



Jain: Embassy offers 5-year visa to India to Kuwaitis



Eritrean dies after being shot, lynched by Israeli mob



Liberals lead as Canadians head to polls



Indian activists storm BCCI over talks with Pakistan



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CABINET DECIDES KUWAIT WON'T HOST 23RD GULF CUP

MPs SLAM KFA, DEMAND SPECIAL DEBATE IN ASSEMBLY



Min 24°
Max 36°
High Tide
02:52 & 17:31
Low Tide
10:25 & 22:29

RIGHTS SOCIETY CONDEMNS BIAS AGAINST EXPATS

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: Kuwait Society for Human Rights yesterday strongly deplored decisions to bar expatriates from kidney dialysis treatment and certain drugs, describing them as racial discrimination. The society also condemned a study to allocate the new Jaber Hospital in South Surra, which is almost complete, exclusively for Kuwaiti citizens and prevent expatriates from treatment at the hospital. It also said stateless people are forced to receive medical care in the mornings.

"These decisions aim to strengthen racial discrimination, constitute a flagrant violation of human rights, contradict humanitarian values that the Kuwaiti society is known to have and distort the image of Kuwait with regards to humanitarian and legal aspects," the society said in a statement. The society also said it rejects the decisions because they violate the Kuwaiti constitution and international rights covenants that stipulate that healthcare should be provided to all equally.

Continued on Page 13



SANTA ROSA, Philippines: Residents push a tricycle on a flooded highway in this town in Nueva Ecija province, north of Manila yesterday, a day after typhoon Koppu hit Aurora province. — AFP (See Page 12)

KUWAIT: The Cabinet yesterday decided that Kuwait would not host the 23rd Gulf Cup of Nations scheduled for Dec 2015. The decision was made yesterday during the Cabinet's weekly meeting held at Bayan Palace and chaired by HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, in line with a proposal by Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah.

Sheikh Salman briefed the Cabinet on the outcome of the recent joint meeting with the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in Lausanne, Switzerland that discussed compatibility of the sports laws in Kuwait on the legal and organizing level, said Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah.

The Kuwaiti delegation, that included head of the National Assembly's Youth and Sports Committee MP Abdullah Al-Maayouf and committee member Abdullah Al-Turajji, clarified the situation to the IOC. They reiterated that the Kuwaiti sports laws do not contravene with the Olympic charter or relevant international criteria. They also stressed the fact that the Kuwaiti sports bodies are "fully independent".

The Information Minister explained the circumstances of FIFA's decision to suspend the Kuwait Football Association (KFA) from taking part in any international

Continued on Page 13



TASTY AND CRUNCHY YOU'LL LOVE TO MUNCH!





KUWAIT: His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and his accompanying delegation leave on an official visit to France. The Prime Minister was seen off at the airport by Deputy Premier and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, several other ministers and senior officials as well as high-ranking commanders of the army, police and National Guard and the French Charge d'affaires in Kuwait. —KUNA



PREMIER VISITS FRANCE TO BOOST ECONOMIC TIES

SHEIKH JABER AL-MUBARAK TO MEET KUWAITI STUDENTS

KUWAIT: His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah yesterday embarked on a visit to France leading a large official and business delegation with the goal of further boosting economic ties. During the visit that proceeds till 22 October, HH the Premier will meet with President Francois Hollande, Prime Minister Manuel Valls, Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius, and a host of senior state officials.

The delegation accompanying Sheikh Jaber

Al-Mubarak includes senior government officials and business leaders. Talks with the French side are most likely to lead to signing agreements for the good of peoples in both countries. According to the French Foreign Ministry, the accords are focused on investment, and opening an office to be affiliated to the French Center for Archaeology and Social Sciences in Kuwait, to support national research projects.

Boosting bilateral relations in politics,

health, education and culture will also feature high on the agenda amid a mutual desire to explore fresh prospects for cooperation.

His Highness the Premier will address a momentous meeting between French and Kuwaiti businessmen.

Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak will meet with Kuwaiti students studying in France on the sidelines of the visit. Over the past four years, there have been 13 ministerial visits between France and Kuwait, going in both directions,

besides a number of high-level contacts covering the parliamentary, financial and military scenes. Grand French companies have manifested high interest in investing in Kuwait as well as contributing to development projects in the country, especially in infrastructure, power and transport.

Kuwait considers France a major partner with commercial exchange reaching around \$2.5 billion last year. Kuwaiti exports to France in 2014 hit \$750 million, 95 percent of which

oil products. Imports from France reached 500 million euro. Bilateral trade in 2012 and 2013 hit 1.8 billion euro. In January, a French commercial delegation 'Business France' was established in Kuwait to encourage French firms and investors to launch business in the country. 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. —KUNA



KUWAIT: The municipal council members during the session yesterday.

FIRST RING ROAD NAMED AFTER SABAH I

By Meshal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: On inaugurating its third term session, the municipal

council yesterday agreed to name the First Ring Road after Sabah I, the first ruler of Kuwait. It also decided decreasing the total number of its technical committee members

from 14 to 9. Meanwhile, the court of appeal yesterday seconded an earlier verdict acquitting six defendants who had been accused of smuggling diesel and money laundering.



KUWAIT: Minister of Social Affairs at EQUATE exhibition stand.



EQUATE honors HH the Prime Minister.

EQUATE SPONSORS KUWAIT INDUSTRIES EXPO 2015

KUWAIT: Under the patronage of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, EQUATE Petrochemical Company, Kuwait's first international joint-venture in this industry, sponsored Kuwait Industries Expo 2015, which is organized by Kuwait Industries Union (KIU).

During the expo, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah visited EQUATE's exhibition stand. Throughout the years, EQUATE has been an active participant in several events and activities launched by KIU, including previous Kuwait Industries Expos.

EQUATE President & CEO Mohammad Husain said, "Our partnership with the Kuwaiti industrial sector has truly been a manifestation of our 'Partners in Success' slogan. For example, EQUATE's partnership with local plastic manufacturers has resulted in

increasing their production in Kuwait by over 400% since 1998. EQUATE also established a solid base to launch exports of made-in-Kuwait finished plastic products. For that, EQUATE continuously supports the efforts of Kuwaiti plastic manufacturers in supplying the local market's demands with reliability, as well as growing their exports and presence in other countries."

Husain added, "The growth and development of Kuwait's industrial sector depends on a number of elements, including cooperation between all relevant government bodies and private entities, establishing integrated industrial areas and complexes, securing state-of-the-art technology, and as well as building the capabilities of qualified human resources that are the main element to ensure sustainability-based industrial innovation. In conclusion, I would like to

take this opportunity to express appreciation and thanks to KIU represented by its Board Chairman Hussain Al-Kharafi for organizing Kuwait Industries Expo and other relevant efforts to develop Kuwait's industrial sector." Kuwait Industries Expo 2015, held during October 18-20, gathers several Kuwaiti public and private industrial, academic and scientific companies and organizations in various fields.

Established in 1995 as Kuwait's first international joint-venture in this industry, EQUATE Petrochemical Company (EQUATE) embodies its "Partners in Success" slogan through the partnership between Petrochemical Industries Company (PIC), The Dow Chemical Company (Dow), Boubyan Petrochemical Company (BPC) and Quraish Petrochemical Industries Company (QPIC). Commencing production in 1997,

EQUATE is currently the owner and single-operator of several fully integrated world-class petrochemical units, within the Greater EQUATE joint-venture, that annually produce over 5 million tons of the highest quality grades of Ethylene, Polyethylene (PE), Ethylene Glycol (EG), Polypropylene (PP), Styrene Monomer (SM), Paraxylene (PX), Heavy Aromatics (HA) and Benzene (BZ). The products are marketed throughout the Middle East, Asia, Africa and Europe. Alongside with being a leading industrial organization, EQUATE dedicates its utmost commitment and care to overall sustainability wherever it operates in cooperation with public and private bodies, including employees, the society and customers, in all relevant fields, such as human development, environment, education, health and public awareness.



KUWAIT: KFSD recently took part in the Kuwaiti Industries Union Exhibition 2015 held under the auspices of HH the Amir and with the attendance of HH the PM Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Sabah. The exhibition kicked off on October 18 and will last until October 21 at the Crowne Plaza hotel.



In my view

EGYPT'S CHANGE REFLECTS TRUST

By Labeed Abdal

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Egypt's winning a UN Security Council's non-permanent seat for two years starting from January after it won 179 votes out of a total of 193 UN General Assembly members is absolutely a great achievement for a state that has always proved itself over its thousands of years long ancient history or its recent one. It reflects a real public reaction from a people that longed for change and liberty while protecting their national identity and sovereignty.

This achievement actually reflects a great deal of international trust and a historic appreciation for a state that registered its history on pharaohs' monuments. Ever since then, Egypt has been always against aggressors and won a unique prestige by the hands of its subjects in various scientific and practical fields, especially after cutting loose with international isolation and winning international, African, Asian and European trust.

In addition, Senegal, Japan, Ukraine and Uruguay won seats along with Egypt after each managed to win more than two-thirds of the votes. These new members have been always calling for reforming the UN, especially in terms of voting within the Security Council and the veto power that is restricted to some member states that had been an obstacle against resolving many issues since the UN's establishment 70 years ago.

Egypt will undoubtedly stand up for all Arab causes in the UN with the hot Palestinian cause on top of them during its two-year membership. It will also carry African causes such as development programs, fighting poverty and supporting peaceful solutions to many armed conflicts, genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and terrorism crimes to the UN.

Events ongoing around the world highlight the significance of reforming the international organization to create multi-polar powers, especially since many issues have remained stagnant for so long, that a cold war between Security Council members is now clouding the horizon. Skepticism between East and West has not changed despite changing some faces. So, we hope that we as well do not remain unchanged for ever. We should no longer stay as applauding audiences watching and getting enthusiastic whenever games by tycoons get competitive!

HUAWEI LAUNCHES KUWAIT BRANCH

KUWAIT: Huawei has launched the "Huawei Technologies," a limited liability Kuwaiti company, a move aimed at contributing to development and advancement of the information and communications technologies (ICT) sector in Kuwait. The new Kuwaiti company that joins the national telecommunication sector was proclaimed at a broad ceremony, held at the Jumeirah Hotel in Kuwait, late yesterday. Huawei is the first Chinese company to receive a Kuwaiti license to establish a local company. "Huawei Technologies," according to its statement, is today a company with a fully Kuwaiti ownership, established under the law 116/2013, which encourages direct investments in Kuwait.

The ceremony was attended by Minister of Commerce and Industry and Chairman of the Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority, Dr. Yousef Mohammad Al-Ali, Minister of Social Affairs and Labour Hind Sebeeh, General Director of the Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority, Sheikh Dr. Meshaal Al-Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Chinese Ambassador to Kuwait, Wang Di, Kuwaiti Ambassador to China Mohammad Al Thuwaikh, Huawei CEO, Guo Ping, President of Huawei Middle East Region, Charles Yang, "Huawei Technologies" CEO, Trevor Liu, and over 300 guests from government and private entities in the telecommunication sector. —KUNA



KUWAIT: Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Al-Sabah with Gen John Allen, US President's Special Envoy for the Global Coalition to Counter ISIL yesterday in Kuwait.—KUNA

KUWAIT 'INDISPENSABLE PARTNER' OF ANTI-IS COALITION: GEN ALLEN OBAMA'S ENVOY MEETS FM, INFO MINISTER

KUWAIT: General John Allen, US President's Special Envoy for the Global Coalition to Counter ISIL, said here yesterday Kuwait was an "indispensable partner" in the fight against the so-called ISIL as well as its enormous humanitarian aid for the Syrian people.

"Kuwait has been the indispensable partner and it is something we are very proud of in terms of partnership and friendship with Kuwait," Allen said in a statement to KUNA.

He was speaking following his meeting with First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, and Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Al-Sabah. Allen said the government of Kuwait has participated extensively and has made "incredible contributions" to the US-led international coalition countering the so-

called Islamic State in Iraq and Levant in areas such as "humanitarian assistance and in support to certain activities in the coalition."

Allen said his visit to Kuwait, part of a regional tour, was an opportunity to brief the Kuwaiti leadership on progress and activities of the coalition, which consists of some 60 countries. The coalition is attacking ISIL targets both in Syria and Iraq with the aim of destroying and eliminating the terrorist group.

The conflict in Syria, which broke out in March 2011, has forced millions of people to flee their homes to safe havens either inside the country or in neighboring nations, creating the worst humanitarian refugee situation since the second world war. Allen said he and the Kuwaiti officials have expressed "our mutual concern about the humanitarian situation across the region, our concern about the

humanitarian situation inside Syria." Kuwait has been at the forefront of offering humanitarian assistance to the needy Syrian people, either the internally displaced or refugees in neighboring countries.

Donor conferences

Kuwait has hosted three donor conferences in the past three years to help the Syrian people, contributing some \$3.6 billion out of the \$7.3 billion in total pledges.

"Kuwait has been enormously helpful to the world community in its humanitarian commitment to reduce the suffering of the Syrian people," said Allen. Allen, meanwhile, said he and the Kuwaiti officials also discussed common challenges posed by ISIL, and it was an opportunity to listen from them on how to better understand the situation in the region.

The UN Security Council (UNSC) has also adopted resolutions against ISIL and other terrorist groups in the region. Resolution 2170 (2014) condemned the gross human rights violations by the extremist groups in Iraq and Syria, while resolution 2199 (2015) condemned trade with Al-Qaeda-associated groups and ISIL. Both resolutions under Chapter VII of UN Charter.

The fight against ISIL has witnessed a new twist with the Russians carrying out an air campaign against what they said were terrorist groups on the ground in Syria. The Russian involvement, made at the Syrian regime's request, worries the US. "It appears their (Russians) efforts are intended to support the Bashar Al-Assad regime," said Allen.

"It also appears while they have indicated their initial intent to attack ISIL that in fact

they are attacking any group on the ground that professes to be in opposition to Assad regime, which is a problem.

"We would have welcomed their effort to attack ISIL and ISIL is not receiving much attention from them. Other elements of the Syrian population opposing the regime are frequent of the Russian attacks," he added. The Russian involvement forced the US to initial military-to-military communications with the Russians for the sake of deconfliction to avoid accidents in the air. "We are deconflicting with the Russians, we are not coordinating with them," said Allen.

"We are working on assuring safety of flights, of overall safety of coalition campaign," he added. Allen's regional tour also includes Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Qatar and Bahrain. —KUNA



KUWAIT: KFSD's PR and media manager Col Khalil Al-Amir during the tour of security points at various husseiniyas.

KFSD CHECKS SECURITY POINTS

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Upon instructions from KFSD's acting director Maj Gen Khalid Al-Mekrad, KFSD's PR and media manager Col Khalil Al-Amir toured security points at various husseiniyas to make sure they were ready

in case of any contingencies.

Call centers busted

Two illegal long-distance call centers were busted in Khaiteh, said security sources. Case papers indicate that a police patrol stopped an Asian who did not hold any ID,

but he fled. He was chased until he entered an illegal call center run by a female Ethiopian, who also held no ID. In a similar incident, police also chased another suspect who hid inside another call center that was run by a Filipina. A case was filed and the suspects were referred to relevant authorities.



PARIS CONFERENCE WILL VIE TO REACH DEAL ON CLIMATE

AUK HOLDS DISCUSSION ON 'POLITICS OF CLIMATE'

By Nawara Fattahova

KUWAIT: A UN conference will be held in Paris in December which will aim to create a new global deal to curb climate change. In this regard, the Center of Gulf Studies and the Department of International Relations at the American University in Kuwait (AUK) held a panel discussion on the 'Politics of Climate' on Sunday evening at its premises in Salmiya.

The AUK event was presented by Dr Tancrede Voiturez from the Institute for Sustainable and International Relations, Sciences Po, Paris. He is an economist and Director of Global Governance program at the Institute for Sustainable and International Relations (IDSIR), a non-profit policy research institute that helps stakeholders in deliberating on the global governance of major issues of common interest such as climate change and urbanization.

