestinians and seven Israelis have died in recent street violence, which was in part triggered by Palestinians' anger over what they see as increased Jewish encroachment on Jerusalem's Al-Aqsa mosque compound. "We are preserving the status quo, we will continue to do so," Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said in public remarks yesterday to his cabinet. Netanyahu is to meet US Secretary of State John Kerry in Germany in the coming week as part of an effort by Washington to restore calm. Kerry also plans to hold talks in the Middle East with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, but no precise location has been announced.

Citing security concerns, Tel Aviv and the nearby cities of

Rehovot and Hod Hasharon avoided using the word "Arab" in announcing on their websites and emails to residents that maintenance workers and cleaners - many of whom are Arabs - would not be allowed into schools. Another city, Modiin-Maccabim-Reut, midway between Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, said "minority members" - a term Jews in Israel often use for Arab citizens who make up 20 percent of the population of eight million - would be banned from working in its schools.

Dov Khenin, a legislator from the Joint Arab List, the largest Arab party, said on Israel Radio that "under cover of anxiety, dangerous measures of racist exclusion are being advanced". Spokesmen for Tel Aviv and Rehovot said Jews as well as Arabs would be covered by the temporary ban. "Owing to the sensitive situation, the municipality of Tel Aviv-Jaffa will not permit the entry of construction workers and labourers - Jews and Arabs alike - to educational institutions for on-going work," city spokeswoman Gali Avni-Orenstein said in an email to Reuters. But Doron Milberg, director-general of the municipality of Rehovot, which said its own ban on laborers also applied to Jews, acknowledged that Arabs would be most affected by the decision because "those who work in construction ... are the minorities". — Reuters

TYPHOON KOPPU PUMMELS PHILIPPINES

Continued from Page 1

Lontoc said three people in the coastal resort town of Baler, near Casiguran, are missing after a large wave struck their house, and three fishermen are also missing on Manila Bay.

The authorities warned heavy rains could still trigger flash floods and landslides in the Cordillera, known for its spectacular rice terraces carved on the slopes of towering mountains. "I must emphasise that this is just the start. People must remain alert while we try to pick up the pieces in areas already hit," Pama said, as he urged local officials to evacuate Cordillera villages deemed most at risk. Lontoc said the rain-soaked mountains also posed a threat to the heavily populated central Luzon region just north of Manila in the coming days. With dams filling up and forced to let off water, he said huge vol-

umes of runoff are streaming into the Pampanga river, which spills onto the region.

The weather service said Koppu would weaken further into a tropical storm by tomorrow, but continue to dump rain before heading for Taiwan on Wednesday. It caused widespread power and communications disruptions across Luzon, with many roads and bridges also blocked by landslides, floods or fallen trees and power pylons. Thousands were stranded as ferry services were suspended amid rough seas while 44 commercial flights were cancelled, including four international flights, Pama said. The Philippines suffers an average of 20 storms each year. Super Typhoon Haiyan, the strongest and deadliest on record, destroyed entire towns in the central islands in Nov 2013, leaving more than 7,350 people dead or missing. — AFP

MPS DEMAND ACTION OVER KUWAIT SPORTS...

Continued from Page 1

decision to revoke the citizenship of Barghash and a large number of his family members and ordered the government to reinstate them as full citizens.

The government withdrew Barghash's nationality on the claim that it was obtained on the basis of false documents, which the former lawmaker vehemently denied and took the matter to court. During the trial, the court asked the government to submit its reasons for revoking the citizenship, but the government insisted that the court had no right to look into the matter because it is a sovereign issue.

The appeals court held several hearings into the case and set a date to issue its verdict in early October, but it postponed it to Oct 18. The reason given by the judge for not handling the case was "to remove any embarrassment" on his part, without further explanation. Now a new judge will be appointed to look into the case from the start.

The government had revoked the citizenship of several people amid a crackdown on opposition members and sympathizers. The opposition described the decisions as politically motivated. Regarding similar cases, other courts said they were not competent to handle nationality issues because they are sovereign matters.

EGYPT VOTERS TRICKLE IN TO ELECT PRO-SISI...

Continued from Page 1

Most of the more than 5,000 candidates overwhelmingly support Sisi and are expected to dominate parliament. Cairo resident Islam Ahmed, who said he would not be voting, was unmoved by polling getting underway. "I think the turnout will be low. I don't know any candidate in my constituency... many people don't know candidates in their constituencies," he said. Hazem Hosny, political science professor at Cairo University, said: "This parliament will be a parliament of the president. It's really a parliament... to keep things as they are, to give an image of democracy."

Young Egyptians boycotting the polls were cynical. "It's not going to matter. It's just for show, to show that we are a democracy, and we have elections, and blah blah any nonsense," said Ahmed Mostafa, 25, who works in a lab. "Most people in our generation feel the same way: That all of this is a show." Ahmed Ibrahim, a 34-year-old accountant, had a similar view. "The youth in Egypt, our ambition in 2011, we were going to build the country - but then suddenly it was stolen from us," he said. "Ninety-nine percent of my friends are not going to vote."

In the working-class Cairo neighborhood of Gezirat Al-Dahab, a judge at a polling station said only about 10 percent of registered voters had taken part. "The election is a farce. I don't think anyone in Egypt is taking it seriously," Muslim Brotherhood official Wafaa Hefny told Reuters.

Soldiers and policemen stood guard outside a polling station in a school in October 6 City on the outskirts of Cairo, where there were only about 30 people casting ballots. Vans blasted nationalist and pro-army songs. Most voters were elderly or middle-aged, in a country where half the rapidly-growing population is under 25. "I want the youth to get elected. We need new blood," said Fatma Farag, an elderly woman. In Cairo's low-income Boulaq Al-Dakrouir neighborhood, there were far more police and polling station workers than voters. Few analysts expect turnout to exceed a third of the electorate. "These elections will result in illegitimate institutions and we will never participate in such elections," said senior Brotherhood member Mohamed Soudan.

Many Egyptians tired of political turmoil since the 2011 ouster of veteran leader Hosni Mubarak support Sisi, who has vowed to revive an ailing economy and

restore stability amid a deadly crackdown targeting Morsi supporters. Morsi, Egypt's first freely elected civilian leader, was deposed by then army chief Sisi on July 3, 2013, after mass street protests against his divisive year-long rule. An ensuing government crackdown targeting Morsi's Muslim Brotherhood left hundreds dead and thousands jailed. Hundreds more including Morsi have been sentenced to death after speedy trials, which the United Nations denounced as "unprecedented in recent history".

Sisi, meanwhile, won a presidential election in 2014. "Sisi is our soul... without him we would have been migrants like those from other countries around us," said Buthaina Shehata after casting her vote. Scores of policemen and soldiers have been killed in jihadist attacks since the crackdown on Islamists began, with the Egyptian affiliate of the Islamic State group leading a deadly insurgency in North Sinai.

The Brotherhood dominated the last assembly but is now banned after being blacklisted as a "terrorist organization", while leftist and secular movements that led the 2011 uprising are boycotting or are badly represented in the polls. The Islamist movement had been the main opposition force for decades, fielding candidates in parliamentary elections under Mubarak despite an official ban. Its party took 44 percent of seats in the first free democratic elections following Mubarak's ouster. That parliament was dissolved in June 2012, but the Brotherhood's popularity shone through days later when Morsi, a civilian, was elected, putting an end to six decades of presidents coming from military ranks.

In a television address on Saturday, Sisi called on citizens to vote. "Celebrate the choice of representatives and make the right choice," he said. "I am expecting Egyptian youth to be the driving force in this celebration of democracy." Of the 596 lawmakers being elected, 448 will be voted in as independents, 120 on party lists, and 28 will be presidential appointees. The main coalition is the pro-Sisi For the Love of Egypt, which includes leading businessmen and former members of Mubarak's National Democratic Party. It aims to win two-thirds of the seats. The openly pro-Sisi Salafist Al-Nour party that backed Morsi's ouster is the only Islamist party standing. About 55 million voters are eligible to vote in the two-stage election. Any run-off in the first phase will be contested on Oct 27-28. The second phase starts on Nov 21. — Agencies

KHORASAN GROUP LEADER DEAD IN SYRIA...

Continued from Page 1

Officials say Khorasan is part of Al-Qaeda's Syrian branch, Al-Nusra Front, although experts and activists cast doubt on the distinction between the two groups. In a September interview, US President Barack Obama listed Khorasan among "immediate threats to the United States," warning that "those folks could kill Americans." Khorasan members have traveled from Central Asia and elsewhere in the Middle East to Syria to plot attacks on the West, the United States says. The Pentagon said Nasr was involved

in myriad jihadist activities. In 2012, he oversaw Al-Qaeda's finances and a year later relocated to Syria, the US says. He was also responsible for moving funds from donors in the Gulf to Al-Qaeda leaders, according to the Pentagon.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said Nasr was killed along with two other senior Al-Nusra members when an air strike hit their car. In July, the Pentagon said it had taken out Muhsin Al-Fadhli, another Khorasan Group leader, in a "kinetic strike" while he was traveling in a vehicle near the northwestern Syrian town of Sarmada. — AFP



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Focus

US TROOP EXTENSION
HANDS AFGHANISTAN
A LIFELINE - FOR NOW

By Issam Ahmad

The United States' decision to extend its military presence in Afghanistan beyond 2016 has thrown the war-ravaged country's government a much needed lifeline even as its dysfunctionality, blamed for the Taliban's revival, shows no signs of abating. It has been just over a year since Ashraf Ghani was sworn in as president as part of a US-brokered unity government with his main election rival, former anti-Soviet fighter Abdullah Abdullah, as chief executive.

While the deal was hailed as a breakthrough that had averted a possible ethnic civil war, experts blame the political deadlock it created for allowing the Taliban to regain momentum and unleash a wave of violence not seen for years. The insurgents' seizure of the northern regional capital Kunduz last month, though brief, was a stinging blow to Western-trained Afghan forces as they struggle to maintain security after the end of NATO's mission in December.

US President Barack Obama's decision to keep 5,500 troops beyond 2016 has therefore been met with widespread relief by officials and residents, who hope it will prevent the country from becoming a regional hub of terror and violence like Syria. "The announcement is an important boost to the Afghan army morale, it shows that the world is not leaving them alone," said retired general Atiqullah Amarkhil.

But few are hopeful it can tilt the balance in favour of government forces, with a protracted stalemate seen as one possible scenario, and rising proxy battles between opposing foreign powers another. Russian President Vladimir Putin's announcement this week that his country would create a joint task force with ex-Soviet states to defend against a spillover in Afghan violence has invoked fears of a fresh Russian-US proxy war in addition to the rivalries already being played out between Saudi Arabia and Iran, and India and Pakistan.

'One Truck, Two Drivers'

"What it is essentially saying is that the Americans and NATO will continue to bankroll the salaries of the Afghan army," said Ahmed Rashid, a Pakistani author and Afghanistan expert. "Obama's statement wasn't tough enough on the corrupt leadership, which has squandered the opportunities given to it and robbed the country... We've seen a year of hopeless governance and there is mounting pressure for a fresh government."

At the heart of the problem, insiders say, is the unstable power-sharing deal between Ghani and Abdullah - only ever meant to be temporary arrangement before a more permanent solution was fleshed out by the loya jirga (grand assembly) and a fresh constitution. "When we first proposed a unity government it was to keep everybody on board so we have a united vision for Afghanistan," said Ahmad Wali Massoud, an ex-ambassador who was close to former president Hamid Karzai.

Instead, he argues, the government has descended into a debilitating factionalism - popularly derided as "one truck, two drivers." "There is now a sense that a governor may be Ghani's pick, the deputy governor is Abdullah's," he said. "That doesn't work... The disunity is very obvious. The policies and appointments are falling apart."

Poor intelligence sharing between officials in opposing camps across the country's 34 provinces has been blamed for the rise in unrest that saw civilian casualties reach a record high in the first half of the year. The provincial governor of Kunduz, for example, was a Ghani man, while the powerful police chief was Abdullah's pick - sources close to the matter say there was little coordination between the two.

'Losing our Country'

Massoud, who supported Abdullah last year but prefers to remain neutral now, said he chaired an informal meeting of advisors to the two camps at his home this week. "They told me, we never discuss the issues inside the government. This is the first time we are thrashing them out." Beyond the security crisis, the political deadlock has hampered progress on a host of other fronts key to stabilising the country - including appointing essential posts such as defence minister. "They have not carried out any of key reforms promised including parliamentary elections, the appointment of a cabinet, a fresh loya jirga and the writing of a new constitution. None of this has happened," said Rashid. —AFP

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TYPICALLY GREEK, CADASTRE IS NEVER-ENDING EPIC

By Paul Taylor and Lefteris Papadimas

When Greece applied for its first international bailout in 2010, only two countries in Europe lacked a computerised register of land ownership and usage. Albania was the other. Experts from European Union and International Monetary Fund identified the lack of legal certainty about property rights and land usage as a major barrier to investment, proper taxation and economic development. Five years on, Greece is on its third EU/IMF bailout. Each of those programs has made a priority of completing a land register, known as a cadastre. Yet it is still less than half done despite spending hundreds of millions of euros with technical assistance from EU partners.

Meanwhile Albania, a far poorer Balkan neighbour that is still a distant candidate for EU membership, has leapfrogged Greece and implemented a digitised land registry and zoning map, even if some holes remain. Greek newspapers call the never-ending epic of the cadastre, started in 1995 with EU funds that had to be returned to Brussels in 2003 because of misuse, "our national shame".

It is a microcosm of everything that remains to be fixed in the country - bureaucracy, political patronage, competing layers of government, legal complexity, fiscal uncertainty, vested interests, cheating, tax evasion and opaque relations between the two biggest landowners - the state and the church. The continued absence of a comprehensive land registry is one reason why a privatisation program announced in 2011 and initially meant to raise €50 billion (\$56.73 billion) over five years has netted a mere 3.1 billion euros to date.

Roughly half of deals so far have come from the sale or lease of state land, including a flagship plan to sell the disused Hellenikon airport site next to Athens which is still stalled. The €50 billion goal was reaffirmed in the third bailout package agreed in August but stretched out over 30 years. The state cannot sell its prime

real estate while disputes fester in the courts about ownership, boundaries and zoning.

"We have to give investors certainty that whatever they get from the Greek state they can actually realise," said Lila Tsiotsoglou, executive director of the Hellenic Republic Asset Development Fund in charge of land privatisation. "We still have a long way to go. We still have so many authorities."

Illegal House Owners' Union

The country even boasts a union of illegal house owners that campaigns to legalise their homes. Michael Vlahakis a 60-year-old pensioner from Heraklion, the main city on Greece's largest island Crete, is president of the "Residents Outside Town Planning" club, which he says represents some 45,000 illegal home owners on the island. "Our club is unique in Greece, in Europe and probably in the whole planet because Greece is the only country in Europe that doesn't have a cadastre," he told Reuters in an interview. "We still don't know what is mountain, what is forest and what is a building or a house."

About two-thirds of Greeks lived in the countryside until the 1960s, when a massive rural exodus began. Now more than half live in the cities of Athens, Thessaloniki and Heraklion. Vlahakis, who says he has built two illegal houses, one for himself and his wife, the other for his daughter, was invited to Athens four years ago to address lawmakers and ministers in parliament on the need to adapt town planning to reality.

"They haven't done it since the mid-1980s despite the fact that Heraklion city has more than tripled in terms of houses and land since then," he said, describing an upside-down urban development process. "In Greece we build the houses first, then the roads, after that the infrastructure - waste system, electricity and water network - and at the end the sidewalks." Politicians, real estate developers and construction firms had all sabotaged the cadastre project to protect their interests, Vlahakis said.

According to Dimitris Rokos, director of planning and investment at the National Cadastre and Mapping Agency, just 25.3 percent of the country has been completely mapped, another 22 percent is in the works and contracts have yet to be awarded for just over 50 percent. The agency has lost key staff such as the IT director and top legal experts to the private sector due to steep pay cuts under austerity measures imposed by Greece's lenders. It also endured long months without a budget in the last five years.

It remains shackled by being a public utility company under the authority of the environment ministry, even though it is partly self-financing. The chairmanship has changed four times in as many years, mirroring successive governments, including twice this year when a hard left minister was appointed, then sacked. Originally due to have been completed in 2008, the cadastre has an overall budget of 1.2 billion euros and is now supposed to be completed in 2020.

That seems wildly optimistic, but Rokos said the deadline could still be achieved if the agency were given greater financial and management autonomy to run more efficiently. "It is still realistic if the government takes some basic strategic decisions by the end of the year," he said.

'Make it Simple'

European officials who have been involved in trying to help speed up the job say it is impossible to tell when it will be finished and have urged a radical simplification. "It is so complex that no one dares to say 'let's make it simple,'" said Rik Wouters, a veteran Dutch cadastre official who led the European team that tried to help Greece between 2011 and late 2014, when an EU Task Force was withdrawn. Wouters, managing director of the European Land Information Service, said in a telephone interview he had recommended the project be streamlined using tax records and old land registers to identify property

holders and produce an index map locating land parcels rather than the more cumbersome delineation of boundaries to the centimetre.

Some of the problems are the legacy of history. Greece was part of the Ottoman Empire for centuries until 1830 and has since been scarred by wars, occupation and mass migration. Most land transaction records in this nation of 11 million people, sprawling over 132,000 square km, are still handwritten in ledgers held by local registrars. There are no title deeds for land in some parts of the country, and any area for which documents proving private ownership are not available from 1883 onwards is deemed to be state land, causing endless legal disputes.

Compounding the problem, resolving business disputes through the courts takes nearly three times as long in Greece as the average in members of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, a rich countries' club. The Greek Orthodox Church has no central land registry, forcing the state cadastre agency to deal with individual monasteries or dioceses to try to establish land ownership and delineate boundaries. Documents may be two centuries old and define the limits of properties with reference to landmarks that no longer exist, or using fuzzy phrases such as "500 paces from the olive tree" or "five stone throws in this direction".

What's a Forest?

Roughly 60 percent of the country is officially designated as forest, protected by the Greek constitution from economic exploitation. The perimeters of forests are largely delineated by aerial photographs taken shortly after World War Two. Areas that have since been deforested, including several of the Cyclades islands, remain registered as forest even though they may not have a single tree. Much of suburban Athens is still officially forest, since the city expanded massively in the 20th century with no equivalent changes in land zoning. —Reuters

GERMANY STRUGGLES TO FIND HOMES FOR REFUGEES

By Michelle Martin

At a sprawling camp in the German town of Celle, refugees wearing thick sweaters sit around a heater smoking cigarettes as rain beats down on the cramped white tent that has become their home. Some of them are ill and worried it will snow. "The weather is so cold that I can't even leave the tent," said Taher, a 25-year-old Syrian farmer. Sitting on his camp bed surrounded by wet washing that hangs limply from tent poles, he reaches for a box of cough medicine.

With the approach of winter, authorities are scrambling to find warm places to stay for the thousands of refugees streaming into Germany every day. In desperation, they have turned to sports halls, youth hostels and empty office buildings. But as these options dry up, tent cities have become the fall-back plan: despite falling temperatures, a survey by German newspaper Die Welt showed at least 42,000 refugees were still living in tents.

The challenge of finding adequate housing is turning into one of the biggest tests for the government of Angela Merkel, who has stuck doggedly to her mantra "Wir schaffen das" ("we can do this") in the face of rising public scepticism. Struggling to cope with a record influx of migrants that could exceed a million this year alone, her aides say the winter may prove decisive in determining whether Germans take the view that the crisis is manageable - or not. "Absolutely, we can manage this," said one adviser who requested anonymity. "But you can envision a worst case scenario where we have rioting over the winter. And that could shape the mood."

Cold and Raining

There's space for 1,000 at the camp on the outskirts of Celle, an old ducal town in northern Germany that survived World War Two largely intact and boasts fairy-tale timber-framed houses dating back as far as the 16th century. Diesel-powered heaters pump warm air into the tents at a cost of 4,000 euros per day. But the refugees,

some walking around in flip-flops, say they are struggling to keep warm. "The problem in winter is that I have to go out to the toilet, often twice a night, and a lot of times it's cold and raining," said Shahad Alabadi, a 26-year-old Iraqi dentist who keeps her coat on as she eats dinner in the vast hangar that serves as the camp's canteen.

Temperatures dropped to near-freezing during the past week. Snow has already fallen in some parts of Germany and forecasters expect ground frost in some areas in the coming days. Michael Lukas, a spokesman for Maltaser, the aid organization that runs the camp, says the tents are not winter-proof and "too thin" to be lived in permanently. They were due to be replaced by huts, but those have not been delivered despite being ordered weeks ago. "Everywhere has sold out of huts," Lukas says.

Bernd Mesovic, deputy director of Pro Asyl, a group that campaigns for refugee rights, said the standard of accommodation provided in Germany, Europe's richest economy, had fallen. "In summer the official policy was to say we'll make sure refugees are out of makeshift shelters, especially tents but also sports halls, before winter but now you just have to be happy there's space in any kind of accommodation at all."

In the state of Hesse, 380 refugees were evacuated from a tent city on Thursday and taken to fixed accommodation after the head of the camp said he could no longer take responsibility for people having to sleep in tents in the cold weather. And in Hamburg around 100 refugees took to the streets last Tuesday to protest against sleeping in unheated tents, carrying posters saying "we're cold" and "please take the tents down", according to German media reports. Hamburg Mayor Olaf Scholz has said while efforts are being made to make the tents winter-proof or find alternatives, the "top priority is currently to avoid homelessness".

In Berlin, authorities say they will take down tents once three big new accommodation centres open. They're also planning to put people up in Tempelhof airport, a Nazi-built structure that served as a lifeline for

West Berlin during the post-war Soviet blockade, and in the former ICC congress centre. In many regions, people who have been granted refugee status are still living in buildings intended for new arrivals due to a lack of social housing for them to move to, Mesovic said. He believes it could take months to adapt other buildings for use.

Harald Loehelein, head of migration at Paritaetische, an umbrella organization of German NGOs, said the unexpectedly rapid influx of refugees had forced authorities to improvise. But he also blamed delays in reimbursing the organizations that run refugee centres, saying this was deterring people from opening new accommodation.

Risk of Fights

Charities are concerned the cold and crowding mean illnesses will spread among refugees weakened by arduous journeys. Herbert Hessler, a doctor at the medical practice in Celle's tent city, said two-thirds of refugees there have caught a cold. One problem is that washing hung around the camp cannot dry properly so people get ill from wearing damp clothes, he said. Aid groups warn that there is an increased risk of conflicts in the camps over the winter as refugees huddle in cold tents with little to keep them occupied. "You can go outside and move around a bit if it's warm, but your whole life happens inside in winter and that makes living in such close quarters even more depressing," Loehelein said.

That's a problem that Bilal says he knows all too well. Fights, fuelled by alcohol in some cases, are a daily occurrence in the camp in Celle, the 30-year-old economist from Syria says. There is some hope. Maltaser says the first huts should arrive in Celle next week but if their delivery is delayed again, the refugees will probably have to stay put in their tents, the town's mayor, Dirk-Ulrich Mende, told Reuters. "People told me I was going to paradise and Aunt Merkel would make everything good," said Khaldoon Kareem, 27, a dentist from Iraq. "When I saw the tent I thought, Aunt Merkel is bad." —Reuters

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STAR TREK INTO DARKNESS



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SULLIVAN WINS IN PORTUGAL

VILAMOURA: Andy Sullivan won his third European Tour title of the season at Vilamoura yesterday, dominating the Portugal Masters throughout for a commanding nine-shot victory.

The 29-year-old Englishman, who won twice in South Africa earlier in the year, was already leading by five at the start of the day and he never looked like relinquishing that lead as he carded a superb 66 to finish a massive 23 under par. Another Englishman, Chris Wood, took second place on 14 under after a final round of 68, with Anthony Wall, Trevor Fisher and Eduardo de la Riva another shot back in joint third. Sullivan opened with three pars before holing from 25 feet for a birdie on the fourth and two-putting for another on the par-five fifth to reach 20 under par.

He was furious with himself for three-putting the 12th for par after finding the green in two, but the former Walker Cup made certain of victory with a birdie on the 14th.

He then picked up further shots on the 17th and 18th to put the seal on a brilliant wire-to-wire success. The win moves Sullivan into the top 50 of the world rankings and means he has three wins in 23 events after not claiming a victory in his first 84 on the European Tour.



BIDS FOR TWO NEW IPL TEAMS

MUMBAI: The Indian Cricket board will invite bids for two new teams for the Indian Premier League (IPL) to replace the suspended Rajasthan Royals and Chennai Super Kings for the next two editions, it said yesterday. A panel appointed by India's top court recommended in July that the franchise owners of the two IPL teams be suspended for two years following a corruption scandal in the cash-rich Twenty20 tournament.

The panel led by retired chief justice R.M. Lodha also recommended life bans on Chennai official Gurunath Meiyappan and former Rajasthan co-owner Raj Kundra. Both were found guilty of illegal betting by another committee appointed by India's Supreme Court.

"The Justice Lodha committee interim report will be implemented fully," the BCCI said in a statement after a working committee meeting. "The two franchisee teams, Chennai Super Kings and Rajasthan Royals remain suspended for two years."

"BCCI will float tenders and invite bids for two new teams to replace CSK & RR in the Indian Premier League for 2016 and 2017 (2 years)." The decision would mean that the tournament, with a \$3.5 billion estimated brand value and boasting of Bollywood stars and major conglomerates as investors, will remain an eight-team affair for at least the next two editions. —Reuters

GIGNAC BRACE SINKS TOLUCA

MEXICO CITY: French striker Andre-Pierre Gignac scored twice to give UANL Tigres a 2-1 win over Toluca on coach Ricardo Ferretti's return from steering Mexico into the 2017 Confederations Cup.

The victory, their fifth in seven matches, at the Universitario on Saturday left Tigres in fifth place in the Liga MX Apertura championship six points behind leaders UNAM Pumas. Brazilian-born Ferretti stood in as Mexico coach for four matches following the sacking of Miguel Herrera for punching a reporter and won a playoff against the United States last weekend for a place at the World Cup warm-up tournament in Russia.

He handed the reins in midweek to Colombian Juan Carlos Osorio, who has taken charge until the 2018 World Cup, after ending his short tenure with a 1-0 friendly win over Panama on Tuesday.

Pumas beat Leon 3-1 away and top the standings with 28 points from 13 matches, four points ahead of America and Leon. Fourth-placed Toluca, a point further back, can climb to second if they beat Queretaro at home yesterday. America's 2-0 win at Tijuana on Friday led to the dismissal of Argentine coach Ruben Romano by the border-town club on Saturday after they have gone five matches without a win and are three from bottom. — Reuters



KUWAIT: KSSC's chairman, Maj. General, Fahad Al-Fahad, his deputy Ahmed Abdullah Al-Ghanim, PAYS representative, Abdullah Al-Dabi were on top of a welcome-back committee receiving Kuwait Jet Ski on arrival from USA after winning the World's Jet Ski Championship 2015 organized by USBA from October 3-11 in Arizona, USA. Kuwait won first place for the fourth year in a row by winning 8 gold medals, five silver and five bronze. 38 countries participated in this competition.



KANSAS CITY: Toronto Blue Jays first baseman Chris Colabello (left) picks off Kansas City Royals' Lorenzo Cain at first base during the eighth inning in Game 2 of baseball's American League Championship Series. —AP

ROYALS STUN BLUE JAYS TO GRAB LEAD

KANSAS CITY: The Kansas City Royals saw their chance and took it, exploding for five runs in the seventh inning to steal a 6-3 win over the stunned Toronto Blue Jays on Saturday and seize a commanding 2-0 lead in the American League Championship Series.

The best-of-seven series shifts to Toronto for Game Three on Monday, with the Blue Jays desperate for a victory. It is familiar territory for Toronto, which lost the opening two games of the AL Division Series to the Texas Rangers before coming back to sweep the next three and advance to the next round. "You don't like to get in the habit of doing it, that's for sure," said Toronto manager John Gibbons. "Our back is against the wall, but it will be good to go back home where we normally play well. "We feel good. It's a lot tougher from here. But we have a pretty good team, too."

Leading 3-0 and with ace David Price on cruise control having retired 18 consecutive batters, Toronto looked poised to level the

series until a Kansas City barrage of seventh inning singles during which Eric Hosmer, Mike Moustakas, Alex Gordon, Alex Rios and Kendrys Morales, on a fielder's choice, all drove in runs.

The inning began on an ominous note when Kansas City second baseman Ben Zobrist floated a soft pop fly into shallow right that left Ryan Goins and Jose Bautista staring at each other to make the easy catch as the ball fell fair. With the two players running to make the catch Goins put up his glove appearing to call off Bautista but then stopped and dropped to the turf as the ball hit the ground between them.

Kansas City left fielder Gordon considered the mix-up the turning point of the game. "He (Price) was cruising, we got that early at-bat. Price is a tough pitcher," Gordon said. "I felt like we needed to catch a break and Zobrist's ball there I think got things going. "Once this lineup gets moving, it's one guy after another, and it was a big seventh inning."

Added Gibbons: "The way I saw it looked like Ryan kind of held him (Bautista) off a little bit and he might have backed Jose up a little bit and the ball dropped in."

"They were looking for that one crack because David was so good ... It's a shame it had to end that way." After Toronto opened the door the Royals did not look back, scoring five and adding another on a Moustakas RBI in the eighth.

A regular Cy Young contender rated one of the best pitchers in baseball, Price has not produced the same results in the postseason, where he is 0-7 as a starter.

"The breaks didn't go our way," said Goins. "We've been down two before and came back so we are going to Toronto (to) take three games. "I put my glove up and was pretty much saying I'm going to make this play and I didn't so it's on me."

"I put my glove up, that's our sign and it means I've got it, and just thought I heard something that I didn't." — Reuters



ZAIN HONORS NATIONAL JET SKI TEAM WORLD CHAMPIONS

KUWAIT: Zain, the leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, welcomed Kuwait's National Jet Ski team champions in Kuwait Airport after the team achieved a number of titles during their participation in the recently concluded World Jet Ski Championship held in Arizona, United States, as the company is the main sponsor of the team for the fifth consecutive year.

Zain participated in the reception ceremony held in Kuwait Airport's Honoring Hall, where many of the team's sponsors and supporting organizations attended. The company expressed its keenness on encouraging Kuwaiti athletes to represent Kuwait in the various internationally renowned championships, and that its sponsorship of the team for fifth consecutive year falls

under its strategy towards supporting the youth and sports sectors.

The company expressed its pride in the latest achievements the team accomplished, where they won 18 medals, 8 of which are gold medals. Zain confirms its commitment towards Kuwaiti champions, which resembles the company's endless confidence of the competencies of

these young athletes and their capabilities in excelling in different fields.