According to him, Kuwait is currently in great danger due to using oil in producing electricity and desalinating water. "The financial and economic losses of the Kuwaiti government have risen due to the drop in oil price, which has fallen to less than \$45 per barrel," he said during the panel discussion stressed Voiturez during his presentation.

"Kuwait should search for alter-



KUWAIT: Dr Tancrede Voiturez and Dima Al-Khatib during the panel discussion at the AUK.

native sources of energy and decrease oil consumption, especially that it's the main source of increasing the harmful emissions that negatively affect the climate, especially carbon dioxide. Fast and realistic solutions come from the community and youth particularly. We should involve the youth in the search process for new sources of energy and support their ideas and efforts," he added.

Recently, the percentage of toxic emissions have increased, which negatively affects the climate. "This was also caused by India and China as part of economic and industrial competition which increased the percentage to more than double within the past five years. The emissions produced by the Middle East are less compared to the US, China, and India, which have factories and

oil refineries in addition to their huge populations," he pointed out.

Dima Al-Khatib, Deputy Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in Kuwait, highlighted the role of UNDP in technically helping Kuwait to execute development plans, in addition to cooperating with the Supreme Planning Council.

Kuwait is working on diversifying its economic sources through the development plan. "This is executed by cooperating with the private sector and other institutions and through changing policies. I would also like to praise Kuwait's initiative in founding the national fund for sponsoring and developing small and medium projects in order to get economic diversity," stated Khatib.



THE LEADING INDEPENDENT DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF

Presents

An Exclusive Opportunity

For Indians

Coming Soon At Crowne Plaza Hotel



KUWAIT: Dean of the College of Arts at Kuwait University Prof Hayat Al-Hajji checks a book as Ambassador Sunil Jain looks on at the Faculty of Arts, Kuwait University yesterday. — Photos by Sajeev K Peter



KUWAIT: Dean of the College of Arts at KU Prof Hayat Al-Hajji presents a memento to Indian Ambassador Sunil Jain as other faculty members and embassy officials look on.

KU'S COLLEGE OF ARTS AND INDIAN EMBASSY PLAN KUWAIT-INDIA DAY

INDIA OFFERING 5-YEAR BUSINESS VISAS TO KUWAITIS

By Sajeev K Peter

KUWAIT: The College of Arts at the Kuwait University and the Embassy of India in Kuwait propose to jointly hold a 'Kuwait-India Cultural Day' sometime in November or December this year, bringing together the cultural legacies of the two friendly countries. The idea of holding a cultural day evolved during a function organized at the College of Arts of the Kuwait University yesterday when the Indian embassy handed over 64 books on Indian history, art and culture to the college.

Thanking the Indian embassy and the Indian ambassador for handing over the books to the university, the Dean of the College of Arts at Kuwait University Prof Hayat Al-Hajji said: "It will be ideal if we could organize an India-Kuwait day, bringing together the cultural legacies of both countries where students can exchange cultural information and learn about the customs and traditions of each other. It can be held either in November or December this year." Indian Ambassador Sunil Jain, who was attending the function as the chief guest, agreed to the suggestion.



Ambassador Sunil Jain

"Relations between Kuwait and India are centuries-old. Our great forefathers used to travel to India in the 1930s and 1940s for trade. Now we have to cement the relations further through cultural exchanges," Hajji said in her brief address. "The books handed over by the embassy will be kept in the library of the history department which can be used by our students who study Indian history," she said. Talking to Kuwait Times, she said the proposed Kuwait-India Day can also be held in

February when Kuwait celebrates its National Day and Liberation Day. "The department of history at the university is arranging a trip for students to visit historic places in India. We have very good relations and I look forward to further cementing relations with India," Prof Hajji added.

Contemporary times

The Indian ambassador said he is profoundly proud of the institution, which has a student strength between 5,000 and 7,000. He said the books on India the embassy handed over to the college are only a token. "It was mentioned here that India-Kuwait relations are historical. The only other Taj Mahal is in Kuwait. There are several cultural similarities among the peoples. But what we are doing now is to bring the two countries closer in contemporary times. This can be done by knowing each other politically, knowing how Kuwait and India are developing and in which direction our relationships are progressing," Jain said.

Jain said India is the largest democracy in the world and the fastest growing economy in the world, growing at a rate of 7.3 percent.



Prof Hayat Al-Hajji

Similarly, it is also an IT superpower, he said. "So, what we would like to do through the university is to talk about contemporary India. We would like all of you to visit India as often as possible to know the historical places of India and develop academic exchanges between our institutions such as Delhi University, Jawaharlal Nehru University or any other Indian university. You can decide how you want to take the academic collaboration forward," he said. He said the embassy can also

help bring books on India for the university.

Five-year visa

The Indian embassy in Kuwait has been issuing five-year multiple business visas to Kuwaiti nationals. The embassy is also offering many facilities for Kuwaitis to visit India as tourists. Recalling the visit of HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah to India in 2013, the ambassador said during the visit, the premier had handed over a collection of books on Kuwait to Maulana Azad University. "As the two countries come closer, we understand each other better as friends, partners and as two peoples who have worked historically together. Let us know each other in contemporary times," he concluded. Prof Hajji honored the Indian ambassador by presenting him a memento.

From the Indian embassy, Sushil Kumar, Second Secretary (Political, Economic & Commercial Representative, A K Srivastava, Second Secretary (Information, Press and Culture) and Abdulla Kollorath, Social Secretary were also present during the function.



KUWAIT: Nawaf Al-Khalaf, Head of recruitment department at NBK and Secretary General of Kuwait's Manpower and Government Restructuring Program (MGRP) Fawzi Al-Majdali during their visit to NBK's booth in the job fair forum.

NBK OFFERS EXCITING JOB OPPORTUNITIES TO YOUNG KUWAITIS AT DINAR KUWAITI JOB FAIR

KUWAIT: National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) participated in the Dinar Kuwaiti Job Fair Forum held at Salwa Al-Sabah Conference Center.

The job fair forum started on Sunday 18th and was concluded yesterday Monday 19th October 2015. NBK is the Gold sponsor of this forum that took place under the patronage of Manpower and Government Restructuring Program (MGRP).

NBK's participation comes in line with its commitment to attract ambitious young nationals. NBK will continue its efforts to provide career and training opportunities

for nationals and to support the country's aim to encourage young Kuwaitis to assume roles in the private sector.

NBK provides training opportunities for nationals and new recruits. Annually, NBK offers training programs for nationals and organizes executive training programs in line with the bank's commitment to developing and investing in its key resource and human capital.

Dinar Kuwaiti job fair is tailored for talented youth to benefit in meeting with employers under one roof while identifying the needs of the labor market.

NUQAT ANNOUNCES ITS 6TH ANNUAL CREATIVE CONFERENCE

KUWAIT: Hussa Al-Humaidhi, a founding member, has announced that the Nuqat conference this year will be devoted to addressing the topic 'Copy/Paste Syndrome' from multiple angles. The conference and supplementary activities will focus on the role played by imitation - asking whether it inspires creativity or undervalues it. The conference will also look at whether copy/paste work is creative (and whether there is such a thing as a creative work completely void of borrowing). Conference speakers and participants will discuss how our societies might define original and innovative work, and whether uniqueness and individuality is the highest pursuit of creativity.

These questions and topics will be addressed during 22 lectures delivered at Dar Al-Athar Al-Islamiyyah at the Amricani Cultural Center. The lectures are to be presented by prominent specialists in many fields and from different countries such as scholar and curator Mitra Abbaspour (previous assistant curator at the MoMA), renowned photographer Laura Boushnak, Kevin Mitchell from AUS, and Kuwait-based artist Ghadah Al-Kandari, to name a few. Ten workshops will be held at Yarmouk Cultural Center and Al-Shaheed Park. The program also includes many extra activities such as art exhibits and evenings including musical, poetry, entertainment show, and cultural tour evenings.



Hussa Al-Humaidhi

Regarding participation in the conference and attending activities, Wakim Zeidan, a founding member of Nuqat, has announced that it is possible to register for all lectures and workshops via the official website www.nuqat.com.

Information about the content of the lectures and workshops can be found online, as well as a brief outline of the schedule and participation details. Zeidan also notes that the diversity of the topics and activities within the framework of 'Copy/Paste Syndrome' comes from an enthusiasm to meet a wide range of interests and disciplines.

Nuqat, first known as "Nuqat Ala Al-Huroof," started off with one objective in mind - to develop Arab creativity on all levels, encompassing design, advertising, architecture, fashion, production and all other pertinent social and cultural fields. Established out of frustration with the lack of spirited exchange in the Middle East, the Nuqat team is made up of like-minded cultural visionaries from Lebanon, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, and Dubai who have a growing optimism about fueling creative dialogue in the region.

Nuqat identifies, tackles, and resolves creative issues with the aim of gathering and educating an empowered public who go on to enact change in the Middle East. Nuqat's mission as growing cultural force is to advance creativity and enrich society. Through initiating social design projects and connecting innovative powerhouses in the region, Nuqat blurs geographic and social boundaries and opens new frontiers for cultural and creative innovation.

KUWAITI PHOTOGRAPHER WINS PALME D'OR OF GCC ART FORUM

DOHA: Ali Khalil Al-Zaydi, a Kuwaiti photographer, won on Sunday night the palme d'or of the third GCC visual art forum 2015. His five winning photographs depict various cultures and social traditions; they were taken from India, Nepal and Ethiopia.

After the prize-giving ceremony, Al-Zaydi expressed joy for the award, saying it's a great achievement for the participating Kuwaiti artists. "This achievement reflects Kuwait's care for the talented youth," he said, citing the role of the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL) in this regard.

Al-Zaydi noted that he gained useful experience from his participation in this art forum and interaction with notable artists from the GCC countries.

He added that he plans to take part in the international visual art festival in Italy, voicing hope to add a new achievement for the Kuwaiti artistic movement in that forum. The third annual GCC visual art forum was opened earlier Sunday evening by Qatari Minister of Culture, Arts and Heritage Dr. Hamad bin Abdulaziz Al Kuwari at the Cultural Village Foundation-Katara in collaboration with the GCC Secretariat.

Mideast conflicts

Paintings of Kuwaiti artist Samar Al-Bader, part of Doha's Gulf artists' exhibition, have successfully depicted suffering of some of the Middle Eastern countries which experienced turmoil. She said her paintings, dubbed ancient times in changing time, depicted a small city which contained differences in opinions, ambitions and dreams coupled with variation of relations.

Speaking to KUNA, Al-Bader said there were intensive use of lines, colors and symbols which



DOHA: Ali Khalil Al-Zaydi, a Kuwaiti photographer, who won the palme d'or of the third GCC visual art forum 2015, displays his works. —KUNA

were merging in an oriental spirit with the objective of creating a bond amongst them.

She said these exhibitions were important because artists exchange expertise. They are also a chance to visit museums and cultural sites of the host country, added Al-Bader. Al-Bader has participated in many exhibitions in Arab and Gulf countries, and was chosen among the best

contemporary artists in 2013 and 2015.

Qatari Minister of Culture Hamad Al-Kawari inaugurated the exhibition, in which six Gulf artists were displaying 40 paintings. Hanadi Al-Darweesh, director of the Visual Arts Department at the Qatari Culture Ministry, said the exhibitions showed how rich the Arab and Islamic culture and history were. —KUNA



KUWAIT: Kuwait Fire Services Directorate (KFSD) yesterday celebrated the graduation of a new batch of firefighters including 231 corporals. A special ceremony was held under the auspices of KFSD acting director Maj. General Khalid Al-Mekrad.

LEXUS CERTIFIED CAR OFFERS

LOW
MILEAGE
GUARANTEED

MINIMUM
ONE YEAR
WARRANTY

FULL LEXUS
SERVICE HISTORY
AT AL-SAYER

COMPREHENSIVE
75 POINTS
CHECK

TRADE IN
OFFER
AVAILABLE

SEDAN MODELS

MODEL	YEAR	EXT. COLOR	INT. COLOR	KM	PRICE KD.
ES250	2015	Sonic Titanium	Beige	4,396	12,750
ES250	2015	Sonic Titanium	Beige	9,141	12,750
ES250	2015	Sonic Titanium	Beige	1,760	11,750
ES250	2015	Sonic Titanium	Beige	13,329	12,250
ES250	2013	Lapis Lazuli MC	Beige	43,181	10,500
ES350	2015	Sleek Ecru ME	Beige	11,005	14,000
ES350	2013	Sleek Ecru ME	Beige	52,715	11,000
ES350	2014	Platinum Silver ME	Beige	44,213	12,750
ES350	2015	Fire Agate M.M.	Beige	5,401	13,750
ES350	2014	Fire Agate M.M.	Beige	28,824	12,000
ES350	2013	Starlight Black GF	Beige	72,098	12,000
GS350	2014	Crimson CS GF	Beige	14,608	14,000
GS350	2013	Fire Agate M.M.	Beige	18,699	14,000
GS350	2014	Fire Agate M.M.	Beige	15,205	13,750
IS300C	2013	White Pearl CS	Beige	54,701	11,750
IS350	2015	White Nova GF	Beige	14,497	14,000
IS350	2014	Platinum Silver ME	Beige	45,782	12,000
LS460	2015	White Pearl CS	Beige	7,958	25,000
LS460	2013	White Pearl CS	Beige	42,580	19,000
LS460	2015	Sleek Ecru ME	Beige	31,155	24,500
LS600h	2013	Starlight Black GF	Beige	45,566	20,000

SUV MODELS

MODEL	YEAR	EXT. COLOR	INT. COLOR	KM	PRICE KD.
LX570	2014	White Pearl CS	Beige	29,165	20,500
LX570	2014	Starlight Black GF	Beige	22,047	23,750
LX570	2014	Sleek Ecru ME	Beige	49,525	24,000
LX570	2014	White Pearl CS	Beige	15,543	20,000
LX570	2015	Platinum Silver ME	Beige	27,497	25,750
LX570	2015	Sleek Ecru ME	Beige	15,396	26,000
LX570	2013	Starlight Black GF	Beige	59,592	18,750
LX570	2014	Starlight Black GF	Beige	15,424	24,000
LX570	2015	Sleek Ecru ME	Beige	15,382	25,000
LX570	2015	White Pearl CS	Beige	46,348	25,750
LX570	2015	White Pearl CS	Beige	23,731	25,750
LX570	2014	Starlight Black GF	Beige	21,293	23,750
LX570	2014	Starlight Black GF	Beige	66,119	23,000
LX570	2013	White Pearl CS	Beige	46,653	20,750
LX570	2014	Starlight Black GF	Beige	28,302	21,000
LX570	2014	Mercury Gray MC	Beige	56,314	22,500
LX570	2014	White Pearl CS	Beige	66,868	23,750
LX570	2014	Starlight Black GF	Beige	18,108	24,500
LX570	2014	White Pearl CS	Beige	42,509	21,500
RX350	2014	Garnet Red MC	Beige	30,935	13,900
RX350	2015	Platinum Silver ME	Beige	17,197	15,250

Cars mentioned in this advert might vary upon availability



Photo

o f t h e d a y



KUWAIT: Construction work is going on at Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Cultural Centre.— KUNA

BURDEN ON BRAINS

By Nermin Al-Houti

Our previous column was highly pessimistic, but this is the truth that we must admit. I received a call from “Abu Ibrahim”, a true friend, at the start of the New Year. He started with congratulations for the new Hijra year, then asked about public and personal conditions, and I found myself saying: Oh! Abu Ibrahim. I found him telling me: That oh is coming out of a heart full of sadness and regret. I laughed and told him: Leave it to Allah, my brother.

He asked: What’s wrong with you? I know that our contacts are minimal, but tell me what is wrong? Maybe I can help you. I told him: Concerns are big, Abu Ibrahim, things and actions you see makes us not think and carry enough worry to constitute a burden on our hearts and brains. He said: Why this pessimism, while we are at the start of a New Year? I laughed with a sarcastic tone and said: What new year, Abu Ibrahim? I will not talk about the society’s corruption, and I will not go into mistakes committed by most officials. I only want to ask you where are you from the society? Where is the state’s appreciation for you for what you have done in the form of patriotic and Arab works?

Before I complete my dialogue, I should say something about “Abu Ibrahim”. He is a hardworking young man who relies on himself and not his family. He aims at promoting national songs through his works, and although all his work is done at his own expense, he still finds interest from officials for what he does. After these introductory lines of Abu Ibrahim, we will pick up where we stopped. His answer was: Doctor, leave it to Allah.

I answered: So, how do you want me to be optimistic if you as a youth of the future do not find anyone who introduces your work and encourages and motivates you? Bearing in mind that the country’s strategy asks officials to focus on the youth and care for their skills and hobbies and contain their small projects and adopt their ideas to include them in future plans. Do you want to hear more, my dear honest friend, or have you had enough of my justifications that make my lines and year not carry a ray of hope. Do you realize why I started my conversation with “Oh! Abu Ibrahim”?

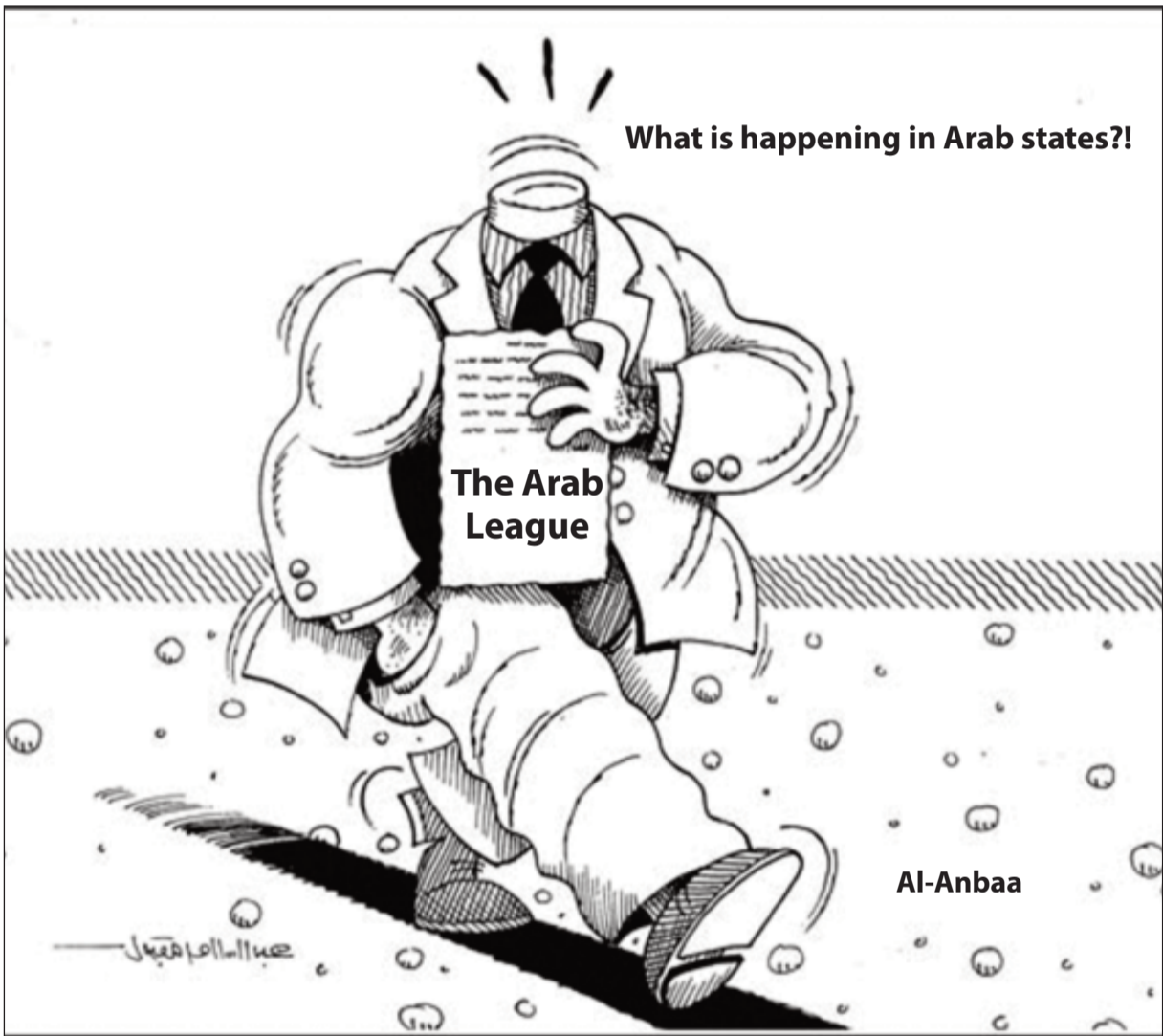
A last word: Youth are our true wealth - they are the nation’s shield, sword and fence that protect it against aggressors, said the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al-Nahyan, may Allah bless his soul.

— Translated by Kuwait Times

35 FEMALE STAFF AT UNESCO OFFICE EVICTED

KUWAIT: Thirty five female employees working with the UNESCO office in Kuwait complained that their offices were ransacked and property were thrown around as they returned to their offices after the holidays.

“We returned to our work after the new Hijra year holiday, only to find our desks thrown in the corridors, and our files scattered on the floor. When we asked what happened, we were told that UNESCO secretary general ordered that and we do not know why, other than him saying: “I do not want them with me,” these were the words of 35 female employees at UNESCO, as they sent a letter along with videotapes to Education and Higher Education Minister Dr Bader Al-Essa and the threatened to take the issue to the Parliamentary complaints committee, as we work in a government establishment and the secretary general cannot accept or reject us. Minister Al-Essa said he will not decide on the issue until he hears all sides.



KUWAIT PRESENTS DESERTIFICATION EXPERIENCE IN ANKARA CONFERENCE

ANKARA: Kuwait has presented its experience in fighting desertification during the 12th session of the conference of the parties of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) held in Ankara, Turkey yesterday. According to the 2014 statistics of the National Committee on Combating Desertification, the size of lands affected by desertification in Kuwait is 11330 square klm (72 percent), committee member Raafat Misak told KUNA.

Kuwait has set a plan to combat desertification within 20 years, involving specialized programs with a thorough data-base on all lands affected,

he noted. The plan also includes planting more trees, reducing the intensity of dust, developing water and human resources and providing environmental awareness programs, he added. The Kuwaiti delegation to the conference includes members of the Environment Public Authority (EPA), Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISRI), Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC), Public Authority for Applied Education and Training, Kuwait Gulf Oil Company and Kuwait Oil Company (KOC). The conference which kicked off last Monday, will be held until October 23 with the participation of 195 countries and organizations. —KUNA



ANKARA: Raafat Misak displaying the invention. —KUNA



Ambassador Adel Hamad Al-Ayyar

KUWAIT PAVILION AT MILAN ‘EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS’

KUWAIT: The Kuwaiti Pavilion at Expo Milan 2015 has “exceeded expectations” as the number of its visitors has broken the 1.5 million mark, Foreign Minister Undersecretary for economic affairs Ambassador Adel Hamad Al-Ayyar announced yesterday.

Al-Ayyar told KUNA that the pavilion stood out among other pavilions for its artistic design that reflected Kuwait’s heritage and showed its accomplishments in making the most out of its harsh nature to make a better living for the people. A number of prominent

figures have visited the pavilion in the past months, most prominently His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah’s visit.

Al-Ayyar lauded efforts by all participation bodies for the success of the pavilion and praised Kuwaiti youth in showcasing their creativity at the event. He also thanked Kuwaiti Commissioner General for Expo Milan 2015 Faisal Al-Mutalaqim for his dedication to the event. The Kuwaiti Pavilion will conclude its activities by the end of this month. —KUNA

KUWAITI NIGHTS

By Mudaffar Abdullah

Initially, it seems that some ministers know nothing about international agreements the state has signed. The statements they make have proved this because the anti-racial discrimination treaty completely contradicts the notion to allocate Jaber Hospital only for Kuwaiti patients, as recently stated by the health minister.

The ‘Kuwaiti Nights’ program launched at the beginning of October is part of media awareness and development by KTV, after viewers stopped watching it by the 1990s, when the air started to get busy with endless numbers of Arab satellite TV channels and after licensing local satellite TV channels in 2007.

KTV1 in particular, has remained far from glamour, brightness and thrills. It had to pay the price with the audiovisual law which authorized the establishment of private TV channels like Al-Watan and Al-Rai that managed to attract large proportions of viewers.

Well, this KTV program brought some hope back to state TV with a new young spirit, although its idea is not new, which poses some challenge. It seems that this program made use of the closure of Al-Watan TV and its ‘Tao Al-Lail’ program, and has a great chance to prove itself.

Kuwaiti Nights still has a lot to do to achieve success. Its first episode can be considered experimental by the staff behind it. Yet, we hope it will succeed so that both citizens and expatriates benefit from the gigantic manpower and financial cost of operating state-owned TV.

— Translated by Kuwait Times

Crime

Report

COLLEAGUE BASHES UP WOMAN AT WORK

KUWAIT: A woman reported to Fahd Al-Ahmad police that she was badly beaten by her colleague at work. The beaten woman is 8 months pregnant and most of the blows were to her abdomen, but she only complained of pain in her face because of a blow from her female colleague. Both work for a bank in the area.

Break-in

Criminal evidence men went to a sports equipment company in Ardiya which was the target of a break-in. The company manager called police to report the robbery. The thieves destroyed three metal cupboards, but they did not steal anything because they contained only documents. Detectives are investigating.

Sister absconding

A citizen reported his sister missing, as she left the house Wednesday and her phone is switched off. He told Adan police that his 27-year-old sister was not found with relatives or friends, so he had to tell police. Adan detectives are working on the case.

Social media crime

A female citizen complained to police that someone has assumed her profile on social media and speaks in her name. The citizen told police that she received calls from her friends telling her about an Instagram account with her picture and name, so she filed the complaint.

Assaulted

Ten persons stopped a Sudanese and Eritrean and beat them badly at a mall, before escaping. Both victims went to Salmiya police station with medical reports and complained. Hawally detectives took over the case. — Al-Anbaa and Al-Rai

DEMOCRATS EMBRACING OBAMA LEGACY DESPITE RISKS

Page 9



Uruguayans fed up with Syrian refugee complaints

Page 8



BEERSHEBA: A wounded Eritrean, is evacuated from the scene of an attack. Israeli security officials said a 21-year-old Arab citizen of Israel, opened fire in a southern Israeli bus station, killing an Israeli soldier and wounding 10 people. — AP

ERITREAN SHOT, LYNCHED BY ISRAELI MOB

‘IT SHOWS YOU WHAT A TERRIBLE SITUATION WE ARE IN’

JERUSALEM: An Eritrean migrant shot by an Israeli security guard and then attacked by bystanders who mistook him for an assailant in a deadly bus station attack has died of his wounds, hospital officials said yesterday. The mistaken shooting of the migrant seemed to capture the current climate of ratcheted up tensions among Israelis after weeks of seemingly random lone-wolf attacks by Palestinians. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu condemned the beating, telling members of his Likud Party that Israel is a "law abiding country." "No one should take the law into their own hands," he said.

Police say that during Sunday night's attack, carried out by an Arab citizen of Israel, a security guard mistakenly identified the Eritrean man as a second attacker. He shot the migrant, and as he lay on the ground a mob of people cursed him, kicked him and hit him with objects. Netanyahu offered condolences to the man's family, and police say they are reviewing security camera footage to identify and catch the people who beat the man.

"It's terrible," said Foreign Ministry spokesman Emmanuel Nahshon. "It shows you what a terrible situation we are in." The daily newspaper Yediot Ahronot left no ambiguity as to why it thought the man was shot. An article in yesterday's paper was headlined: "Just because of his skin color."

Racial discrimination

African migrants frequently complain of racial discrimination in Israel. Israel's Interior Ministry identified the man as Happtom Zerhom, an Eritrean in his late 20s. Dr Nitzza Neuman-Heiman, deputy general director of Soroka Medical Center, told Army Radio that Zerhom arrived at the hospital in "very serious condition" and died late Sunday from both gunshot wounds to the abdomen and the injuries sustained during attacks by bystanders.

The attack, at the central bus station in the southern city of Beersheba, was among the bloodiest in a monthlong wave of violence. A 19-year-old Israeli soldier was killed and nine people were wounded when an Arab assailant armed with a gun and knife opened fire. The attacker was shot dead by police.

Israeli news websites posted security camera footage that shows Zerhom crawling on the floor and a security guard shooting him. Footage also showed a mob of shouting Israelis crowded

around the man as he lay in a pool of blood. A bench was rammed at him and he was kicked in the back of the head, as an Israeli officer and a few bystanders tried to protect him. An Israeli identified only by the first name Dudu told Israeli Army Radio that he regretted participating in the attack on the Eritrean migrant.

"I understood from people he was a terrorist. If I would have known he wasn't a terrorist, believe me, I would have protected him like I protect myself," he said. "I didn't sleep well at night. I feel disgusted." Police are seeking to arrest those Israeli civilians who "aggressively beat" and kicked the Eritrean man "while he lay on the floor and posed no threat," police spokeswoman Luba Samri said.

Month of violence

During a month of violence, nine Israelis and the Eritrean have been killed. Forty-one Arabs - including 20 identified by Israel as attackers - have been killed, with the rest dying in clashes with Israeli troops. The attacks, carried out seemingly at random by

attackers with no known membership to organized militant groups, have unnerved Israel. Zerhom was in Beersheba to renew his Israeli visa, said his employer at a plant nursery, Sagi Malachi. "He was a modest man, quiet, and he tried to do his job as best as he could," Malachi told The Associated Press. "I can say that he was a dedicated and pleasant employee... It is heart breaking, all in all I think that he was in the wrong place at the wrong time."

About 34,000 Eritrean migrants are in Israel. They say they are fleeing persecution and conflict and seek refugee status. Israel does not grant them refugee status, but does not deport them to Eritrea in line with international law so as not to endanger their

lives. Migrants must renew Israeli visas every month or two, according to migrant activists.

African migrants began pouring into Israel in 2007, with their numbers steadily growing until Israel built a fence along the Egyptian border in 2012. Many Israelis fear the influx threatens the country's Jewish character, with one right-wing Israeli lawmaker calling migrants a "cancer." "The death of an asylum seeker at the hands of security guards and an angry mob is a tragic but foreseeable outgrowth of a climate in which some Israeli politicians encourage citizens to take the law into their own hands," said Sari Bashi of Human Rights Watch. — AP

INDIAN ACTIVISTS THREATEN TO 'SKIN' TOURIST OVER TATTOO

BANGALORE: Right-wing activists threatened to “skin” an Australian visitor who had a tattoo of a Hindu goddess on his leg, police said yesterday, adding they were looking for the culprits. Matthew Gordon was at a restaurant in the southern city of Bangalore with his girlfriend on Saturday when around a dozen activists from the ruling Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party began harassing the couple. They said a tattoo of the fertility goddess Yellama on his shin offended their religious sentiments, and ordered him to remove it. Bangalore deputy police commissioner Sandeep Patil said Gordon told officers at the station that the men had threatened to skin his leg if he did not. “I was relieved to see a policeman, but much to my shock he started to blame me, and said, ‘This is India and we are insulting Hindus,’” Gordon later told The Hindu daily. “He then took me to the station... we were forced to sit there for three hours. They let me go only after I gave an apology saying I will cover this tattoo.”

Tensions between Gordon and the activists only eased after the 21-year-old tourist wrote a letter of apology addressed to a local police inspector in which he agreed to cover up his tattoo while in India. However, police said yesterday they had obtained CCTV footage of the incident and were taking it seriously.