As a leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, Zain is constantly looking to identify and support excellence across the sports sector. The company will continue to put Kuwaiti National teams and individual athletes at the forefront of its priorities and pledges to contin-

ue motivating them to achieve all the recognition they deserve.

It is worth noting that the National Jet Ski team is authorized by the Kuwait Sea Sport Club to officially represent the country in regional and international Jet Ski championships. The team champions won a number of prominent titles during past and present participations.



NISSAN PATROL CLINCH TOP TWO SPOTS IN CROSS-COUNTRY FIA WORLD CUP

DUBAI: Nissan had cause for double celebrations at the Rallye of Morocco, the latest round of the cross-country FIA World Cup, as its sponsored drivers won the championship and took second place.

Denis Berezovskiy became this year's champion in the Nissan Patrol. The Nissan sponsored driver, from Kazakhstan, has been so far ahead in points that he only needed to finish the Rallye of Morocco to clinch the T2 category title.

Emil Khneisser, also backed by Nissan, powered across the line in Morocco in second place at the wheel of his Nissan Patrol, confirming an unassailable runners-up position in the Championship, with one further round to go.

"Both drivers have shown their great rallying talent with Denis taking the World Championship even before the final round, and Emil becoming the Championship runner-up as well as placing second in Morocco," said Samir Cherfan, managing director of Nissan Middle East. "It is an absolutely tremendous feat, and they are both inspirations to young rally drivers in the Arab world. We are also extremely proud of the first and second place championship victory for the Nissan Patrol in the T2 category, which pits series production vehicles against each other."

Berezovskiy, and his navigator Ignat Falkov, faced some challenges during the early stages of the Rallye of Morocco. Despite needing only to finish they made a barnstorming run through the final loop stage near Agadir to catch up and finish line fifth.

"I am delighted to win the T2 World Championship here with my Nissan Patrol," says Berezovskiy. "It was a long and difficult rally and we had our fair share of issues, but it all worked out in the end and I am proud to say that Nissan, Ignat and I are the FIA T2 world champions!"

Abu Dhabi-based Khneisser and Russian navigator Alexey Kuzmich also had to over-

come time delays during the race but a solid last stage helped them and their Patrol to gain second place in the Rallye of Morocco and consequently second place in the Cross-Country FIA World Cup.

Khneisser's day job is group training and product manager at Abu Dhabi's Nissan dealer Al Masaood Automobiles and this is the Lebanese driver's first attempt at the punishing and highly competitive European circuit.

"I always tell my kids how they should never to give up in the face of adversity," said Khneisser. "In Morocco I had no choice but to apply that lesson and lead by example. Even though we were challenged along the way, the obstacles certainly didn't prevent the legendary Nissan Patrol from forcing its way to a podium finish."

"For four days we kept our hopes high, working hard in the dunes and across some really tough terrain to achieve our podium finish. It also enabled me to confirm second place in the T2 championship standings and I'm really proud of that and for everyone at Nissan who has been so supportive, especially the Middle East team."

Khneisser now heads to Portugal at the end of this month to tackle Baja Portugal, the final round of the FIA World Cup.

The Cross Country FIA World Cup is a global competition with events including: the Abu Dhabi Desert Challenge Powered by Nissan, Baja Russia (Northern Forest), Sealine Cross Country Rallye Qatar, Pharaohs Rallye in Egypt, the Italian Baja, the Hungarian Baja, Baja Aragon in Spain, the Baja Poland, Morocco Baja and the Baja Portugal 500.

Nissan is working to develop motorsport in the Middle East and support drivers. The Japanese carmaker sponsors Saudi Arabia's Ha'il International Rally and the Abu Dhabi Desert Challenge, and also runs programs to help youth learn the sport of drifting in a safe and controlled environment.



CANADIENS CLIP RED WINGS

MONTREAL: Jeff Petry scored the go-ahead goal in the third period and the Montreal Canadiens beat the Detroit Red Wings 4-1 on Saturday night to reach 6-0-0 for the first time in franchise history.

Brendan Gallagher scored in the second, Tomas Plekanec made it 3-1, and Brian Flynn scored an empty-netter for Montreal. The Canadiens also were unbeaten after six games in 1977-78 at 5-0-1. Carey Price made 21 saves for Montreal. Rookie Dylan Larkin scored for Detroit.

OILERS 5, FLAMES 2

Connor McDavid scored twice and added an assist for his first multipoint game and Edmonton beat Calgary for its first victory of the season.

The first overall pick in the June draft, the 18-year-old McDavid broke a 1-1 tie with 3:29 left in the second period. After carrying the puck through the neutral zone, he used Kris Russell as a screen and scored past Jonas Hiller on a long wrist shot.

With his parents in attendance, McDavid capped the scoring with 3:40 left in the third, converting Taylor Hall's pass for a power-play goal.

Hall added a goal and two assists, and Ryan Nugent-Hopkins and Nail Yakupov also scored to help Edmonton improve to 1-4-0. David Jones scored twice for Calgary.

BLACKHAWKS 4, BLUE JACKETS 1

Artem Anisimov and Teuvo Teravainen scored in a 1:05 span late in the second period to break a scoreless tie and Chicago beat Columbus.

Columbus is 0-6-0, the worst start in franchise history. Marian Hossa added a power-play goal in the third and had an assist to help the defending Stanley Cup champions rebound after consecutive losses at Philadelphia and Washington. Patrick Kane completed the scoring with an empty-netter for his fourth goal. Corey Crawford made 22 saves, allowing only Jack Johnson's last goal.

PENGUINS 2, MAPLE LEAFS 1

Evgeni Malkin and Olli Maatta scored first-period goals and Pittsburgh held on to beat Toronto. Phil Kessel faced Toronto for the first time since the Leafs shipped the three-time All-Star to Pittsburgh in July. Marc-Andre Fleury, playing in his 600th career game, made 26 saves.

Sidney Crosby hasn't scored in the team's first five games, a career-worst stretch to start the season. Jake Gardiner scored for Toronto.

ISLANDERS 6, SHARKS 3

Kyle Okposo broke a tie early in the third period and added two assists to help New York hand San Jose



Jeff Petry in action in this file photo.

its first loss of the season. Johnny Boychuk, Anders Lee, Josh Bailey, Brock Nelson and Frans Nielsen also scored, and Jaroslav Halak made 22 saves after missing the first four games because of an undisclosed upper-body injury. New York has won three straight, all at home. Joe Pavelski, Nikolay Goldobin and Joel Ward scored for San Jose. The Sharks opened 4-0-0.

CAPITALS 4, HURRICANES 1

Nicklas Backstrom had a goal and two assists in his season debut to help Washington beat Carolina. Backstrom, the NHL assists leader last season with 60, missed the first three games while recovering from arthroscopic hip surgery. The center scored in the third period and assisted on power-play goals from T.J. Oshie and John Carlson. Washington broke it open with three third-period goals, the last coming from Alex Ovechkin. Braden Holtby made 18 saves, allowing only Jeff Skinner's goal.

STARS 4, PANTHERS 2

Tyler Seguin and Jamie Benn each scored two goals to lift Dallas past Florida. Benn tied it at 2 on a power play 50 seconds into the third period. Seguin gave Dallas its first lead with 3:02 remaining, backhanding a rebound of a pass from John Klingberg. Benn then capped the scoring with an empty-netter with 19 seconds to go.

Patrick Sharp had two assists and Kari Lehtonen stopped 22 shots to improve to 3-0-0. Aleksander Barkov and Brandon Pirri scored for Florida.

LIGHTNING 2, SABRES 1

Ben Bishop broke the Tampa Bay record for career victory, and Alex Killorn scored the go-ahead goal on a power play with 3:57 left.

Bishop made 31 saves in his 84th victory for the Lightning, one more than Nikolai Khabibulin. Vladislav Namestnikov also scored for Tampa Bay. Sam Reinhart scored his first NHL goal for Buffalo.

BRUINS 5, COYOTES 3

Patrice Bergeron scored twice in the last 11 minutes to lift Boston past Arizona. Tyler Randall, Dave Krejci and Brad Marchand also scored, and Tuukka Rask stopped 20 shots for his first win of the season. Shane Doan had a goal and two assists, and Tobias Rieder and Kyle Chipchura also scored for Arizona.

PREDATORS 4, SENATORS 3

James Neal scored two power-play goals and added the shootout winner in Nashville's victory over Ottawa. Craig Smith also scored, and Carter Hutton made 38 saves in his first start of the season to help Nashville improve to 4-1-0. Mike Hoffman scored twice, and Mark Stone added a goal for Ottawa. — AP

NISSAN SPONSORS GLOBAL CRICKET EVENTS IN ICC PARTNERSHIP DEAL

KUWAIT: Nissan has agreed to a major eight-year deal with the International Cricket Council (ICC) that further strengthens its ties with global sport.

The agreement, which runs through 2023, confirms Nissan as a global sponsor of cricket's international tournaments, including the ICC Cricket World Cup, ICC Champions Trophy and ICC World Twenty20, as well as Under 19 and Women's Cricket and qualifying events.

The ICC partnership is a significant expansion of Nissan's ongoing international sports sponsorship strategy. It allows the Japanese carmaker to bring its innovative and fan-focused approach to sport to millions of cricket-lovers around the world.

"Innovation that excites is what Nissan does," said Roel de Vries, corporate vice president, and global head of marketing and brand strategy for Nissan. "As partners with the ICC we will introduce ways to enrich the experience of cricket fans through our rights with the global Trophy Tour, the International Flag Bearer Program and new live event experiences."

"We're excited to be part of the global cricketing family and to be involved in some of the world's most prestigious and popular tournaments. Our aim is to share with cricket fans around the world the excitement of the game and our cars. Both are created by people who have passion for what they do."

As a global partner, Nissan will have extensive in-venue activation, broadcast and digital rights at all ICC events. Commenting on the agreement, David Richardson, chief executive, International Cricket Council, said: "The ICC is delighted to welcome Nissan on board as a Global Partner and we look forward to working together for the next eight years to deliver a strong partnership at all ICC global events."



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The ICC partnership is another example of Nissan's dedication to global sport, which includes the UEFA Champions League, the Rio 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games, the Olympic Teams of Great Britain, Mexico and Brazil, the National Collegiate Athletics Association, the Heisman Trophy, City Football Group and GT-R ambassador Usain Bolt.

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ALL BLACKS, SPRINGBOKS SET UP SEMI SHOWDOWN

LONDON: The southern hemisphere's assault on the World Cup delivered the first two semi-finalists on Saturday when South Africa edged Wales 23-19 and New Zealand crushed France 62-13 to set up a titanic last-four clash between the rugby powerhouses.

Australia and Argentina will be looking to complete a Rugby Championship clean sweep by beating Scotland and Ireland respectively on Sunday. Winger Julian Savea scored his second hat-trick of the tournament as the All Blacks steamrolled the French in Cardiff after a close game at Twickenham was settled by a moment of magic from Springboks scrumhalf Fourie du Preez.

New Zealand were far too strong for France, the side they overcame 8-7 in the 2011 final, sounding a clear warning that they do not intend to let go of their crown by winning the title abroad for the first time. "We can't wait for the semi-finals, South Africa are a great team and we enjoy playing them," All Blacks coach Steve Hansen said after masterminding the biggest ever victory in a Rugby World Cup knockout match. "New Zealand were two or three classes above (us)," said France captain Thierry Dusautoir. Flyhalf Dan Carter kept his backs moving at pace and converted seven of the All Blacks' tries, adding a penalty for a personal tally of 17 points.

Lock Brodie Retallick, winger Nehe Milner-Skudder, flanker Jerome Kaino, number eight Kieran Read and replacement Tawera Kerr-Barlow (twice) also crossed the line. The French replied with a first-half try from number eight Louis Picamoles, who was sin-binned in the second half. The Twickenham quarter-final was defined by two Dan Biggar moments.

The Wales flyhalf, who kicked 14 points, laid on a fine try in the first half when he gathered

his own perfectly judged kick ahead and as he was tackled passed to scrumhalf Gareth Davies who touched down under the posts.

Springboks flyhalf Handre Pollard kept his team's score ticking over with penalties and a drop goal and Wales, 13-12 ahead at halftime, went into the final six minutes clinging to a slender 19-18 lead. Biggar was then taken off as a precaution after receiving a knock to his head and in his absence a Welsh lapse of concentration at a Springboks scrum close to the touchline was exploited by Du Preez. The Springboks forwards wheeled right and Duane Vermeulen dummied to go that way before turning and brilliantly offloading the ball to Du Preez who darted over in the corner.

Wales coach Warren Gatland had no complaints about the medical call on Biggar. "He's done a fantastic job for us in terms of his leadership and control," Gatland said. Unfortunately, that leadership of the back line was missing at the crucial moment and Du Preez seized the chance to apply a move the Springboks had rehearsed all week. "We actually initially went for the penalty from the scrum, but during the week we noticed that their number nine was covering more behind the scrum and that opened some space," said Du Preez.

Argentina's Pumas, semi-finalists in 2007, face Ireland in Cardiff (1200 GMT) looking to prevent the Six Nations champions from reaching the last four for the first time.

The Irish have been further depleted by injury after flyhalf Johnny Sexton failed a fitness test on a groin injury on Saturday having been named in their starting line-up. Ireland, who have replaced Sexton with Ian Madigan, had lost captain Paul O'Connell and blindsided flanker Peter O'Mahony to injury. Openside Sean O'Brien is suspended. — Reuters



CARDIFF: New Zealand's Kieran Read wins a line out during the Rugby World Cup quarterfinal match between New Zealand and France at the Millennium Stadium. — AP

DJOKOVIC DISPATCHES TSONGA IN SHANGHAI

SHANGHAI: It proved all too easy once again for Novak Djokovic as the world number one continued his frightening dominance of men's tennis by blitzing past Frenchman Jo-Wilfried Tsonga to win another Shanghai Masters title yesterday.

The Serbian, 10-times a grand slam champion, brushed aside the challenge of a befuddled Tsonga 6-1 6-4 to claim his third Shanghai Masters and ninth title of a standout year that has left him being spoken of among the sport's all-time greats. Djokovic won three grand slams this year, was runner-up at the French Open and since suffering a surprise quarter-final loss to Ivo Karlovic in Qatar in January has made the final of all 13 events he has played.

The 30-year-old Tsonga had shown his serving prowess in taking out Rafa Nadal in three tight sets in the semi-finals on Saturday but against the imperious returning skills of Djokovic he had no answers. The 28-year-old Serb nullified Tsonga's most potent weapon to break his three opening service games and take a first set which the Frenchman played predominantly way behind the baseline. Things improved for Tsonga at the start of the second set where he worked hard to fight off break points and stay on serve through the opening eight games as the Serb sauntered through his own service. But the pressure proved too much, Djokovic pummeling balls to all angles with supreme court coverage at the expense of just eight unforced errors and he broke at the third attempt in the crucial ninth game and served out for victory.

SERVICE RETURNS

"Today the key was to get as many serves back into play to Jo because he has one of the biggest serves in the game," Djokovic told the ATP website (www.atpworldtour.com).

"He has shown that in the second set, with



SHANGHAI: Winner's Novak Djokovic of Serbia (left) and Jo-Wilfried Tsonga of France after the award ceremony for the Shanghai Masters tennis tournament. — AP

some break points early in the set. He came up with some aces, some big serves."

It was a second straight tournament Djokovic had won without dropping a set after he landed his sixth China Open title in Beijing last week. The Serb now boasts a 38-1 win loss record on the Chinese hardcourts. "Generally I felt always in control of the match. I felt like I've done everything right. I didn't allow him to get into the rhythm, get into the match," he said.

Tsonga will be comforted by his strong showing in China, which helped move him up to ninth in the race to qualify for the eight man

end-of-season ATP Tour Finals in London next month. "The first set went quick," Tsonga said. "It's not easy to stop him. He is really consistent on his return. Today I didn't serve well enough, especially in the first set."

"After that, in the second, I served a little bit better, and it gave me the opportunity to have a chance on my serve. But finally I was not able to do it." The victory was Djokovic's 57th ATP Tour title, moving him within two of Nadal's mark of 27 Masters Series crowns and took his prize money for the year past a record \$16 million. — Reuters

TOO LITTLE TOO LATE FOR FADING FRANCE

CARDIFF: For once, France passed the ball around and played positive rugby, but they got what they deserved in a 62-13 humiliation by New Zealand in the World Cup quarter-finals on Saturday.

Les Bleus never looked like repeating the famous upsets of the All Blacks in the 2007 last-eight game in Cardiff, or the 1999 semi-final. For all their positive intent, they lacked the quality to challenge a team who cruised through the pool phase and they lost to New Zealand for a record ninth consecutive time.

Under head coach Philippe Saint Andre, who will make way for the former Toulouse coach Guy Noves, France always played conservatively, but on Saturday they decided to be bold.

"I believe that rugby is a game," Saint Andre told a news conference, although he spent most of his time insisting rugby was a physical affair above all.

"We tried to put rhythm into the game but we had too many turnovers and they were more reactive, they were faster."

France missed several tackles in the opening 20 minutes and just as in their 24-9 pool defeat by Ireland, they were dominated at the breakdown, giving the ball away on too many occasions.

The All Blacks ran riot with nine tries, the first coming after 11 minutes when Brodie Retallick touched down after a kick by Frederic Michalak, who got injured in the process, was charged down.

Losing Michalak so early was big setback for France, who were completely over-

powered by the defending champions.

Saint Andre's side showed good intention with fullback Scott Spedding often running with the ball instead of kicking it away and they were rewarded before the break when the powerful Louis Picamoles pierced the defence to score the only French try. But Picamoles was sin-binned for punching Richie McCaw in the 47th minute and that was when France totally cracked, not scoring a point in the second half and conceding 33 as New Zealand fell just short of their record winning margin against their opponents after winning a home test 61-10 in 2007.

France had never before conceded 62 points in a test match. "I assume a lot of responsibility, there is no problem about that, it's part of the job," said Saint Andre, whose successor had been named before the World Cup. "I took a lot of punches during four years. We were hoping that three months of preparations would help us reach another dimension."

The result was more painful for Les Bleus, who went through the pool phase without showing many attacking skills. They realised only before the game against New Zealand that attack is the DNA of French rugby but it was way too late.

"Let's face it, we've been between the fifth and eighth place in the world for three years now," Saint Andre said. "We're in our place," he added. "New Zealand had more flair and more skill," a painful admission that flowing and inventive French rugby is a thing of the past. — Reuters

MARQUEZ DENIES LORENZO WITH BRILLIANT FINAL LAP



PHILLIP ISLAND: MotoGP rider Marc Marquez of Spain raises his trophy above his head as he celebrates winning the Australian Motorcycle Grand Prix. — AP

MELBOURNE: Outgoing MotoGP champion Marc Marquez snatched the lead from Jorge Lorenzo on a thrilling last lap to win a classic Australian Grand Prix yesterday, with championship leader Valentino Rossi finishing fourth.

At the climax of a white-knuckle feast of daredevil racing between the top four place-getters, Marquez coaxed his Honda past Lorenzo before the final turn and roared home to win his first race at Phillip Island and fifth of the season.

Having grabbed and lost the lead time and again over the course of the race, Lorenzo initially cut a dejected figure when crossing for second place. He quickly cheered, however, having closed the gap on leader Rossi to 11 points ahead of the penultimate race in Malaysia next week.

Double world champion Lorenzo had Andrea Iannone to thank for keeping a rampaging Rossi off the podium, with the unfancied Italian enjoying one of his finest days on a Ducati to take third on a glorious afternoon at the seaside circuit.

Lorenzo said in a trackside interview that Marquez had made an "unbelievable last lap". "I was lucky that Andrea got the podium," he added. Iannone capitalised on a solid start from second on the grid to sweep past pole-sitter Marquez but held the lead for only moments before Lorenzo swooped at turn eight. The pair swapped the lead back and forth, and feathers flew on the third lap when a stray seagull ploughed straight into Iannone's helmet, ruffling the Italian who fell back to second.

Marquez soon joined the fray to turn the race into a three-way tussle before Rossi steered his Yamaha brilliantly from seventh on the grid to nip at the leaders' wheels.

Rossi went for broke in the final laps, pushing to second behind Lorenzo with an aggressive thrust past Marquez, but Iannone topped it with an audacious double overtake of both riders.

Lorenzo broke clear from the skirmish to open a gap from Marquez, but the Honda rider burned around the track on his final lap to seal a remarkable victory.

In the Moto2 category, rookie Alex Rins won his second race of the season for Paginas Amarillas HP40 ahead of Speed Up Racing's Sam Lowes and Forward Racing's Lorenzo Baldassarri.



HONG KONG: Jelena Jankovic of Serbia smiles as she poses with the trophy after defeating Angelique Kerber of Germany during their final match at the WTA Hong Kong Open. — AP

JANKOVIC BAGS HONG KONG TITLE

HONG KONG: Jelena Jankovic made it a Serbian win double in Asia yesterday as she fought back from a set down to beat Germany's Angelique Kerber to take the Hong Kong Open title.

The former world number one triumphed 3-6 7-6(4) 6-1 to claim her 15th WTA Title and second of the year. The success came shortly after compatriot Novak Djokovic beat Jo-Wilfried Tsonga to win the Shanghai Masters title in China.

Kerber needed a win to secure a place in the

eight woman end-of-season WTA Finals in Singapore next week and started brightly with an opening break as she took the set 6-3.

The second proved another tight affair with three breaks of serve each before a tiebreak which Jankovic edged 7-4 after both players excelled with returns.

Jankovic was buoyed by the success and found her serving rhythm in the decider as Kerber failed to force a break point and collapsed as the Serb ran out a strong winner. — Reuters

NEWCASTLE THRASH NORWAY



NEWCASTLE: Georginio Wijnaldum plundered four goals as Newcastle United thrashed Norwich City 6-2 at St James' Park yesterday to belatedly claim their first win of the Premier League season.

Ayozo Perez and Aleksandar Mitrovic also found the net, while Moussa Sissoko played his part with four assists, as Newcastle secured a league victory at the ninth attempt ahead of next weekend's trip to northeast derby rivals Sunderland, who replaced them at the foot of the table.

Norwich were 3-2 down at half-time, having scored through Dieumerci Mbokani making his full league debut and Nathan Redmond, who also hit the post in the second half. But despite a strong start to the second period they ended up well beaten, leaving Alex Neil's side just three points above the relegation zone in 16th place.

Newcastle showed four changes to the team thrashed 6-1 by Manchester City on their previous outing in which Sergio Aguero had scored five goals with Rob Elliot notably replacing Tim Krul in goal after the Dutchman ruptured knee ligaments on international duty. The hosts went ahead in the 14th minute when Sissoko picked up a loose ball on the

edge of the box and threaded a pass through to Wijnaldum, a close-season signing from PSV Eindhoven, who steered a low shot into the bottom-left corner. Robbie Brady sounded the Norwich revolt, cracking a shot against the post from 30 yards, and the visitors equalised in the 20th minute when Martin Olsson's delicious left-wing cross was stabbed home by Mbokani.

Wijnaldum restored Newcastle's lead six minutes later with a downward header from Sissoko's clipped cross and Perez made it 3-1 when he found the bottom-left corner at the second attempt following a block by Olsson. But Newcastle's defensive frailties were exposed again just 48 seconds later when Olsson's deep cross from the left was adroitly side-footed home on the volley by Redmond. McClaren sent Vurnon Anita on for Cheick Tioté at half-time and he had reason to thank Wijnaldum for a third time when the Holland international cleared a header from Newcastle old boy Sebastien Bassong off the line.

Bassong's chance arrived amid a spell of sustained Norwich pressure that spread jitters throughout the home ranks and visiting manager Neil added further attacking guile to his team by sending on Wes Hoolahan for Alexander Tetley.

But it was Newcastle who struck next with a goal of exceptional quality. Sissoko led a break from Newcastle's right-hand corner flag that culminated in him fighting a pass to Mitrovic, who chested the ball down, let it bounce, and lashed it past John Ruddy with his left foot.

Two minutes later it was 5-2 as Daryl Janmaat crossed from the right for Wijnaldum to head home his hat-trick goal. Redmond then cracked a low shot against the post, but Wijnaldum had saved the best for last, cutting in from the left and smashing a 25-yard shot inside the right-hand post. — AFP



SPAIN: Celta Vigo's Danish defender Daniel Wass (left) vies with Villarreal's forward Roberto Soldado during the Spanish League football match. — AFP

CELTA VIGO GO JOINT TOP, ATLETICO DOWN SOCIEDAD

MADRID: Celta Vigo moved level with Real Madrid and Barcelona at the top of La Liga thanks to Nolito's last-minute winner in a 2-1 victory at 10-man Villarreal yesterday.

Atletico Madrid are now within two points of the leaders as Antoine Griezmann and Yannick Ferreira Carrasco showed a controversial 2-0 win at nine-man Real Sociedad.

Villarreal had started the weekend as leaders, but a second consecutive defeat sees them slip down to fifth. Real Madrid remain top on goal difference and travel to Celta next Saturday in a top-of-the-table clash. Villarreal enjoyed the better of the early stages, but were hit by a sucker punch four minutes before half-time when Fabian Orellana curled home a superb opener from outside the box. The visitors could have been even further ahead at the break as

Pablo Hernandez's chipped effort drifted just over and Nolito hit the post. Villarreal were then reduced to 10 men early in the second half when Ivory Coast international defender Eric Bailly was shown a second yellow card. Yet, despite Celta's domination of possession, the hosts levelled through Denis Suarez's deflected effort 23 minutes from time.

Marcelino's men couldn't hold out for a point, though, as Spanish international Nolito swept home his sixth goal of the season on the rebound after Orellana's initial effort came back off the bar. Later, Atletico piled the pressure on former Manchester United manager David Moyes as Real Sociedad remain above the relegation zone only on goal difference with just one win in their opening eight games of the season. Griezmann brilliantly accelerated beyond the Basque side's defence on nine min-

utes before dinking the ball over Geronimo Rulli to open the scoring against his old club. A tepid 80 minutes followed with the hosts unable to break down the visitors as Atletico sat back, but tempers flared in the final stages as Diego Reyes was first to be sent off for taking his protests towards referee Ignacio Iglesias Villanueva too far. Villanueva then turned down strong penalty appeals for the hosts in stoppage time as Jose Maria Gimenez appeared to bring down Jonathas.

To rub salt into the home wounds, Atletico broke upfield and Fernando Torres played in Carrasco to score his first goal for the club. Jonathas then saw two yellow cards in a matter of seconds as he lost his cool with the officials to leave Moyes with two unnecessary suspensions to cope with next weekend's crucial clash at Levante. — AFP



NEWCASTLE: Newcastle United's Dutch midfielder Georginio Wijnaldum (right) celebrates with Newcastle United's Dutch midfielder Vurnon Anita (left) and French defender Massadio Haidara (second left) after scoring his fourth goal during the English Premier League football match. — AFP

OTAIBI: WE WON'T PARTICIPATE UNDER THE OLYMPIC FLAG

By Abdellatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: President of Arab and Kuwait Shooting Federations Duajj Al-Otaibi said HH The Crown Prince Tournament will start Wednesday at Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Olympic Shooting Complex, with the participation of all GCC countries. Al-Otaibi held a press conference Saturday evening in which he said Kuwait Shooting Sport Club began preparations for this event early, and roles were given to committees to organize the opening of the local sports season, with a major comprehensive championship that includes all Shooting Sports under the name of HH The Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, in appreciation of his role in supporting Kuwait Shooting Sport, enabling it to make so many international achievements including Olympics in the name of Kuwait, the last of which is the qualification of shooter Khalid Al-Mudhaf and Ahmad Al-Afasi to Brazil 2016 Olympics during their participation in Italy.

Al-Otaibi said the Board of Directors agreed on the participation of GCC countries in HH The Crown Prince Tournament, adding that Gulf Shooters will participate for the first time in the archery event, and wished all shooters success.

Al-Otaibi said KSSC Board decided to honor the winners at the world championship in Lunato, Italy, Ahmad Al-Afasi in double trap and Khalid Al-Mudhaf, double trap.

Al-Otaibi also lauded the achievements of the club's shooters at the Arab championship which was held in Morocco, achieving great results and



first place. When asked how shooting will be affected with suspensions, Eng. Al-Otaibi expressed regret over how matters deteriorated in Kuwait sports and the suspensions of sports federations.

He said we regret the behavior of some Kuwaitis by sending complaint against their country, Kuwait, to suspend sports and levy punishments against their country and athletes. He said there are countries close to us, who have appointed councils and governments interfere

in the sports affairs and they are not punished and nobody complain against them.

He said the IOC interference in our sports is regretful, adding that we at the KSSC are honored to comply with all Kuwait laws, and the supervision of state institutes does not contradict the Olympic charter. He said in case IOC decide to punish Kuwait sports, Kuwait shooters will not participate in Brazil 2016 Olympics under the Olympic flag, and their participation will only be under Kuwait flag.

DE KOCK, MORKEL HELP S AFRICA DOWN INDIA

RAJKOT: Quinton de Kock hit 103 and Morne Morkel claimed four for 39 as South Africa brushed aside India by 18 runs in the third one-day international in Rajkot yesterday.

De Kock, the 22-year-old left-handed opener, took advantage of a flat pitch to notch up his seventh one-day century—the fourth against India—that lifted the Proteas to 270-7.

India were restricted to 252-6 in reply, despite half-centuries from Rohit Sharma (65) and Virat Kohli, who returned to form with 77, his first substantial knock after 12 barren one-dayers.

The win handed the tourists a 2-1 lead in the five-match series with the last two games to be played in Chennai (October 22) and Mumbai (October 25). South Africa had won the opening game in Kanpur by five runs and India drew level at Indore with a 22-run victory. Morkel was supported by spirited fielding by his team-mates in hot and humid weather which tied down the free-stroking Indian batsmen.

Sharma, who hit 150 in a losing cause in the first match in Kanpur, shared a 72-run stand for the second wicket with Kohli after Shikhar Dhawan had fallen for 13.

Indian captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni then put on 80 for the third wicket with Kohli before he was removed by Morkel for 47 with his team still needing 78 off 49 deliveries.

Morkel sealed India's fate by dismissing Kohli and Ajinkya Rahane off successive deliveries in the 46th over, both batsmen being caught at deep mid-wicket by David Miller. Suresh Raina fell for a second successive zero, holing out in the deep against leg-spinner Imran Tahir.

South African captain AB de Villiers lauded his batsmen, especially de Kock, for the team's victory. "It was a very special batting performance," he said. "Quinton answered a lot of questions on

how valuable he is to the side. "We were looking at 250 to be a par score, but we managed more than that. And the way we fought back with the ball was special."