"(We) will act against them (the activists) if they are guilty," Patil told reporters. Critics say right-wing Hindu extremists have been emboldened by the BJP's victory in a general election last year. In August a leading scholar who had spoken out against idol worship was murdered in Karnataka state—where Bangalore is located—after receiving death threats from Hindu hardliners.

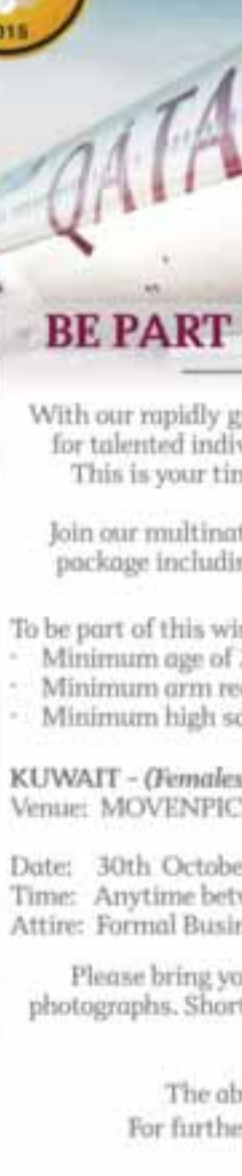
Gordon, a law student, told The Hindu he had a strong attachment to the faith after spending three years in the southern state of Tamil Nadu. He said he had another tattoo on his back of the Hindu elephant god Ganesha that took 35 hours to complete. "These tattoos mean a lot to me. I'm not sporting them because of their exoticism. I know the mythology and the values of the gods inked on me," the paper quoted him as saying. Australia's High Commission (embassy) said it was concerned about the incident and was speaking to local authorities. — AFP

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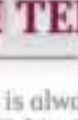
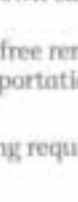
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UK AID WORKER FOUND DEAD AT ISTANBUL AIRPORT

ANKARA: The Iraq director of an organization promoting journalism in conflict zones has been found dead in unexplained circumstances at Istanbul's main airport, colleagues and British officials said yesterday.

Friends and co-workers of Jacqueline Sutton called for an urgent investigation into her death, which comes months after her predecessor was killed in a bombing. The Institute for War and Peace Reporting said Sutton, its country director for Iraq, was found dead at Ataturk Airport on Saturday. It said the former journalist had been on her way to her base in Irbil, in the Kurdish region of northern Iraq.

Britain's Foreign Office said it was "providing assistance to the family of Jacqueline

Sutton at this difficult time." It said British officials were in close contact with Turkish authorities. Turkey's state-run Anadolu Agency said Sutton took her own life inside a washroom at the airport after missing her connecting flight. The agency reported, without citing a source, that she became distraught because she didn't have money to buy a new ticket to Iraq.

Turkey's private Dogan news agency said Sutton hanged herself with shoelaces from the hook of the bathroom door, also without citing a source. Her body was discovered by three Russian tourists who alerted police, Dogan said. Sutton's colleagues and friends were skeptical about the accounts published in the Turkish press.

'Deeply saddened and shocked'
Anthony Borden, executive director of the Institute for War and Peace Reporting, said Sutton "devoted herself to professional journalism." "In respect to that, we should look at the facts," he said. "We need more facts." Free-speech group Article 19 said it was "deeply saddened and shocked" by Sutton's death and called for "a full and independent investigation."

Borden said Sutton would have known that the organization would have paid for a new flight, a relatively common occurrence. "Clearly there would have been no issue (with money). It's really inconceivable. We change tickets all the time," he said. Security officials at Ataturk Airport did not answer

calls seeking a comment. A Turkish government spokesman could not immediately be reached.

Sutton, 50, was a former producer and broadcaster with the BBC and held various positions with humanitarian organizations and the United Nations, according to her professional profile on LinkedIn. She was studying for a PhD at the Australian National University on media in war-torn countries, focusing on Iraq and Afghanistan.

In an autobiographical statement published on an Australian blog, Sutton said she had been "detained as a spy and deported" while working in Eritrea in the 1990s. "I think I had PTSD from the detention so I was unable to cope," she said. "Now there would

be counseling, but back then I was given Prozac and told to soldier on."

Sutton was appointed to the IWPR in Iraq in June after the death of the previous country director, Ammar Al Shahbander, who was killed in a car bombing in Baghdad, the organization said. Borden said Sutton had taken over an "extraordinary burden" from her late colleague. He said there was no reason to think the deaths are related. "She had toys in her bag for the children of staff," in Iraq, he said. "The profile doesn't strike me as right," he added. "I can't get my head around it." Kirka contributed from London. Associated Press writer Jill Lawless in London contributed to this report. —AP



LESBOS: Refugees and migrants arrive on a rubber boat on the Greek island, after crossing the Aegean sea from Turkey. —AFP

MANY URUGUAYANS FED UP WITH SYRIAN REFUGEE COMPLAINTS HUMANITARIAN GESTURE HAS GONE OFF THE RAILS

JUAN LACAZE: When Uruguay announced last year that it would be taking in five families fleeing Syria's devastating civil war, residents of this small town pulled together and lobbied to host one. Then in November, locals welcomed a newly arrived Merhi Alshebli, his wife and their 15 children with food and seeds to plant vegetables. People in Juan Lacaze, a coastal city of fishermen and paper factory workers in southwestern Uruguay, wanted to do their part to help a country where more than 200,000 have been killed in the fighting.

But after months of the Syrians' complaints about their living conditions and demands to be sent to another country, many Uruguayans in this town and elsewhere have come to see the refugees more as rude, ungrateful guests. This month the 51-year-old Alshebli shocked locals by dousing himself in gasoline in protest, furthering Uruguayans' indignation and sense that this South American nation's humanitarian gesture has gone off the rails.

"I'm outraged," said Monica Benitez, who works at a shoe store in Juan Lacaze's tiny downtown. "What they are doing is offensive." The Syrians' discontent is playing out as hundreds of thousands of their compatriots are risking their lives to migrate to Europe and world leaders from German Chancellor Angela Merkel to Pope Francis have urged nations to open their doors to the flood. The administration of US President Barack Obama has pledged to take in 10,000 Syrians over the next year.

Uruguay's attempt to help by sheltering 42 refugees - a largely symbolic gesture given that over 4 million Syrians have fled since civil war broke out in 2011 - appears to be backfiring, just as earlier this year the ups and downs of six former Guantanamo Bay detainees taken in by the country hogged headlines.

'How can I feed 15 children?'

Like the ex-detainees, the refugee families complain that life in Uruguay is expensive and authorities aren't doing enough to support them. But unlike the former prisoners, who refused jobs offered to them, the adult Syrians have worked. The Syrians' biggest beef is that they can't make ends meet even though the government provides housing and gives each family a monthly stipend. Both government officials and the families have declined to say how much that is.

"I like Uruguay. I like Uruguayan families. My young children all go to school here," Alshebli said in halting Spanish, standing in the living room

of his sparsely furnished, multi-room home on the outskirts of Juan Lacaze. "But food is very expensive. How can I feed 15 children?" He showed The Associated Press a two-month winter electricity bill totaling \$475 and said everyone in the family who is able works. For example his 19-year-old daughter Nada sells Arab food downtown and recently worked in an assisted living facility, but earned just \$68 in a little under a month there.

Alshebli also complained that the government won't let him farm beyond the modest vegetable garden the family has planted. "No sheep. No cows. No land," said Alshebli, recounting what he said officials told him. Political analyst Daniel Chasquetti said the govern-

ment underestimated cultural differences between Uruguay and the refugees' homeland and failed to take into account their limited job skills.

"And it's not like Uruguay is a country bursting with opportunities," Chasquetti said. The economy of this nation of 3.3 million people is largely based on agricultural and textile exports, and about 40 percent of workers earn around \$500 a month, according to a leading union. In August one of the Syrian families tried to travel to Serbia, only to be detained 23 days at the airport in Istanbul because they didn't have the right documents. Ultimately they returned to Uruguay.

The refugees do not have Syrian

passports and cannot get Uruguayan ones because they are not citizens. The government has given them national ID cards, but they're insufficient to cross many of the world's frontiers and Uruguay says it can't force other countries to accept the documents. Their frustration at a boiling point, the Syrians protested for several days last month in front of the Uruguayan presidency to demand help getting to another country.

Gasoline incident

Then came the incident at Alshebli's home on Oct 6, when he poured gasoline over himself in protest in the presence of officials from Uruguay's Human Rights Secretariat. According to a state-

ment underestimating cultural differences between Uruguay and the refugees' homeland and failed to take into account their limited job skills.

Lourdes Schneck, who serves the Uruguayan specialty of fried pies in downtown, said she wasn't sure whether to be angry with her government or the Syrians. "I get the feeling they thought they were coming to a different class of country, with more wealth," said Schneck, who periodically hires one of Alshebli's teenage sons, 15-year-old Mohammed. Jennyfer Lopez, a student in Juan Lacaze, thinks they never should have been taken in.

"Uruguay isn't in a financial position to be receiving refugees," she said, echoing a common criticism. "It was obvious they wouldn't be com-



JUAN LACAZE: In this Oct 7, 2015 photo, Syrian refugee Nada Alshebli, (right) jokingly places a "hijab" veil on Uruguayan Sonia de Leon as her sister Fatima walks behind them as they stroll through town in Juan Lacaze. —AFP

ment here." Former President Jose Mujica, who left office in March, was the driving force behind inviting the Syrians and the ex-Guantanamo prisoners.

Mujica, who was jailed for 13 years during the country's dictatorship, took pride in opening Uruguay's doors to people in need. His successor, Tabare Vazquez, has shown much less enthusiasm. In his inaugural speech, Vazquez said a "profound analysis" was necessary before Uruguay accommodated more Syrian refugees. A second group of 72 refugees was supposed to come in February but never did. Foreign Minister Rodolfo Nin Novoa has insisted they'll arrive later this year. —AP

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TURKEY 'NOT A CONCENTRATION CAMP', WON'T HOST MIGRANTS PERMANENTLY

ISTANBUL: Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu said yesterday his country was "not a concentration camp" and would not host migrants permanently to appease the EU, which wants Turkey to stop the flow of people to Europe.

"We cannot accept an understanding like 'give us the money and they stay in Turkey,' Turkey is not a concentration camp," Davutoglu said in a live television interview a day after talks with Germany's Angela Merkel on the migrant crisis. "I said this to Merkel too. No one should expect Turkey to turn into a concentration camp where all the refugees stay in," he said.

The talks had however resulted in a "positive response" to the government's request for visa liberalization, he said. And in exchange Davutoglu agreed that "illegal immigration should be properly kept under control, therefore we will set up joint mechanisms" to contain the historic flow of Syrians and others escaping conflict, persecution and poverty who use Turkey as a gateway to Europe.

"We spoke of three billion Euros (\$3.4 billion) as 'fresh money' but it is not a fixed sum. Our (financial) needs may increase," he said. Chancellor Merkel on Sunday had hailed as "very promising" progress on an EU-driven "action plan" after talks in Istanbul with Davutoglu and President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. Brussels last week offered Turkey financial help and an acceleration of its drive for EU membership among other sweeteners to persuade it to do more to tighten its

border security. Though Turkey initially poured cold water on the plan, describing it as nothing more than a draft, both Merkel and the Turkish leadership indicated that officials were making progress towards a deal on cooperation.

Visa-free travel?

Davutoglu insisted the European Union would have to implement its side of the deal before Turkey would play ball. "In the past, the EU got what it wanted, but didn't keep its promises. The visa liberalization has to take force," he said referring to Turkey's request for visa-free access for Turks to the EU's Schengen zone. "We demanded the abolishment of the Schengen visa (for Turks) and got a positive response. It will happen in July 2016, negotiations are continuing. Things will become clear at the start of the 2016," he said.

His comments came as the migrant crisis intensified in Europe, with thousands of people streaming yesterday into the Balkans, where tighter border controls caused bottlenecks and forced people to sleep in freezing temperatures. Merkel—who has won both praise and condemnation for her open-door policy towards Syrian refugees—urged people to "stay away from those with hate in their hearts" as Germany braced for an anniversary rally of the xenophobic PEGIDA movement. More than 630,000 people have landed on Europe's shores so far this year, most of them making risky sea crossings from Turkey to Greece. —AFP

PREPARATORY MEETING FOR GCC HEALTH COMMITTEE IN DOHA

DOHA: A preparatory meeting was held in the Qatari capital yesterday ahead of the forthcoming second meeting of GCC Health Ministers Committee, slated for October 21st in Doha. The meeting is to discuss a number of important subjects, Dr Saleh bin Ali Al-Marri, Assistant Secretary General for Medical Affairs in Qatari Supreme Council of Health (SCH), said in his opening speech.

The meeting's outcomes, to be submitted to the ministerial panel next Wednesday, would contribute to the issuance of important resolutions that serve Gulf citizens, and achieve further progress in health services in GCC countries, Al-Marri said.

The GCC has attained several significant accomplishments, he noted, adding that joint cooperation among Gulf states have also contributed to attaining many health and medical achievements that benefited Gulf citizens.

For his part, Abdulaziz bin Fahad Al-Humoud, head of health affairs depart-

ment at GCC General Secretariat, expressed his hope for important outcomes from the meeting that assist in boosting health sectors in Gulf states.

The second meeting of GCC Health Ministers Committee is to discuss a number of important issues, including a report on decisions made by the supreme and ministerial councils regarding the health field, in addition to possibilities of their implementations, as well as equality among Gulf citizens in health services.

The meeting will also discuss coordinating efforts among GCC states in dealing with emergency crisis and situations concerning pharmaceuticals, vaccines, medical accessories, health funding, and full health coverage. Anti-smoking, international health regulations, achieving development goals, consolidating Gulf States stands in international health conglomerates, and strategic cooperation with Jordan, Morocco, and Turkey are also among other subjects in the meeting. —KUNA

HAJJ DISASTER DEATH TOLL REACHES AT LEAST 2,110

DUBAI: The crush and stampede that struck the hajj last month in Saudi Arabia killed at least 2,110 pilgrims, a new Associated Press tally showed yesterday, after officials in the kingdom met to discuss the tragedy.

Crown Prince Mohammed bin Naif bin Abdul Aziz, who is also the kingdom's interior minister, oversaw the meeting late Sunday, according to the official Saudi Press Agency. It did not mention any official response to the rising death toll. The country's own toll since Sept. 26 has stood at 769 people killed and 934 injured.

"The crown prince was reassured on the progress of the investigations," the SPA report said. "He directed the committee's members to continue their efforts to find the causes of the accident, praying to Allah Almighty to accept the martyrs and wishing the injured a speedy recovery."

King Salman ordered the investigation into the Sept. 24 tragedy in Mina, just outside the holy city of Mecca. The disaster was the deadliest in the history of the annual pilgrimage, and came after a crane collapse in Mecca earlier that month killed

111 worshippers. The twin disasters marred the first hajj to be overseen by the king since he ascended to the throne at the start of this year.

The AP figure comes from state media reports and officials' comments from 30 of the over 180 countries that sent citizens to the five-day annual pilgrimage, which is required of all able-bodied Muslims. Iran leads all the affected countries, saying it had 465 pilgrims killed. Many of the dead also came from Africa. Nigeria said it lost 199 people, while Mali lost 198, Cameroon lost 76, Niger lost 72, Senegal lost 61, and Ivory Coast and Benin both lost 52.

Others include Egypt with 182, Bangladesh with 137, Indonesia with 126, India with 116, Pakistan with 102, Ethiopia with 47, Chad with 43, Morocco with 33, Sudan with 30, Algeria with 25, Burkina Faso with 22, Tanzania with 20, Somalia with 10, Kenya with eight, Ghana and Turkey with seven, Myanmar and Libya with six, China with four, Afghanistan with two and Jordan and Malaysia with one. The previous deadliest-ever incident at hajj was a 1990 stampede that killed 1,426 people. —AP

INTERNET FIRMS TO LAUNCH ANTI-EXTREMISM FORUM

BRUSSELS: The European Union announced yesterday it will launch in December a forum bringing together Internet firms and law enforcement agencies to combat online extremism. The move comes amid growing alarm in Europe over the use of social media as a powerful recruiting tool, especially by the Islamic

State group in Syria and Iraq.

"We need to counter this abuse of the internet and its growing role in radicalization with determination and a shared plan of action. That is exactly the reason why we are setting up the EU Internet Forum," EU Home Affairs Commissioner Dimitris Avramopoulos said. —AFP



MONTREAL: Canadian Liberal leader Justin Trudeau, (center) clowning around with campaign team members Tommy Desfosses, (left) and Adam Scotti after landing. —AP

LIBERALS LEADING AS CANADA HEADS TO POLLS

OTTAWA: Canadians began voting in general elections yesterday, with polls showing Justin Trudeau's Liberal Party positioned to end nine years of Stephen Harper's Tory rule. Polling released on the eve of the vote showed the Liberals leading the Tories by eight points, after a late surge from third place. Public opinion, however, has swung wildly up to 12 percentage points during the campaign.

At a final campaign stop in western Canada on Sunday, Trudeau said the Liberals offer "not just a change in government, but a better government." The 43-year-old is the son of former Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, who is considered the father of modern Canada. He is hoping for a repeat of the "Trudeaumania" that in 1968 replaced the plodding management style of the old guard with his late father's bullish vision and flare that Canadians were craving.

But Harper warned Canadians would pay more taxes under a Liberal government that would also plunge the nation back into deficit. "Every single vote for a Conservative candidate is a vote to protect our economy against Liberal ... deficits and taxes," he said. New Democratic Party (NDP) leader Thomas Mulcair, meanwhile, recalled scandals of the last Liberal administration.

"They may try to fool you by giving the old car a fresh coat of paint. But as we've seen, the Liberal party is just as rusted-out underneath as it was when Canadians kicked them out of office for corruption the last time," Mulcair said. The first polling stations opened at 8:30 in Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada's most easterly province, and will close in westernmost Canada at 7 pm (0200 GMT today). Up to 26.4 million electors are expected to vote in 338 electoral districts. Some 3.6 million already cast a ballot in advance voting a week ago,

and the turnout yesterday is expected to be high.

End of the road

The 11-week campaign, which was one of the longest in Canadian history, gave voters unprecedented exposure to the party leaders and their ideas in five debates and almost daily stump speeches. Along the bruising way was a record influx of people fleeing war in Syria, a court ruling quashing a veil ban and a recession-crises that gave Canadians a chance to assess parties' reactions in near-real time. At times, the battle descended into personal attacks, with Tory ads suggesting that Trudeau with his youthful good looks is "just not ready" to be prime minister. Scandals also caught voters' attention.

In one that played out early on, Harper's former chief of staff testified against a Conservative senator accused of bribery, breach of trust and fraud. Another involved the co-chair of the Liberal campaign, who resigned Wednesday after a leaked email showed he was shilling for a pipeline builder during the campaign. In power since 2006, Harper is seeking a fourth mandate, hoping to hold on to key Tory support in the western plains and in suburban Toronto, Canada's largest city.

Over the past nine years, he has led two minority governments and one majority government, under mandates that have never exceeded 40 percent of the popular vote. But Harper is now up against a strong desire for a change in government and his personal image is at an all-time low highlighted by Tory television spots that open with "Stephen Harper may not be perfect..." The NDP hopes to build on its second-place finish in the last ballot, in 2011, and govern for the first time ever. —AFP

DEMOCRATS EMBRACING OBAMA LEGACY DESPITE RISKS IN '16 RACE

REPUBLICANS CONTINUE TO SUFFER BUSH FALLOUT

WASHINGTON: If the recent Republican presidential debates have revealed hobbling breaks in the party, the Democrats' first political X-ray showed a couple of hairline fractures. The five Democrats on the debate stage last week in Las Vegas offered a relatively - and surprisingly - unified front on the issues at the forefront of the campaign.

On solutions, the differences tended to be a matter of degree. On President Barack Obama, at times a source of considerable Democratic discontent, their positions ranged from warm embrace to polite disagreement. The sense of respect and courtesy was in sharp contrast to the public bickering on the other side and the recent history of how parties have dealt with passing control of the White House. Democrats showed they are willing to embrace Obama's legacy, whatever the risks. Republicans continue to struggle with the fallout from George W. Bush's presidency, with years of public soul-searching and animosity toward their leadership. "You would expect in a Democratic primary field when people are crossing a broad ideological spectrum that they might be critical of the incumbent no matter who the incumbent is," Democratic pollster and strategist Celinda Lake said. "But I think Democrats demonstrated that across the spectrum it's good to run with the president rather than against him."

National spotlight

Under their first national spotlight, leading Democrats put forward no drastic re-imagining of Obama's signature policies. The candidates largely pledged to build on Obama's health overhaul, preserve or expand his immigration orders and continue global climate change talks. They indirectly criticized his handling of issues that the party considers to be failings of his tenure: comprehensive immigration changes, gun control, spurring middle class wage growth, cracking down on Wall Street.

Opposition to a Pacific Rim trade pact was the most prominent area of disagreement. Obama noted the trend Friday, saying he found it "interesting" how few differences emerged. "I think everybody on that stage at the debate affirmed what I have said in the past, which is we agree on 95 percent of stuff and on the basic vision of a country," Obama told reporters.

The candidates' cohesion around Obama is as much political calculation as a spontaneous exercise. Obama is popular with Latinos, blacks, young people and unmarried women - the core coalition that any Democrat will need to win the nomination and the White House. His approval rating hovers around 80 percent among Democrats in Gallup's recent tracking surveys. Among liberal Democrats, that number moves toward 90 percent. Democrats alienate these groups at their own peril.

Front-runner Hillary Rodham Clinton has started to pull away from Obama, delivering rough comments on his immigration record or deviating from his policy in Syria. But when given the biggest audi-

ence of her campaign, she promised to "build on the successes of President Obama" and "go beyond." She not only embraced Obama but also used his endorsement of her to deflect criticism. The two once debated her vote on the Iraq War, she noted, and "after the election, he asked me to become secretary of state. He valued my judgment, and I spent a lot of time with him."

Clinton's rivals similarly went easy on the president, even the one whose campaign is built on a harsh critique of his economic policy. "I have a lot of respect for President Obama. I have worked with him time and time again on many, many issues," said Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders. It was a softer introduction to his call for "political revolution" to unlock

conservatives and moderates in the House spar over the speakership, and Republican voters elevate party outsiders Donald Trump and Ben Carson to the top of the presidential polls. At their recent debates, Republicans have clashed over immigration policy, federal spending, compromising with Democrats and the lessons of Bush's presidency.

Whether a party breaks up or falls in line at the end of a presidency tends to be determined by how popular or divisive the incumbent is, says Sidney M. Milkis, a political scientist at the University of Virginia's Miller Center. Bush left office unpopular in his party and out. The end of the President Lyndon Johnson's presidency left Democrats in disarray. In rallying around Obama, Democrats resemble



WASHINGTON: US President Barack Obama and South Korean President Park Geun-hye talk before a meeting in the Oval Office of the White House. —AFP

the government from what he contends is the control of Wall Street and corporate media. Still, the collective appreciation for the president and his policies papered over persistent rifts, particularly between the party's left flank and pragmatic middle.

'Leadership position'

Sanders' call to break up the banks is a critique of Obama's handling of Wall Street regulation. Reflecting concern about crises in the Middle East, the conversation about foreign policy was more contentious. The US needs to "take more of a leadership position" in Syria, Clinton said. It's hard to imagine the lineup of Republican candidates using such restraint. The GOP ranks have battled their party's leadership for nearly all of Obama's presidency.

The conflict has boiled over in recent weeks as

Republicans at the end of President Ronald Reagan's term - happy with their status quo and looking for more, Milkis noted.

While Obama's approval rating among Democrats is solid, Republicans are focused on other numbers. His overall job approval is 46 percent, according to Gallup. Pollsters are finding broad dissatisfaction with the direction of the country and a steady distrust of public institutions. "This is not a country that's satisfied," said GOP pollster David Winston. Both parties' nominees will need to present a distinct, forward-looking agenda that appeals to voters beyond the base. "As Republicans saw in 2012, the idea that you can win a primary and you don't have to worry about the general - that that cake is already baked - I think there was a rude awakening there." —AP

'EL CHAPO' MANHUNT LEAVES BULLET-RIDDLED HOMES, CARS

TAMAZULA: Bullet holes on roofs, charred cars and deserted villages were left in the wake of a military operation to catch fugitive drug baron Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman in northwest Mexico. Remote hamlets around the municipality of Tamazula, Durango state, are like ghost towns as hundreds of terrified residents fled to the nearest city, Cosala in neighboring Sinaloa state, following the intense marine manhunt more than a week ago. But one place still has the attention of the marines. In El Limon, troops blocked access to a mysterious ranch, with

escape from a prison in central Mexico humiliated President Enrique Pena Nieto. The government, in a brief statement Friday, said only that Guzman was injured in the leg and face while fleeing an operation in the northwest in recent days. Officials told AFP Guzman hurt himself in a fall and that the operation occurred in the Sinaloa-Durango region. Authorities denied accusations by locals that the marines shot at the civilian population, with the navy saying Sunday that it has "strictly" respected human rights.



DURANGO: A burned truck is pictured at the Comedero Colorado ranch, in the municipality of Tamazula. — AFP

spikes on the road to prevent cars from approaching.

According to displaced villagers, it was here that marines started to shoot at homes from helicopters in an operation that extended to other parts of the Sierra Madre Occidental mountain range-the bastion of Guzman's Sinaloa drug cartel. When AFP journalists approached the ranch, three marines stopped their vehicles, pointed rifles at them and loudly demanded who had sent them there. A superior then videotaped the journalists and explained that he had instructions not to let anyone through.

The refusal to let anybody pass adds to the mystery of what exactly transpired in the operation to catch Guzman, whose brazen July 11

Raining bullets

But residents who fled the area tell a different story. Ines Ayon Mendoza, 24, said she was making tortillas on the morning of October 6 when a burst of bullets hit her home in Comedero Colorado, near El Limon. She ran to get her two-year-old daughter when two apparent marine helicopters struck her village even "harder."

Her husband, Gonzalo Elias Pena, told prosecutors that their house had dozens of bullet holes and that her car had burned. AFP journalists did not see any bullet shells around the vehicle on Sunday. Mendoza and her husband walked for four days along cliffs and through brush with their toddler. Lacking food and water, they finally arrived in Cosala,

where more than 600 others from Durango state have taken refuge, recounting similar stories.

"We were walking in the dark because where there was light, they would start shooting. It was firing from all sides," Mendoza said as she and other displaced families waited for clothes and food handouts from authorities.

Her husband, Gonzalo, said: "The newspaper reported they were looking for him (Guzman), but he wasn't there and they almost killed us." Marta Marbella, who lives in El Verano village, showed pictures she took with her cellphone of bullet marks that were left on her house on October 6.

Hidden evidence

The images show a dozen holes on the roof and more on the walls, door and outdoor bathroom, where Marbella said she had hidden with her baby. Her husband was working in the fields. "I could see the helicopter stop and shoot directly at the house. I was scared, screamed and cried, although I knew it was useless," the 32-year-old housewife said.

Francisca Quintero Sanchez, 40, rushed to hide under a bed with her three children when the "rain of bullets" came down for around one hour. "It was a time of terror, fear that they would kill us," the farmer said. "Their uniforms said 'Marina' (Navy). Some think we're stupid because we are ranchers, but we know how to read and write." AFP journalists saw a house with at least five bullet holes on its tin roof while a nearby pick-up truck was struck about 20 times.

Residents of El Verano said they spoke with marines, who told them they were looking for "a person accompanied by many people." The marines told them that they fired because they were under attack, but the residents deny that. No casualties have been reported so far, but local legislator Lucero Sanchez Lopez said at least eight people are missing.

The Sinaloa Human Rights Defense Commission said it had no reports of missing people, but it voiced concerns over allegations that the authorities tried to remove evidence. —AFP

Up to the hour topics

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f i s

ROAD ACCIDENTS KILLINGS 1.25M ANNUALLY IN AFRICA

GENEVA: Some 1.25 million people are killed in traffic accidents around the world each year, with Africa by far the continent with the most dangerous roads, the World Health Organization said in report published yesterday.

"Road traffic fatalities take an unacceptably high toll, particularly on poor people in poor countries," WHO chief Margaret Chan said in a statement. The UN health agency's Global Status Report on Road Safety showed that the situation is improving, with the number of deaths remaining stable in recent years even as the number of cars and other vehicles on the road has increased rapidly. But traffic accidents are still the leading cause of death among 15- to 29-year-olds worldwide and cost governments on average

about 3.0 percent of their annual gross domestic products, the report showed.

And while many countries have stepped up efforts to improve the situation, including law changes and making vehicles and roads safer, many poorer nations especially are lagging far behind. A full 90 percent of global road traffic deaths occur in low- and middle-income countries, even though they count only 54 percent of the world's vehicles.

The death rate in Africa is particularly high, counting 26.6 annual traffic deaths for every 100,000 citizens, compared with 9.3 in Europe, where the death rate is the lowest. "We're moving in the right direction," Chan said, noting that "the report shows that road safety strategies are saving lives." "But it also tells us that the pace of change is too slow,"

she added. Nearly half of all those killed in traffic are either walking or on two wheels, yesterday's report showed, with pedestrians accounting for 22 percent of all deaths, motorcyclists making up 23 percent, and cyclists four percent. Africa is particularly deadly for pedestrians and cyclists, who make up 43 percent of all road traffic deaths on the continent, according to the report.

'Rethink transport policies'

"Decision makers need to rethink transport policies," said Etienne Krug, head of WHO's disability, violence and injury prevention unit, warning that "the lack of policies aimed at vulnerable road users is killing our people and harming our cities." Yesterday's report found that road safety

had improved significantly in countries with laws regulating five risk factors: speed, drunk driving, and the use of helmets, seatbelts and child seats.

Over the last three years, 17 countries, with a total of 409 million inhabitants, have adopted laws in at least one of these areas in line with international best practices, it said. WHO recommends that maximum speed in urban areas should be set no higher than 50 kilometers per hour. But only 47 countries, representing 950 million people, respect that recommendation, the report found.

The report also stressed the importance of banning drunk driving, noting that only 34 countries, with a total population of 2.1 billion, follow WHO recommendations to limit permitted blood alcohol levels to

below 0.05 grams, and for younger drivers to 0.02 grams. "Twenty-one of these countries are in the European region, suggesting the need to extend good practice globally," the report said.

As for helmet use, WHO would like to see it made mandatory for all two-wheel users, including children, but only 44 countries, with some 1.2 billion inhabitants, currently have such laws on the books. A full 161 countries meanwhile have national seatbelt laws, and 105 of them, representing 4.8 billion people, meet best practices by requiring that the life-saving belts are fastened both in the front and back seats. Yesterday's report also found that vehicles sold in 80 percent of the world's countries fail to meet basic safety standards. —AFP



DONETSK: A picture taken in Donetsk on October 17, 2015, shows people walking past a portrait of Soviet dictator Josef Stalin on an advertising board. —AFP

SOVIET NOSTALGIA RULES IN UKRAINE'S REBEL REGIONS

DONETSK: Three portraits of former Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin are on display in the centre of Donetsk, the rebel capital of eastern Ukraine, as the separatist authorities fuel a mood of Soviet nostalgia. The portraits, adorning a main square, seem to go down well with one young woman walking past.

"I think the portraits of Stalin are a good thing. It's our history and a lot of people have forgotten he even existed," said Yekaterina, a 22-year-old student. The previously taboo display comes as the rebels revive Soviet customs to cement their Moscow-backed rule—while glossing over Stalin's atrocities. The Stalin portraits feature a quote from the wartime leader: "Our cause is just. The enemy will be routed. We will claim victory."