Dhoni said the target of 270 was gettable even on a pitch that became two-paced as the match went on. "South Africa batted when the wicket was at its best," he said. "When our turn came, the wicket kept getting lower and slower and it became difficult to play the big shots.

"Also there was not much dew in the evening, which made it easier for the South African bowlers. There are still two more games to go and we will look to bounce back."

Earlier, Faf du Plessis (60) shared a third-wicket stand of 118 with de Kock to lift the tourists to 205-2 in the 39th over when India hit back with three quick wickets to make it 210-5 in the 41st.

Du Plessis, who was caught off a Mohit Sharma no-ball when on 16, was dismissed by the same bowler to a catch at third-man, triggering the slide. De Kock was run out in the 40th over after a misunderstanding with de Villiers, who was himself given leg-before in left-arm spinner Axar Patel's next over. Farhaan Behardien smashed a last-ball six off Bhuvneshwar Kumar to return unbeaten on 33. The one-day series will be followed by four Test matches. — AFP

SCOREBOARD

RAJKOT, India: Full scoreboard of the third one-day international between India and South Africa in Rajkot on yesterday:

Table with 3 columns: Team, Player, and Score/Wickets. Includes South Africa and India batting and bowling statistics.



RED BULL WINNING 5 STARTS TODAY

KUWAIT: Red Bull Winning 5 is back to Kuwait! Winning 5 is a mini Football tournament with a twist. For the second year in a row, the most exciting and well-loved sport in the country, is back to Kuwait. Football lovers will be put to the test and have the chance to participate in a unique and exciting competition.

This event will have two qualifiers on October 19 and 20 with 64 teams competing. Only the best 16 teams will qualify to the final held on October 29 at Hasan Abul Soccer Courts. Save the date. This event is challenge-based, and focuses on creativity and entertainment while being a serious football competition. The five-

aside event does not include goalkeepers, whereby the goal is relatively small, i.e. 2m large x 1m high.

The game is based on elimination, so the loosing team is out of competition. However, a unique rule states that every goal scored allows the team to eliminate a player from the opposite team. The team captain should take this decision within 5 seconds of scoring, by pointing to the selected player with his finger. Each match consists of two 5-minute halves, and lasts until one team is completely eliminated, therefore it is challenging yet exciting for the teams to undergo the next round of games with one or more missing member.

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Djokovic dispatches Tsonga in Shanghai

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ITALY: Napoli's Argentinian-French forward Gonzalo Higuain (left) falls after a contact with Fiorentina's Romanian goalkeeper Ciprian Tatarusanu during the Italian Serie A football match. — AFP

HIGUAIN ON TARGET AS NAPOLI EDGE FIORENTINA

MILAN: Gonzalo Higuain's fifth league goal of the season helped Napoli to a precious 2-1 win over Fiorentina yesterday as Mauricio Sarri's men moved up to fourth place in Serie A. Napoli welcomed Fiorentina to the San Paolo looking to maintain a recent purple patch that has seen Sarri's side remain unbeaten in their last six outings.

Fiorentina were tough customers, but after Nikola Kalinic had levelled Lorenzo Insigne's superb opener for the hosts, Higuain struck in the 75th minute to secure Napoli's fourth win of the campaign.

Fiorentina, conceding just their second defeat, remain top but now have just a one-point lead on Roma and two on Inter Milan, who could go top of the league if they beat Juventus in the 'Derby d'Italia' late yesterday.

Elsewhere, Sampdoria's promising start came to a shuddering halt with a 2-0 defeat at Frosinone, while Lazio were stunned 2-1 away to Sassuolo.

Atalanta, meanwhile, romped to 3-0 win in Bergamo that came complete with a stunning

corner kick goal from Alejandro Gomez.

Mauricio Pinilla gave the hosts a welcome eighth-minute opener after meeting Maxi Moralez's curling delivery from the right to head past Carpi keeper Vid Belec at his near post.

Belec was beaten again on the stroke of half-time in more spectacular fashion, Gomez hitting a superb corner that sneaked over the entire Carpi defence and into the far top corner.

Atalanta wrapped up the points when Luca Cigarini fired past Belec from the penalty spot on 63 minutes after Pinilla was fouled by Igor Bubnjic. Paulo Sousa's Fiorentina have been rightly described as one of the most stylish teams in the league and were unlucky not to snatch a share of the points at the San Paolo. On the quarter hour Jakub Blaszczykowski brought a great one-handed save from Napoli keeper Peper Reina after turning on the edge of the area to unleash a left-footed drive.

When Higuain was impeded by Milan Badelj when just about to pull the trigger minutes later, he earned a free kick that Insigne curled into the waiting arms of Ciprian Tatarusanu.

Napoli's players surrounded the referee on the stroke of half-time to demand the expulsion of Davide Astori after the Italian defender tugged at Allan's shirt to stop him launching an offensive down the right flank. From the free kick, Napoli almost found the opening, Higuain heading wide of the target from Insigne's chipped cross from the left of the area.

The deadlock was finally broken two minutes after the restart when Insigne beat Tatarusanu at his far post after running on to Marek Hamsik's superb defence-splitting pass down the left.

Minutes later Higuain spurned the chance to double Napoli's lead when he bundled just over from close range. Napoli appeared to be on their way to a share of the spoils after Croatia international Kalinic, who hit a hat-trick in the 4-1 romp over Inter, ran on to Josip Ilicic's delivery to slot the ball past Reina down low.

But minutes later the stadium erupted when Higuain dispossessed Ilicic deep in Fiorentina territory, played a one-two with Dries Mertens and held off his marker to beat Tatarusanu down low. — AFP

Italian League Results/Standings

Bologna 0, Palermo 1 (Vazquez 24); Napoli 2 (Insigne 46, Higuain 75) Fiorentina 1 (Kalinic 73); Atalanta 3 (Pinilla 8, Gomez 43, Cigarini 63-pen) Carpi 0; Verona 1 (Pazzini 41-pen) Udinese 1 (Thereau 84); Genoa 3 (Pavoletti 13, Gakpe 17, Tachtsidis 90+3) Chievo 2 (Paloschi 1, Pellissier 77); Sassuolo 2 (Berardi 7-pen, Missiroli 60) Lazio 1 (Anderson 67); Frosinone 2 (Paganini 54, Dionisi 55) Sampdoria 0.

Played Saturday

Roma 3 (Pjanic 56, De Rossi 59, Salah 69) Empoli 1 (Buechel 75) Torino 1 (Baselli 73) AC Milan 1 (Bacca 63).

Italian Serie A table after yesterday afternoon games (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, goals against, points)															
Fiorentina	8	6	0	2	15	6	18	Palermo	8	3	1	4	10	12	10
Roma	8	5	2	1	20	10	17	Genoa	8	3	1	4	7	9	10
Inter Milan	7	5	1	1	8	6	16	AC Milan	8	3	1	4	9	14	10
Napoli	8	4	3	1	18	8	15	Juventus	7	2	2	3	9	8	8
Sassuolo	8	4	3	1	11	8	15	Udinese	8	2	2	4	8	11	8
Lazio	8	5	0	3	11	13	15	Frosinone	8	2	1	5	6	10	7
Torino	8	4	2	2	13	9	14	Empoli	8	2	1	5	8	14	7
Atalanta	8	4	2	2	11	8	14	Carpi	8	1	2	5	8	19	5
Chievo	8	3	3	2	13	8	12	Verona	8	0	5	3	7	11	5
Sampdoria	8	3	2	3	13	12	11	Bologna	8	1	0	7	4	13	3



NYON: The match fixtures are shown on an electronic panel following the draw for the play-off matches for UEFA EURO 2016 at the UEFA headquarters. — AP

HUNGARY SET FOR NORWAY TEST IN EURO 2016 PLAYOFFS

NYON: Hungary will have to overcome Norway if they are to qualify for their first major tournament in 30 years following yesterday's draw for the Euro 2016 playoff round while Sweden and Denmark will clash in a Scandinavian derby.

Hungary, who have been in the international wilderness since they appeared at the 1986 World Cup in Mexico, will play the first leg against the Norwegians, who themselves have not played at a major tournament since the 1998 World Cup.

Zlatan Ibrahimovic's Sweden, who lost out to Portugal in a playoff for the last World Cup, will be at home in the first leg against their neighbours.

In the other ties, Ukraine, who co-hosted Euro 2012 with Poland, will meet Slovenia and Bosnia will face Ireland. Hungary, semi-finalists in the 1964 and 1972 European championships, have won six and lost five of their 16 meetings with Norway but have not beaten the Scandinavians since a 4-1 win in Budapest in 1981, a run of nine games.

Their last appearance in a playoff was in the 1998 World Cup qualifiers when they crashed to a 12-1 aggregate defeat to Yugoslavia.

"I know Norwegian football very well-no one needs to introduce the opposition to us-so we know an excellent team awaits us," Hungary coach Bernd Storck told reporters. History does not favour Ukraine, who have yet to beat Slovenia in four games, with two draws and two defeats, and lost out to their opponents in the playoffs for a place at Euro 2000.

"There is no need to look for motivation against the teams of Spain or France's calibre, but we have to play with double motivation against the likes of Slovenia," said Ukraine midfielder Taras Stepanenko. "We have a great chance to qualify to the finals and everybody has to give their all to achieve this aim." Sweden and Denmark have met 104 times with 45 wins for the Swedes and 40 for the Danes, who are the only former European champions in the playoffs.

Bosnia have lost on both their previous two appearances in a playoff round, having been eliminated by Portugal in the final qualifying stages of the 2010 World Cup and then Euro 2012.

They qualified directly for Brazil last year when they made their first appearance at a major tournament as an independent nation. — Reuters

Kuwait Times BUSINESS

MONDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2015

KCCI to boost trade,
economic cooperation
with France

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Kuwait key to flydubai's
growth story

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First X-cite store
opens in Riyadh

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JAPAN'S 'KONBINI' STORES, OPEN AND STOCKED ROUND THE CLOCK

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ROISSY-EN-FRANCE: A file picture taken on October 5, 2015 shows employees of Air France demonstrating in front of the company headquarters, during the launch of the plan at a central committee meeting, in Roissy-en-France. Air France will cut almost 1,000 jobs in 2016, the first part of a restructuring plan aimed at combating fierce competition from global rivals, the chief executive Air France-KLM said yesterday. — AFP

AIR FRANCE TO GO AHEAD WITH 2016 JOB CUTS

FURTHER CUTS CAN STILL BE AVOIDED IF NEGOTIATIONS ARE SUCCESSFUL

PARIS: Air France will go ahead and cut hundreds of jobs as planned next year under the first part of a restructuring plan that triggered violent protests, the chief executive of Air France-KLM said yesterday.

The remaining cuts planned for 2017 can still be avoided if negotiations with unions are successful before the start of next year, Alexandre de Juniac said in a joint interview with RTL radio, LCI television and the Le Figaro daily.

The struggling airline's restructuring plan unveiled on October 5 after pilots rejected a proposal to work longer hours-made headlines around the world when executives were manhandled by furious workers.

Human resources manager Xavier Broseta

had his shirt ripped off as he clambered over barriers to escape, helped by security guards, while another executive had his shirt and jacket torn in the scrum.

Workload 'too heavy'

Air France plans to cut 2,900 jobs over 2016 and 2017, and in the interview, De Juniac said that next year's portion of the restructuring plan was already underway.

He remained evasive about the exact number of job cuts next year-which will mainly involve voluntary departures-saying they would represent "less than a third of the total" of the planned 2,900 layoffs.

Asked whether this would represent nearly 1,000 posts, he responded: "Less than that." "If

negotiations are successful by the beginning of next year, we can avoid implementing 2017's plan B.

"The events on October 5 upset a lot of people... and highlighted the need to negotiate." Unions reacted in anger at the announcement. Miguel Fortea of the CGT said unions were not being respected. "It makes you wonder whether you've got to go to RTL (radio) to talk with De Juniac," he said. Christophe Malloggi of the FO union accused the group CEO of pursuing "his roadmap without even bothering to analyse what happened on the 5th." "Eluding problems doesn't make them disappear. "The workload is already too heavy, in many services, with the current workforce," he said.

'Destructive'

The October 5 violence-in which seven people were hurt, including a security guard who was knocked unconscious-earned a sharp rebuke from President Francois Hollande, who said it could harm the country's image.

"Social dialogue matters, and when it's interrupted by violence and disputes take on an unacceptable form, it can have consequences for the image and attractiveness" of the country, he said a day after the incident.

De Juniac said the chaotic scenes had harmed the airline's image as well. "What we saw was destructive," he said. "It's unimaginable that the whole world now assimilates Air France with these images."

Five employees at the airline-which

merged with Dutch national carrier KLM in 2004 — were detained and will face trial on December 2 for their alleged role in the violence.

De Juniac said the company had launched 18 disciplinary procedures, which could lead to layoffs or other sanctions. He also called on the government to help out as Air France tries to save 1.8 billion euros (\$2 billion) over two years, as competition with global rivals intensifies.

"It would be good if we could make 200 million euros in savings on social security contributions," he said. Taxes and social security charges paid by companies in France are notoriously high, and have been blamed on a loss of competitiveness.— AFP

SABIC PROFIT FALLS 9.4% BUT COST-CUTTING LIMITS DROP

DUBAI: Better-than-expected earnings at top petrochemical producer Saudi Basic Industries boosted the Saudi stock market yesterday, while most Gulf bourses moved little and Egypt fell on fears of currency depreciation.

SABIC reported a 9.4 percent drop in third-quarter net profit to 5.6 billion riyals (\$1.5 billion) due to slumping product sales prices, but it beat analysts' average forecast of 4.36 billion riyals because of cost-cutting.

That was enough to boost the stock by 2.9 percent to 90.25 riyals, bringing its gains over the past 10 trading days to 15 percent. The Saudi stock index climbed 1.2 percent. Shares in Saudi petrochemical makers plunged in the last several months as low oil prices slashed their profit margins and because of concern the Saudi government, facing a huge budget deficit, might seek to raise revenue by increasing gas feedstock prices.

But growing hopes that oil prices may have bottomed out, with Brent crude hovering around \$50 a barrel, have encouraged some investors to start buying back petchems in the last couple of weeks. Nine analysts rate SABIC a "buy" or "strong buy" and five "hold", according to Thomson Reuters data; the median target price is 105 riyals.

Sahara Petrochemical jumped 7.0 percent yesterday after it said third-quarter earnings soared 608 percent, partly because its year-earlier earnings were hit by an unplanned shutdown of a plant. But a third firm in the sector, Saudi Kayan, sank 1.1 percent after tumbling 9.8 percent on Thursday following its announcement of a third-quarter loss.

SABB Takaful soared 9.6 percent in unusually heavy trade, rebounding after a couple days of sharp declines. Elsewhere in the Gulf, markets were much more subdued. The Dubai index edged up 0.3 percent as the most heavily traded stock, GFH Financial, added 0.9 percent. The company said it had agreed to acquire an industrial real estate portfolio in the United States in a deal worth \$125 million - potentially a fresh sign that it is putting its

debt restructurings behind it.

Abu Dhabi gained 0.6 percent as telecommunications blue chip Etisalat, which has risen 22 percent since late August, added 0.7 percent to 15.25 dirhams.

Five analysts rate the stock a "buy" or "strong buy" and four a "hold"; their median target price is 14.60 dirhams, according to Thomson Reuters data. The company opened its shares to buying by foreign and institutional investors on Sept. 15 and may eventually become part of MSCI's emerging market index. Qatar edged down 0.1 percent, though Barwa Real Estate climbed 1.1 percent.

The 10 most heavily traded stocks moved only narrowly, however, indicating the market was not in the grip of a major sell-off.

SUNDAY'S HIGHLIGHTS SAUDI ARABIA

The index climbed 1.2 percent to 7,793 points.

DUBAI

The index edged up 0.3 percent to 3,708 points.

ABU DHABI

The index rose 0.6 percent to 4,563 points.

QATAR

The index edged down 0.1 percent to 11,761 points.

EGYPT

The index fell 0.7 percent.

KUWAIT

The index gained 0.7 percent.

OMAN

The index added 0.3 percent to 5,925 points.

BAHRAIN

The index fell 0.7 percent to 1,249 points.—Reuters



MIAMI: In this Tuesday, Oct. 6, 2015 photo, job applications and information for the Gap Factory Store sit on a table during a job fair at Dolphin Mall in Miami. Job openings slid to 5.4 million in August from a record high 5.7 million in July, the Labor Department said Friday, Oct. 16, 2015. Hiring was little-changed at 5.1 million. — AP

EGYPT CENTRAL BANK DEVALUES POUND AGAIN

CAIRO: Egypt's central bank weakened the value of the Egyptian pound against the dollar yesterday for the second time in a week. The bank said in a statement that it weakened the pound at an auction, dropping the value from 7.83 to 7.93 pounds per dollar. The central bank has allowed commercial banks a wider margin for selling and buying dollars since January, at 0.10 pounds above or below the official rate. The central bank effectively controls the value of the domestic currency in regular foreign currency auctions. This is the weakest the pound has been since the Egyptian government introduced the auction system in December 2012 aimed at regulating devaluation.

The new rate could boost much-needed foreign investment, as investors and economists see the currency as overvalued. "We should be expecting gradual and managed movement," said Hany Farhat, senior economist at CI Capital. He said the move was expected, and that his firm forecasts the pound will continue to weaken and reach 8.2 to the dollar by the end of the year.

Meanwhile, Egypt's foreign currency reserves continue to drop. Many economists say propping up the pound was a factor in the depletion of Egypt's foreign currency reserves. The bank reported that reserves fell 9.7 percent in September to \$16.3 billion. Years of unrest since the 2011 over-

throw of longtime autocrat Hosni Mubarak were already taking a heavy toll on sources of foreign currency, such as foreign investment and Egypt's vital tourism sector.

Farhat said devaluation by itself will not be enough. "It's a basic step toward more coherent (foreign exchange) management policies and will be accompanied by other policy measures as well."

"We have to solve the problem from the root cause," Egypt's Minister of Investment Ashraf Salman told a group of business leaders last week. "We're trying to restructure the trade balance in order to reach a proper gap," he said, as imports far exceeded exports last year.—AP



Sudhir Sreedharan with flydubai team at its stand at Avenues Mall, Kuwait.



flydubai business class

KUWAIT KEY TO FLYDUBAI'S GROWTH STORY

AIRLINE INDUSTRY IN GULF SEES ROBUST GROWTH, FLYDUBAI EXPANDS FOOTPRINT

By Sajeev K Peter

KUWAIT: The airline industry in the Gulf region is witnessing a robust growth of around 14 percent today, which is stronger than Europe or the US, and the Kuwait market is an important part of that growth story, said Sudhir Sreedharan, flydubai's Senior Vice President, Commercial Operations (Indian subcontinent, GCC and Africa). Talking to Kuwait Times in an exclusive interview, Sreedharan said the Kuwait market is a significant part of flydubai's growth strategy as it expands its footprint in the region.

Sreedharan was in Kuwait to attend a mall promotion roadshow organized by flydubai at Avenues Mall from Oct 14-17. Speaking at length about flydubai's growth and expansion since it started operations as a Dubai-based airline in 2009, Sreedharan elaborated on the importance of the Kuwait market to the airline.

"flydubai's advent into Kuwait is one of the most robust stories that we have in the GCC. We started operations to Kuwait in 2010 with two flights a day, and in less than five years' time, we have grown to 12 flights a day. This would not have been possible without the support of the Kuwaiti authorities and the people," said Sreedharan.

On the launch of the Sheikh Saad terminal in 2013, he said, "we took flydubai service to a new level with the launch of this dedicated terminal. Today, a passenger takes less than five minutes to come out of the aircraft at Sheikh Saad terminal and get into a taxi. So the service and seamlessness that we guarantee onboard and on ground to Kuwait customers has gone to a whole new level.

The exclusivity and the seamlessness of Sheikh Saad terminal is a fantastic story," he said.

Kuwait market

"The Gulf region is growing more strongly than Europe or the US today," he said, quoting the latest Carper report on the aviation industry. "Growth in this market is about 13 to 14 percent, which is the strongest at the moment and Kuwait is an important part of that growth. If we look at our numbers for the first half of 2015 compared to the same period last year, we have grown about 22 percent," he said.

According to Sreedharan, Kuwaiti travelers are extremely discerning and very adventurous. Unlike the usual GCC travel which is predominantly point-to-point, Kuwaiti customers opt to travel to previously underserved markets. "Of the 98 cities that we fly into today, 67 of them were previously underserved from Dubai. The amount of Kuwaitis traveling to these 67 destinations is a story that is quite commendable," he pointed out.

Kuwait is not only growing homogeneously as Kuwaitis continue to travel to Dubai, but they also venture out to test new markets such as Eastern European cities. This expansion of footprint allows us to invest and grow in this market," he said.

From 2010 till date, flydubai has carried around 2.8 million passengers in an out of Kuwait. "This number endorses the fact that we fly 12 flights a day from Kuwait. We would want customers to think of us the moment they think of Dubai. They could go to the airport, park the car, buy the ticket and practically take off. That is how the whole

travel arena is evolving today. That is where our space of growth is as compared to any other legacy carrier. People continue to believe in us and we remain a popular airline," he explained.

Fleet expansion

Over the last six years, flydubai has



Sudhir Sreedharan during the interview

built up a fleet of 49 new aircraft and will take delivery of more than 100 aircraft by the end of 2023, all of which will be Boeing 737-800s. "We took delivery of 15 Boeing 737-800s we ordered in 2008. In 2013, flydubai ordered another 111 aircraft including the new Boeing 737-800 max. Next year, we will take delivery of eight more aircraft and will launch eight to 10 new destinations. By the end of 2016, we are looking at a network of 100-110 destinations with 58 aircraft," Sreedharan said. flydubai has created a network of more than 95 des-

tinations in 45 countries, with 18 new routes announced in 2015.

The airline has opened up 67 new routes that did not previously have direct air links to Dubai or were not served by a UAE national carrier from Dubai. It has a workforce of more than 3,000 employees from 111 nationalities and operates an average of 1,600 flights a week.

"Complementing this growth is the opening of a new hub at Dubai airport. We will start operations from Dubai World Centre (DWC) starting with the winter schedule this year and operate 70 flights a week. Along with two Kuwait flights daily, we will also operate flights from DWC to Doha, Bahrain, Muscat, Beirut, Amman, Chittagong and Kathmandu. Customers from Kuwait will have the ability to go to central Dubai or Jebel Ali or south of Dubai which is where the next phase of development is taking place today," he informed.

Business class

"We see it as a plausible and solid case to launch business class in our flights. Of the 98 cities we will serve by the end of this year, 67 of the cities were previously underserved. From those cities to Dubai, there was either no product or the product was not of the right quality or not affordable, and to those cities, business class is definitely the only option for business travelers who wish to come to Dubai," he said, explaining the rationale behind launching a business class on flydubai.

"In the existing network where we have a competition in business class, we find that there is a profile of customers who want to see differently and to be seated differently. And we have been

able to deliver the service the way they want. Not only we deliver it as a product, but we have been able to ensure that we get the customers to endorse it," he said.

flydubai launched its business class in 2013 with 162 seats in economy class and 12 in business class. According to Sreedharan, the Boeing 737-800 is the most successful and sturdy plane ever built by Boeing, which is also very fuel efficient.

Oil price scenario

Talking about the fuel price drop and its possible impact on airfares, he said: "It is a double-edged sword." For airlines, a drop in fuel prices is positive because fuel accounts for about 30 percent of the operating costs. "But average airfares have come under pressure now. So the right revenue per seat that should have been complemented by the oil price drop is not exactly there," he explained.

"The fuel price drop has helped flydubai in its overall positioning in the industry. Our customer base continues to grow," he said. "We see fuel prices remain suppressed in 2016. But more importantly, our focus is to ensure that in each market, our guests get the right price. We remain in that affordable segment and continue to stimulate profit," he added.

"Fares are the reflection of the market irrespective of the fuel costs. Fares do not go up just because fuel prices go up or vice versa. We, being a part of this market, have to ensure that fares are in line with what the market can afford and in line with our business policy of ensuring an affordable stimulatory fare," he concluded.



WIN UPTO 30 KG GOLD AT JOYALUKKAS THIS DIWALI

KUWAIT: Joyalukkas, the world's favourite jeweller, has announced their festive campaign for Diwali - the celebration of light. This festive season, Joyalukkas is offering an incredible chance to win upto 30 kg Gold and other exciting offers across GCC, Singapore & Malaysia showrooms so that every shopper feels like a winner. "This Diwali we have planned exciting offers for the customers. Wherein the customers get a chance to win upto 30 kg Gold, a whopping & 50% off on Diamond & Polki Jewellery so that every jewellery lover feels like a winner shopping at our showroom," said Joy Alukkas, Chairman & MD, Joyalukkas Group.

This festive season, Joyalukkas is offering an opportunity to their customers to win 30kg of gold in 30 days. The customers who buy gold or diamond jewellery worth KD 40 get a chance to enter the raffle draws and win up to 30kg of gold during this festive season. The offer for the festive period starting 15th October 2015 also includes 50% off on diamond & polki jewellery. Joyalukkas is also waving off making charges on 22K gold 8gm Gold Coins during the festive period.

"We extend warm greetings to all during this festive period and hope our celebratory offers help make their celebrations more enjoyable and memorable. Our offers are tailored to make all our customers feel special and like a winner during the festive period of Diwali - the celebration of light," said John Paul Joy Alukkas, Executive Director, Joyalukkas Group.

Joyalukkas has also launched special Diwali collections in Diamond, Polki & Pearl Jewellery to commemorate the celebration period. All Joyalukkas showrooms have added various festive designs which have been created by renowned craftsmen to meet the demands and need of all jewellery lovers shopping during this period.

IEA FORECASTS SLOWDOWN IN GLOBAL OIL DEMAND GROWTH

KAMCO's Oil Market Monthly Report

KUWAIT: Oil price weakness continued during September-15 as investors watched US rate hike decision that remained unchanged after the Fed meeting. However, the drop in average oil prices during the month was one of the smallest, as seen during the last four months, as prices remained largely range-bound throughout the month only to pickup in October-15.

The oil price rebound during the first week of October-15 came on the back of news that OPEC and non-OPEC oil market majors (mainly Russia and Venezuela) are mulling on collaborating to deal with the oil price rout. However, Russia ruled out any such collaboration and stated its inability to cut oil production. Oil market, which shrugged constructive data from strong European equities and stronger base metals, took minimal support from the continued decline in oil rig count in the US. According to Baker Hughes, active oil rigs declined for the seventh straight week by 10 to 595 during the week ending 16-October-2015, the lowest level in more than five years.

However, dampening the aforementioned upbeat sentiments, trade data released during the second week of October-15 by China reported an 11th straight month of drop in exports. Further, pricing data also showed that deflationary pressure is gaining pace as consumer inflation slowed more than expected in September and producer prices fell for the 43rd month. According to the trade data, China's USD-denominated exports declined by 3.7% in September-15 as compared to the previous year, while imports plunged 20.4%. Although the decline in exports was less than expected, the sharper fall in imports sent out a net negative indication about the health of the world's second largest economy. Further pressure came from the monthly International Energy Agency (IEA) report that forecasted a slowdown in global oil demand growth to 1.2 mb/d in 2016 from 1.8 mb/d in 2015. The forecaster said that the effects of lower oil prices on demand growth would eventually fade with Iran entering the market which would keep the market oversupplied in 2016. The IEA report also highlighted the impact of a slowdown in economic activity in countries dependent on commodity revenues. Moreover, the latest weekly report from the EIA showed higher crude supplies whereas an API report showed that crude inventories jumped during the week.

OPEC oil price continued to decline right since the start of September-15 and averaged at 44.83/b during the month. The month-on-month decline in average OPEC oil price stood at one of the smallest in over four months at 1.4% as compared to 16.1% during August-15. Price improvement continued in October-15 as the positive trend during the first week of October-15 pushed average oil prices to USD 46.55/b. Kuwait Blend Spot Price FOB also declined during the month and averaged at USD 44.0/b.

Oil Prices

After multiple sessions of positive price trend during the first week of October-15, oil prices once again trended downward

after several reports pointed out to the increase crude oil inventory in the US in addition to a fall in oil demand growth in 2016. The weekly report from the US EIA pointed to an increase of 7.6 Mn barrels of crude supplies for the week ended 9-October-15 resulting in a total amount of oil in commercial storage to a 80-year-plus seasonal high of 468.6 Mn barrels. The jump in crude inventory came on the back of a fall in refinery utilization that slid to 86% of capacity from 87.5% a week earlier due to the industry's fall maintenance season. However, the report also showed that the weekly total oil production in the US fell 76 tb/d to approximately 9.1 mb/d. Another weekly report from the API showed a much higher than expected inventory build of 9.3 Mn barrels in the US. Data related to oil rig count in the US that showed a decline for the seventh consecutive week could provide only a temporary support to oil prices during October-15. Moreover, Russia's clarification that it is not joining hands with OPEC members to manage oil prices also pushed oil prices lower. A report from IEA showed that the agency expects a sharp decline in oil demand growth, which is expected to be at the strongest level in over a decade in 2015 at 1.8 mb/d to 94.5 mb/d, as the benefits of lower prices are declining and as economic activity weakened in countries dependent on commodity revenues. Moreover, the agency also expects that the increase in oil output from Iran would overshadow the decline in oil output in the US. OPEC oil price continued to decline right since the start of September-15 and averaged at 44.83/b during the month. The month-on-month decline in average OPEC oil price stood at one of the smallest in over four months at 1.4% as compared to 16.1% during August-15. However, the trend reversed as the positive trend during the first week of October-15 pushed average oil prices to USD 46.55/b. Kuwait Blend Spot Price FOB also declined for the fourth consecutive month and averaged at USD 44.0/b during September-15, a decline of 2.9% as compared to the previous month's average.

World Oil Demand

World oil demand growth for 2016 was revised slightly downward for the second time by 40 tb/d to 1.25 mb/d resulting in a consumption of 94.11 mb/d primarily reflecting the higher baseline effect in OECD Americas. A higher-than-expected gasoline consumption, especially in 2H15, has set a high baseline for 2016 consumption. Oil demand for the remainder of 2015 and 2016 in the US is expected to be determined primarily by gasoline usage in the road transportation sector and fuel price levels. Meanwhile, OECD Europe is expected to show marginal fall in oil demand in 2016 once again due to the high baseline effect although the low oil price environment is expected to provide economic benefits. On the other hand, downside risks continue to be linked to fuel substitution risk and vehicle efficiencies in advanced economies.