The horrors of Stalin's repressions and the deaths of up to five million Ukrainians in the 1930s due to famine caused by forced collectivization go unmentioned. The Donetsk rebel leader Alexander Zakharchenko told AFP how he regretted the break-up of the Soviet Union. "The Soviet Union was a great country and it was a huge mistake that it was destroyed by the CIA and other secret services," said the 39-year-old former field commander who prefers to dress in camouflage gear. "Europe and other countries were scared stiff of us."

New cult of Stalin

Stalin portraits have become de rigueur in the offices of rebel officials in eastern Ukraine, where the separatist conflict has

killed more than 8,000 people. The Donetsk rebels' deputy defense minister Eduard Basurin wears a badge with Stalin's profile on his uniform. This new cult of Stalin revives the memories in Donetsk, a coal-mining city that was formerly known as Stalino.

It was renamed in the early 1960s after Nikita Khrushchev, who emerged as Soviet leader in the power struggle that followed Stalin's death, condemned his predecessor's cult of personality. Such reverence for Stalin contrasts with the attitude of Kiev's pro-Western government, which in May passed laws making it illegal to display Soviet symbols, as it does Nazi swastikas.

The law calls for the pulling down of monuments as well as renaming of streets, towns and enterprises that carry Soviet names. Across Ukraine, the authorities have already pulled down numerous Lenin statues, much to the rebel leaders' disgust. The Donetsk rebels' culture minister Alexander Paretsky condemned "vandalism and barbarism" while the leader of the Lugansk rebel region Igor Plotnitsky warned of a "moral genocide." In the town of Novozavsk on the Azov Sea, the rebels ceremonially restored a Lenin statue to its pedestal after taking control from Ukrainian forces.

In forging a new identity for the separatist region, the rebels have largely turned to the Soviet past. Their territories are called "people's republics," echoing the Soviet-era names of Communist satellites such as Bulgaria, Mongolia and Romania. —AFP

SWISS GOVT SHIFTS RIGHT IN VOTE DOMINATED BY MIGRANT FEARS

GENEVA: Swiss voters swung to the right in parliamentary elections on Sunday dominated by concerns over Europe's migrant crisis, with the country's largest party winning a record number of seats. The populist Swiss People's Party (SVP), known for its virulent campaigns against immigration, the European Union and Islam, won 65 of the 200 seats in the lower house, up from the current 54, and saw its support rise to its highest-ever level.

The SVP was seen raking in 29.5 percent of the vote, compared to the 26.6 percent won in 2011 and beating its previous record score of 28.9 in 2007, the national broadcaster RTS projected. Along with advances made by the centre-right Liberal Party, Switzerland's third-largest party, which took three additional seats on top of its current 30, SVP's gains should tip the scale in parliament from the centre-left towards a centre-right majority.

Pascal Sciarini, a political scientist at Geneva University, told AFP, that the 11 additional seats for SVP marked "a huge shift in Swiss politics," adding that "the centre of gravity has clearly shifted to the right". "SVP did not even need to run a campaign. The migrant crisis ran the campaign for them," Sciarini said. The Socialists, the country's second-largest party, meanwhile lost three of their 46 seats and the Greens and Green Liberal Party lost a total of nine seats. Overall voter turnout was set at 48 percent.

'Send a signal'

The shift to the right comes as surging numbers of migrants and refugees moving through Europe have heightened the focus on the issue in Switzerland, even though the wealthy Alpine nation is yet to

be significantly affected by the crisis. "We have to make Europe less attractive and send a signal that we cannot give asylum here, not even to refugees of war," SVP chief Toni Brunner told AFP.

Parties to the centre and left meanwhile lamented that the pre-election campaign had been so dominated by the migrant issue. "People voted out of fear," Socialist candidate Rebecca Ruiz told RTS. About a quarter of Switzerland's eight million inhabitants are foreign nationals, and immigration and asylum policies tend to figure among voters' top concerns.

But the latest survey from the gfs.bern polling institute showed that nearly 50 percent of voters considered migration the most important issue facing the country. "I think there is a lot at stake, not only when it comes to the reception of refugees, but also the entire problem of the large numbers on the move," Colette Morel, a 69-year-old retired teacher, told AFP as she cast her ballot in the central canton of Fribourg. In the wake of the results, French far-right politician Marine Le Pen, the leader of the country's National Front party, tweeted that "Throughout Europe, the people are saying no to the flood of migration".

Opposition to EU ties

Among the SVP parliamentarians already sure to take a new seat was Magdalena Martullo-Blocher in Graubunden. She is the daughter of controversial politician Christoph Blocher, an SVP vice president who served in government from 2004-2007 before being pushed out over his extreme positions and confrontational style. SVP members also credited the party's opposition to closer ties with the EU for its advance. —AFP

MIGRANTS POUR INTO BALKANS, GERMANY BRACES FOR PROTEST

PEGIDA MOVEMENT SPEWING 'HATE AND POISON'

LJUBLJANA: Thousands of migrants kept streaming yesterday into the Balkans, where tighter border controls caused bottlenecks, as the German government braced for an anniversary rally of the xenophobic PEGIDA movement, accusing it of spewing "hate and poison".

The unprecedented refugee wave into Europe has seen asylum seekers—mostly fleeing war in Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan—traveling via Turkey, Greece and through the western Balkans, hoping to seek safe haven in Germany and other EU states. A new surge entered Macedonia from Greece at the weekend, with 10,000 crossing in just 24 hours, police said. But tensions have built further along the migrant trail after Hungary shut its borders with razor wire, diverting the flow west to Slovenia, which in turn also limited arrivals.

Yesterday Slovenia refused to let in more than 1,000 migrants arriving from Croatia, saying a daily quota had been reached. The move stoked fears of a new human bottleneck, as a train carrying 1,800 people arrived overnight on the Croatian side of the border, but only 500 of the "most vulnerable", mostly women and children, were allowed to cross, police said.

Long lines also formed on the Serbia-Croatia border, where hundreds spent the night in rain and freezing temperatures. The goal for many of the migrants has been the EU's biggest economy, Germany, which expects to take in around one million refugees this year, and where Chancellor Angela Merkel's open-door policy has sparked a dangerous backlash.

'Hate in their hearts'

Two days after a man with a neo-Nazi background stabbed a pro-refugee politician in the neck, badly wounding her, Germany's anti-refugee PEGIDA movement was planning a mass rally to mark its first anniversary. Police expect thousands to join the march of the "Patriotic Europeans Against the Islamisation of the Occident" in Dresden in the former communist East, as well as a large antifascist counter-protests, from 1600 GMT.

The movement had all but van-

ished after pictures surfaced in January showing its co-founder Lutz Bachmann sporting a Hitler moustache, but it has made a comeback since September, when Merkel opened the doors to a surge of asylum seekers. Angry protesters have accused her of "treason" and last week carried a mock gallows with Merkel's name on it.

The chancellor yesterday again urged people to "stay away from those with hate in their hearts," her spokesman said. Interior

election with an absolute majority.

The attacker, a 44-year-old unemployed man, had "a racist motivation" and said he had been active in a neo-Nazi group in the 1990s, according to police. De Maiziere said the attack had left him "speechless" and also pointed to a tripling of attacks against asylum seekers and refugee homes from last year that had left more than 40 people injured. Justice Minister Heiko Maas charged that "PEGIDA sows the hatred that breeds

migrants. While the Bavarian CSU party wants to establish "transit zones" along the Austrian border to hold and register asylum-seekers, a police union chief has called for a fence to secure the Alpine frontier.

A group of 188 of the 310 lawmakers in Merkel's conservative block has doubts about her open-border policy, and its chairman Christian von Stetten said considering "border fortifications" must "not be taboo", according to Bild daily. Merkel, hoping for Turkey's



BABSKA: Some migrants fight as others line up close to a border line between Serbia and Croatia. —AP

Minister Thomas de Maiziere said PEGIDA's organizers were "hard-core right-wing extremists" who "call asylum seekers criminals, and politicians traitors". De Maiziere implored citizens, even if they are concerned about the record migrant influx, to "stay away from those who inject this hate, this poison into our country".

Anti-foreigner sentiment motivated a bloody attack in the western city of Cologne on Saturday when a man used a hunting knife to stab independent mayoral candidate Henriette Reker, 58, who is active in helping refugees. Reker, who was seriously wounded in the neck, went on to win Sunday's

violence" and warned that "there are no excuses for those who follow gallows and Hitler beards".

Call for border fortifications

The migrant influx has boosted support for populist right-wing parties in other European countries, including Austria. A Swiss populist party known for its virulent campaigns against immigration, the EU and Islam won a record number of seats in parliamentary elections on Sunday.

In Germany, Merkel has faced a dip in opinion polls and a rebellion in her own conservative ranks, especially in the southern state of Bavaria, the main gateway for

help in slowing the migrant influx, held talks with President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in Istanbul.

The EU wants Turkey to tighten border security and house more refugees in return for billions in financial help, visa liberalization for Turkish citizens and an acceleration of its stuttering drive for EU membership. But Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu said on Monday said his country would not host migrants permanently to appease the European Union. "We cannot accept an understanding like 'give us the money and they stay in Turkey'," he said in a television interview. "Turkey is not a concentration camp." —AFP

SPAIN, US SIGN ACCORD ON NUCLEAR ACCIDENT CLEANUP

MADRID: Spain and the United States signed an agreement yesterday to further discuss the cleanup and removal of land contaminated with

radioactivity after a mid-air collision in 1966 dumped four US hydrogen bombs near the southern Spanish village of Palomares.



MADRID: US Secretary of State John Kerry and Spain's Foreign Minister Jose Manuel Garcia-Margallo talk after signing a bi-lateral agreement at the Foreign Ministry. —AFP

Under a statement of intent signed by Foreign Minister Jose Manuel Garcia-Margallo and US Secretary of State John Kerry, the two countries will negotiate a binding agreement to further restore and clear up the Palomares site and arrange for the disposal of the contaminated soil at an appropriate site in the United States.

In a joint press conference in Madrid, Margallo said the process would begin soon but gave no details. The bombs were released on Jan. 17, 1966, when a US B-52 bomber and a refueling plane crashed into each other during a routine refueling operation, killing seven of 11 crew members. There were no fatalities on the ground.

None of the bombs exploded, but the plutonium-filled detonators on two went off, scattering 7 pounds of highly radioactive plutonium 239 across the landscape around the southeastern town. The accident occurred at the height of the Cold War when it was US policy to keep nuclear-armed warplanes in the air constantly near the Soviet border.

The statement said that immediately following the accident both countries set about securing the area, removing contaminated soil and decontaminating the land. It said that they have since been monitoring and analyzing contamination levels. —AP

TEEN'S DEATH IN KASHMIR ATTACK SETS OFF PROTESTS

SRINAGAR: A general strike and curfew shut Kashmir yesterday following the death of a Muslim teenager attacked by a Hindu mob over rumors of cows being slaughtered. Hindus consider cows to be sacred, and slaughtering the animals is banned in most Indian states.

Businesses, schools and shops remained shut due to the strike called by anti-India separatists and traders to denounce the killing. State authorities canceled all university and college examinations yesterday fearing protests.

Thousands of people who attended Zahid Rasool's funeral in Botengo village in southern Kashmir shouted anti-Indian slogans demanding freedom from Indian rule.

Rasool and another truck driver were set ablaze by a mob after their vehicle stopped in the Hindu-dominated Udhampur neighborhood. A third person in the truck escaped unhurt. The injured were flown to New Delhi for treatment, but Rasool died from his burns on Sunday. Police officer Danish

Rana said nine people have been arrested in connection with Rasool's death.

Authorities laid razor wire across the main crossings and declared curfew in parts of Kashmir's capital city, Srinagar, and in nearby Anantnag town to stop protests and clashes. "Go India, go back" and "We want freedom," the crowd shouted at Rasool's funeral. Clashes also erupted in Botengo village as security forces fired tear gas to stop rock-throwing protesters from marching to the nearby main highway.

Differences have deepened within Kashmir's ruling coalition, with the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party demanding a ban on slaughtering cows and selling beef in the Muslim-majority state. A colonial-era law banned cow slaughter in Kashmir, but no one paid heed to it until a local court ordered its strict enforcement recently. Muslims resented the order and later India's Supreme Court suspended it for two months.

Since Prime Minister Narendra Modi,

a Hindu nationalist, took office last year, hard-line Hindus have been demanding that India ban beef sales. Most beef sold across India is buffalo meat. There has been outrage across India after a 50-year-old Muslim man was beaten to death by a mob last month over rumors that his family had eaten beef for dinner. Last week, a village mob in northern India beat a Muslim man to death and injured four others, accusing them of smuggling cows to be slaughtered for beef. —AP

PAKISTAN POLICE ARREST HEALER FOR BLASPHEMY

LAHORE: Pakistani police have arrested a Christian faith healer under the country's controversial blasphemy laws for having Islamic script on a sword he used to treat his clients, officials said yesterday. Naveed John was arrested in the agricultural town of Sargodha, some 175 kilometers southwest of the capital Islamabad, on October 8 after Muslim residents in the area complained, local police official Ameer Mukhtar said.

"The arrest was made after residents complained that the Christian man used a sword for healing patients on which Islamic verses were inscribed and it was offending for their religious sentiments," Mukhtar said. A case was registered against John under the blasphemy law, a section of which deals with outraging the religious feelings of citizens, he said.

The accused regarded the sword as a "sacred" item which had healing properties when placed on patients. Offenders can be imprisoned for up to 10 years under the law. Investigator Mahmood Ahmad Khan said that police had com-

pleted their investigations and submitted a court report. Blasphemy is a hugely sensitive issue in Pakistan, an Islamic republic of some 200 million, where even unproven allegations frequently stir mob violence and lynching.

Critics including European governments say the country's blasphemy laws are often misused to settle personal scores. This month the Supreme Court upheld the death sentence for Mumtaz Qadri, the killer of a politician who sought blasphemy law reform, in a historic verdict hailed by moderates as a blow against religious extremism.

The ruling prompted prison authorities to put Asia Bibi, a Christian woman on death row for blasphemy, in isolation over fears of attacks by vigilantes. Officials told AFP last week there had been "genuine" threats to the mother-of-five's life. Bibi, whose high-profile plight has prompted prayers from the Vatican, was convicted in 2010 of committing blasphemy during an argument with a Muslim woman over a bowl of water. —AFP

US F-16 HIT BY ENEMY FIRE IN RARE ATTACK

KABUL: A US F-16 was struck by enemy fire in eastern Afghanistan, military officials have confirmed to AFP, in a rare instance of an advanced fighter jet coming under a Taliban-claimed attack. The multi-million dollar jet sustained significant damage, forcing it to jettison its fuel tanks and munitions before returning to base, officials said.

The attack occurred last Tuesday in the Sayid Karam district of eastern Pakтия province, much of which is under control of the Taliban, who have been waging an insurgency against US-led NATO forces and government troops since they were forced from power in 2001. The militant group claimed they had downed the jet in a statement posted on Twitter that evening, but when contacted for comment, the US military initially said it had no "operational reporting to support the Taliban claims".

Photographs of the site obtained by AFP and seen by J. Chacko, an open-source military analyst based in London, indicated the jet had lost two "drop-tanks"—fuel tanks used to extend flight time—an air-to-ground missile, and two other unguided bombs. They also show masked militants posing with the hardware. When presented with the images, the US military confirmed in a statement to AFP late Saturday: "On October 13, a US F-16 encountered small arms fire in the Pakтия Province in Afghanistan. The surface to air fire impacted one of the aircraft's stabilizers and caused damage to one of the munitions. "The pilot jettisoned two fuel tanks and three munitions before safely returning to base. The pilot received no injuries and safely returned to base." The Taliban have shot down several military helicopters using small-arms fire, but never an F-16 — an advanced jet capable of supersonic speeds and reaching heights of 50,000 feet, which have been deployed in Afghanistan since the beginning of the US-led military in 2001.

Since the 2014 drawdown, the US Air Force has maintained one squadron of F-16s at Bagram Air Base. In April 2013, a US

F-16 crashed into a mountain near Bagram while flying low in bad weather, according to a US military investigation, and a Dutch pilot was killed when his F-16 crashed in 2006. The latest generation of the F-16 has a price tag of more than \$100 million per jet according to a deal reached with the Iraqi Air Force last year, which included spare parts and a support package.

Special Forces air support?

Tuesday's incident underscores the risks foreign forces still face at the hands of the group as Washington extends its military presence in the country beyond 2016. Chacko, as well as two other military analysts contacted by AFP, said the jet would have had to be flying very close to the ground to be struck by Taliban fire—perhaps as low as a few hundred feet.

"An F-16 would have to be flying very low altitude at close to minimum speed for it to receive actionable fire from small arms," an ex-military source said. "Small arms fire could reach a maximum height of around 1,500 metres (5,000 feet)," a third analyst said.

Niaz Mohammad Khalil, district governor of Sayid Karam, told AFP that neither US nor Afghan forces had been conducting any operation in the area that would have necessitated the use of air cover at the time of the attack. "We had no operation at the time of (the) crash, but the jet was flying very low... There were also other jets flying over the area," he said.

According to Chacko, the fact that local officials did not mention any friendly forces in the area meant the pilot was likely providing covering fire for a Special Operations Forces (SOF) team that ran into trouble. The US military declined to comment on the pilot's mission. The US military acknowledges that remaining SOF teams are still conducting on the ground missions against the Taliban and Al-Qaeda, although NATO forces officially ended their combat mission in Afghanistan at the end of 2014. — AFP



KACHIN: In this picture taken on October 4, 2015, a freshly discarded hypodermic syringe lies near drug users (back) who slept in a village near a jade mine in the township of Hpakant. —AFP

FIGHTING MYANMAR'S ADDICTION CURSE WITH STICKS AND PRAYERS

A LOOK AT NORTHERN MYANMAR'S HEROIN EPIDEMIC

KATCHO: Armed with batons and the bible, church-backed vigilantes are taking the fight against northern Myanmar's heroin epidemic into their own hands—deepening the fallout from a drugs trade already feeding conflict and corruption in the region.

On the leafy banks of the Irrawaddy river, locals from Katcho village in Kachin state tread carefully among abundant evidence of addiction-scores of syringes strewn on the pathway and piled under trees. "Young people have no future here," said a local official whose own 18-year-old grandson is hooked on heroin—which in Kachin is among the purest available anywhere in the world. Addiction has rocketed in this frontier region as Myanmar—which holds a breakthrough general election on November 8—gets hooked on its own product. The country is second largest opium producer in the world, only Afghanistan makes more.

In addition to the narcotics crisis, Katcho locals now live in fear of hardline Christian anti-drug organization, Pat Jasan, after dozens of men in combat-style uniforms recently stormed into town, wielding batons and rounding up drug suspects. Members of Pat Jasan, who are largely ethnic Kachin, allegedly beat a woman in the Shan majority town. The raid raised fears of a new layer of community tension in a state already battered by war between government forces and ethnic Kachin rebels.

'Using, injecting and dying'

Conflict in Kachin flared soon after the military handed power to a quasi-civilian government in 2011. Embattled communities believe there is a plot "to kill Kachin youths with drugs" said Tu Raw, chairman of Pat Jasan's office in the state capital Myitkyina.

"People are using, injecting and dying," he told AFP, adding two thirds of his childhood friends had died after becoming hooked on heroin. The group was founded last year by the powerful Kachin Baptist Church to deliver shock therapy to the drug-addled region. It now claims 100,000 members and recently began full-scale village raids involving several hundred people wearing camouflage jackets and brandishing bamboo batons. Tu Raw admitted some Pat Jasan chapters rely on public floggings to punish offenders before taking them to faith-based rehab or the police. But for Pat Jasan the ends justifies the means.

Their work is fanning out, with YouTube videos doing the rounds of camo-clad men scything down opium plants. In Hpakant, a six hour drive from the state capital, Pat Jasan member Du Lum says drug suspects have two choices: punishment by the police or the group's "drug destruction team." "Everyone including government knows they are our rules. We destroy drugs by either dissolving them into water or burning them, and punish men with five lashings," he said.

Easy prey

Kachin's heroin crisis centers on Hpakant, a moonscape of environmental destruction which is also at the heart of a multi-billion dollar jade mining industry. Miners, trapped between hope of finding a valuable slab of jade and despair at the bleak conditions of their perilous work, are easy prey for addiction.

Naw San, who has been in Hpakant for 26 years, shoots heroin three times a day. "I use it and then go out to work," he told AFP, before dipping a needle into a vein to extract blood, watching it swirl with the heroin in his syringe and pumping it back into his arm. The drug has a purity of up to 85 percent here, compared to a maximum 30 percent on the streets of Europe. "So you've got the best quali-

ty heroin in the world," said Willy De Maere, of Asian Harm Reduction Network, which supports government methadone programs and runs needle exchanges in Hpakant.

Around a fifth of Myanmar's 80,000 injecting drug users have HIV. In Hpakant that rises to nearly 40 percent. Aid workers said "shooting galleries" had started to reduce the infection rate with 97 percent of used needles exchanged for clean ones. But pressure from communities fearful that they were encouraging drug use saw many closed, pushing addicts underground. With only around half of needles now being returned, HIV is on the rise again.

Taking a cut

Myanmar's drug trade should be a priority for the government that followings crucial November elections, a Western diplomat told AFP, adding it could "destroy this country from below". Narcotics production has long funded war in Myanmar, with both ethnic armed groups and the Myanmar army involved in the trade in war-torn Shan state near

the "Golden Triangle" frontier with China.

Impoverished farmers in northern Myanmar have few viable alternatives to growing opium. The drug is valued in local culture, passed around at weddings and used as a painkiller. Yet the drug crisis was not given prominence when opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi took her election campaign to Kachin earlier this month. Myanmar was overtaken by Afghanistan as the world's largest opium producer in the early 2000s. But poppy cultivation has doubled since 2006, while cartels now also churn out millions of methamphetamine tablets. Illicit profits flow easily in the graft-soaked nation. Tom Kramer of advocacy group Transnational Institute said Myanmar's army was "stimulating the drugs trade rather than decreasing it", by backing militia groups in Shan state involved in heroin and amphetamine. "In Shan State but also in Yangon many new houses are going up. It is likely that this is partly funded by drug money," said Kramer. It is "impossible to buy these cars and these houses" on official salaries, he added. —AFP



NEW DELHI: Jammu and Kashmir lawmaker Abdul Rashid Sheikh, (left) reacts after suspected activists of a right-wing organization threw ink on his face after he addressed a press conference yesterday. According to local reports Rashid had been protesting against the death of a Muslim teenager attacked by a Hindu mob over rumors of cows being slaughtered. — AFP

BJP OFFICIALS REBUKED FOR BEEF LYNCHING REACTION

NEW DELHI: The head of India's ruling Hindu nationalists has reprimanded some of the party's senior figures for their controversial reaction to the lynching of a Muslim accused of eating beef, reports said yesterday.

Amit Shah, president of the Bharatiya Janata Party, imposed a "gag order" on the officials following accusations that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had failed to distance himself from their comments, the reports said. The group included the chief minister of the northern state of Haryana, Manohar Lal Khattar, who was quoted last week as saying that India's minority Muslims should stop eating beef out of respect to Hindus.

Another of those to be slapped down was the lawmaker Sakshi Maharaj who recently demanded the introduction of a new law with a provision for death penalty against anyone who slaughters cows—considered sacred by Hindus. The Hindu

newspaper said that the "motormouths" had been ordered "to stop making controversial remarks" while The Indian Express said Modi himself had been annoyed that the backlash over their comments was proving a distraction in the ongoing elections in the state of Bihar.

While it is not illegal to eat beef in India, cow slaughter is illegal in a number of states and the issue has become a hot topic since Modi's party won a landslide general election victory last year. The murder last month of Mohammad Akhlaq, who was dragged from his home near Delhi and beaten to death over unsubstantiated rumors he had eaten beef, has fuelled accusations the BJP is failing to protect minorities. And while Modi did eventually condemn the lynching as "unfortunate", many commentators pointed out that it took the prime minister—who is a prolific user of Twitter—several weeks to respond to the murder. —AFP



PAKTIA: In this photograph taken on October 13, 2015, Afghan Taliban militants gather around parts of a US F-16 aircraft that was struck over in Sayid Karam district. — AFP

INDONESIA FIRES CAN'T BE PUT OUT, WARNS MINISTER

KUALA LUMPUR: International efforts to douse raging Indonesia fires will fail and Southeast Asia could face several more weeks of choking smoke until the rainy season starts, Malaysia's environment minister warned yesterday.

Facing growing pressure, Indonesia earlier this month agreed to accept international help after failing for weeks to douse the fires from slash-and-burn farming that have shrouded angry neighbors Malaysia and Singapore in smoke for weeks. But Malaysia was forced once again to close schools in several areas yesterday due to unhealthy air, and Natural Resources and Environment Minister Wan

Junaidi Tuanku Jaafar said the crisis could continue for another month.

"Unless there is rain, there is no way human intervention can put out the fires," he told AFP on the sidelines of Malaysia's parliament session, warning that the blazes were spread across "huge areas" of Indonesia. Even the multi-nation effort now under way "is not enough to put out the fires," he added.

"We hope the rains will come in mid-November. It will be able to put out the fires," Wan Junaidi said. On Friday, Indonesia launched its biggest fire-fighting assault yet, with dozens of planes and thousands of troops battling the illegally

started agricultural and forest fires in its territory on the huge islands of Sumatra and Borneo.

Health alerts

Thirty-two planes and helicopters including six aircraft from Singapore, Malaysia and Australia were deployed to back up more than 22,000 personnel on the ground. The fires and resulting region-wide haze are an annual dry-season problem, but experts warn the current outbreak is on track to become the worst ever, exacerbated by tinder-dry conditions from the El Nino weather phenomenon.

The acrid air has sparked health

alerts, sent thousands to hospitals for respiratory problems, and caused the cancellation of scores of flights and some major international events across the region. Indonesian National Disaster Management Agency spokesman Sutopo Purwo Nugroho also offered sobering comments yesterday, saying the fires were "yet to be overcome."

Sutopo said satellite data indicated Indonesia now had more than 1,500 "hotspots", which are loosely defined as areas where fires are either burning or where conditions are ripe for blazes to break out. "The actual number is higher as the satellite is not able to penetrate

the thickness of the haze in Sumatra and (Borneo)," he added.

Malaysia enjoyed a brief spell of lowered haze last week, but the government—which has repeatedly ordered school closures across wide areas as a health precaution—did so again yesterday as skies once again reverted to the now-familiar soupy gray. Schools were closed in several states and in the capital Kuala Lumpur as pollution levels climbed well into the "unhealthy" range under the government's rating system. Air quality in Singapore, however, improved yesterday after entering "unhealthy" levels over the weekend. —AFP



HONG KONG: Demonstrators shout slogans in support of the city's police force outside a court of justice. —AFP

HK POLICE BAILED OVER ATTACK ON PROTESTER

HONG KONG: Seven Hong Kong police officers appeared in court yesterday, charged with assaulting a pro-democracy protester in a beating captured on video and beamed around the world. Some of them wore dark glasses and surgical masks as they entered the court, while around 50 supporters gathered outside waving Chinese flags and shouting: "Support police" and "Democrats will be doomed."

The courtroom was packed with both pro-democracy and pro-government supporters, reflecting the deeply divisive case. Footage of the attack on Civic Party activist Ken Tsang a year ago was broadcast globally at the height of mass protests seeking free leadership elections in Hong Kong. The seven police, who include senior officers, are charged with causing grievous bodily harm with intent.

One also faces an allegation of common assault on Tsang which the justice department said happened in an interview room after his arrest. All were released on HK\$1,000 (\$130) bail at Eastern Magistrates' court and are due to appear again on November 17. In a twist to the case Tsang was also last week charged with assault-on the same day the seven officers were charged.

Authorities say he "splashed liquid" on officers-not those accused of subsequently attacking him-and resisted arrest. Tsang, 40, appeared in court after the seven accused officers Monday. He was also released on bail and his case adjourned to December 9. "I will face this bravely and seek justice," he said outside court, surrounded by supporters holding yellow

umbrellas-the symbol of the city's pro-democracy movement.

'Atmosphere of anxiety'

Tsang and his legal team have questioned why the assault and obstruction charges have been brought against him a year later, and have accused authorities of trying to deflect attention from the case against the officers. Amnesty International said yesterday the "unduly long" process of Tsang's prosecution had created an "atmosphere of anxiety" among political activists.

"The authorities elected to arrest Ken Tsang on the very day the prosecution against his abusers became public knowledge, without giving any good reasons why," director of Amnesty International Hong Kong, Mabel Au, said in a statement. "The government is trying to draw attention away from this important case of police accountability through what many see as the politically-motivated timing of Ken Tsang's simultaneous arrest and prosecution," Au added.

Hong Kong was returned to China in 1997 under a "one country, two systems" agreement and enjoys much greater freedoms than on the mainland, but there are fears those freedoms are being eroded. Pro-democracy protesters blocked several main roads for 79 days late last year, but won no political concessions from either the Hong Kong or Beijing governments. Several protesters have been arrested since their camps were cleared in December, leaving a social and political schism between their supporters and those loyal to the mainland. —AFP

TYPHOON KOPPU KILLS AT LEAST 16, THOUSANDS STILL LEFT STRANDED

'THE WORST FLOOD I'VE SEEN IN MY ENTIRE LIFE'

SANTA ROSA: Residents of flooded farming villages in the Philippines were trapped on their rooftops yesterday and animals floated down fast-rising rivers, as the death toll from Typhoon Koppu climbed to 16. Koppu, the second strongest storm to hit the disaster-plagued Southeast Asian archipelago this year, had also forced more than 60,000 people from their homes, authorities said.

After making landfall on Sunday morning on the east coast of Luzon, the Philippines' biggest island, the slow-moving typhoon brought heavy rain to some of the nation's most important farming areas. "I've never seen anything like this. It's the worst flood I've seen in my entire life," farmer Reynaldo Ramos, 68, told AFP as he walked through knee-deep water in Santa Rosa, about two hours' drive north of Manila.

Military, government and volunteer rescue units equipped with rubber boats were trying to help residents in dozens of flooded villages, according to Nigel Lontoc, a regional rescue official. "The floods are rising fast and some people are now on their rooftops," Lontoc told AFP, but added there were not enough rescuers and he did not know how many have been saved.

Lontoc said many thousands of people may be stranded in those villages, although it was too early to determine an exact number. Authorities confirmed at least 16 people had died because of the storm, and the death toll was expected to rise as full accounts from badly hit villages were gathered. The storm is also forecast to continue dumping heavy rains across the Philippines until tomorrow.

Huddling on high ground

In Santa Rosa, water buffalo, pigs, goats, dogs, washing machines and furniture lined the sides of a storm-tossed highway, where about 200 residents had

been seeking refuge from the floods since Sunday night.

Jun Paddayuman, 27, in shorts and a white singlet caked with mud up to his chest, pointed to his nearby house, where flood waters had risen to the roof. "The waters arrived suddenly. We did not expect it at all," he told AFP. When the waters first appeared in his

water throughout the towns and villages north of Manila because of runoff from torrential rain unleashed by Koppu on nearby mountain ranges.

Koppu initially hit fishing and farming communities on the east coast of Luzon with winds of 210 kilometres an hour, making it the Philippines' second most powerful

them deadly. The most powerful storm ever recorded on land, Super Typhoon Haiyan, hit the Philippines in 2013, killing or leaving missing at least 7,350 people. In the deadliest single incident related to Koppu, seven passengers aboard a small ferry were killed when it capsized in rough seas off the central island of Guimaras on Sunday.