Total world oil demand for 2015 was revised upward for the third consecutive time in OPEC's October-15 monthly report.

According to the report, OPEC expects world oil demand to grow by an additional 40 tb/d on the back of better-than-expected performance from OECD Americas, Europe, Other Asia and China during the third quarter of 2015. As a result, 2015 world oil demand is expected to grow by a total 1.50 mb/d from the 2014 level to average around 92.86 mb/d. In the US, monthly data for July-15 showed strong growth in oil demand of around 4% as compared to previous year or 0.7 mb/d on the back of higher gasoline demand further supported by higher demand for jet fuel owing to the traditional holiday season. Oil demand in Europe also remained strong and increased by 0.3 mb/d in August-15 as compared to the previous year on the back of a positive demand growth in a majority of the countries. Oil demand for the first eight months of the year in the European Big 4 increase by 1.7% year-on-year or 0.11 mb/d to 6.70 mb/d led by higher demand for diesel, jet fuel, LPG and residual fuel oil whereas gasoline demand remained flat. In the Asia Pacific region, oil demand in Japan in August-15 rose for the first time Q1-14 by almost 0.12 mb/d to 3.53 mb/d. Elsewhere, in India oil demand increased by 7% or 0.24 tb/d year-on-year in August-15 to 3.62 mb/d.

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TREG EXPANDS ITS REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT BUSINESS TO TORONTO

KUWAIT: Top Real Estate Group (TREG) announced that it has expanded its real estate investment business to recently cover Toronto, Canada, which is considered as a key world city with high and rapid growth rates. This step comes after diligent study of the real estate in the region. The Group concluded that investment in residential segment at certain locations in Toronto will yield very high returns. Through its real estate portfolio in partnership with a group of investors, the Group purchased a collection of properties and old buildings, which the group intends to renovate, redevelop and then resell in the local market of Canada. The Group will then undertake

similar projects to reoffer the same for sale in countries where the Group has offices or agents, in particular Kuwait, Qatar and UK.

Deputy Managing Director, Marketing in Top Real Estate Group (TREG) and the Group's Country Manager in Canada Mohamed Waleed Al-Qadoumi said that this expansion initiative took place after finding requirements to do business in new markets and make investments in strong markets, which have normal stability and growth. Toronto was specifically selected due to being one of best cities in Canada, which annually receives tens of thousands of new migrants in addition to attracting a large number of

major investors. These factors make investment in the residential real estate segment viable and yield suitable returns on investment. He added that the Group's experience in this sector enhances opportunities for success of its portfolio to realize good returns for the investors. He said the Group is currently in the process of examining certain proposals offered to it to buy land in prime locations. The Group will procure licenses for such lands for residential uses and redevelop the same. Al-Qadoumi indicated that the Group agreed with relevant entities with experience in the real estate sector in Toronto to execute such projects and ensure completion thereof on

timely basis and ultimately achieve feasible returns for the portfolio.

Al-Qadoumi added that many economic and financial reports confirmed that Toronto is one of the top world cities that enjoy financial, political and economic stability with high growth rates. Toronto is one of safest investment cities and has clear laws supporting investments and investors in different sectors, particularly the real estate sector. Al-Qadoumi indicated that over the last two years, Toronto outperformed many world cities in the sales of luxury homes. Toronto came on the top of list of luxury home markets outmatching cities like Sydney, Miami and San Francisco.



Mohamed Waleed Al-Qadoumi

ASIA AND GULF LESS VULNERABLE THAN OTHER EMERGING MARKETS

ASIYA CAPITAL INVESTMENTS COMPANY REPORT

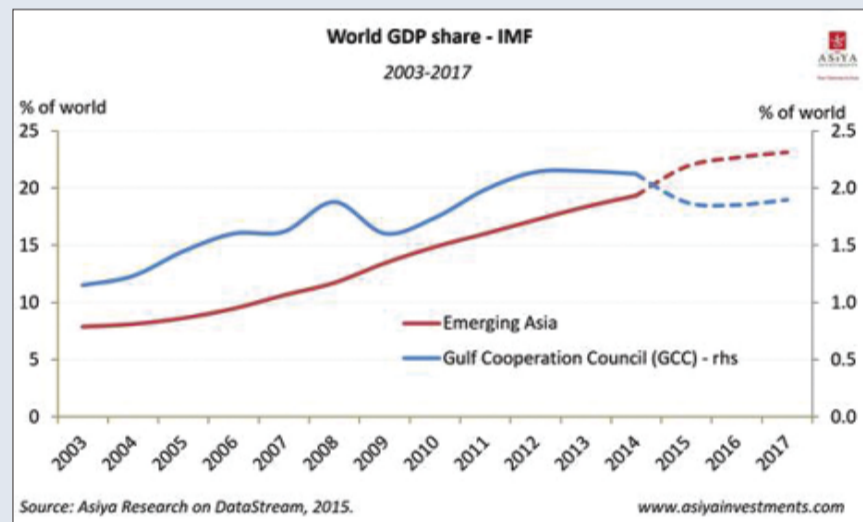
KUWAIT: Earlier this month, the IMF cut its global growth outlook for 2015 for the second time this year. The world annual growth forecast for 2015 was reduced by 20 basis points (bps) in each of the June and October updates, from 3.5% in April to 3.1%. Three major factors are behind the downward revisions: first, the Chinese slowdown; second, the fall in commodity prices, which has intensified this year across most types of goods; and third, the impending normalization of US monetary policy, which is taking longer than initially expected as the Federal Reserve remains concerned about domestic and external headwinds. The IMF also lowered its 2016 global growth forecast by 20bps, but still higher than 2015 at 3.6%.

At the regional level, two markets witnessed substantial reductions in their outlooks since the April update: Latin America and the Caribbean, by more than one percentage point for both 2015 and 2016 respectively, and Sub-Saharan Africa, by 70bps and 80bps. The slip in commodity prices has had a large impact on these two regions through the export channel. The

at -1.6%. The government has had to reduce fiscal spending levels, but its current account surplus is still leading the rest of the region by a wide margin.

IMF projects

The only other region forecasted to slow in 2016 is emerging Asia. China, which makes up more than two thirds of the bloc's output, is on an ongoing deceleration, dragging down the headline figure. China is having a profound effect on the rest of the region through the trade, investment and financial channels, with only Thailand and Singapore expected to accelerate this year, but the IMF projects most of them to recover in 2016. Apart from China, only Malaysia is projected to decelerate next year, mainly due to the economy's dependence on oil. Although Asia is forecasted to decelerate from 6.8% in 2014 to 6.5% in 2015 and 6.4% in 2016, the bloc is expected to gain a greater share of the world's output in nominal terms. In fact, the 250bps increase in global share, to 21.9%, is the largest on record - the second largest was in 2009, by 170bps.



headline growth of emerging economies was also downgraded, by 30bps for 2015 and 20bps for 2016. Emerging Asia and the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) regions witnessed the smallest cuts among developing economies for 2015, by 10bps, and no downgrade at all for 2016. This is in part due to their large fiscal buffers.

The IMF projects the Gulf to decelerate in 2015, and more sharply in 2016, to less than 3% for the first time in fifteen years (excluding 2009). For this year, the UAE and Bahrain are the only countries expected to soften in the region, by more than 1 percentage point each, while next year's biggest losers are Saudi Arabia and Oman, by around the same magnitude. The only country in the region projected to add more than one percentage point in 2015 and 2016 is Kuwait, by a total of 2.4 additional percentage points. However, this is mostly because the IMF estimates growth to have stalled 0.1% YoY in 2014. Estimates of Kuwait's 2014 GDP growth contrast widely between forecasters, with BMI at 2.7%, Oxford Economics at 1.4% and NBK

The sharp surge in the net commodity importer's global share is a direct result of the stronger impact the commodity rout is having on leading exporters.

Overall, the IMF might be too optimistic. Historically, the IMF's projections are too high, particularly on the subsequent year. In our view, various factors suggest more global growth sluggishness ahead. The weakening recovery in advanced economies will lead to greater policy uncertainty, which may further destabilize financial markets and emerging economies. Moreover, the Chinese economy will continue to decelerate in 2016, further dampening the commodity market and as a result hurting commodity exporters. Although Asia will decelerate next year, the continent will continue to outperform other emerging markets, gaining a greater share of the world economy, mainly due to its diversified economic structure and relatively larger fiscal and capital buffers. Meanwhile, the Gulf's strengthening relationship with Asia will help the Arab region avoid a similar fate as the other commodity exporters.

DOLLAR INDEX DROPS TO A SEVEN-WEEK LOW

NBK's WEEKLY MONEY MARKET REPORT

KUWAIT: The US Dollar Index dropped last week reaching a seven-week low of 93.80, due to mounting expectations that the FED will refrain from raising interest rates any time soon. Top Fed officials appear to be at odds on whether to tighten monetary policy. Earlier last week, Governors Brainard and Tarullo argued against raising interest rates, while Dudley, President of the New York Fed, said the Fed would raise rates by year end. For now, interest rate futures indicate that most traders do not see any rate increases this year, and about half believe the central bank may have to wait beyond March next year.

The Euro currency started the week at 1.1354 then moved sharply higher to 1.1495 as expectations that the Federal Reserve will delay hiking interest rates until early next year continued to pressure the greenback lower. However, the currency turned lower against the dollar by the end of the week, retreating from its seven-week high after European Central Bank policymaker Nowotny said the Euro Zone needed fresh measures to bolster price growth. The Euro ended the week at 1.1346. The Sterling Pound opened the week at 1.5318, to drop to a low of 1.5198. The weakness came on the back of the inflation report indicating that the United Kingdom fell back into negative inflation in September dampening expectations for higher interest rates from the Bank of England. Later in the week, the currency regained strength and rallied sharply against the US Dollar reaching a high 1.5508 as the job report data showed that the UK unemployment rate fell to a new seven-year low and wage growth continued to outpace inflation.

The Japanese Yen opened the week at 119.80 against the US Dollar. The USD/JPY dropped to 118.04, its lowest level in two-month as the dollar remained under pressure after data showed that the annual rate of inflation in China slowed to 1.6% in September, from 2.0% in August, compared to forecasts of 1.8%. The Yen closed the week at 119.42. On the commodities side, oil fell the most in six weeks as signs of the rising demand in China countered the increase in OPEC production. After rising above the \$50 by the end of last week, crude prices could not sustain gains amid speculation the market could remain oversupplied through 2016. Crude oil closed for the week at 47.265.

US inflation drops sharply

United States consumer prices recorded their largest fall in eight months in September as the cost of oil dropped. The Labor Department said last week, its Consumer Price Index fell 0.2% last month after slipping 0.1% in August. However, the core CPI, which strips out food and energy costs, rose 0.2% after ticking up 0.1% in August. Low inflation, which has persistently run below the Federal Reserve's 2% target, is a major hurdle to an interest rate hike this year.

Unemployment claims fell back to a 42-year low

The number of Americans filing new applications for unemployment benefits fell back to a 42-year low last week, suggesting the labor market remained strong despite the slowdown in job growth in the past two months. Initial claims for state unemployment benefits fell 7,000 to 255,000 for the week ended Oct. 10. It was the 32nd straight week that claims remained below the 300,000 threshold, which is normally associated with a strengthening labor market.

Preliminary consumer sentiment improves

The University of Michigan said that consumer sentiment rose to 92.1 from 87.2 in the preceding month. Analysts had expected consumer sentiment to rise to



89.0. Consumer sentiment climbed more than forecast in October as lower-income Americans projected wage gains will accelerate and falling energy alongside low interest rates would help them buy big-ticket items.

Fed manufacturing index contracts

Manufacturing activity in the Philadelphia-region contracted for the second straight month in October, fueling concerns over the US economic outlook. In a report released this week, the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia said that its manufacturing index improved to -4.5 this month from September's reading of -6.0. Analysts had expected the index to rise to -1.0 in October. For the second consecutive month, regional manufacturers reported declines in overall activity. However, most firms continued to expect growth over the next six months.

Europe & UK

United Kingdom inflation drops to its lowest level since March 1960

United Kingdom inflation rates unexpectedly moved back into negative territory last month to match April's all-time low, after low-cost fuel and clothing pushed down average prices. CPI dropped to an annual rate of -0.1%, below economists' expectations for it to hold unchanged at zero. The reading remains the lowest since March 1960. Unlike policymakers in the Euro zone and Japan, the Bank of England is relatively unconcerned about the risk of persistent price falls leading to deflation due to very strong consumer demand and rising domestic wages. However, the weakness in inflation is likely to encourage the central bank to take its time before starting to raise interest rates from their record low. Last week, the Bank of England said it did not expect inflation to reach 1% until next spring, slightly later than previously predicted.

UK unemployment rate falls to a 7-year low

United Kingdom unemployment fell to its lowest rate since mid-2008 in a sign that the labor market is enduring strains from the global economy. The jobless rate declined to 5.4% between June and August from 5.5% in the previous three months. The three months increase of people in the employment force rose by 140,000, pushing the employment rate to 73.6%, the highest since records began in 1971. The total earnings of workers, including bonuses, rose by 3.0%, slightly below analyst expectation of at 3.1%.

German ZEW economic indicator reached a one-year low

German ZEW Indicator of Economic Sentiment dropped in October, decreasing by 10.2 points compared to the previous month and reaching its lowest level in a year. ZEW President said, "The emissions scandal at Volkswagen and sluggish growth in emerging markets are dampening the economic outlook for Germany. However, the positive domestic environment and recovering Euro zone made it unlikely that the German economy would slip into recession."

Euro Area Annual Inflation confirmed at -0.1% in September

Annual inflation in the Euro zone turned negative in September due to sharply lower energy prices and maintaining pressure on the ECB to increase its asset purchases to boost prices. Eurostat said consumer prices in the 19 countries sharing the Euro fell by 0.1% in the year to September, dipping below zero for the first time since March. However, the core inflation that excludes the most volatile components of unprocessed food and energy rose 0.8% year-on-year, slightly down from the previous reading of 0.9%.

Japan & China

Bank of Japan Governor Kuroda Speech
In Asia, Bank of Japan Governor Kuroda said last Friday that consumer prices are rising more than 1% excluding food and energy prices, which indicates that the overall inflation trend is improving.
Kuroda also said domestic demand will strengthen as households and companies use their income to increase spending. Kuroda's suggested that he does not see the need to ease monetary policy, though some economists have said the BOJ will change its stance and expand its quantitative easing when it updates its economic forecasts later this month.

China's inflation Rates will continue to grow at a slower pace

China's national Bureau of statistics said last week that consumer prices will continue to grow at a slower pace in the coming months, amid investors' concerns about deflationary pressures in the economy. The consumer price index rose 1.6% in September from a year earlier, lower than expectations of 1.8% and down from August's 2.0%. Chinese manufacturers have continued to cut selling prices to win business this year in the face of persistently weak demand.

JAPAN'S 'KONBINI' STORES, OPEN AND STOCKED ROUND THE CLOCK



YOKOHAMA: This picture taken on October 17, 2015 shows pedestrians walking past a store of Japan's third largest convenience chain, FamilyMart, in Yokohama, suburban Tokyo. Stocking anything from shirts to face masks, 24-7 convenience stores have become an indispensable part of Japanese daily life, with the sector now worth more than Sri Lanka's economy. Their secret? Constant renewal. — AFP

TOKYO: Stocking anything from shirts to face masks, 24-7 convenience stores have become an indispensable part of Japanese daily life, with the sector now worth more than Sri Lanka's economy. Their secret? Constant renewal.

A staggering 1.5 billion people pass through "konbini" stores - a Japanese abbreviation of the English word convenience - every month, with some 55,000 outlets throughout the country, including more than 7,000 in Tokyo alone. Competition is fierce, with two of its biggest players, Family Mart and Uny Group, announcing days ago a merger to battle market leader 7-Eleven for a bigger slice of an industry that marketing newspaper Nikkei MJ values at some 10 trillion yen (\$84 billion). That is comfortably more than the economic output of some entire nations, including Sri Lanka, Belarus and Azerbaijan.

"In our 40 years of experience, we understand that our purpose must be to offer something new all the time," explains Minoru Matsumoto, a spokesman for 7-Eleven, Japan's largest chain with 18,000 stores. "Every time we extend what's on offer, we are creating

new customers rather than taking away customers from somewhere else." Despite being so ubiquitous, the sector has yet to show any sign of reaching saturation point, with the number of shops - which are run on a franchise system - rising five percent from the previous year in 2014. According to the Japan Franchise Association (JFA), the average Japanese person visits a konbini store 11 times a month and the average outlet serves around 1,000 customers a day.

While such stores are common across Asia, experts say the key to their success in Japan is their finely tuned supply chains that can monitor stock down to a single toothbrush, allowing them to sell an unparalleled array of goods.

Home from home

As well as the usual drinks and snacks, visitors in konbini are confronted with a smorgasbord of useful items such as hygiene products, batteries, umbrellas, face masks, memory cards and phone chargers. Complex logistics software keeps track of things like demographics, weather and the school holidays to predict what each store will need more of at

a given times. "If there's a school feast day in the vicinity of a konbini... we will know we need to have more onigiri (stuffed rice balls)," said Matsumoto. And in a work-oriented culture like Japan, where employees spend some of the longest hours in the world in the office, they also offer a home away from home.

Konbinis act as a sort of 24-hour administration centre, where customers can obtain official certificates, photocopy and fax documents, pay bills, withdraw cash and book tickets.

You can get your mail and internet delivery items sent to the store - and even buy a fresh shirt in the event of any unsightly workplace accidents. Konbini stores continually adapt "to catch new customers, like the growing number of working mothers and old people," said Tomomi Nagai, a senior analyst for Toray Corporate Business Research.

In a recent report, she estimated 70 percent of items they offer are renewed or repackaged each year.

'Strategy of domination'

Smaller mom and pop stores have been struggling to survive in the face of

such flexibility, and even the big corporate giants are having to adapt. Chains like McDonalds and Starbucks have found themselves having to review their own menus and prices to retain customers, after some konbini stores began offering fries and coffee.

"We apply a strategy of domination," said Matsumoto. "Even if we have a 7-Eleven on a crossroad, a second is entirely justified as we might be missing out on customers on the other side of the road." At the same time, the konbini chains themselves are all in fierce competition with each other. "We felt it necessary to create a larger distribution group to stay in the competition," FamilyMart and Uny group said in a statement announcing their merger plans Thursday.

One of the secrets behind konbinis' success is the way the stores are restocked - a streamlined, round-the-clock effort. Most shops have no backroom storage. Instead, computers keep a track of every item sold, allowing logistic centres to dispatch exactly the right number of replacements. A delivery truck might bring something as precise as a single toothbrush or pack of toilet roll. — AFP

FIRST X-CITE STORE OPENS IN RIYADH

ALGHANIM INDUSTRIES CONTINUES EXPANSION IN SAUDI



Chairman of Alghanim Industries Kutayba Yusuf Alghanim.



Omar Kutayba Alghanim shaking hands with Pierre-Andre de Chalendar, Chairman and CEO of Saint-Gobain.



Omar Kutayba Alghanim speaking during X-cite Riyadh Opening.

KUWAIT: Alghanim Industries announced the expansion of its consumer electronics retail business, and insulation manufacturing business in

Saudi Arabia. A leading destination for multi-brand consumer electronics, X-cite is a critical part of the Alghanim Industries portfolio of companies and a

fast-growing electronics brand. The opening was marked with a celebration hosted by the Council of Saudi Chambers.

Kutayba Yusuf Alghanim, Chairman of Alghanim Industries commented saying: "We appreciate the support from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and look forward to creating jobs and delivering high quality products and services to Saudi citizens for many years to come."

The new showroom, located at King Abdullah Road, is a one-stop shop for consumers who are looking for a range of products from mobile phones to televisions to major appliances. It is also the first step in a wider expansion in KSA, with a second X-cite showroom expected to open later this year.

"Our goal is simple: give our cus-

tomers a world-class electronics retail experience," said Omar Kutayba Alghanim, Chief Executive Officer, Alghanim Industries. "We never lose sight of our customers, and we are committed to serving their needs at every turn. We are thrilled to serve the people of Saudi Arabia and look forward to many years of success in Riyadh."

New stone wool factory under construction in Yanbu

Alghanim Industries has a joint venture with Saint-Gobain, having created the Saudi International Insulation Manufacturing Company (SIIMCO). The SIIMCO factory, owned equally by Alghanim Industries and Saint-Gobain, will produce stone wool insulation prod-

ucts with exceptional fire protection, thermal and acoustic properties, such as slabs, rolls, stitched mats and pre-formed pipe sections that will be sold across the region. The factory will start operating in the first quarter of 2016. It is noteworthy that this is Alghanim Industries' second joint venture with Saint-Gobain, the first being IZOCAM - Turkey's leading insulation company, which celebrated its 50 year anniversary earlier this year.

Growth on the horizon

Alghanim Industries is also currently working on expanding more of its brands into KSA. The company continues to evaluate and assess growth opportunities in the Kingdom and in the greater MENA region.



The new X-cite store in Riyadh.

AL TIJARI ANNOUNCES THE WINNERS OF AL NAJMA ACCOUNT

KUWAIT: Commercial Bank of Kuwait held the Al Najma Account draw on 18th October 2015. The draw was held under the supervision of the Ministry of Commerce & Industry represented by Abdulaziz Ashkanani.

The winners of the Al Najma Daily Draw are:
- Salem Abdulmawjod Abdelmajid KD 7000/-
- Ismael Eid Abo Gaish KD 7000/-
- Nedaa Abdalrasoul Al Sayegh KD 7000/-

The Commercial Bank of Kuwait announces the biggest daily draw in Kuwait with the launch of the new Najma account. Customers of the bank can now enjoy a KD 7,000 daily prize which is the highest in the country and another 4 mega

prizes during the year worth KD 100,000 each on different occasions: The National Day, Eid Al Fitr, Eid Al Adha and on the 19th of June which is the date of the bank's establishment.

With a minimum balance of KD 500, customers will be eligible for the daily draw provided that the money is in the account one week prior to the daily draw or 2 months prior to the mega draw. In addition, for each KD 25 a customer can get one chance for winning instead of KD 50.

Commercial Bank of Kuwait takes this opportunity to congratulate all lucky winners and also extends appreciation to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry for their effective supervision of the draws which were conducted in an orderly and organized manner.



The panelist at the discussion

CITYSCAPE PROVIDE INSIGHTS ON KUWAIT, REGIONAL REAL ESTATE BUSINESS

KUWAIT: In the presence of elite decision makers, developers, investors and key stakeholders of the real estate market, and for the first time in Kuwait, Cityscape hosted a Business Breakfast at JW Marriott Hotel in Kuwait City. In an intimate environment, the panel of experts provided key insights into the industry by discussing and debating local and global real estate with a focus on investment trends. The event presented a perfect platform to build new business relationships and network with top real estate market influencers, experts and leading real estate investment and development industry insiders.

As a preview to the upcoming premier real estate investment and development event - Cityscape Kuwait, being held on December 9-11 - this exclusive event introduced some of the most important themes that will take place during the exhibition at the Kuwait International Fairgrounds in Mishref.

The various high-profile discussions centered on possible changes to the economic framework of the GCC states due to natural resource instabilities, while stressing real estate will play a significant role in long-term economical sustainability with the region.



Tawfiq Al-Jarrah, Kuwait Real Estate Union Chairman

"In analyzing the real estate market in Kuwait, it is important to broaden the landscape to include a global scope. Historically, Kuwaiti citizens and residents have pioneered overseas property investments by setting the trends for real estate hotspots. By discussing the current state of the Kuwaiti real estate market, there is also a need to expand the topic to cover transnational areas which have typically been points of attraction for Kuwait-based investors," said Ahmed Zakaria, Exhibition Manager of Cityscape Kuwait, in his welcome note at the Business Breakfast.

Tawfiq Al-Jarrah, Chairman of

the Kuwait Real Estate Union, stressed in his opening speech at the event: "the core issue in the real estate business in Kuwait is limitation of land, noting that in Kuwait; only 63 square meters of land is obtainable per person whereas 194 m² per person is obtainable in Bahrain, 468 m²/person in Dubai and 171m²/person in Riyadh, causing pressure on land prices and contributed to its significant rise. He also added that "Kuwait suffers from a large gap in private housing, noting that it is expected that the number of new requests for housing over the next twenty years will be 234,000, bringing the total number of applications to 352,000."

As for the monthly rental rate, Al-Jarrah said that there is a clear rise in the rental rate, with an average monthly rental rate of 313 KWD, while in the last year it amounted to 264 KWD, describing that this sector is doing well in terms of performance and stability.

Commenting on office building sector, Al-Jarrah said: "There is a wave of improvement that have been accompanying the sector since 2011, in which the occupancy rate fell to 60 per cent, but now they are up to 85 per cent."

High rental prices
Tawfiq Al-Jarrah also pointed to



Ahmed Zakaria, Expo Manager

the high occupancy rate in the retail sector, as the total retail space has reached about 800 thousand square meters in the second quarter of this year, with an occupancy rate of 95 per cent with high rental prices. The influential panel chosen to speak at the Kuwait Business Breakfast gathered experts from a cross-section of the business world. From the media sector, Ahmed Bou Merhi, Head of Kuwaiti Business News at Al-Arabiya News Channel and Head of the Business Department at Al-Anbaa newspaper, moderated the panel.

As a panelist at the Business Breakfast, Naser Faisal Alkhaled, Head of Real Estate Funds at Global Investment House, said Kuwait has limited real estate opportunities in comparison with UAE market which is a big and lucrative market. On the other hand he confirmed that the housing real estate sector in Kuwait is currently witnessing tremendous growth in demand.

Analyzing other real estate markets in GCC, Alkhaled said: "KSA market is the strongest in terms of demands and offers best investment opportunities while both Qatar and Bahrain are relatively small markets."

Another panelist at Cityscape Kuwait Business Breakfast was Bassam Al-Othman, Executive Vice-President, Kuwait Financial Centre - Markaz, who elaborated: "saying if oil prices reach 55-70 USD the impact on the real estate sector will be minimal and that applies on all of KSA, UAE markets subject to their economic dependence on oil."



Some attendees

ETIHAD AIRWAYS PARTNERSHIPS INCREASE CONSUMER CHOICE GLOBALLY

ABU DHABI: The partnership strategy of Etihad Airways is delivering significant new choice for air travellers around the world, the President and Chief Executive Officer of Etihad Airways, and Vice Chairman of Alitalia, James Hogan, said yesterday.

Speaking in Milan at the 45th World Congress of the International Association of Financial Executives Institutions, Hogan said the combined strength of Etihad Airways, its seven equity partners and its code-share partners created a network of almost 600 destinations - five times the core network operated by Etihad Airways.

But he said the equity strategy also delivered benefits to the partner airlines and their combined customers which otherwise would only be available through a merger or takeover.

"Aviation is global, not local," Hogan said. "Etihad Airways is only 12 years old. Our main competitors have flown for decades, even generations. They have mature networks, large fleets, global presence and market access. And some legacy competitors are aggressively seeking to block our growth. To compete effectively, we need scale and differentiation."

Hogan said Etihad Airways had differentiated its offering through innovative growth, introducing not only next-generation aircraft but also industry-leading inflight product and service including The Residence, a three-room space exclusive to the airline's Airbus A380 aircraft, First Class Apartments and Suites, Business Class Studios, inflight chefs, food and beverage managers and flying nannies for family assistance.

He said that in addition to cost and revenue synergies, minority investments in other airlines also enabled Etihad Airways and its partners to connect their networks and schedules, closely align inflight product and service standards, and integrate and expand loyalty pro-

grams across partner airlines.

Hogan said: "Our strategy delivers benefits well beyond what is offered by standard commercial alliances. By aligning our networks, schedules, product, service and rewards, we are increasingly moving towards a seamless guest experience across our member airlines. We are also offering an effective and increasingly attractive alternative to global mega carriers. In 2014, our partner revenues reached US\$1.1 billion, up 24 per cent. Clearly, customers are choosing Etihad Airways and partners."

Last year, Etihad Airways expanded its portfolio of equity partners by investing 560 million euros to acquire 49 per cent of Italy's national airline, Alitalia, and a majority stake in its loyalty program, Mille Miglia.

"Alitalia was on the verge of collapse. We saw a great brand, a great network, but a poor business in need of a new direction," Hogan said. "Alitalia has now been reinvented. It is an important and growing member of our global partnership."

"Alitalia's plan is on track. This year it will meet its targets. Next year it will break even, and in 2017 it will achieve profit."

Yesterday in Rome, Hogan, as Vice Chairman of Alitalia, announced an accelerated growth plan for Italy's national airline, including new routes to South America, additional domestic routes in Italy, new VIP lounges in airports, chauffeur services, new aircraft cabin interiors, inflight Wi-Fi connectivity on all aircraft, new customer service initiatives at Rome Fiumicino Airport, a new website and greater focus on employee training and development - a total investment of 280 million euros in expanding and improving Alitalia.

"Through our partnership strategy, we have transformed Etihad Airways into a global travel and aviation business, together with our partners," Hogan said. "Our customers are the winners, globally."



(Left) British actor Daniel Craig speaks with a United Nations Cambodian deminer as he is briefed on mine clearance activities during his visit to an active minefield in the Cyprus' UN controlled buffer zone on Oct 12, 2015. (Right) A UNIFIL Cambodian mine expert demonstrates demining methods on Aug 26, 2015 in the UN-controlled buffer zone near the village of Mammari west of the Cypriot capital Nicosia. — AFP



CAMBODIAN DEMINERS BRING EXPERTISE TO CYPRUS

MAMMARI, Cyprus: Half a world from home, Cambodian experts toil under a beating sun to demine the Mediterranean island of Cyprus, using skills they honed to help rid their own country of landmines. It is a slow and painstaking task for the 11-member team employed by the United Nations to clear unexploded mines from the island, divided since 1974 into a Turkish north and a Greek south. The deminers work in an arid field inside a UN-controlled buffer zone that runs across the east Mediterranean island.

Kneeling under a scorching summer sun, each one meticulously circles his working space with red rope before scooping away dirt with a small spade and sweeping a metal detector across the area. Over the

past decade, deminers have removed more than 27,000 landmines from the buffer zone, with land reclaimed for agricultural use. Lieutenant Sovannara Leang, who leads the team, is proud to have used his skills to help other countries afflicted by the scourge of landmines since he first joined the UN demining operations in 2009.

His assistant Sous Choom swapped his army uniform for a metal detector in 2000 and was part of a Cambodian team that helped demine South Sudan. Others have operated in Lebanon and Mali. This week Leang briefed British actor Daniel Craig - the current James Bond - on the team's activities when the big screen super spy visited Cyprus as a UN advocate for the elimination of landmines.

'Inspiring' Work

"For these peacekeepers to take their expertise, gleaned over the last 40 years in Cambodia, and make it available to the people of Cyprus, half-way around the world, is truly inspiring," said Craig. Nearly three decades of civil war has left poverty-stricken Cambodia one of the most heavily-mined countries in the world. Nearly 20,000 people have been killed there since 1979 and twice as many have been wounded in landmine and unexploded ordnance accidents. Cyprus "is little compared to what they have had to deal with unfortunately in their country", Major General Kristin Lund, head of the UN Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus, told AFP.

Bernard Bruneteau, a historian at Rennes University in France, told AFP that Cambodia

was "systematically mined by all sides" to the conflict after each round of fighting. "The Khmer Rouge carried out guerilla warfare for a very long time," he said. According to Leang, many Cambodian deminers are especially good at removing mines because they fought during the war and know where the minefields are located. "Most of them mined Cambodia," he said.

Deactivation not Detonation

Demining operations in Cambodia started in the 1990s with Western assistance. French colonel Jean-Pierre Billaut was one of those who helped train up to 300 Cambodian deminers during an 11-year mission. "We taught them the French method that consists in deactivating a mine instead of blowing it up," the

now retired officer told AFP. "It proved to be a good technique. We didn't lose a single finger or leg during our operations!" Cambodia announced in June it was training an elite squad of rats, imported from Africa, to sniff out landmines and other unexploded ordnance. In Cyprus, most of the mines were remnants of the 1974 Turkish invasion when hundreds of mines were strewn across the island's battle-ground. The demining operation is slowly reaching its end, with 28 minefields in the north of the island yet to be cleared. The Greek Cypriot authorities revealed their location as part of a peace process to reunify the island relaunched in May. Turkey invaded and seized the northern third of Cyprus in response to a Greek-backed military coup to join Nicosia with Athens. — AFP

CORRIDOR TECH FIRMS WORK TO STAY AHEAD OF THE CURVE

CEDAR RAPIDS: With technology seeming to move at light speed, and regulations for health care facilities continuing to grow ever more complex, software and website developers in Corridor have to evolve to find new ways to keep in front of what their clients - current and future - will need. Cedar Rapids-based Geonetric builds websites for hospitals and health systems around the country. Founder and CEO Eric Engelmann said developers face technological and regulatory issues crafting and upgrading interactive websites.

"In the 1990s and early 2000s, the website was the place, the target destination," Engelmann said. "Now, it's being broken up into hundreds of different social media pieces where your communication channel with customers is not the website anymore. It's email or Facebook or Instagram or Pinterest or, depending on what it is, could literally be hundreds. It's proliferating and that makes it more complicated to manage."

Engelmann said Geonetric, which employs 80 people, sees that dramatic change providing a lot of opportunity going forward. "Hospitals need a lot of help managing those same regulatory, security and other concerns through lots of channels," he said. "It's part of how we got into deciding to build the Iowa Startup Accelerator program. We wanted to observe other startup companies at the frontier of new business opportunities, sifting out those issues and trying to sort them out, helping them where we could and learning from them."

The Iowa Startup Accelerator 90-day program is housed in Geonetric's three-story building. It recently launched its second cohort with a group of nine start-ups spanning health, music, commerce and education. Engelmann said part of Geonetric's proposition is the ability to assist hospitals through all the technological changes. "Some hospitals have one or two people in their communications department, while others have an army," he said.

Geonetric's clients range from critical access hospitals in rural communities to healthcare

systems covering, large metropolitan areas. Engelmann said Geonetric has to translate what each entity can offer the patient in a way that accurately conveys information and the organization's capabilities. "We have a team of people who just write content," he said. "They interview stakeholders, physicians and clinicians. They take all that information and translate it into a story that describes the services that are available and how to make good decisions."

With patients using devices ranging from an iPhone to a 60-inch monitor, Geonetric must create content on multiple channels - Facebook, Instagram, Pinterest - that will display properly. "We spend a lot of time figuring out how to do that," Engelmann said. "Sometimes the content that we're communicating has to be different depending on the size of the screen. It's a real mashup of technology and how you use it in the marketplace."

Thinking

At Innovative Software Engineering (ISE) in Coralville, Hass Machlab, ISE founder, president and CEO, noted that, "We do a lot of thinking ahead of our customers, what products or services they will need in the future. Our people go to a lot of seminars and conferences all over the country, so we can understand what's coming down the pike in technology." ISE, which was founded in 2002 and employs about 60 people, has three business segments:

Compliance Services provides eFleetSuite, the company's proprietary telematics or vehicle data collection product, to transportation industry service providers and includes safety and compliance applications such as electronic driver logs. Fleet Services uses eFleetSuite to sell an end-to-end safety-focused plan geared toward commercial truck fleet customers in North America. Professional Services offers clients custom software development, including solutions in the areas of Big Data, mobile application development, vehicle telematics and engineering process. — AP

BEIJING PROMOTES LOW-PAID GRADUATES TO STARTUP CEOs

GOVT, UNIVERSITIES BACKING NEW BUSINESS INCUBATORS

SHANGHAI: Quitting her job as receptionist, joining rock bands and chancing her tattoo-sleeved arm at small business ventures would once have branded college graduate Ding Jia as a rebel in China. Now she can claim state endorsement as a "creative." "I haven't had a formal job in years," said Ding, 31, sitting in her tiny coffee and cocktails bar on a trendy Shanghai street. She has no regrets, but no illusions either. "Entrepreneurship can be a really hard experience," she said. "Profits can be so thin."

In the week she spoke to Reuters, she and dozens of nearby businesses were forced to close temporarily by city officials on a regular sortie to enforce regulations. While most parents might warn their children off high-risk, low-reward self-employment, preferring jobs in government or state-owned enterprises, Ding says her Shanghai nurse mother and cab driver father were supportive. That attitude finds an echo in high places; recent graduates who start their own businesses are being hailed in state media as a new creative class that will build China's Silicon Valley. "Creatives show the vitality of entrepreneurship and innovation among the people, and such creativity will serve as a lasting engine of China's economic growth," Premier Li Keqiang said in January. "I will stoke the fire of innovation with more wood." In addition to warm words, many are receiving training, subsidies, free office space and other support from district governments and universities. Optimists hope the next Jack Ma or Mark Zuckerberg will emerge from this pool, but sceptics say the policy is setting up inexperienced kids for failure.

The aim is to help shift China's factory-based economy towards knowledge-driven services, and address unemployment among Chinese college students. Most private employers have little use for fresh graduates from crowded domestic universities, who consequently can earn less than skilled factory and construction workers. A Peking University study found that entry-level salaries in Shanghai averaged just 3,241 yuan (\$511) a month - a pittance in a city with one of world's 10 most expensive property markets.

Chinese surveys show 20-30 percent of college students now aspire to entrepreneurship or self-employment, and Cui Ernan, labour analyst at Gavekal Dragonomics, said official data suggests they are following through. Though undergraduate numbers swelled to record highs last year, the number seeking work in the formal job market appeared to shrink.

Entrepreneurs by Quota

Cynics say pushing student entrepreneurship is mostly about helping officials meet targets while heading off political unrest among disaffected students, the demographic behind the 1989 Tiananmen Square protests. A busy entrepreneur, on the other hand, counts as both employed and as a new business registration. Parker Liu, currently COO of a mobile technology startup in Beijing, began launching new companies before he graduated. He said district officials regularly scoured entrepreneurship events seeking startups to subsidise, often on the understanding that the company would register in their district.

Liu said he had received small subsidies from district governments and helped introduce officials to other startups, but was doubtful about the benefits. "The real problem is the money doesn't come with education... These government officers, they didn't know much about entrepreneurs or startups, but they know a lot about political evaluations. They have a quota." Liu said the support also encouraged too many into sectors with low barriers to entry, such as e-commerce, mobile games, and college prep schools.

"In terms of helping the job market, this sort of thing is of marginal benefit," said Geoffrey Crothall, communications director at China Labour Bulletin. "They are going to price themselves into the ground, and so the wages they can afford to pay their staff are going to be very low as well." While official data is scant, failure rates appear unsurprisingly high. "They have very poor management skills," said Cui of Dragonomics. "Most of the businesses run by college students I observe, only a few of them succeeded." — Reuters

Dream Community

The University Students Venture Park in northern Shanghai was designed as an incubator for college students considering a startup. The lobby is decked out in a sunny palette and garnished with inspiring slogans about creativity; outside a large sign reads "Dream Community". Some have turned their dreams into a modicum of success. The free rent, accounting services and internet access helped Jiang Gongbao launch his Long Ai marketing company, which has lasted long enough to hire a few employees.

Jiang said he understands the risks, but regards them learning opportunities. "Failure is not a bad thing, as the process to start up a business is always meaningful," he said. The incubator's deputy general manager, Zhu Jiang, roots for his tenants, but he's no evangelist. "I do not encourage all students to start up business. Being a successful entrepreneur requires some characteristics that not everybody can possess."

Many venture capitalists doubt the incubators do much good, since Chinese bureaucrats with little or no experience running private firms lack the skills to pick successful business plans. "I think it's really misguided," said Gary Rieschel, founder of Qiming Ventures, which has invested in numerous successful Chinese startups including Alibaba. "A university is a terrible place to learn how to start a company," said William Bao Bean, another China venture capitalist with a long history of investing in Chinese tech startups.

What is needed, critics say, is a dismantling of the policy barriers that make life tough for the private sector, such as weak legal protection for new ideas, restricted access to capital, and labyrinthine regulations that enable corrupt officials to prey on small enterprises. "Some countries make mistakes by trying to pick favourites and pick preferred technologies," said Robert Zoellick, former World Bank chief, in an interview with Reuters in Shanghai. "Creating a level playing field is the start. You need to have an effective rule of law and property rights. I think China is struggling with that." — Reuters

BOMBARDIER OUT TO WIN MEDIUM-RANGE JET BET

PARIS: Despite failing to agree a potential tie-up with Airbus, Canadian planemaker Bombardier insists it can make its bet on entering the lucrative medium-range passenger jet market a winner, while also leaving the door open to possible future alliances. "Bombardier is fully committed to the CSeries and we have the financial resources in place to support the programme," spokeswoman Marianella de la Barrera said regarding the 100 to 150 seat aircraft now nearing certification, shrugging off not being able to sell Airbus a majority stake in the project.

But the company's confidence is set against analyst concerns about Bombardier's ability to survive the financial stress of bringing the first all-new medium-range passenger jet in 25 years to market as the development costs of the CSeries have doubled to \$5.4 billion. There are concerns over Bombardier's capacity to absorb that cost, and the cost of the two-year delay in entering into commercial service of the CSeries planes, which should carry their first passengers for Lufthansa subsidiary Swiss in the middle of next year. Certification is expected by year's end, but the commercial challenge ahead appears sizeable.

Impressive on Paper

"On paper, Bombardier has the ability to worry its rivals," aeronautics specialist Philip Moine told AFP. "It is the only wholly new medium-haul carrier with better announced performances than re-engined versions" of single aisle rivals, said Moine. After Boeing's delays bringing the all-new long-haul 787 Dreamliner to market, both the US planemaker and its European rival

Airbus opted not to completely redesign their single-aisle medium-range aircraft, which accounted for the lion's share of sales and are the workhorses of the aviation market.

Instead they opted to offer new engines and make aerodynamic enhancements on the 737 and A320 aircraft that should nearly match the 20 percent fuel savings that Bombardier is promising with the CSeries. However the CSeries, which is Bombardier's first foray outside business and regional passenger aircraft into the medium-range jets, also promises reduced emissions and noise, and has a cabin which offers more space, bigger windows and storage area.

The problem, Moine noted, is that the development cost overruns and delays have pushed up the break even point for Bombardier from 300 to 800 aircraft. The Canadian group has only 243 firm orders and 360 letters of intent at this point, but believes once the CSeries receives certification and enters commercial service more will follow. As Bombardier sees it, the bet on the CSeries has good odds of paying off as the demand for single aisle jets with 100 to 150 seats is expected to range from 4,000 to 5,000 globally through to 2034. The company also stressed its efforts to streamline costs and boost margins, including 6,500 jobs cut since the end of 2013, and a revamped management.

Keeping a Foothold

But Bombardier chief executive Alain Bellemare said on taking the helm in February he wanted to examine all options for the group's aeronautics division - a point driven home once again after the Airbus talks ended. "Bombardier

will continue to explore different initiatives, including potential participation in the consolidation of the industry," the group said. A source close to the Airbus discussions said that far from an attempt to clutch at straws those talks were a serious management tilt at rationalisation. "Of course Bombardier has the means to deliver on the CSeries program," the source told AFP. "Bombardier going with Airbus is not a case of all or nothing, a last resort," the source insisted, pointing out the talks had lasted for several months.

For Airbus, aligning itself with Bombardier would have been a "great opportunity to renew its 100-to-150 seat range" at a relatively low cost, said Jean-Louis Dropsy, sector specialist for Argon Consulting. A tie-up "would have allowed Airbus to maintain a foothold in this market" even if the segment is no longer its main market focus, he said. The CSeries corresponds to the smallest of the A320 family aircraft, the A319 which has 124 seats and will have from 140 to 160 in the "neo" version with fuel-efficient engines.

But Airbus has focused mostly on the 150-180 passenger A320 and the slightly larger A321, the pair constituting 93 percent of single-aisle deliveries in 2014, up from 53 percent in 2006. Had the Airbus tie-up come to fruition then Bombardier could have expected to benefit from Airbus' size in negotiating with suppliers, as well as its sales and marketing network. A tie-up could have also reduced the risk of Bombardier introducing larger versions of the CSeries, taking on Airbus and Boeing in the biggest segment of medium-range aircraft. — AFP



PARIS: A Bombardier CS 300 airplane performs during the International Paris Airshow at Le Bourget on June 17, 2015. — AFP

LAUNCH OF NEW NESTLE FITNESS CEREAL

KUWAIT: Nestle has launched a new recipe for its popular Nestlé FITNESS(r) Cereal across the Middle East, which maintains the product's same taste, with more wholegrain, while reducing sugar by up to 30% without adding artificial sweeteners.

The move is in line with Nestlé's recently published commitments to society in the Middle East, which include the promotion of healthy diets and lifestyles, and reducing sugar in products.

The new recipe with less sugar was able to maintain the same taste as the outgoing version without adding any artificial sweeteners thanks to breakthrough technology that reduces sugar inside each cereal flake, while retained amount in the coating.

Since the outer layer of the cereal touches taste buds first, each flake offers

a sweeter flavor to begin with, meaning people can't tell the difference as was demonstrated by a survey of Nestlé FITNESS Cereal lovers.

"Nestlé FITNESS aims to help people achieve a healthier diet that starts with a balanced breakfast, thanks to this breakthrough recipe which is the result of several years of nutrition and technology research," said Zeinab Maktabi, Nutrition, Health and Wellness Manager at Nestlé Middle East. "This nutrition revolution started with our current kids' cereal recipes launched in 2012, and continues with ongoing efforts to further reduce sugar in all our products."

The new Nestlé FITNESS also provides improved nutritional content by further increasing total wholegrain by 7%. The product's amounts of iron, calcium and folate remain unchanged.



ELECTION PUTS MEDICAID EXPANSION IN CROSSHAIRS

KENTUCKY'S UNINSURED RATE DROPS

FRANKFORT: Kentucky, one of the only Southern states to expand Medicaid under President Barack Obama's Affordable Care Act, could become the first state to repeal that expansion depending on the outcome of a closely contested governor's race.

Kentucky voters have made it clear they don't like Obama or his policies, with the president's disapproval rating consistently at or above 60 percent in public polls. But when outgoing Democratic Gov. Steve Beshear used Obama's signature law to allow more people to qualify for taxpayer-funded health insurance, about 400,000 people signed up for it.

Republican nominee for governor Matt Bevin, along with the legislative leaders of his party, say the state cannot continue to pay for the health insurance of able-bodied adults. Taxpayers pay for health insurance for a quarter of Kentucky's population under the current expansion, which Bevin wants to repeal and replace with a different plan.

Twice as many people signed up in the first year as state officials had predicted, more than doubling the expansion's estimated cost in 2017 from \$33 million to \$74 million. Those costs could swell to \$363 million by 2021, further straining finances in a state wrestling with a multi-billion-dollar pension liability.

Yet Kentucky's uninsured rate has dropped from a high of 20.4 percent in 2013 to less than 10 percent last year. Hospitals covered less than \$60 million of uncompensated care last year, down from \$160 million in 2013. New Medicaid enrollees received more than 54,000 preventative screenings, including for breast and colorectal cancer, of which Kentucky has some of the highest rates in the nation.

But the politics run deeper than the question of cost. Obama is so unpopular that most Democratic politicians avoid invoking his name by calling the state's expansion "Beshearcare" after the state's Democratic governor who cannot seek re-election because of term limits. The governor remains popular, and the expansion - which he authorized by executive order - has been praised for bringing better health care to thousands of residents.

Safety net

One of them is Tyler Offerman, 26, who lives in Lexington and says he grew up without health insurance. He said he went years without seeing a dentist, leading to painful problems with his teeth. Offerman used his new Medicaid benefits for thousands of dollars in dental work. He now has access to a primary care physician for guidance given his family history of cancer. Now, he is starting an adventure tourism business leading backpacking and hiking trips.

"Being on Medicaid certainly gave me the safety net I needed to take the risk to be a young entrepreneur," he said.

Democratic nominee Jack Conway has said he



CALIFORNIA: In this July 11, 2012 file photo, then-House Majority Whip Kevin McCarthy of Calif., leaves the House chamber on Capitol Hill in Washington after the Republican-controlled House voted to repeal President Barack Obama's health care law. McCarthy, the majority leader who's favored to become the next speaker of the House, has energetically nurtured GOP legislators in the House since he was elected to Congress nine years ago. — AP

would continue the Medicaid expansion unchanged. He cites a study from earlier this year by Deloitte and the University of Louisville projecting that Kentucky's savings and increased revenue from the expansion would be more than enough to pay the state's costs.

But Bevin rejects that study. He initially said he would reverse the expansion "immediately" but has since clarified he would repeal the current expansion and replace it with something else. He said the state cannot keep enrolling people under the new requirements.

"I can't make this more clear: there will be nobody in the state of Kentucky re-enrolling under the current Medicaid construct at 138 percent of poverty," Bevin said during a debate on Kentucky Sports Radio last month. The current expansion allows people making 138 percent of the federal poverty level to enroll.

Bevin spokeswoman Jessica Ditto said his plan would not take away health insurance from 400,000 people, as Democrats say. She said some might be offered a new plan that would require them to pay "token amounts" for a premium. Some might be offered a higher deductible plan coupled with a

health savings account. And others still "may graduate from medical eligibility just as they might now by exceeded income thresholds."

Bevin says he will apply for a federal waiver, as five other states have done. Indiana, for example, expanded its Medicaid program but required new enrollees to pay monthly premiums or risk losing coverage.

"It's giving people a vested interest," Bevin said of Indiana's program. "Having skin in the game is a big, big differentiator between whether or not the person has the dignity that goes with making decisions for themselves."

Katrina Kelly has skin in the election. The 29-year-old from Lexington says she cannot afford health insurance with the \$6,000 she made last year as a self-employed landscaper. But on Medicaid, she had access to physical therapy that took away the terrible pain she had been living with in her shoulders.

If she loses Medicaid, Kelly would most likely have to pay a penalty on her income taxes for not having health insurance. "It would definitely be a heartache on having to pay a penalty for something I have no control over," she said. — AP

EBOLA IN MALE SURVIVORS CAN SURVIVE UP TO 9 MONTHS

LONDON: Doctors have found that Ebola can linger in some male survivors for up to nine months but aren't sure if that means they might still be infectious, according to new research.

In a study of 93 men in Sierra Leone, scientists found the Ebola virus in semen samples from about half of them. The risk seemed to decline over time. Ebola was detected in all nine men tested at two to three months after their illness began but in only 11 of the 43 survivors tested at seven to nine months.

Researchers aren't sure why Ebola remains in semen as opposed to other bodily fluids and don't know if the lingering virus might sicken others.

"We think there is a potential risk of exposure but we cannot determine that with 100 percent certainty right now," said Dr Nathalie Broutet, an expert in sexually transmitted diseases at the World Health Organization and one of the study's authors. The paper was published online Wednesday in the New England Journal of Medicine.

WHO said previous studies showed the virus could survive in semen for about three months, though it noted one case where it remained for about six months. The UN health agency has said the sexual transmission of Ebola from men to women is "a strong possibility" even though the disease is mainly spread by direct contact with other bodily fluids like blood.

To date, Ebola has killed more than 11,000 people in West Africa in the outbreak that was first identified last year and now appears to be winding down. There's also about 17,000 Ebola survivors, about half of them male.

Transmission

The journal also published details of an Ebola case in March in Liberia, where a male survivor spread Ebola to a woman via unpro-

tected sex five months after he became infected.

In an accompanying commentary, Dr Armand Sprecher of Doctors Without Borders said if sexual transmission of Ebola was a significant means of spreading the virus, "we would have seen a number of cases by now," given the thousands of male Ebola survivors in West Africa. People with Ebola are believed to be most infectious when they are the sickest.

Sprecher said the results suggest that surveillance needs to last longer than now recommended once an outbreak is thought to be over in an area. WHO and others recommend that male survivors of the lethal disease abstain from sex or use condoms for at least three months after their recovery. After that, they should be tested every month until they have two consecutive negative tests.

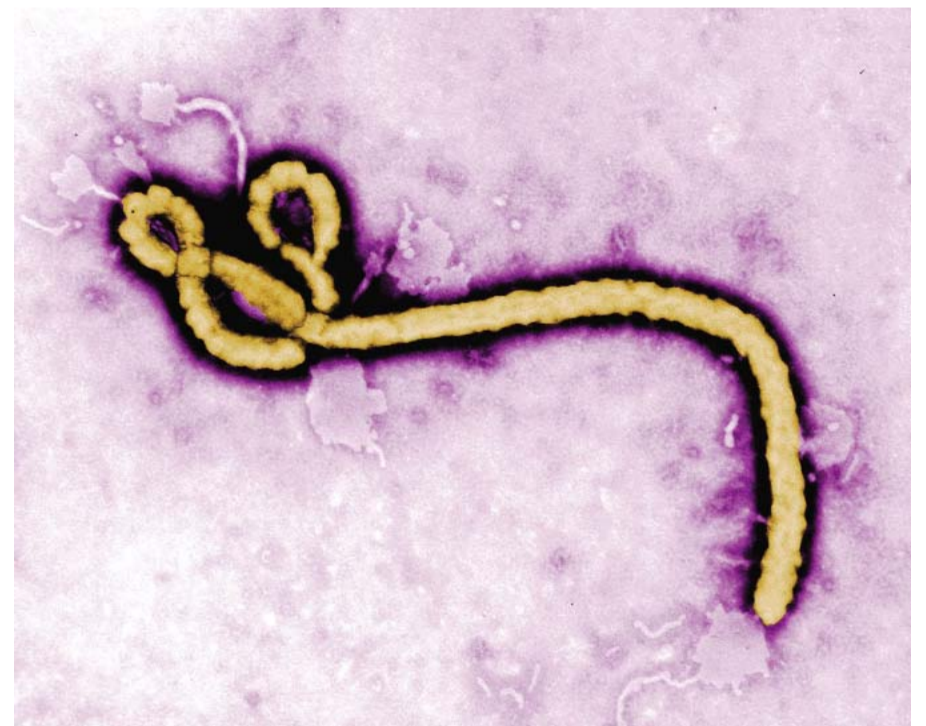
WHO says it's unknown how long Ebola survives in vaginal fluid, and says it's less probable that a woman who has survived Ebola could spread it to a man through sex.

Broutet said it was unclear whether the men whose samples tested positive for Ebola had any long-term side effects and if so, whether the virus might be responsible. Many survivors suffer from chronic problems including vision loss and joint pain.

Dr Francis Moses, a district medical officer in northern Sierra Leone, said it was difficult convincing male Ebola survivors to use condoms or abstain from sex.

"The abstinence thing isn't working," he said, noting there are a number of pregnant women in his district whose partners are Ebola survivors. Moses said the fact that thousands of Ebola survivors are living in West Africa means scientists need to figure out whether sex is a significant risk to the re-emergence of the disease.

"If we don't find a way of addressing this, we will never stop Ebola," he said.



NEW ENGLAND: In this undated colorized transmission electron micrograph file image made available by the CDC shows an Ebola virus virion. For the first time, Ebola has been discovered inside the eyes of a patient months after the virus was gone from his blood, according to a report published Wednesday Oct. 14, 2015, in the New England Journal of Medicine. Doctors have found Ebola can survive in some male survivors for up to nine months after they first get sick but aren't sure if that means they might still be infectious, according to the new research published. — AP

KIDS WITH CANCER GATHER IN DC FOR CANDLELIGHT VIGIL

WASHINGTON: Hundreds will gather in Washington for a candlelight vigil to remember children who have died from cancer after a previously scheduled event was shut down by the Secret Service. Organizer Mike Gillette says he expects more than 300 people to attend the

ceremony, scheduled to begin at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday in Lafayette Park in Washington.

On Sept 19 roughly 700 people gathered in Lafayette Park for the vigil, but moments before it began the Secret Service shut down the event so President Barack Obama could

travel to a gala. Gillette said Secret Service Director Joseph Clancy called him to apologize, and that the group has been so impressed with the agency's response that children are going to present a representative with the "Secret Service ROCKS" award.



WASHINGTON: People gather for a candlelight vigil to remember children who have died from cancer, near the White House on Saturday, in Washington. A previously scheduled vigil was shut down by the Secret Service so President Barack Obama could travel to a gala. — AP

US ONCOLOGY GROUP RATES BLOOD CANCER REGIMENS

WASHINGTON: The most influential source for US oncology treatment guidelines on Friday unveiled ratings aimed at helping doctors and patients assess the costs versus benefits of current therapies for two types of blood cancer. The National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN), a nonprofit alliance of 26 leading cancer centers, said its new "Evidence Blocks" for multiple myeloma and chronic myelogenous leukemia are the first in a series that by the end of next year will encompass all oncology therapies, other than surgery or radiation.

They will supplement NCCN's widely followed guidelines for oncology care. FDA eye drug rebuff adds to Shire's woes in Baxalta pursuit Shire Plc suffered a setback for its most important pipeline medicine late on Friday, adding

to the group's problems as it pursues Baxalta Inc to forge the leading global specialist in rare diseases.

The Irish company said the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) had declined to approve its new eye drug lifitegrast and had requested an additional clinical study. Half a million Yemen children face severe malnutrition: UN More than half a million children in Yemen face life-threatening malnutrition as a risk of famine grows, a senior official of the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) said on Friday. The figure, a three-fold jump since fighting erupted in March, reflects depleted food stocks compounded by a failing health system unable to care for hungry children or vaccinate them against disease, said Afshan Khan, director of UNICEF emergency programs worldwide. — Reuters

SEAWORLD TO CHALLENGE CALIFORNIA BAN ON BREEDING CAPTIVE WHALES

LOS ANGELES: SeaWorld announced that it will challenge a state ruling that banned the company from breeding captive killer whales at its San Diego park.

The announcement comes a week after the California Coastal Commission endorsed a \$100 million expansion of the tanks SeaWorld uses to hold orcas in San Diego. That ruling also outlined a series of restrictions on SeaWorld, including a ban on breeding and prohibitions on the sale, trade or transfer of the whales.

SeaWorld said it would "pursue legal action" and hired a law firm. But it wasn't immediately clear if that would lead to a lawsuit, regulatory appeal or other action.

"The Coastal Commission went way beyond its jurisdiction and authority when it banned breeding by killer whales at SeaWorld," company President Joel Manby said in a statement.

"By imposing broad new jurisdiction over all future SeaWorld marine animal projects, as well as aquarium projects elsewhere in the state, the commission has overstepped both federal and California law," Manby said.

The commission said it had not seen a legal complaint and could not comment. Animal rights activists called last week's vote a death blow to the use of killer whales at the California park. "SeaWorld is blowing smoke," said Jared Goodman, an attorney with People from the Ethical Treatment of Animals.

The commission "acted fully within its authority when, as a condition of its approval of building new tanks, it placed a ban on breeding orcas," Goodman said.

Breeding is natural
Before the vote last week, SeaWorld

argued the commission didn't have the authority to impose breeding and other restrictions to its "Blue World" expansion, which would triple the size of existing killer whale enclosures.

The park said "breeding is a natural, fundamental and important part of an animal's life and depriving a social animal of the right to reproduce is inhumane."

Manby said it "defies common sense that a straightforward land-use permit approval would turn into a ban on animal husbandry practices - an area in which the commissioners have no education, training or expertise."

Attendance at the California park has declined since the release of the popular documentary "Blackfish" in 2013, which suggests SeaWorld's treatment of captive orcas provokes violent behavior. The company's stock price also has dropped over the past two years.

Under the expansion, SeaWorld would demolish parts of a 1995 facility that included a 1.7-million gallon pool and replace it with a 5.2-million gallon tank and 450,000-gallon pool.

The Orlando, Florida-based company had said the orca population at the San Diego facility, 11 whales, would not significantly increase because of the "Blue World" project.

Commissioner Dayna Bochco, who proposed the breeding ban, defended the panel's vote. "This was not a power grab," Bochco wrote in a commentary posted on The San Diego Union-Tribune website. "The commission is not pre-empted by any federal law and no other state agency is addressing issues related to captive whales. We were faced with making our decision in a regulatory vacuum."

"It's difficult to imagine a species more inherently unsuited for captivity," she wrote. — AP



SAN DIEGO: File photo, people watch through the glass as a killer whale passes by while swimming in a display tank at SeaWorld in San Diego. SeaWorld marine park in San Diego will challenge a state commission ruling that banned the company from breeding its captive killer whales. The announcement, comes a week after the California Coastal Commission endorsed a \$100 million expansion of the tanks SeaWorld uses to hold orcas in San Diego. — AP



Al Sayer Medical Co Management with Invacare delegates.

AL-SAYER MEDICAL CO LAUNCHES NEW, UNIQUE MOBILITY PRODUCTS FROM INVACARE

KUWAIT: Al-Sayer Medical Co one of the Al Sayer Group Holding Companies has launched two advanced mobility products including Rea Dahlia wheel chair for specific needs and TDX SP2 power wheel chair from Invacare, the global leader in the manufacture and distribution of innovative mobility and home care medical products that promote recovery and active lifestyles.

The launch event was attended by delegates from Invacare Heinrich Braun Managing Director, Dr Ahmed Refaat Regional Area Manager and Eckhard Francksen Regional Invacare Trainee along with Dr Hossam Afify General Manager Al Sayer Medical Company, Representatives from the government and private sectors.

"Al-Sayer Medical Company is well placed to take significant role in the improvement of Kuwait healthcare system, with its focus on leveraging its success factors including the professional team, market and business expertise, the solid infrastructure, and most important the delivery of advanced pharmaceuticals and cutting-edge medical technologies and supplies", commented Mubarak Naser Al-Sayer CEO Al Sayer Group Holding.

Heinrich Braun Managing Director Invacare said "The Invacare vision is making people life experience possible based on design, manufacture and deliver the highest quality medical products that promote recovery and active lifestyles for people requiring home and other non-acute health care. Our commitment to quality and industry standards is paramount. This commitment to driving quality and patient safety is what makes Invacare a trusted supplier to the value of the patient supported with the top professional level of before and after sales services provided by our partner in Kuwait Al-Sayer Medical Company.

According to Hossam Afify General Manager Al-Sayer Medical Company "In tandem with our objective to provide Kuwait healthcare market with the most innovative medical products supported by unmatched customers and scientific services we are proud to launch two new products Invacare Rea Dahlia and Invacare TDX SP2 From our partner INVACARE catering to the mobility needs of the patients across all age groups promoting an independent lifestyle."

Dahlia - A versatile compact wheel chair for people with changing needs

The Invacare Rea Dahlia has it all, a slim and compact wheelbase in a modern design. It incorporates an adjustable center of gravity option and a light and easy tilt and recline function. For those seeking mobility with comfort and pressure relief, this versatile chair is perfect for both passive and active clients alike.

TDX SP2 - Power Wheel Chairs for Unrivalled durability, ultimate performance and great



Dr Hossam Afify - General Manager Al Sayer Medical Co.

maneuverability

The Invacare TDX SP2 boasts unrivalled durability and ultimate performance. Great maneuverability indoors and out, with a wide choice of seating options for optimum comfort and support, the TDX SP2 is the power chair for individuals who

need full functionality, but do not want to compromise on style. The modern aesthetics of the chassis add to the sleek appeal with a choice of 7 contemporary color options.

The event by Al Sayer Medical Company facilitated all attendees to communicate with the Invacare delegates, understand the products features and benefits in depth. The official launch and interactive presentation of the Invacare products was followed by illustration and hands-on experience sessions of the products.

The goal of Al Sayer Medical Company is to excel and expand the delivery of services offering as well as commit to offer new and unique medical and healthcare technology to become the destination for all healthcare facilities and professionals in Kuwait.

Al Sayer Medical Company was one of the fastest to be awarded the ISO standard certification within months of commencing its business operations, adopting the corporate principles of Best in the Business approach of the Group. Recently Al Sayer Medical Co. also inaugurated the biggest and the most prestigious healthcare outlet in Kuwait featuring "A to Z" of latest health and wellness products for your family meeting different medical needs under one roof.



New Invacare products.

CLINIC PAGE



Kuwait Times
248 33 199





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STARS COME OUT TO HONOR OSN

OSN, the region's leading pay-TV network, rolled out the red carpet in Dubai to launch its exciting new line-up for 2016. The glittering evening of entertainment was hosted by Egyptian comedian Bassem Youssef and featured Hollywood heartthrob Antonio Banderas and Game of Thrones star Maisie Williams, as well as leading Arabic figures George Kordahi, Omar Hussein, Ahmed Sahab, Hassan Asiri, Yamour, Saba

Moubrak, Amir Karaka and Dina Koraim, Shady Alfons, Khaled Mansour, Bassem Moughniegh, Amr Youssef, Abed Fahd, Asala Nasry and Tarek Al Eryan, Bassel Khayyat, Magie Bou Ghosn and Jamal Sannan, Ahmed Helmy, Abdul Mohsin Al Nimer, Zaynab Salbi and Hayat Al Fahd.

Over 300 people attended the event, which provided a sneak preview of OSN's exclusive new programming line-up for 2016, the

launch of three new channels and innovative experiences that will further add to the anywhere, anytime television experience of family viewers across the Middle East and North Africa region.

2016 will see over 50 new and exclusive shows plus 70 continuing series premiering only on OSN. Over 25 of the biggest and award-winning shows will premiere at the same time as the US so OSN viewers see the

most talked about shows first.

OSN will also launch a dedicated channel that will showcase all HBO's exclusive content including groundbreaking award-winning series, talk shows, comedy specials and documentaries. The long-term deal also marks the expansion of OSN's On Demand service with more than 2,000 hours of HBO programming including more than a thousand hours of complete box sets of HBO series, available to watch

anytime, anywhere.

Deals have been signed with Eagle Films and Gulf Film, which has seen OSN buy out the transactional window for over 300 blockbuster movies, weeks after their theatrical release. And the stars from Saturday Night Live Arabia, Shady Alfons and Khaled Mansour provided the audience a taste of what's to come when the eagerly awaited comedy sensation launches next year.

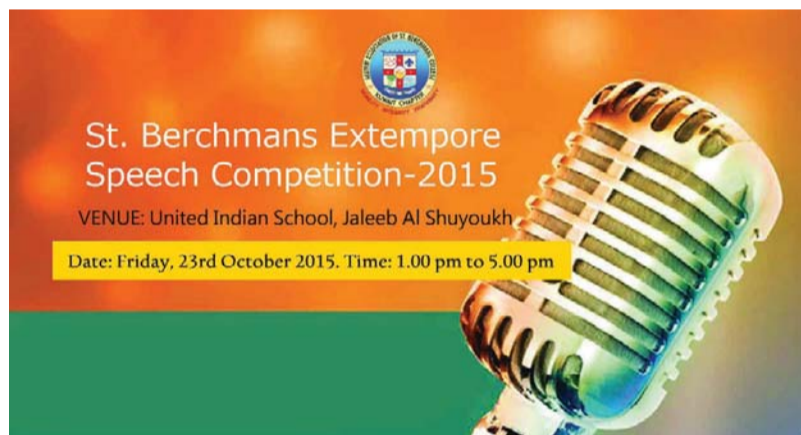
ST BERCHMANS EXTEMPORE SPEECH COMPETITION

St Berchmans 19th Extempore Speech Competition for the Indian School students is scheduled for Friday 23rd Oct 2015 from 1.00 pm to 5.00 pm at United Indian School, Jaleeb Al Shuyoukh.

The competition will be conducted in 3 categories separately - Sub-Juniors (7th & 8th Stds.) Juniors (9th & 10th Stds.) and Seniors (11th & 12th Stds.). Trophies and certificates will be awarded to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd prize

winners of each category. Championship and Runner up Trophies will be awarded to the respective schools, based on points earned by its students. Each participant will receive a certificate of participation.

Berchmans eloquent speaker gold medal has been instituted from 2009 onwards, to honor the best student speaker of Berchmans Extempore Speech Competition, with 15 grams (22ct) gold medal. Online registration facility is available at our website www.berchmanskuwait.org and will run to up to 6 pm on Thursday, 15th Oct 2015. Rules & Regulations of the competition together with selection criteria for championship and runner-up trophy for schools and eloquent speaker gold medal are available on the web site.



ILOA CELEBRATES FIFTH ANNIVERSARY

The evening of September 30th witnessed Indian Learners Own Academy celebrating its fifth anniversary in all grandeur. The program commenced with the rendition from the verses of the Holy Quran by Peer Mohammed. The lyrics of the number, "Heal the World", reminded one and all of the onus and the commitment towards humanity. The chief guest, R Kuppanna, (General Manager, Kuwait India International Exchange Co) lit the lamp of knowledge along with the dignitaries, Madam Badria, the Arabic Language supervisor from Ministry of Pvt Education, Kuwait, Chairman, Mr DK Sharma and sponsor, Mr Ibrahim Al Gharier. The princi-

pal, Mrs Asha Sharma welcomed the chief guest, Kuppanna at length and introduced guests of honor to the audience.

The highlight of the evening was the award ceremony honoring the awardees for their exemplarity in academics and to the teachers who were with the school since its inception and have completed half a decade were felicitated by the chairman DK Sharma. On the same occasion, Mrs.Richa, the co-coordinator of the 'Save Tiger' project organized by the British Council's International School Award Program was accorded along with fifteen medalists.

R Kuppanna emphasized on Aristotle's quote, how "excellence should become a

habit" and that dexterity never goes unpaid. The laudable moments were the commendable artists playing multiple instruments, blending symphony in harmony. The lively fusion dance and 'French number', with its hummable tune and foot tapping rhythm sent waves of rapturous delights.

The grand finale was an Arabic dance which captivated the entire gathering. The icing to the show was the anchors of the entire event whose performance was magnificent. No program culminates without the expression of gratitude in its grandeur for it gives immense happiness recounting in each individual's valuable time spent in making it a rolling success.



'INDIA INTERNATIONAL TRADE FAIR (IITF)' AT PRAGATI MAIDAN

The India Trade Promotion Organization (ITPO), a Government of India Enterprise, under the Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India is organizing the 35th edition of its annual mega event "India International Trade Fair (IITF)" at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi from 14-27 November 2015, which will showcase India's industrial progress, economic achievements and technological advancements in a wide range of

products and services. IITF is a trade fair with B2B and B2C components and has emerged as the largest integrated trade fair in the Indian sub-continent. The first 5 days (14-18 November 2015) of the Fair are exclusively earmarked for business visitors. The fair is open to general public from 19-27 November 2015.

A large number of overseas companies are expected to display their products and services in the event. The theme of IITF "Make in INDIA" is a

major initiative of the Government designed to facilitate and promote investment, foster innovation, enhance skill development and build best-in-class manufacturing infrastructure in the country. An international Business Lounge will be set up to facilitate the visit of International visitors. The last edition of the fair witnessed a huge turnover of visitors and 7000 business visitors which included overseas trade delegations from 58 countries across the globe.

THE SULTAN CENTER LAUNCHES AUTUMN/WINTER 2015 SPORTS COLLECTION

Fusing fitness and fashion, The Sultan Center (TSC), one of the Gulf's leading independent retail companies, launched its 2015/2016 autumn/winter sports range across its stores. Showcasing some of the leading sports retail brands including Nike, Reebok, Adidas, Speedo and Sketchers, TSC offers a wide selection across its sporting goods, apparel and footwear.

"The new collections are target-

ed towards fashion-savvy men and women who are on the cutting edge of new trends and have a variety of fitness interests" said Makram Malaeb, Group International and Non-Food Commercial Director. "Our focus is to deliver our customers' daily sporting requirements through a selection of the best sports brands available today. We are proud to be Kuwait's exclusive food retailer to offer branded sports apparel & shoes to complement our

valuable clients' needs" Malaeb added.

Embracing the latest seasonal colors and vibrant trends, TSC maintains a dedicated sports department TSC Salmiya, Hawally, Souq Sharq and Al-Kout. Featuring the latest sports style trends, TSC invites its customers to visit the stores to discover and shop the season's new collections. Whether for the gym, sports activity or outdoors, TSC has it all!

ABK AND INTERNATIONAL CLINIC ENCOURAGE BREAST CANCER SCREENINGS

Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) has joined up with the International Clinic in a campaign during October's Breast Cancer Awareness Month to raise awareness of the disease and encourage women over 40 to get regularly screened. During the whole of October, ABK female customers and staff will receive a 25 % discount on mammogram screenings when conducted at the International Clinic in Salmiya. ABK has launched a series of activities in support of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and the bank is also the main sponsor of the Cancer Aware Nation(CAN)marathon, which is scheduled to be held in Kuwait, later in the year.

ANNOUNCEMENT FROM PALESTINIAN EMBASSY

Palestine's ambassador to Kuwait, Rami Tahboub recently announced they are receiving condolences for the martyrs of Israeli occupation forces' massacres and public executions in the occupied Palestinian territories. Tahboub added that funeral services would be held at the embassy's headquarters in Bayan, Block 13, street number 7 house number 24 on Tuesday, October 20, 2015 from 10:00 am till 2:00 pm and from 5:00-9:00 pm.



The administrator of Otaibah Tribe website, Nemer Safar Al-Otaibai recently presented a memorial trophy to businessman Bader Mohammed Al-Otaibi in appreciation of his endless support to the website.

KOZHIKODE DISTRICT NRI ASSOCIATION ELECTS NEW OFFICE BEARERS

Kozhikode District NRI Association - KDNA Fahaheel Area committee conducted their annual general body meeting on Friday 25th September 2015 at "Foke" auditorium, Mangaf. General Body meeting was presided over by Resheed Payanthong and inaugurated by KDNA General Secretary Sathian Varoonda. President Azeez Thikkodi spoke about the activities and vision of the association.

Annual report for the year 2014-2015 was

rendered by the area general secretary Dileep Gopinath. Association Vice President Suresh Mathur controlled the election procedure and the general body elected following office bearers unanimously for the year 2015-2016.

Ajesh Somasundaram (President) Ramachandran Kunnamangalam, C.Muhammed Iqbal (Vice Presidents), Nipun Paul (General Secretary), Manoj P Narayanan (Treasurer). Other area executive members are Vinod Kumar, Anish Kumar, Nishal Ani, Ummer

Koya, Binul Kumar, Kumaran Perode and Dijesh V Nair. Representatives to Central Executive Committee:

Sajeewan Kunimmal, Rasheed Payanthong, Praju.T.M, Santhosh Punathil, Balan Koomullil, Suhash Kumar & Dilip Gopinath. KDNA Treasurer Zabeer Alakkal, Sajeewan Kunimmal were among the few that were offered felicitation speeches. The entire members present in the General Body wished the new committee followed by vote of thanks by Manoj P Narayanan.





The ambassador of the Republic of Korea Shin Boonam hosted a reception at their embassy on the occasion of the National Foundation and Armed Forces day. The event was held at Regency Hotel and many high ranking officials and media personnel attended the event.



ASSE KUWAIT CHAPTER ORGANIZED THE SECOND SESSION OF CONTRACTOR SAFETY MONTH

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

Continuing its constant efforts towards social responsibility and commitment, American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE), Kuwait Chapter, organized the second session of the Contractor Safety Month on 13th October 2015, where specialist from M/s Capital Safety conducted a presentation on the Fall Projection System.

The event sponsored by M/s Raja Company, was conducted at KOC Hubara Centre - Assembly Hall at Ahmadi Township. The event started with a safety moment and welcome address by Mr Jignesh Shah, chapter secretary. The chapter vice president Dinesh Dutta in his address informed that the chapter is organizing the Contractor Safety month for the benefit of contractors in state of Kuwait who are exposed to various safety risks. These technical meet events are open to everyone, so that the contractors who have a major role in industrial sector are updated to the best practices and latest technologies. Fadhel Al Ali Chairman ASSE

Kuwait Chapter inaugurated the event. In his inaugural address Fadhel Al Ali highlighted the importance of the fall protection system and its role accident prevention. Sunil N Sadanandan, head of technical event committee introduced the speaker Romain Crouzit, Regional Manager (Middle East & Africa), from M/s Capital Safety, leaders in the manufacturing of Fall protection devices.

Romain Crouzit in his presentation explained about the hazardous situations while working at heights, where fall protection system ensures minimizing the associated risks. The presentation was followed by an interactive question

and answer session with the speaker and participants. A quiz session was also conducted, where the winners received gift.

Sanjay Jaiswal in his closing address thanked the Kuwait Oil Company for their continuous support extended to ASSE Kuwait chapter. He also thanked the speaker Romain Crouzit and the sponsors M/s Raja Company for the presentations. He thanked the all the participants who took their time in the evening to attend and enrich their knowledge. Around 200 persons from different sectors participated in this event. As a token of appreciation, Romain was presented with a memento.

Certificates of participation was distributed to all the participants. ASSE Kuwait Chapter welcomes all interested parties to attend all the workshops. The entry is free.

The next session will be held on 20th October at the same place (KOC Hubara Centre - Assembly hall) from 06.30pm to 08.30pm, where Mr. Duplessis & Mr. Tomy Pickett from M/s Scott Safety will be giving presentation on Latest technology in Breathing Air Systems. Register through email to assekuwat@live.com with details like your name, Company & Designation; email address, mobile number etc.



BBC lifestyle

00:05 Michela's Classic Italian
00:30 Rachel Khoo's Kitchen
Notebook: Cosmo Cook
00:55 Bargain Hunt
03:05 Come Dine With Me
05:05 Marbella Mansions
05:50 The Roux Legacy
06:25 The Roux Legacy
07:00 Bargain Hunt
07:45 Come Dine With Me
08:10 Building Dream Homes
09:10 Rachel Khoo's Kitchen
Notebook: Cosmo Cook
09:35 Bargain Hunt
10:20 The Roux Legacy
10:50 Homes Under The Hammer
11:45 Masterchef: The Professionals
12:35 Bargain Hunt
13:20 Come Dine With Me
13:45 Building Dream Homes
14:45 Rachel Khoo's Kitchen
Notebook: Cosmo Cook
15:10 Bargain Hunt
15:50 The Roux Legacy
16:25 Homes Under The Hammer
17:20 Bargain Hunt
18:05 Phil Spencer: Secret Agent - Specials
18:55 Rachel Khoo's Kitchen
Notebook: Cosmo Cook
19:20 Marbella Mansions
20:05 The Planners
20:55 Antiques Roadshow
21:45 Come Dine With Me
22:10 Bargain Hunt
23:05 Phil Spencer: Secret Agent - Specials

Discovery Channel HD

00:20 Fast N' Loud
01:10 Walking The Nile
02:00 For The Love Of Cars
02:50 Wheeler Dealers
03:40 Container Wars
04:05 Dallas Car Sharks
04:30 Baggage Battles
05:00 How It's Made: Dream Cars
05:30 How Do They Do It?
06:00 Ice Cold Gold
06:50 Extreme Car Hoarders
07:40 Fast N' Loud
08:30 Container Wars
08:55 Dallas Car Sharks
09:20 Baggage Battles
09:45 How It's Made: Dream Cars
10:10 How Do They Do It?
10:35 Railroad Alaska
11:25 For The Love Of Cars
12:15 Wheeler Dealers
13:05 Container Wars
13:30 Dallas Car Sharks
13:55 Baggage Battles
14:20 Ice Cold Gold
15:10 Extreme Car Hoarders
16:00 Fast N' Loud
16:50 How It's Made: Dream Cars
17:15 How Do They Do It?
17:40 Deadliest Catch
18:30 Outback Truckers
19:20 Dual Survival
20:10 Dallas Car Sharks
20:35 Baggage Battles
21:00 Deadliest Catch
21:50 Outback Truckers
22:40 Manhunt With Joel Lambert
23:30 Extreme Car Hoarders

E

00:00 The Soup
00:30 WAGs
01:25 We Have Issues
01:50 Sex With Brody
02:20 El News
03:15 Extreme Close-Up
04:10 EIES
05:05 Beyond Candid With Giuliana
06:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
07:50 Style Star
08:20 El News
09:15 Giuliana & Bill
11:10 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills
12:05 El News
13:05 We Have Issues
13:35 The Grace Helbig Show
14:05 Hollywood Cycle
15:00 Kourtney And Khloe Take The Hamptons
17:00 Stewarts And Hamiltons
18:00 El News
19:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
20:00 House Of DVF
21:00 Hollywood Cycle
22:00 WAGs
23:00 Sex With Brody

itv HD CHOICE

00:20 Shetland
01:15 May The Best House Win
02:00 Emmerdale
02:25 Eggheads
02:55 Coronation Street
03:25 Tricked
04:20 Keep It In The Family
05:15 Take On The Twisters
06:10 Who's Doing The Dishes?
07:05 Coronation Street
07:30 Tricked
08:25 Keep It In The Family
09:20 Who's Doing The Dishes?
10:15 I'm A Celebrity Get Me Out Of Here
11:10 Paul O'Grady: For The Love Of Dogs
11:35 May The Best House Win
12:30 Take On The Twisters
13:25 Emmerdale
13:50 Eggheads
14:20 Coronation Street
14:45 The Chase
15:35 Who's Doing The Dishes?
16:30 Agatha Christie's Partners In Crime
17:25 Keep It In The Family
18:20 Take On The Twisters
19:10 Coronation Street
19:35 Who's Doing The Dishes?
20:30 Agatha Christie's Partners In Crime
21:25 Keep It In The Family
22:20 I'm A Celebrity Get Me Out Of Here
23:15 Paul O'Grady: For The Love Of Dogs
23:40 Eggheads

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CHANNEL HD

00:10 Wicked Tuna
01:00 The 2000s: The Decade We Saw It All
02:55 China From Above
03:50 I Wouldn't Go In There: Ww2 Special
04:45 Wild Case Files
05:40 Big, Bigger, Biggest
06:35 Megastructures
07:30 Richard Hammond's Wildest Weather:
08:25 Years Of Living Dangerously
09:20 Wild Case Files
10:15 World's Most Extreme

11:10 Building Wild
12:05 Engineering Connections
13:00 Years Of Living Dangerously
14:00 Seconds From Disaster
15:00 Construction Zone
15:30 Chasing Time
16:00 World's Most Extreme
17:00 Building Wild
18:00 Engineering Connections
19:00 Construction Zone
19:30 Chasing Time
20:00 World's Most Extreme
20:50 Building Wild
21:40 Engineering Connections
22:30 Construction Zone
22:55 Chasing Time
23:20 Big, Bigger, Biggest

OSN FIRST HD COMEDY

00:30 Last Man Standing
01:00 The Nightly Show With Larry Wilmore
01:30 Comedians
02:00 Silicon Valley
03:30 The Goldbergs
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 The Goldbergs
15:30 Last Man Standing
16:00 The Nightly Show With Larry Wilmore
17:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
18:00 Brooklyn Nine-Nine
18:30 The Goldbergs
19:00 Hot In Cleveland
20:00 Community
20:30 Bad Judge
21:00 Last Man Standing
21:30 Last Week Tonight With John Oliver
22:05 The Brink
22:30 Bailers
23:00 Family Guy
23:30 Community

OSN FIRST HD

00:00 Downton Abbey
01:00 The Americans
02:00 How To Get Away With Murder
03:00 The Knick
06:00 Red Band Society
08:00 Chicago Fire
09:00 Scandal
10:00 Red Band Society
12:00 Emmerdale
12:30 Coronation Street
14:00 Chicago Fire
15:00 The Astronaut Wives Club
16:00 Emmerdale
16:30 Coronation Street
17:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
18:00 Chicago Fire
19:00 Scandal
20:00 Switched At Birth
21:00 Quantico
22:00 Homeland
23:00 The Leftovers

OSN FIRST MORE

02:00 Good Morning America
03:00 Salem
04:00 Grimm
06:00 Good Morning America
07:00 Emmerdale
07:30 Coronation Street
09:00 Suits
10:00 Emmerdale
10:30 Coronation Street
12:00 Switched At Birth
13:00 Supernatural
14:00 Live Good Morning America
16:00 Suits
17:00 Switched At Birth
18:00 Supernatural
19:00 Suits
20:00 Switched At Birth
21:00 Supernatural
22:00 Salem
23:00 Grimm

OSN MOVIES HD ACTION

00:15 Lords Of London
02:00 v For Vendetta
04:15 Bloodsport
06:00 The Core
08:15 Rage
10:00 Arachnophobia
12:00 Bloodsport
13:45 The Last Castle
16:00 Rage
18:00 Special ID
20:00 Last Passenger
22:00 Closed Circuit

OSN MOVIES HD ACTION

00:00 v For Vendetta-18
02:15 Bloodsport-PG15
04:00 The Core-PG15
06:15 Page-PG15
08:00 Arachnophobia-PG15
10:00 Bloodsport-PG15
11:45 The Last Castle-PG15
14:00 Page-PG15
16:00 Special ID-PG15
18:00 Last Passenger-PG15
20:00 Closed Circuit-PG15
22:00 Rush-18

OSN MOVIES HD COMEDY

00:00 Dumb And Dumber To
02:00 For Better Or For Worse
04:00 Foodfight!
06:00 Mousehunt
08:00 Life With Mikey
10:00 Foodfight!
12:00 For Better Or For Worse
14:00 Planes, Trains And Automobiles
16:00 Life With Mikey
18:00 The Last Shot
20:00 The Ladykillers
22:00 Cadillac Man

OSN MOVIES HD DRAMA

01:00 Struck By Lightning-PG15
03:00 The Truth About Emanuel
05:00 Blancanieves-PG15
07:00 The Railway Man-PG15
09:00 Mr. Pip-PG15
11:00 Blancanieves-PG15
13:00 Knockout-PG15
15:00 The Truth About Emanuel
17:00 Mr. Pip-PG15
19:00 Devil's Knot-PG15
21:00 Reclaim-PG15
23:00 Oldboy-18

OSN MOVIES HD FESTIVAL

01:15 Serial (Bad) Weddings
03:00 The Boxer
05:00 Pawn
07:00 The Invisible Woman
09:00 The Bag Man
11:00 Pawn
13:00 Grand Piano
15:00 Atlas Shrugged Part 2: The Strike
17:00 The Bag Man
19:00 Blue Ruin
21:00 Disconnect
23:00 Casualties Of War

OSN MOVIES HD

01:00 Mine Games-PG15
03:00 Seven Days In Utopia-PG15
05:00 Le Weekend-PG15
06:45 Great Expectations-PG15
09:00 At Middleton-PG15
10:45 The Fault In Our Stars-PG15
13:00 Quartet-PG15
15:00 The Last Days On Mars
17:00 At Middleton-PG15
18:45 Foxcatcher-PG15
21:00 Heatstroke-PG15
23:00 The Conjuring-18

OSN MOVIES HD KIDS

01:00 Marvel's Thor: Tales Of Asgaard
02:45 Worms
04:30 Moomins And The Comet Chase
06:00 Hiroku: Defenders Of Gaia
08:00 Goat Story 2
10:00 The Olsen Gang In Deep Trouble
11:30 Daddy I'm A Zombie
13:15 Scooby-Doo! Ghastly Goals!
14:15 Jelly T
16:00 Blue Elephant 2
18:00 The Olsen Gang In Deep Trouble
20:00 Patoruzito: The Great Adventure
22:00 Jelly T
23:30 Blue Elephant 2

OSN MOVIES HD PREMIERE

00:00 Sin City: A Dame To Kill For
02:00 Maleficent-PG
04:00 Searching For Sugar Man
06:00 American Warships-PG15
08:00 Million Dollar Arm-PG15
10:15 House Of Versace-PG15
11:45 Blended-PG15
13:45 Saving Mr. Banks-PG15
16:00 Million Dollar Arm-PG15

STAR MOVIES

01:30 Honor Student
03:00 Long Weekend
04:30 Struck By Lightning
06:00 Grave Encounters
07:30 Real Steel
09:45 Honor Student
11:15 Under The Tuscan Sun
13:15 A Lot Like Love
15:00 Dangerous Minds
16:45 The Longshots
18:30 The Joneses
20:00 Signs
21:45 Tomorrow When The War Began
23:30 The Limits Of Control

STAR WORLD

00:00 Grey's Anatomy
01:00 MasterChef Australia
02:00 Transporter: The Series
04:00 Da Vinci's Demons
05:00 According To Jim
06:00 The Simpsons
06:30 The Simpsons
07:00 Lost
08:00 Grey's Anatomy
09:00 MasterChef Australia
10:00 Transporter: The Series
12:00 Da Vinci's Demons
13:00 According To Jim
14:00 The Simpsons
15:00 Lost
16:00 Grey's Anatomy
17:00 MasterChef Australia
18:00 Private Practice
20:00 Grey's Anatomy
21:00 Cougar Town
22:00 The Simpsons
23:00 Lost

HISTORY

00:00 American Daredevils
01:00 Mountain Men
02:00 Swamp People
03:00 Shipping Wars
04:00 American Daredevils
04:30 American Daredevils
06:00 Duck Dynasty
07:00 Swamp People
08:00 Mountain Men
09:00 Gold Hunters: Legend Of The Superstition...
10:00 Alaska Off-Road Warriors
11:00 Shark Wranglers
12:00 American Pickers
13:00 Storage Wars
14:00 Pawn Stars
15:00 Shipping Wars
16:00 American Restoration
17:00 Storage Wars
17:30 Pawn Stars
18:00 American Pickers
19:00 Storage Wars
20:00 Shipping Wars
21:00 Pawn Stars
22:30 Pawn Stars

AMC

04:55 Kid Colter
06:35 Separate Tables
08:15 George Washington
09:40 Meteor Man
11:20 Apache
12:50 Adventures Of Hercules
14:20 Natural Causes
15:50 Nobody's Fool
17:35 The Return Of Sabata
19:20 Meteor Man
21:00 Sweet Revenge
22:20 Doubt
00:05 Art School Confidential
01:45 Rob Roy

ANIMAL PLANET HD

03:25 Man-Eating Super Croc
04:15 Megalodon: The New Evidence
05:02 River Monsters (Best Of Series 1-5)
05:49 Killer Hornets From Hell
06:36 Call Of The Wildman
07:25 Dogs 101
08:15 The Lion Man
09:10 Treehouse Masters
10:05 Tanked
11:00 Dogs 101
11:55 Bondi Vet
12:50 Killer Hornets From Hell
13:45 The Lion Man
14:40 Treehouse Masters
15:35 Tanked
16:30 Queens Of The Savannah
17:25 River Monsters (Best Of Series 1-5)
18:20 Snake Sheila



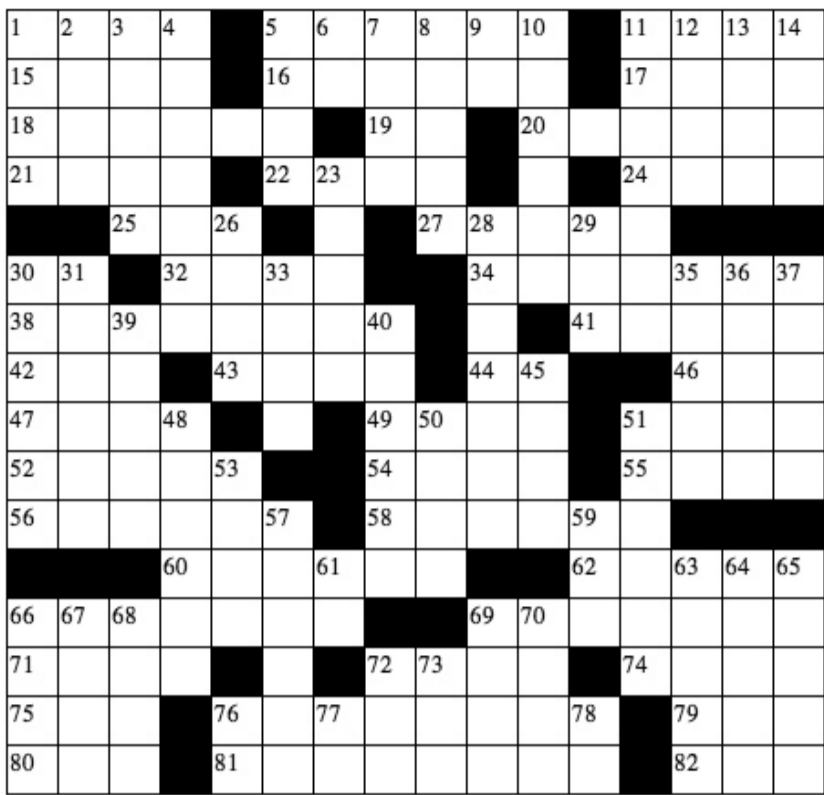
THE LAST DAYS ON MARS ON OSN MOVIES HD

18:45 Snake Sheila
19:15 Treehouse Masters
20:10 Tanked
21:05 Killer Iq: Lion vs Hyena
22:00 Megalodon: The Monster Shark Lives
23:50 Snake Sheila
00:45 Call Of The Wildman
01:40 Megalodon: The Monster Shark Lives
20:00 Hitler On Trial: The Story Behind The Film
20:50 The Paradise
21:45 Inside No. 9
22:15 Call The Midwife
23:10 The Weakest Link
23:55 Doctors
00:25 Eastenders
00:55 Call The Midwife
01:50 Hitler On Trial: The Story Behind The Film
02:45 The Paradise
03:20 Grojband
04:05 Total Drama: Revenge Of The Island
04:27 Total Drama: Revenge Of The Island
04:50 Teen Titans Go!
05:00 Teen Titans Go!
05:10 Grojband
05:35 Grojband
06:25 New Uncle Grandpa
06:37 Uncle Grandpa
06:50 Adventure Time
07:35 Clarence
07:46 Clarence
08:00 Teen Titans Go!
08:20 Ninjago: Masters Of Spinjitzu
08:45 New Ben 10 Omniverse
09:10 Ben 10: Omniverse
09:30 Regular Show
09:41 Regular Show
09:55 Dreamworks Dragons: Defenders Of Berk
10:20 Total Drama World Tour
10:40 Total Drama: Pahkitew Island
11:05 Johnny Test
11:50 Steven Universe
12:15 Uncle Grandpa
12:40 Regular Show
13:25 Adventure Time
14:10 The Amazing World Of Gumball
15:00 New Ben 10 Omniverse
15:20 Ben 10: Omniverse
15:45 Ninjago: Masters Of Spinjitzu
16:10 Matt Hatter Chronicles
16:30 Teen Titans Go!
17:20 Clarence
17:31 Clarence
17:40 The Amazing World Of Gumball
18:30 Adventure Time
18:40 Adventure Time
18:50 Over The Garden Wall - New
19:15 New Uncle Grandpa
19:27 Uncle Grandpa
19:40 Steven Universe
20:00 Regular Show
20:50 New Ben 10 Omniverse
21:15 Ben 10: Omniverse
21:40 Adventure Time
22:25 Johnny Test
23:10 Regular Show
23:55 Total Drama: Pahkitew Island
00:20 Total Drama: Pahkitew Island
03:05 Deadly Women
04:30 California Investigator
04:55 California Investigator
05:20 The Will
06:10 The Will
07:00 Dr G: Medical Examiner
07:50 On The Case With Paula Zahn
08:40 Fatal Encounters
09:30 Murder Shift
10:20 Forensic Detectives
11:10 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones
12:00 The Will
12:50 I Almost Got Away With It
13:40 California Investigator
14:05 Nightmare Next Door
14:55 Fatal Encounters
15:45 On The Case With Paula Zahn
16:35 Murder Shift
17:25 I Almost Got Away With It
18:15 Forensic Detectives
19:05 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones
19:55 California Investigator
20:20 The Will
21:10 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
21:35 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
22:00 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones
22:50 California Investigator
23:15 California Investigator
23:40 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
00:05 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
00:30 The Haunted
01:20 Ghost Lab
02:10 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones
03:05 Home Factory
03:29 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
04:16 How Do They Do It?
06:37 How It's Made
07:00 Mythbusters
07:50 Bang Goes The Theory
08:40 X-Machines
09:30 Food Factory
10:20 Deadly Dilemmas
11:10 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
12:00 Space Pioneer
12:50 Bang Goes The Theory
13:40 X-Machines
14:30 How It's Made
15:20 Deadly Dilemmas
16:10 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
17:00 Bang Goes The Theory
17:50 Mythbusters
18:40 Home Factory
19:30 Food Factory
20:20 How It's Made
21:10 How Do They Do It?
22:00 Home Factory
22:50 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
23:40 Moon Machines
00:30 Mythbusters
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



THE CONJURING ON OSN MOVIES HD

CROSSWORD 1053



ACROSS

1. The activity of contributing to the fulfillment of a need or furtherance of an effort or purpose.
5. Any of several small ungulate mammals of Africa and Asia with rodent-like incisors and feet with hooflike toes.
11. (Old Testament) The eldest son of Isaac who would have inherited the Covenant that God made with Abraham and that Abraham passed on to Isaac.
15. Evergreen trees and shrubs having oily one-seeded fruits.
16. A member of the Semitic speaking people of northern Ethiopia.
17. An account describing incidents or events.
18. Sealed in a can or jar.
19. An associate degree in nursing.
20. Deer grass.
21. A pilgrimage to Mecca.
22. A Loioish language.
24. A man who is the lover of a girl or young woman.
25. A workplace for the conduct of scientific research.
27. Naked freshwater or marine or parasitic protozoa that form temporary pseudopods for feeding and locomotion.
30. A silvery ductile metallic element found primarily in bauxite.
32. Any of numerous local fertility and nature deities worshipped by ancient Semitic peoples.
34. Excellent and delightful in all respects.
38. A nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug (trade name Clinoril).
41. Intelligence derived from non-communications electromagnetic radiations from foreign sources (other than radioactive sources).
42. A health resort near a spring or at the seaside.
43. Fallow deer.
44. A radioactive transuranic element synthesized from californium.
46. A statement that deviates from or perverts the truth.
47. Channel into a new direction.
49. Remove with or as if with a ladle.
52. (trademark) An alloy of iron and nickel having a low coefficient of thermal expansion.
54. An Arabic speaking person who lives in Arabia or North Africa.
55. An inflammatory disease involving the sebaceous glands of the skin.
56. Hired for the exclusive temporary use of a group of travelers.
58. A city in western India just off the coast of the Arabian Sea.
60. Hawthorn of southern United States bearing juicy acid scarlet fruit often used in jellies or preserves.
62. Music performed for dancing the polka.
66. A genus of the cactus family with scarlet flowers.
71. A Kwa language spoken in Ghana and the Ivory Coast.
74. A Chadic language spoken south of Lake Chad.
75. A small piece of cloth.
79. A member of a Mayan people of southwestern Guatemala.
80. A usually soluble substance for staining or coloring e.g. fabrics or hair.
81. An Old World reptile family of Sauria.
82. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.

- Czechoslovakia) who won several singles championships.
4. A member of the majority people of Punjab in northwestern India.
5. An informal term for a father.
6. Before noon.
7. Title for the former hereditary monarch of Iran.
8. The capital and largest city of Yemen.
9. A heavy brittle metallic element of the platinum group.
10. Gained or acquired.
11. The ball-shaped capsule containing the vertebrate eye.
12. A French marshal who distinguished himself in the War of the Austrian Succession (1696-1750).
13. An elaborate song for solo voice.
14. Relatively small fast-moving sloth.
23. A member of a formerly tribal people now living in south central India.
26. An unofficial association of people or groups.
28. Dam to make a millpond to provide power for a water mill.
29. Minor or subordinate.
31. Of or relating to or characteristic of wolves n.
33. (Babylonian) God of storms and wind.
35. Of a pale purple color.
36. The craniometric point that is the most prominent point at the back of the head (at the occipital protuberance).
37. Comb-plate or locomotor organ consisting of a row of strong cilia whose bases are fused.
39. The immature free-living form of most invertebrates and amphibians and fish which at hatching from the egg is fundamentally unlike its parent and must metamorphose.
40. West Indian tree having racemes of fragrant white flowers and yielding a durable timber and resinous juice.
45. English writer and a central member of the Fabian Society (1858-1943).
48. Dutch navigator who was the first European to discover Tasmania and New Zealand (1603-1659).
50. Beside one another in a row or rank.
51. Knocked unconscious by a heavy blow.
53. Being or occurring in fact or actuality.
57. The use of dye to change the color of something permanently.
59. The month following March and preceding May.
61. (astronomy) The angular distance of a celestial point measured westward along the celestial equator from the zenith crossing.
63. Wild or domesticated South American cud-chewing animal related to camels but smaller and lacking a hump.
64. Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
65. Small terrestrial lizard of warm regions of the Old World.
67. (informal) Being satisfactory or in satisfactory condition.
68. Especially one side of a leaf.
69. Having or displaying warmth or affection.
70. Predatory black-and-white toothed whale with large dorsal fin.
72. A human limb.
73. The Tibeto-Burman language spoken in the Dali region of Yunnan.
76. (Akkadian) God of wisdom.
77. A hard gray lustrous metallic element that is highly corrosion-resistant.
78. The branch of engineering science that studies the uses of electricity and the equipment for power generation and distribution and the control of machines and communication.

DOWN

1. A blind god.
2. English essayist (1775-1834).
3. United States tennis player (born in

STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

You have a lot of chores to finish today and your responsible attitude carries over past normal business hours. Your current priority is to demonstrate your efficiency to others, so list all your tasks and stay focused until you make a serious dent in your work. Channel your stress into action by striving to tie up any loose ends now. Don't delay because your reservoir of energy could dissipate later in the week. Your willingness to put in overtime shows your commitment to getting the job done.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

You might sense a growing resistance from a close friend today, but you're not in the mood for conflict and confrontation. Nevertheless, people seem emotionally distant now as roadblocks appear to delay your satisfaction. Thankfully, there's no point in getting your knickers in a twist because the tension will settle on its own. Instead, concentrate on the love that is already in your life; celebrating the glass being half-full is a much healthier strategy than complaining that it's half-empty.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Your greatest worry is that you can't pursue every curiosity that catches your eye today. However, your time and energy are limited by circumstances beyond your control. This temporary situation prevents you from being as footloose and fancy-free as you prefer. However, significant changes are occurring in your private inner world despite your current frustration. Don't stand in your own way of progress even if you're not clear where your choices will lead. Trusting the universe is the fastest way to find the silver linings in the clouds above your head.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Your emotional neediness could block your access to satisfaction, since it's not likely that others will meet your expectations now. But this imbalance isn't as bad as it might sound once you realize the real lesson is about learning what you can do for yourself. If you're already in a close partnership, you may need to back off a bit to allow everyone involved more breathing room. Fortunately, this exercise in self-sufficiency can help you clearly define what you want from a relationship if you're willing to let go and follow your heart.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

It seems as if your life is finally settling down to a comfortable pace, but this optimistic assessment may be slightly premature. Even if you can see positive change at work today, there are unexpected twists and turns on your chosen path. Be smart and prepare for whatever you might find once you get around the next bend in the road. Your ability to analyze the facts and decide what is most critical now will help you navigate this transformative phase with flying colors.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Some people believe that the highest form of creativity originates only from the wellsprings of inspiration. However, the source of your current creative streak may be triggered by your pressing desire to finish a project now. Happily, you possess the ability to transform your professional ambitions and romantic urges into practical manifestations. Be certain that whatever endeavor you undertake today is done with a greater purpose in mind; your word is your wand.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

Unresolved family issues work their way to the surface today, even if you attempt to remain as cool as a cucumber. But an unexpected disruption to your routine might not be the worst thing if it puts you in touch with buried emotions. Resisting the natural flow of your feelings is unnecessary now, even if it creates temporary discomfort or interrupts your productivity. Increasing your awareness facilitates positive change that may already be overdue. Metamorphosis happens if you're willing to explore your heart.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Two very different issues may require your attention now. On one hand, you're redefining your boundaries, and this emotional process might intensify your isolation for a while. But on the other hand, a parade of amazing revelations prevents you from sinking into self-pity. You're too amused by the soap opera that is your life to take things seriously today. Examine your world with an objective eye while you have the chance; cultivating emotional detachment encourages personal growth.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Although your optimism is a powerful motivational tool at times, your confidence can get in the way of your success today. If your healthy self-esteem is presently faltering, make a pact with yourself to intentionally travel to the depths of your subconscious. Decide what's most valuable and then return to the surface refreshed and ready to work for what you want. A treasure from the underworld contains magic and can be catalytic on your journey of self-transformation.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Your first inclination when waves of intense feelings begin to wash over you today is to reinforce your tide walls to halt the flow of emotions. You may be afraid that your powerful moods could destabilize your personal world in ways that aren't easy to manage. However, the more you constrain your irrational side now, the greater the probability of unwanted changes. Relax your resistance and trust your intuition to teach you how to navigate the murky waters of your heart.



Aquarius (January 20-February 18)

Someone may be trying to manipulate your behavior today, yet you don't have enough information at your disposal to fight off the apparent threat. There are still hidden pieces to the puzzle and it's difficult to defend against an unseen enemy. Rather than shadow boxing, it's more productive to maintain familiar routines for a while longer. The truth becomes clear soon enough, and there will still be time to act when it does. Patience is your best friend now; proceed slowly and with great intent.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Although you're unable to express yourself freely today, ironically, this emotional restraint works in your favor. Fortunately, your social connections stabilize your reactions as your peers help you keep your cool in the midst of a storm. You realize that you could inadvertently offend the people who mean the most to you by sharing whatever crosses your mind now. Heed the words of Thumper, "If you can't say something nice, don't say anything at all." Exercising your right to remain silent is the key to your current interpersonal success.

WORD SEARCH PUZZLE

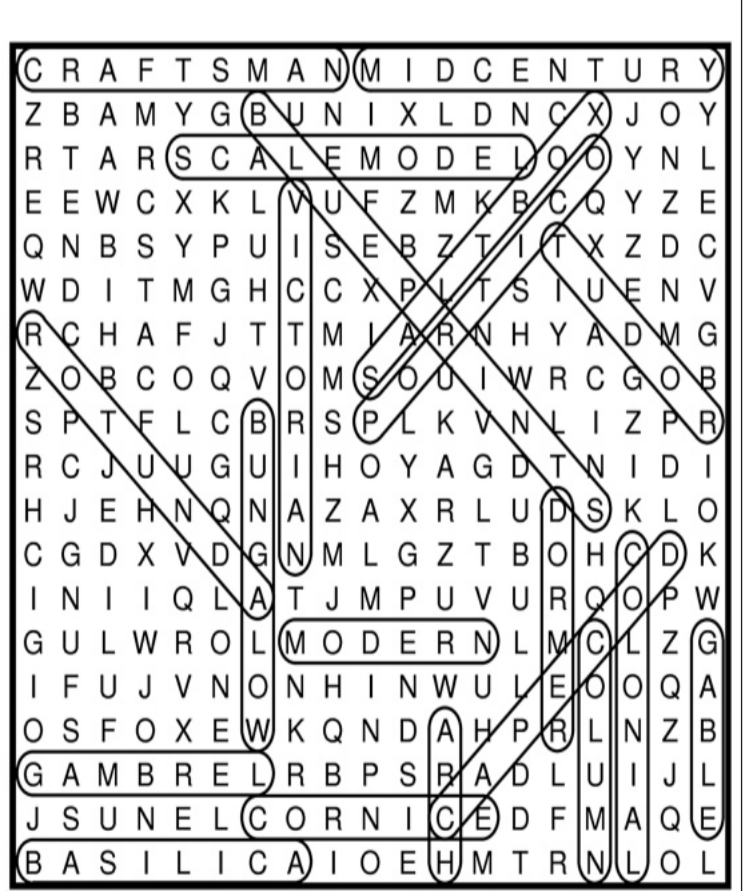
IN THE LAB WORD SEARCH PUZZLE



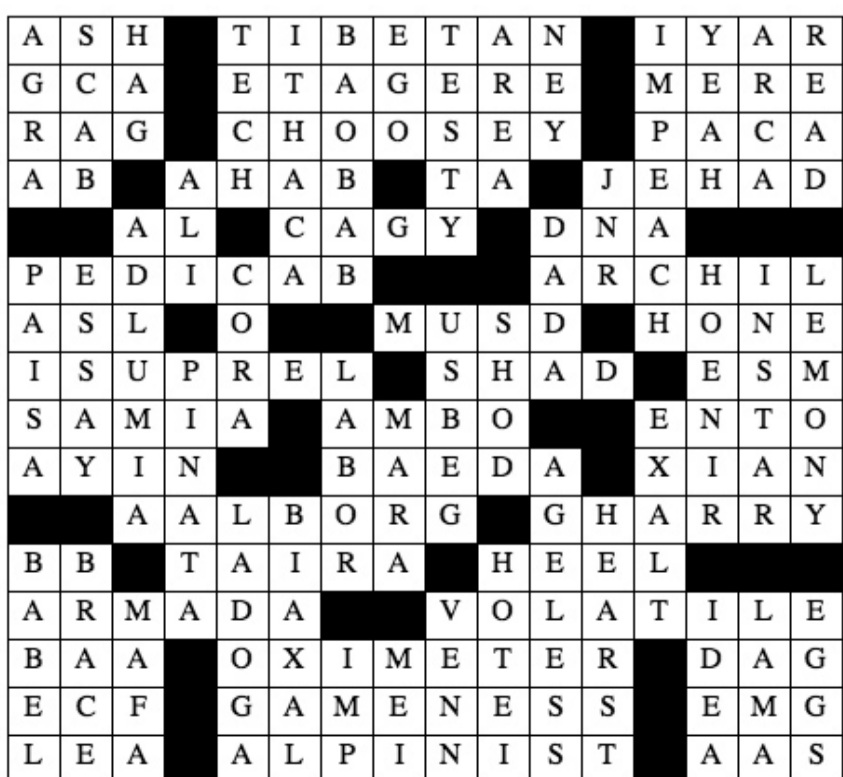
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|---------------|------------|----------------|-------------|
| BFAKER | EXPERIMENT | LAB COAT | SCALE |
| BUNSEN BURNER | FLASK | MICROSCOPE | SCIENTIST |
| CENTRIFUGE | GOGGLES | PERIODIC TABLE | TEST TUBE |
| CHEMICALS | HYDROMETER | PETRI DISH | THERMOMETER |
| CULTURES | INCUBATOR | PIPETTE | TONGS |

Yesterday's Solution

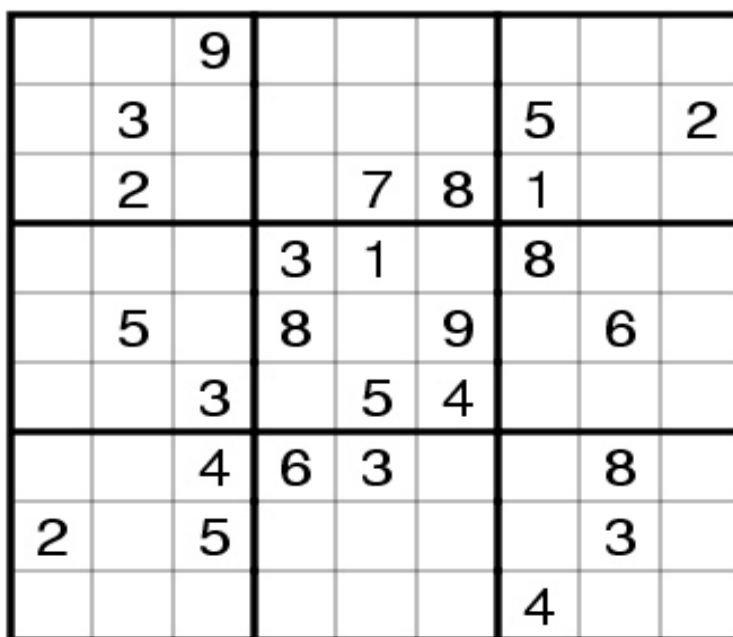
SOLUTION TO ARCHITECTURE PUZZLE



Yesterday's Solution

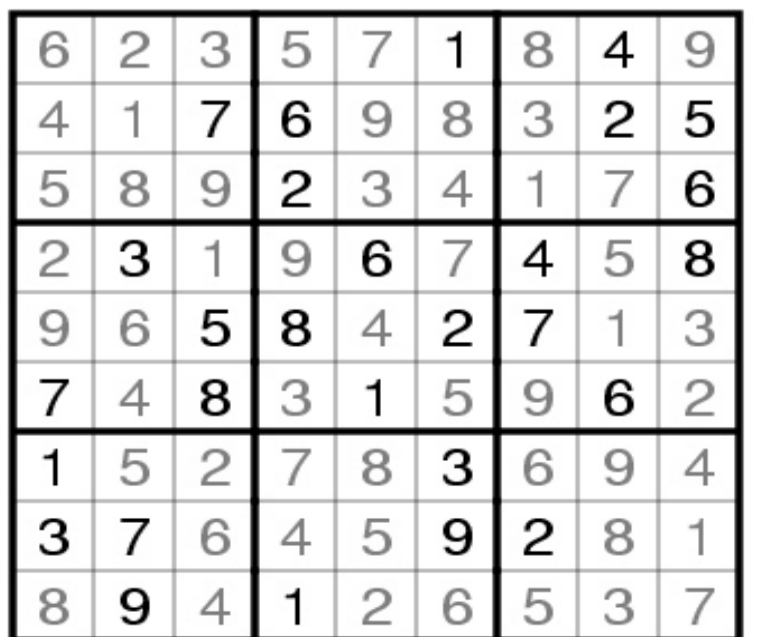


Daily SuDoku



medium

Yesterday's Solution



very hard



Justin Timberlake, center, whistles the tune "Sitting on the Dock of the Bay" with Steve Cropper, left.



Sam Moore, left, and Justin Timberlake perform on stage.

Timberlake sings a little, dances a little at Memphis event

Justin Timberlake sang and strutted his way through his induction into the Memphis Music Hall of Fame on Saturday, doing vocal impersonations of soul singers Al Green and Otis Redding, performing on stage with Sam Moore of Sam & Dave, and joking with buddy Jimmy Fallon. The pop singer and actor accepted the honor in front of about 2,100 people, who laughed throughout his acceptance speech. With a drink in tow, he told Fallon, who introduced him, that he was not funny. The pair marched together on stage as Timberlake led the audience in the fight song for the Memphis Tigers' football team, which upset Mississippi on Saturday.

Timberlake, a Memphis native, joked with friend DJ Paul of rap group Three 6 Mafia and sang bits of Green's "Love and Happiness," Sam & Dave's "Hold On, I'm Comin'" and Redding's "(Sittin' On) The Dock of the Bay" during his speech. He even cursed a few times. "This is the (expletive) coolest thing that has ever happened to me," said Timberlake, a former NSync member and solo artist who has won multiple Emmy and Grammy awards and appeared in several films.

Honored musicians

Later, he added: "The Grammys are political. The Emmys are political. Memphis is not political. And don't get me started on Hollywood." The event honored musicians and performers with strong connections to

Memphis, known as a cradle of blues, soul/R&B and rock n' roll. Also inducted were Sam & Dave, Elvis Presley guitarist Scotty Moore, Booker T & the MG's drummer Al Jackson Jr, singer Alberta Hunter, blues pianist Memphis Slim and

headed for the lights of LA," Timberlake sang, changing some of the lyrics to fit his own success story. Sam Moore's singing partner, Dave Prater, died in 1988. They recorded several hits for Stax in the 1960s. Fallon, who has performed with

Justin himself. He wrote this speech," Richards praised Scotty Moore for influencing his career. Scotty Moore played guitar on Presley's first recording, "That's All Right," at Sun Studio in 1954, and traveled with Presley as the rock n' roll icon started his music career. Richards dropped the award when he approached the podium. "I dropped it classically, tastefully," Richards joked. Bluesman BB King was honored in an "In Memoriam" video. He died earlier this year at age 80.

Video and musical tributes accompanied the inductions of the other artists. Nicknamed the "Silver Fox," Rich recorded at Sun Studio in Memphis with influential producer Sam Phillips. Jackson kept time for Booker T & the MG's, the bi-racial, rock-soul-funk collaboration that served as the house band for Stax Records. The Memphis-born Jackson was fatally shot in 1975. Hunter was born in Memphis but gained fame as a pioneering blues and jazz singer in Chicago and New York in the 1910s and 1920s. Memphis Slim created over 500 recordings and played piano for blues legends Sonny Boy Williamson and Willie Dixon. The Memphis Music Hall of Fame started in 2012. Inaugural inductees included Presley, Redding and Three 6 Mafia. Since then, inductees have included rock group Big Star, blues guitarist Albert King and soul songstress Carla Thomas. The sold-out event was held at the Cannon Center for the Performing Arts. —AP



Jimmy Fallon, left, inductes Justin Timberlake, right, during the Memphis Music Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony. —AP photos

country singer Charlie Rich. Rolling Stones guitarist Keith Richards accepted the award for Scotty Moore, who did not attend.

Eighty-year-old Sam Moore, one half of the duo Sam & Dave, performed to close the show. He was joined on stage by Timberlake, who danced during "Soul Man" and "Hold On, I'm Comin'." They then sang "(Sittin' On) The Dock of the Bay" together. "I left my home in Memphis,

Timberlake on "Saturday Night Live" and "The Tonight Show," sang like Elvis, did an impersonation of Donald Trump and called himself "Mrs Justin Timberlake" during his speech.

500 recordings

"He's one of the biggest stars in the world," Fallon said of Timberlake. "He can sing, he can dance, he can act, he's funny, he's good looking. And if you don't believe me, you can ask

Tunisia arrests rapper Klay BBJ



Tunisian rapper Ahmed Ben Ahmed

Police in Tunisia have arrested rapper Klay BBJ, his lawyer said yesterday, two years after the performer was sentenced to jail for insulting a public servant. It was not immediately clear why Klay BBJ was detained on Saturday, but interior ministry spokesman Walid Louguini told Mosaïque FM radio it was at the request of the prosecution. A judicial source said, however, that the arrest could have been linked "to the consumption of narcotics". If found guilty he could face up to five years in jail.

But Klay BBJ, according to his lawyer Ghazi Mrabet, has denied using drugs. The rapper, born Ahmed ben Ahmed, was detained in Tunis along with two other people as they were preparing to attend a concert in Hammamet further south, said Mrabet. In 2013 he was sentenced to 21 months in prison along with fellow rapper Weld El 15 for

insulting a public servant, in a case that sparked controversy in Tunisia and calls by rights groups for their release.

Their sentence was later reduced to six months but the pair appealed the ruling and were eventually acquitted. Klay BBJ is known for writing lyrics that criticize authorities, namely the security forces. His lawyer said he could be referred to court today, and that authorities could accuse him of having consumed narcotics under so-called law 52. The legislation which was adopted in 1992, during the reign of the now ousted autocratic regime, has been used to try and jail rappers who have been critical of the security forces. A civil society group known as "Prisoner 52" has been seeking the scrapping of law 52 which they say is used as a tool to repress freedom of expression. —AFP

TOM HIDDLESTON SINGS AS HANK WILLIAMS IN NASHVILLE

British actor Tom Hiddleston gave a once-in-a-lifetime performance when he hopped on stage in Nashville, Tennessee, on Saturday to sing after a premiere of the Hank Williams biopic, "I Saw the Light." Hiddleston spent months learning how to talk and sing like the iconic country singer for a role in the Sony Pictures Classics film, set for release in March 2016.

He surprised guests at an after-party following the premiere with a short set of Williams' classics including, "Hey Good Looking," "Why Don't You Love Me Like You Used To Do," and "Move It On Over." The crowd, which included his co-stars and musicians, clapped and danced along to Hiddleston's performance at a bar in downtown Nashville, just blocks from the famous Ryman Auditorium. While on stage, Hiddleston cracked jokes in a mix of British and Southern accents and even gave a quick encore.

Actor Bradley Whitford, who plays renowned songwriter and music executive Fred Rose in the film, joked that a Nashville audience might be a tough

crowd to please. "In front of dark, cynical, inside musicians, will be quick to jump to judgment? No tension. No anxiety," Whitford said. Writer/director/producer Marc Abraham said he was nervous

about the premiere because of the city's musical history. "Without Nashville, there is no story," Abraham said. "And without the people in Nashville that helped me, there is no story. So big deal for me to

come down here and present the film to people who know a lot about this subject."

The movie focuses on Williams' meteoric rise and fall in the 1940s and '50s through the stories of his personal relationships with women, including his mother, his wife Audrey Williams and his second marriage to Billie Jean. He died at the age of 29 in 1953. At the time of his death, his body was wracked by alcohol and drug abuse. "Hank Williams is someone I think who loved women, but he was also unintentionally cruel to them," Hiddleston said. "He was a hard man to live with and he was afflicted by so many addictions, so many demons."

Elizabeth Olsen, who plays Audrey Williams, said the film portrays so many strong women who had a lasting impact on Williams' songwriting. "He was always surrounded by really formidable women," Olsen said. "It's lucky that all of us got to play a different variation of a woman who stands on her own two feet and can stand up to a man who is such an icon like Hank." —AP



Actors Mia Wasikowska, from left, Tom Hiddleston and Jessica Chastain participate in AOL's BUILD Speaker Series to discuss their new film "Crimson Peak" at AOL Studios. —AP

Box Office: 'Goosebumps' tops 'The Martian,' 'Crimson Peak' falls flat

"Goosebumps" rode a wave of Clinton era nostalgia to the top of the box office charts, as the adaptation of the popular children's book series earned \$23.5 million in its opening weekend. That just edged out Fox's "The Martian," the science-fiction smash that was trying to be the number one picture for a third week in a row. The film added \$21.5 million to its \$143.8 million haul. It was a crowded time at the multiplexes, as four new releases jockeyed for audiences' attention. Aside from "Goosebumps," the weekend's best performer was "Bridge of Spies," the Steven Spielberg Cold War drama that capitalized on good reviews and Oscar buzz by nabbing \$15.4 million.

Disney is distributing the true story of an attorney (Tom Hanks) who defends a Russian spy (Mark Rylance). DreamWorks produced the \$40 million production. Its look at prisoner rights resonates in the post-Guantanamo age and positions "Bridge of Spies" to remain part of the conversation in coming weeks, Disney executives argued. "It's overwhelmingly applicable to today," said Dave Hollis, Walt Disney Studios' executive vice president of theatrical distribution. "But that's Steven Spielberg. He's able to do that with almost every single story."

Adult-oriented films

"Crimson Peak" fared less well. The Gothic Romance from Guillermo del Toro proved too niche for mainstream crowds, falling flat with a \$12.6 million debut. The story about a virginal bride (Mia Wasikowska) who moves into a haunted mansion cost \$55 million to bring to the screen. Legendary Pictures fully financed the picture and Universal is distributing the film. The studio believes that "Crimson Peak" struggled to break out from other fare aimed at older crowds such as "Bridge of Spies" and "Sicario." It also had more romance than straight scares, which may have disappointed ticket buyers looking for a more traditional horror film.

"This is a challenging play time for adult-oriented films," said Nick Carou, Universal's domestic distribution chief. "The film is definitely a throwback to an old fashioned way of creating atmosphere and layering tension. It's visually stunning and genuinely creepy." "Goosebumps" takes its names from the spooky children's books by RL Stine, but provided a meta-twist by having the author play a role in the movie. Jack Black, who played Stine, injected some humor into the proceedings, and a PG-rating made the film family friendly. Sony Pictures backed the

\$58 million production.

"Our marketing was able to convey just how fun this movie is," said Rory Bruer, Sony's distribution chief. "This is an all audience movie. It works for teens, as well as adults and younger kids." That left faith-based drama "Woodlawn," the story of a high school football team that makes a playoff run after finding religion, debuted across 1,553 to a stronger than expected \$4.1 million.

Less successful

Pure Flix, the film's distributor, declined to provide a budget. In limited release, abduction drama "Room" leveraged awards chatter into a very strong start, earning \$120,000 from four screens for a per-screen average of \$30,000. "Truth," another Oscar hopeful, was less successful. Sony Pictures Classics bowed the story of "60 Minutes" controversial report on George W Bush's National Guard service across six screens where it brought in \$76,646, for a per screen average of \$12,774. And "Beasts of No Nation," Cary Fukunaga's drama about child soldiers in Africa, made headlines when Netflix bested all bidders by offering \$12 million for rights to the movie. —Reuters



Belgian pop singer Paul Van Haver, aka Stromae, performs on October 17, 2015 in Kigali. —AFP

Singer Stromae wows at Rwanda homecoming concert

Belgian pop star Stromae has wowed the crowd in Kigali in a landmark concert and homecoming for the half-Rwandan singer, whose father was killed in the 1994 genocide. The singer, who broke off an African tour in June after falling sick to the huge disappointment of fans, performed to a packed stadium during a first concert in Rwanda late Saturday, after performances in neighboring Democratic Republic of Congo. "It was so exciting!" enthused Rodie Nkusi, an 18-year-old fan. "Everyone is so proud because he's half-Rwandan."

"We're so happy here, he's a child of our country," said another fan, 29-year-old

Pacifique. The genre-merging Belgian singer, who earlier this month sang in New York's Madison Square Garden-only the third French-language artist to play the self-described "World's Most Famous Arena" after Charles Aznavour and Celine Dion-performed in front of some 20,000 people for two hours. Stromae, whose real name is Paul Van Haver, has won a huge following in Belgium and France for his tunes, including his 2009 hit "Alors on danse," which are danceable but also introspective with themes including the absence of his Rwandan father. On Saturday he said he was "delighted" but also emotional to be back in a country he last visited as a child. —AFP



'Star Wars: The Force Awakens' poster revealed

As "Star Wars" fans (and theaters) continue to count down to the release of "The Force Awakens," Disney and Lucasfilm treated them to the new official poster for the movie yesterday. In releasing the new poster, Regal Cinemas also announced that tickets will go on sale today, and the "Star Wars" Twitter account confirmed rumors that a new teaser will air that same day during "Monday Night Football." —Reuters



A Navy rifleman standing at attention by the USS Arizona at the ceremony commemorating the 72nd anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor in Honolulu. —AP photos



Visitors to Diamond Head as they tackle the steep 1.6-mile round trip trail up to the summit on Oahu in Hawaii.



Iolani Palace is seen behind gilded gates decorated with a royal seal in Honolulu, Hawaii.



Visitors looking at a wall inscribed with the names of the USS Arizona's fallen at a memorial for the sunken battleship in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.



A turret from the USS Arizona as seen from the USS Arizona Memorial at Pearl Harbor in Honolulu.

Honolulu offers rain forests, snorkeling and rich history

Honolulu is a bustling metropolis with great restaurants just minutes from rain forest hiking trails and snorkeling spots. The state of Hawaii's capital, located on the island of Oahu, is also an excellent place to learn about World War II as well as Hawaiian history and culture.

What's new

Fans of surfing will want to see a new Bishop Museum exhibit on Duke Kahanamoku said to be the father of the ancient sport's modern incarnation. The Honolulu-born waterman won five Olympic swimming medals in the 1910s and 1920s and popularized surfing while traveling the world. The display, up through Feb 28, includes his surfboard and ukulele as well as photos and film.

Riding on a new protected bike lane on King Street is a nice way to enjoy a less touristy part of Honolulu. You can rent a bike at The Bike Shop on King Street. (A reservation will guarantee you a bike, but walk-ins are welcome.) Shortly before the lane begins at the South King/Alapai intersection, you'll find Iolani Palace, home of Hawaii's last reigning queen until US-backed businessmen deposed the Hawaiian monarchy in 1893. Heading east toward the University of Hawaii at Manoa, a good place to stop for a drink is the gastropub Pint and Jigger. Next door are excellent Japanese udon noodles at Jimbo. Farther down a vegan restaurant called Peace Cafe is so delicious meat-lovers are among its regular customers. Shortly after the path ends is Da Spot, which serves smoothies as well as tasty, reasonably priced Mediterranean and North African food.

Classic attractions

The USS Arizona, a battleship that sank in the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor in 1941, tops many lists for places to visit on Oahu. A boat will take you from the National Park Service's visitor center to the white memorial that sits atop the vessel's submerged hull. The remains of nearly 1,000 Arizona sailors and Marines killed in the attack are entombed in the ship. A museum and video at the visitor center tells about those on board and the history of World War II. A few elderly survivors of the attack are sometimes around to meet visitors. The nature preserve at Hanauma Bay offers white sands fronting aquamarine waters packed with coral and tropical fish. It's a good spot for snorkeling or just enjoying the sun. Admission is \$7.50 (free for Hawaii residents and children 12 and under).

A hike inside one of Honolulu's most recognizable symbols - the jewel-shaped volcanic crater

called Diamond Head - provides dramatic views of Waikiki, Oahu's green mountains and blue ocean. Much of the 1.6-mile path to the crater's rim is made of stairs. The trail is hot, so bring water and use sunscreen. Admission is \$1 for pedestrians and \$5 per car.

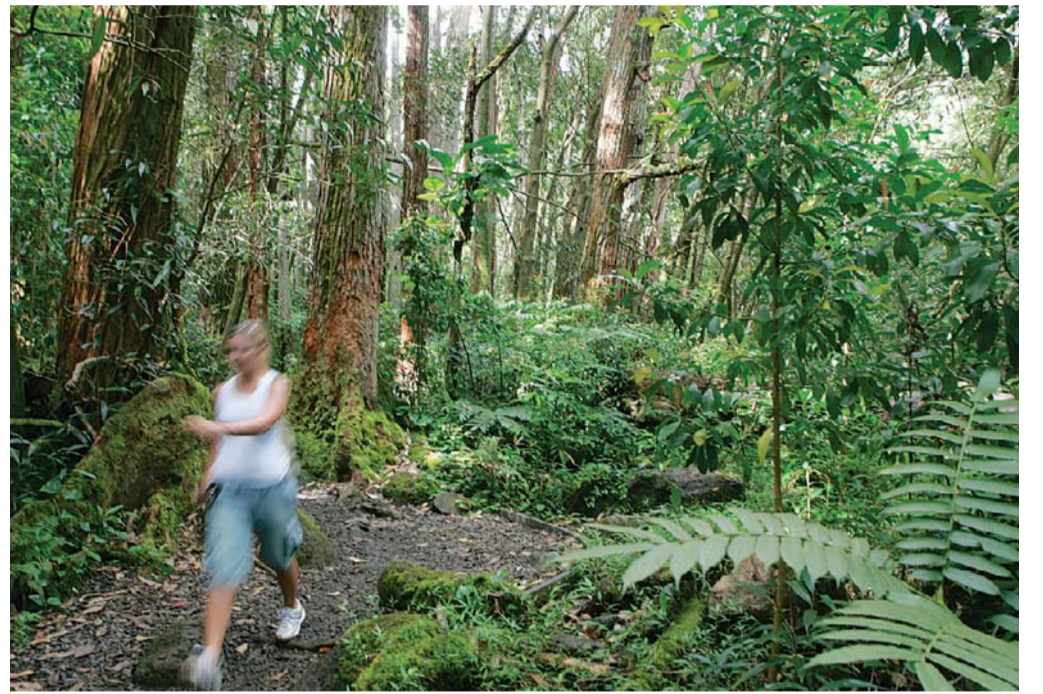
Across town, the trail to Manoa Falls takes you through a lush forest to a waterfall at the back of a verdant valley. The hike is less than a mile and good for families.

Tips

Save time: Go to recreation.gov to reserve tick-

Hanging out

Explore the quiet end of Waikiki by strolling down Kalakaua Avenue to the Waikiki Aquarium, one of the few places in the world where you can see fish from the most remote atolls in the Hawaiian archipelago. A 4,000-gallon display tank has species abundant in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands but rarely found around Oahu, Maui and the other islands where most people live. The aquarium also has two Hawaiian monk seals, an endangered species. Next door, you'll be able to peek at the ruins of a now-closed saltwater swimming pool that was built to honor the 101 people from Hawaii killed in World War I and the 10,000



A hiker walks along the Manoa Falls Trail in Oahu's Manoa Valley in Honolulu.

ets for the boat to the USS Arizona Memorial up to two months in advance. Walk-in visitors may get tickets on a first-come, first-served basis; reserving ahead guarantees a seat and helps you plan your day. Tickets are free, but those reserving online must pay a \$1.50 per ticket processing fee.

Save money: Honolulu can be pricey, but there's lots to enjoy for nothing. Beaches are free and open to the public, for example. Just bring a towel and picnic lunch. The Royal Hawaiian Center shopping complex near Waikiki's hotels offers free live Hawaiian music and hula Tuesday through Saturday nights. During the day, it has free lessons in ukulele, lei making, hula dancing and lauhala weaving.

others from the islands who served in the conflict. Duke Kahanamoku opened the pool with the first ceremonial swim in 1927. The Waikiki War Memorial Natatorium has since fallen into disrepair and is the subject of a long-running debate over whether it should be demolished or restored to its former glory.

Across the street is the vast expanse of Kapiolani Park, which initially hosted horse races when it opened in 1877. Take a bag lunch to eat on the grass or at one of the picnic tables scattered under shady trees. If you prefer being served, try the Hau Tree Lanai restaurant at the nearby New Otani Kaimana Beach Hotel. It's a great place to watch the sun set while you savor fresh ahi sashimi or sauteed mahimahi. —AP



Warm up for a cozy winter with the new twenty4 collection

With temperatures set to cool down over the next months, it is time to revive your wardrobe with winter 2015 trends from the thriving value-fashion brand, twenty4. Inspired by runway trends from Paris, London, and Milan, twenty4's new winter collection offers cozy and fashionable styles for everyone.

From key knitwear trends dominating the fashion charts across the world, twenty4 brings a wide selection of trendy outerwear from fluffy jumpers and cardigans to jazzy kimonos and soft woven vests.

Twenty4's new collection also offers a variety of bohemian maxi skirts with a breath of romance to perfect your look during your winter evening chillouts and warm coloured trousers for active weekend catch ups.

With a glimpse of vintage, the latest men's fashion from twenty4 includes best

basics and sporty active wear for a casual street style look; whereas, the collection's black and white smart wear has been designed to make the right impression during successful business moments.

Preparing the little ones for the new season has never been easier with twenty4's winter vivid and playful children's collection. From floral sweatshirts and petticoat skirts for girls to funky skater jackets and urban hoodies for boys, twenty4's children winter collection will make your little ones stay warm, stylish, and comfortable throughout the entire season.

The winter collection is now available across the twenty4 store network of 32 outlets in Bahrain, Oman, Kuwait, KSA, Qatar and the UAE. Twenty4 combines all the benefits of a specialty store under one roof with on-trend, affordable fashion at your fingertips.

Triumph launches latest store at the Promenade Mall

Alyasra Fashion officially launched the fifth Triumph outlet in the country at the Promenade Mall in the presence of media members and bloggers. Established in 1886, Triumph International is one of the world's oldest and largest manufacturers of lingerie and underwear.

The Triumph store at Promenade Mall offers various innovative styles that combine comfort and design to suit the needs of a varied customer base including teenagers and young women. The store features various exclusive Triumph lines including Sloggi and Magic Wire, which offer support through super light and flexible silicone underwire for maximum comfort.

Triumph is available in more than 120 countries in 2,100 Triumph stores and numerous online shops. Worldwide, the company supplies 40,000 wholesale customers. The company is a member of the Business Social Compliance Initiative (BSCI) and the Global Social Compliance Program (GSCP).

Triumph is now available in five stores across Kuwait including The Avenues, Al-Bairaq Mall, Marina Mall, Al-Othman Mall and now Promenade Mall.



Models displaying creations by Japanese rock star and kimono designer Yoshiaki (left, playing the piano) at the YOSHIKIMONO first collection during the finale of the Tokyo Fashion Week in Tokyo. Tokyo fashion week drew to a close at the weekend showcasing a sexy new twist on the kimono, as the Japanese classic makes a quiet comeback into women's wardrobes.
— AFP photos



Kimonos get rock 'n' roll makeover at Japan fashion week

Tokyo fashion week drew to a close at the weekend showcasing a sexy new twist on the kimono, as the Japanese classic makes a quiet comeback into women's wardrobes. In a departure from the heavy silk usually used to make the traditional garb, designers are turning to other fabrics such as jersey, wool and even denim to reinvent the kimono. "The kimono is fashion... it shouldn't be presented as old-fashioned," said celebrated designer Jotaro Saito.

"I want to spread the message that kimono can be worn every day, it's something people can wear like they wear modern clothes, not... something that makes them feel like they are in a costume," Saito told AFP. Kimono, which translates as "something to wear", was originally an umbrella term that covered a range of garments worn by Japanese men and women for centuries, but has now come to signify an outer robe tied with a wide sash known as an obi. The kimono's decline dates back to the late 1800s when Japan's rulers opened up the country to modern influences after hundreds of years of self-imposed seclusion, signalling a shift that would see future generations embrace western clothing.

The garment never quite recovered its popularity thanks to a prohibitively high cost that can run into the thousands of dollars, compelling many brides to rent rather than purchase kimono for their weddings. While kimono-clad women are still a regular sight in major urban centers, the complicated garment tends to be reserved for special occasions rather than daily use. A key reason is that wearers have to master a complex sequence of knots to tie the kimono tightly, which intimidates many curious women into either taking lessons for months or opting for simpler western garb.

The downturn has prompted government officials keen to preserve traditional culture to come up with schemes like Kyoto's "kimono passport" which gives wearers discounts at stores and

porate modern touches, such as fur-lined hoods, while he uses a wide range of materials from utilitarian fabrics like denim and polyester to luxurious silk.

In his debut showing Saturday night at fashion week, heavy-metal rocker Yoshiaki collaborated with a Kyoto-based brand on body-hugging kimono, slashed to miniskirt-length and worn with stilettos, leather collars and high-heeled boots. The dyed-blond co-founder of the band X Japan—who opened the show with a piano recital from Swan Lake—used leopard-print fabric and gold netting in his designs and told AFP he wanted to see women wear his kimono to concerts. "I tried to combine rock & roll with tradition," he said. "We do have a traditional line as well but today I emphasized... the sexier version."

Tied up in knots

Kimono's many layers and complex knots mean many women need to turn to classes or watch instructional videos on YouTube. "It's ridiculous. There is no need for so many rules.... Let's make things simpler," said Souta Yamaguchi, a freelance fashion director who styles the kimono with urban street wear in his work for retailers. "Let's look at creating (a kimono) which can be worn with a single belt, instead of so many different strings and knots." Although purists initially reacted to designers' innovations with alarm, the tide has turned in recent years, said Manami Okazaki, author of "Kimono Now". "Traditionalists were very critical at first when they saw what designers were doing but now they have realized that... these modern versions can work as a bridge to attract younger customers," Okazaki said.

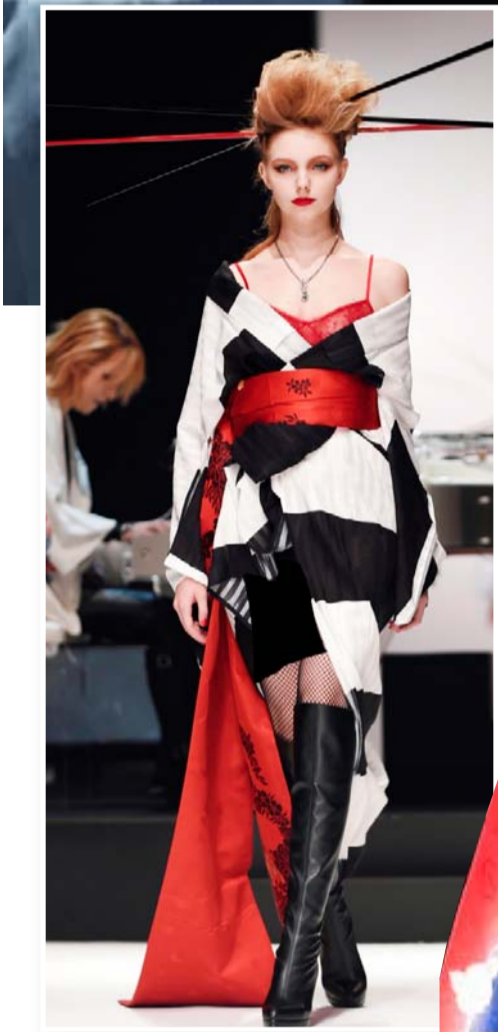
"The hope is that once you introduce young people to kimono made by contemporary designers, they will eventually develop an interest in the traditional kimono too." At a show by local label, Matohu, whose jackets and dresses are inspired by ancient techniques, kimono-clad Beniko Kinoshita said she used to borrow the garment from her mother before saving up to buy her own. "I used to wear the kimono on special occasions but now I wear it every day... I find it appropriate for all situations," said the 39-year-old Kinoshita. "I wish more people wore kimonos... you can only learn and realize (how special) a kimono is once you actually wear it." — AFP



restaurants in the ancient capital. But observers said the fashion industry's renewed interest may do more to ensure its survival.

Leopard print and fur

Designer Saito, born into a family of kimono-dyeing artists in Kyoto, has worked with the garment for two decades and believes change is critical to its future in fashion. "What we need to do now is evolve the kimono. We cannot just do what previous generations have already done," Saito said. "We need to respond to the street... to alter traditional designs and make something which suits women's lives today without losing the traditional appeal." In a nod to labor-intensive Japanese traditions, Saito's kimono—which can cost more than one million yen (\$8,300) — are all made by hand, from the dyeing stages to stitching, printing and embroidery. However, they showcase innovative patterns and incor-



Japanese rock star and kimono designer Yoshiaki appears on the stage at the YOSHIKIMONO first collection.



Women knit blankets for Syrian people, at "La Cafeteria" cafe in Villaverde del Rio. — AFP photos



Women knit blankets for Syrian people, at "La Cafeteria" cafe in Villaverde del Rio.

Spanish women knit blankets of love for Syria's displaced



Women pack handmade blankets for Syrian people.



Children play past a trolley full of packed homemade blankets ready to be sent to Syrian people.



A woman cuts a ribbon with the colors of Spanish flag where is written a peace message and which will be sewed on handmade blankets for Syrian people.

Working at home or huddled together in cafes, women of all ages across Spain have furiously knitted hundreds of blankets to send to war-torn Syria before cold weather begins following an online appeal for help. Every night for the past week, a team of some 20 women and girls have met in a cafe in the heart of Villaverde del Rio, a town of white-washed houses near Seville, to finish their blankets. The group on Friday sent 50 blankets of varying sizes that they had knitted to the Syrian People Support Association, a small NGO in Madrid, which will ship them to camps for displaced people inside Syria.

They usually gather once a week to make blankets for local homeless people but when they learned of the movement to knit blankets to send to Syria they could not resist taking part, said Coral Benitez, a 59-year-old housewife who coordinates the knitting group. "We don't look at color, nor race, nor religion. It doesn't matter if we are Catholics and they are Muslims. We have knitted for people who are sitting in the cold." Over 4,000 people signed up to a Facebook group for people interested in making blankets to send to Syria dubbed "The Blanket of Life" since it was launched at

the beginning of September. They knitted about 1,450 blankets ahead of Sunday's deadline for getting them to the Madrid-based association, said Marta Blanco, one of those who set up the Facebook group.

'Not forgotten you'

Blanco, a 44-year-old Madrid architect who has a blog about knitting, set up the Facebook page with two other knitting bloggers on September 4 after learning of the association's appeal for donations of blankets. Television newscasts at the time were flooded with images of desperate Syrians risking their lives to try to reach Europe and she said he wanted to do something for people who had remained behind in Syria. "We could buy blankets, everyone has used blankets they could donate. But the idea is to say 'we have not forgotten you, we know there is a war and you are suffering'. It's not just about giving shelter," she said.

Within days of being set up, the Facebook group had attracted over 1,000 members. Local chapters of the group were set up in about 50 Spanish cities, charged with collecting and sending the blankets to Madrid. Several hundred blankets were sent directly by



A woman shows peace messages sewed on handmade blankets for Syrian people.

knitters to the association's cramped office in a residential street in Moratalaz, a working class neighborhood in eastern Madrid. A handful have come from people from outside of Spain: the United States, Latin America and other European nations who heard about the initiative online. "There is a lot of love delivered in each blanket that is here," said Amer Hijazi,

president of the Syrian People Support Association as he stood in front of a pile of multi-colored handmade blankets.

'We Are With You'

The association, which was founded in 2011, will ship the blankets to Syria at the end of the month. They will be distributed to sev-

eral camps in mountainous areas in Idlib province in northwestern Syria where little aid arrives, said Hijazi, 49, who has lived in Spain for 25 years. The average minimum temperature in the region in January is just above freezing. "The only means they have to warm themselves are their clothes and blankets. This is why blankets are so important," said Hijazi at the association's office where a Syrian flag is hanging up. Each blanket will be wrapped in plastic with a label in both Spanish and Arabic that reads: "We Are With You". Four million people have fled the war in Syria and another 6.5 million are displaced inside Syria itself, according to the UN refugee agency, UNHCR.

Members of the Facebook group have posted pictures of themselves knitting with others in outdoor squares, at home with their families sitting on the sofa or alone proudly holding up their finished blankets. "I saw the images of the refugees, those parents with their children fleeing war and it seemed very painful. I thought that could be me," said Olga Lopez, a 48-year-old Madrid mother of two teenagers who knitted a blanket together with three co-workers. "It's a beautiful idea. A blanket is not much but it was made with much love and I hope some of it reaches these people." — AFP



Syrian president of NGO "Syrian People Support Association" Amer Hijazi folds a handmade blanket donated by people from Spain.



Amer Hijazi shows a handmade blanket donated by people from Spain.



Women knit blankets for Syrian people.



Women knit blankets for Syrian people.



Women applaud as they just finished to pack homemade blankets for Syrian people.

Lifestyle

MONDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2015

Spanish women knit blankets of love for Syria's displaced

39



An "Alebrije" is pictured on the street during Ninth Monumental "Alebrijes" Parade and contest yesterday in Mexico City. Some 221 "Alebrijes" - colored Mexican folk art sculptures representing fantastical creatures - take part in the event. — AFP

New foundation shows conservatism still central to Saudi soul



Asian laborers restore an old building in the historical UNESCO World Heritage Atturaf district.



Asian laborers restore an old home in the historical UNESCO World Heritage Atturaf district.



Asian laborers restore an old home in the historical UNESCO World Heritage Atturaf district.

Saudi Arabia's new research centre on Wahhabism, to open on the edge of the capital Riyadh, looks fitting for a branch of Islam considered inflexible, intolerant and unchanging. Imposing with its limestone blocks, their bulk lightened only by glass-enclosed bridges, the centre is part of a major development project shepherded by Saudi King Salman. The building honors Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdul Wahhab, the 18th-century fundamentalist preacher who co-founded the Saudi state. It is a clear sign that his legacy remains central to the Saudi soul despite his strict doctrine and accusations it is fuelling deadly Sunni extremism around the world, including the murderous drive of Islamic State (IS) group militants.

Featuring cafes and palm trees decorated with tiny lights, the project is set in Addiriyah, birthplace of the ruling Saud dynasty, and includes the UNESCO World Heritage Atturaf district. "It has very high historical value for the government and for us," said Abdullah Arrakban, the urban development manager for the High Commission for the Development of Addiriyah. Here, King Salman, monarch of the world's biggest oil exporter, has a turreted palace overlooking the crumbled mud brick homes of his ancestors now undergoing preservation.

And it was here that Abdul Wahhab's partnership with a contemporary local chief, Imam Mohammed bin Saud, laid the foundations for today's kingdom and its reliance on the sheikh's 270-year-old teachings. Conceived in 2000, the project is targeted for completion by the end of next year. It has begun to refurbish the district, restore its ancient Atturaf oasis community and create crucial

green space in this heart of the Arabian peninsula. Five mini-museums will depict life in the first Saudi state, which lasted from 1744 to 1818 when it fell to Turkish-Egyptian invaders.

A crucial alliance

"We are trying to keep the atmosphere of Addiriyah—the nature, the color, the original architecture," Arrakban said, fingering blue prayer beads while being interviewed in his book-filled office. Although the heart of the 750-million-riyal (\$200-million/179-million-euro) project will be Atturaf, the adjacent Abdul Wahhab Foundation is designed to honor the sheikh's role as co-founder of the state and tell "the truth" about his intellectual heritage, Arrakban said. It will feature a library of books and documents about his teachings, available for research, as well as a multimedia "Memorial Hall" illustrating the religious movement he inspired.

At the centre of the foundation complex is a modern incarnation of the sheikh's original house of worship.

"The media, they try to say 'No, he tried to kill, to make war... I think this is not right,'" Arrakban said. Abdul Wahhab preached "tawhid"—the oneness of God—which meant opposition to the worship of saints and to Shiism, a prohibition on images of living beings and the implementation of sharia law.

He saw his doctrine as a return to Islam as practiced by the first generation of Muslims. His pact with Saud in the 1740s gave legitimacy to the first head of the royal house, who in return implemented Abdul Wahhab's strict version of the Islamic faith. The partnership continues to this day, with the ruling family maintaining its tight grip on political life



An Asian laborer restores an old building in the historical UNESCO World Heritage Atturaf district on the outskirts of Riyadh, which is part of a major development project shepherded by Saudi King Salman. — AFP photos

and puritanical clerics preaching strict codes of conduct that make Saudi Arabia among the world's most conservative countries. Women are forbidden from driving, there is no intermingling of the sexes, and cinemas and alcohol are banned, while the militant preaching associated with Wahhabi thought is accused of inspiring extremists from Osama bin Laden to IS.

'Extremist cleric'

Irfan Al-Alawi, co-founder of the Mecca-based Islamic Heritage Research Foundation, said honoring Abdul Wahhab and preserving Addiriyah is "hypocrisy" at a time when "Islamic heritage is being wiped away" elsewhere in the kingdom. "If you honor an extremist cleric why could you not honor the Prophet of Peace?" Alawi asked. In keeping with

Abdul Wahhab's teaching against idolatry, authorities have made no effort to preserve sites linked to the Prophet Mohammed in the holy cities of Mecca and Medina, said Alawi, a prominent supporter of Islamic pluralism.

Some of these sites have already disappeared in redevelopment, he said. Alawi is among those who contend that Wahhabism has inspired militants of IS, also known by the Arabic acronym Daesh. "You have first, Wahhabi ideology, and then you have offshoots which have become even more extreme," he said.

Yet "Saudi Arabia is not Daesh," said Stephane Lacroix of Sciences Po university in Paris, stating that Abdul Wahhab left politics to the politicians.

"The political authority puts a number of constraints on the religious authority which in a sense limits the kind of radicalism that can come out," he said. Lacroix added that some of the country's youth "don't really feel Wahhabi at all," as Saudi society changes under modern influences. In April Salman opened part of the development, parks and restaurants in Al-Bujeiri quarter which overlooks the Atturaf ruins. On a recent evening, women clothed in black according to local custom sat on concrete benches as families pushed strollers across a central plaza.

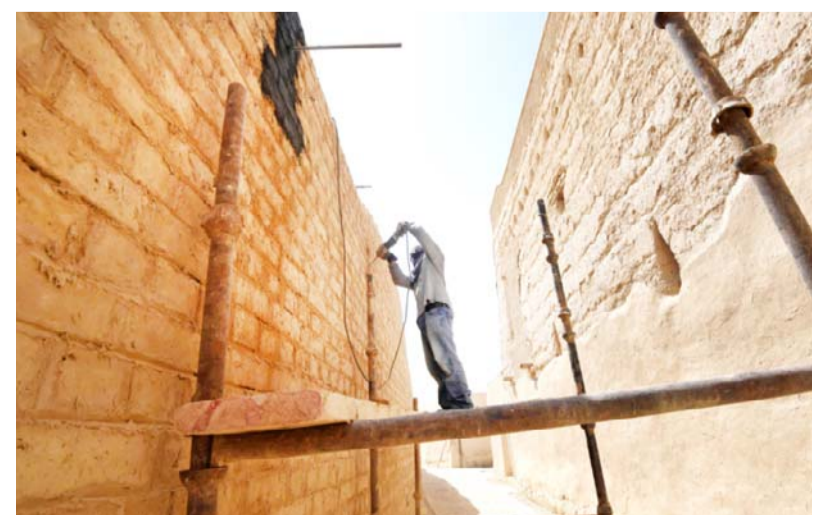
Tariq Al-Muaiseb, 24, one month into a banking career, said he and colleague Abdullah Al-Khayyal, 23, hoped to explore the Atturaf ruins to see "how our grandfathers lived" in contrast to their own "Western lifestyle". Leaving an outdoor cafe, they walked over to photograph the Abdul Wahhab mosque. "He's had a large effect on this country," Muaiseb said. — AFP



A general view shows Saudi children posing for a picture in the restored historical Al-Bujeiri area in the UNESCO World Heritage Atturaf district.



A man walks between old buildings in the historical UNESCO World Heritage Atturaf district.



An Asian laborer restores an old home in the historical UNESCO World Heritage Atturaf district.