BARANGAY CAMANUTAN, Philippines: A farmer rides his water buffalo to higher ground in Isabela province north of Manila yesterday, a day after typhoon Koppu hit Aurora province. —AFP

house, Paddayuman said he waded to the highway, helping his eight-months pregnant wife and three-year-old son to safety.

He added he had seen geese, chicken and dogs being carried off by the rampaging waters. Nearby, two men pushed pigs placed on top of truck tyre inner tubes through chest-deep floods in a valiant attempt to save their hog farm. Wide expanses of rice paddies had disappeared under torrents of

storm of the year. By early evening yesterday, it was on the far northwest coast of Luzon and nearly out into the South China Sea, with its strongest winds weakening to 150 kilometers an hour, the state weather service said. But Koppu was still dumping heavy rain and it was forecast to cut back northeast over Luzon and not leave the country until tomorrow.

The Philippines is hit with about 20 major storms a year, many of

Although the accident occurred more than 500 kilometers from the direct path of the typhoon, local authorities said the storm exacerbated seasonal monsoon conditions. Three people were confirmed killed in Aurora province, where the storm made landfall, and four in the farming regions just north of Manila. Most of those fatalities were due to drowning or being struck by fallen trees or other objects. —AFP

KOREAN FAMILIES GATHER FOR RARE NORTH-SOUTH REUNION

SOKCHO: Almost 400 South Koreans—many of them elderly, some in wheelchairs, all in a state of nervous anticipation—gathered yesterday before crossing into North Korea for a rare and emotional reunion with separated family members.

The reunion beginning Tuesday in the North Korean resort of Mount Kumgang will be only the second in the past five years-the result of an agreement the two Koreas reached in August to ease tensions that had pushed them to the brink of armed conflict. Millions of people were displaced by the sweep of the 1950-53 Korean War, which saw the frontline yo-yo from the south of the Korean peninsula to the northern border with China and back again. The chaos and devastation separated brothers and sisters, parents and children, husbands and wives.

"We were separated at the beginning of the war when I was just nine years old," Choi Kum-Sun, 75,

said of her elder brother in the North. "I had no idea that he was still alive, but then I got the notification that he wanted to see me. I still can't believe it," she wept. Like a significant number of the elderly or infirm participants, Choi was in a wheelchair. She told AFP she had packed clothes, food and US\$1,000 in cash to take as a gift.

Because the conflict ended with an armistice rather than a peace treaty, the two Koreas technically remain at war and direct exchanges of letters or telephone calls are banned. The reunion program began in earnest after a historic North-South summit in 2000, but the numbers clamoring for a chance to take part have always far outstripped those actually selected. The 394 people gathered in Sokcho city on South Korea's northeast coast were called to the reunion by 100 North Koreans chosen to take part in the event.

Six decades of separation

All were to spend the night in a local resort before an early start to the heavily-fortified border nearby and then on to Mount Kumgang. Over the next three days, they will sit down with their North Korean relatives six times-both in private and in public.

With more than 65,000 South Koreans currently on the waiting list for a reunion spot, they represent the lucky few, although the event itself is very bitter-sweet. Each interaction only lasts two hours, meaning the family members have a total of just 12 hours to mitigate the trauma of more than six decades of separation.

And for those in their 80 and 90s, the final farewell on Thursday after three days is tainted by the near-certainty that there will never be another meeting.

"I have mixed feelings," said 90-year-old Hong Rok-Ja who, together with her sister, was going to meet her brother who had gone missing in 1950. "Of course I want to see him, but I'm so worried I won't recognize him or that I'll be too excited to say anything," Hong said. "There is so much I want to know," she added.

Kim Nyun-O, 85, confessed to being so over-excited that she had to take a mild sedative in the morning before travelling to Sokcho. She came with her three sisters for a meeting with their brother who had been drafted into the North Korean army in 1951. "We were so shocked to find out he was still alive. Shocked but incredibly happy," Kim said.

After arriving at the resort in Sokcho, the family members were given an "orientation session" by South Korean officials to prepare them for the next three days. Pyongyang has a lengthy track record of manipulating the divided families' issue for political purposes, refusing proposals for regular reunions and cancelling scheduled events at the last minute over some perceived slight.

After the last reunion, in February 2012, some South Koreans complained that their Northern relatives had felt obliged to deliver lengthy political sermons parroting Pyongyang's official propaganda. Others said they seemed more interested in what gifts the South Koreans had brought than in talking about their family history or catching up with the last 60 years. —AFP



SOKCHO: A South Korean woman chosen to attend a family reunion event in North Korea is checked by medical staff after arriving at a hotel used as a gathering point, near the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ). —AFP

CHINA'S PRESIDENT SET FOR BUSY BRITAIN TRIP

LONDON: Chinese President Xi Jinping is set to begin a four-day state visit to Britain today as part of a push to increase trade ties between the two countries. Xi and his wife Peng Liyuan will be hosted at Buckingham Palace by Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip and also receive an elaborate formal welcome and a carriage ride to the palace today.

Prime Minister David Cameron told Chinese Central Television the visit heralds a "golden era" between the two countries. "It's a real opportunity to deepen our relationship and I'm delighted President Xi is spending so much time here," Cameron said, adding that Chinese investment in major British infrastructure projects is generating jobs in Britain.

The elaborately choreographed visit will also include a trip to the Manchester City football training grounds and a possible unscripted side trip to a pub to dine on that English classic, fish and chips. The Chinese president plans to address both houses

of Parliament today before an elaborate state banquet at the palace.

Protests are expected throughout Xi's visit, which is scheduled to end Friday. British opposition leader Jeremy Corbyn has indicated a desire to discuss human rights with Xi when they meet at a palace banquet, but Chinese officials say they would be surprised if he raises the issue. Prominent Chinese dissident Ai Weiwei, a frequent critic of Chinese policies, is having a major exhibit of his works close to the palace at the Royal Academy of Arts.

The visit has a serious agenda as both governments are anxious to strengthen business ties despite wide differences over human rights policy. It follows a high profile visit to China by Treasury chief George Osborne, who seeks more Chinese investment. The two governments are already cooperating on nuclear power development, with China making a major investment in a new plant in southeast England. Prince William, who recently made an official visit to China. —AP



An Iranian woman walks past a mural on a street in the northwest of the capital Tehran yesterday. US President Barack Obama ordered the US government to take steps towards lifting sanctions on Iran, in line with the nuclear deal struck between world powers and Tehran in July. — AFP

CABINET DECIDES KUWAIT WON'T HOST...

Continued from Page 1

competitions, and how the move was "arbitrary and hasty". It entails banning national teams and clubs from international competitions. Sheikh Salman informed the Cabinet about the procedures to be taken to resolve the crisis, in line with Kuwait's sovereignty and legal and constitutional system. The minister suggested that after the FIFA move, Kuwait would not host the 23rd Gulf Cup of Nations, and the suggestion got the Cabinet's approval.

The ministers had reviewed all the relevant regretful developments, their reasons and implications. The Cabinet expressed deep regret over the decision that might cause harm to Kuwait's reputation as a country well-known for its full compliance with international institutions and respect of laws and charters. The Cabinet tasked the Public Authority for Youth and Sports (PAYS) with taking the proper procedures to counter all forms of deviation in the sports scene and achieve the aspired reforms in its various institutions in line with directives of HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-

Jaber Al-Sabah and HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

The meeting highly appreciated the sincere efforts by Sheikh Salman and PAYS, and stressed the necessity of keeping them up to realize the aspired national goals. The ministers lauded efforts by the National Assembly represented by the two MPs who took part in defending Kuwait's international reputation in Lausanne. They highlighted the national stance by the Kuwaiti clubs that rejected the FIFA decision, reiterating that Kuwait's sports laws are in line with international charters.

Meanwhile, Turaiji said yesterday that lawmakers will demand a special debate on the sports issue in the country. Turaiji and several other MPs accused the leadership of KFA of being responsible for plotting the suspension and called on the government to dissolve its board of directors. He said that 11 of the 14 sports clubs in the country have decided to send a letter to FIFA stating that the government does not interfere in sports institutions and the law governing sports is sufficient. — Agencies

DEVELOPING NATIONS CRY FOUL, CLIMATE TALKS TEETER

BONN: Developing nations accused rich ones at crunch climate talks yesterday of sidelining their interests, even as France's president and the White House stepped up efforts to seal a global deal. UN chief Ban Ki-moon said the 195-nation negotiations in Bonn were "frustrating" and "slow". "We don't have any 'plan B' because we don't have any 'planet B'", he told journalists in the Slovak capital Bratislava. In Paris, French president Francois Hollande affirmed: "there will be a deal" coming out of the November 30-December 11 climate summit in the French capital, but cautioned against a hollow result. "The question is at what level the agreement will be reached, and whether we will be able to revise it regularly," he said. "That's what is at stake."

The White House hailed a pledge by dozens of major US companies - whose CEOs were to meet with President Barack Obama yesterday - to back the climate accord and step up their own emissions reduction efforts. In Bonn, however, talks took a detour when a bloc of more than 130 developing nations - including China and India - rejected a slimmed-down, draft agreement prepared for their five-day parlay, the last before the Paris summit.

The text, slashed from 80 to 20 pages by a pair of US and Algerian diplomats leading the process, left out redline demands on finance and fairness, they complained. The text as it stands "is extremely unbalanced and lopsided," South Africa's climate envoy Nozipho Mxakato-Diseko told an opening session, and "jeopardizes the interests and positions of developing countries". Diseko likened developed countries' stance to "apartheid" and the disenfranchisement of blacks by South Africa's racist regime.

Scientists say national carbon-curbing pledges submitted by more than 150 nations so far will not reach the UN-backed goal of preventing global temperatures from rising by more than two degrees Celsius. As a result, many nations, NGOs and observers demand the Paris deal must include provisions for regularly

ramping up ambition. These Intended Nationally Determined Contributions, or INDCs, will be a pillar of the Paris agreement, due to enter into force in 2020. Developing nations were also up in arms about the lack of assurances on financial aid.

Rich countries have pledged to cough up \$100 billion per year from 2020 to boost carbon reduction efforts and help vulnerable states brace for impacts ranging from drought and superstorms to food shortages. But so far, the wording has remained vague on where the money will come from, the split between grants or loans, and how much will earmarked for boosting resilience. The new draft "completely ignored the submissions of G77 on finance," said Gurdial Singh Nijar, a spokesman for the Like-Minded Developing Countries (LMDC) group, which falls within the G77.

'The World is Looking'

The five-day huddle in Bonn offers the last chance for rank-and-file negotiators to barter on the wording of the pact meant to crown more than two decades of fractious negotiations. The draft that emerges will be taken in hand by ministers and heads of state for the hard political compromises that will be required to seal a deal in Paris. "The whole world is looking at us," Peru's Environment Minister Manuel Pulgar Vidal told negotiators. "The (Paris) agreement must launch the transformation of our economies toward a low carbon and resilient... society."

Rather than revising the draft agreement, as scheduled, diplomats spent yesterday re-submitting paragraphs and pages into the streamlined document, intended as a basis for political decision-makers in Paris. The climate pact would be the first signed by all the world's nations. The global thermometer has already gone up by 0.8 C since the mid-19th century, and US government scientists have said 2015 is likely to overtake 2014 as the hottest year on record. Based on emissions-curling pledges so far, the planet is on course for warming of around 3 C, say analysts. — AFP

RIGHTS SOCIETY CONDEMNS BIAS AGAINST EXPATS

Continued from Page 1

It said that the decisions will tarnish the image of Kuwait which was selected by the United Nations as a humanitarian center and it is "shameful and illogical for Kuwait to provide aid to all countries and still prevent expatriates living here from public services". The decisions will also "strengthen the culture of hatred against immigrant workers", it added.

Expatriate patients receiving kidney dialysis at public hospitals were informed that they will no longer receive the service free of charge and will have to start paying KD 25 per session starting Oct 25. Some kidney failure patients are required to have two or three dialysis sessions per week, which means each patient will have to pay between KD 200 to 300 monthly, a huge burden for the overwhelming majority of expats.

News about plans to reserve Jaber Hospital, the largest public hospital with around 1,100 beds, only for Kuwaitis, stirred a heated debate on social media, with many Kuwaitis condemning the move as racist. According to latest official figures, Kuwait's population hit 4.2 million with

2.9 million expatriates and 1.3 million Kuwaitis. Kuwait applies similar restrictions against expats in other areas like imposing stringent conditions on them to obtain a driver's licence. Fellow Gulf states Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates totally bar expatriates from medical treatment at public hospitals except in emergencies.

In another development, the appeals court yesterday set Nov 3 to look into the citizenship issue of former Islamist MP Abdullah Al-Barghash, a day after a judge at the same court recused himself from ruling on the case. The lower court had ruled that the government decision to revoke the citizenship of Barghash and his family was against the law and ordered authorities to give them back their nationality. The government challenged the decision in the appeals court, insisting that court has no power over nationality matters because they are sovereign issues. Separately, Shiite MP Abdulhameed Dashti charged yesterday that a plot is being hatched to exclude him from the membership of all National Assembly committees. The committees will be elected by a secret ballot on the first day of the new Assembly term on Oct 27.



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Kuwait Times
THE LEADING INDEPENDENT
DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF
ESTABLISHED 1961

Founder and Publisher
YOUSUF S. AL-ALYAN

Editor-in-Chief
ABD AL-RAHMAN AL-ALYAN

EDITORIAL : 24833199-24833358-24833432
ADVERTISING : 24835616/7
FAX : 24835620/1
CIRCULATION : 24833199 Extn. 163
ACCOUNTS : 24835619
COMMERCIAL : 24835618
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Focus

NETWORK HELPING AFRICANS SEEKING WORK, ADVENTURE

By Keiran Guilbert

Torn between staying at home in Nigeria to help his widowed mother or setting off to find work to fund an engineering course, teenager James Boyon was undecided until he met a group of like-minded peers. They helped Boyon to make money selling sewing materials to tailors in his village - enabling him to both support his mother and fulfil his ambition of becoming an engineer - and introduced him to a network of young people that stretches across Africa.

Ten years on and Boyon now works for the organisation - the African Movement of Working Children and Youth (AMWCY) - which helps young Africans who work, travel and migrate within the continent, offering advice, contacts and vocational training. "The group helped me to find my way in life. It tells youths about others' experiences to help them decide where to go, what to do, and how they can achieve their goals," 26-year-old Boyon told the Thomson Reuters Foundation at the AMWCY's Dakar office. While the plight of African migrants struggling to reach Europe, alongside thousands fleeing violence in the Middle East, has stirred international concern, the vast majority of Africans who leave their home countries remain on the continent. Some escape conflict, others flee political unrest and persecution, but many, especially young people, are encouraged by families to leave home in order to gain an education, learn a skill or trade and earn money to send home, according to Boyon. "If you don't go, you are seen as useless, or a loser," said the AMWCY child protection officer, chuckling to his colleagues.

From Mauritania to Madagascar

The network, which was founded in 1994 in Ivory Coast and receives funding from United Nations and aid agencies, counts more than 270,000 active members across 27 countries, reaching from Mauritania to Madagascar. "We refer to AMWCY as the missing pillar - because they are a grassroots organisation, they know what is happening on the ground and they listen to and understand young people," said Plan International regional media specialist Florence Cissé.

The AMWCY is not just limited to capitals and major cities - it has members and volunteers in villages, towns and regions where young people tend to migrate from, and promotes itself via word of mouth, newsletters, social media and radio shows. For those planning to move, the organisation makes them aware of the potential dangers they may encounter, warns them against trying to travel too far, and stays in touch with the young migrants during their journeys through texts and calls.

The group also offers vocational training and the chance to learn a profession, ranging from hairdressing and soap making to carpentry and even comicbook design, or start a small business, by providing loans and encouraging youths to work together. Having left school at the age of 10 to support her family, Awa was selling seashells on the beach in Dakar when she was introduced to the network, which helped to bring together youths in her area. With the support of the AMWCY, they learned to sew, received French lessons and literacy classes to improve their reading and writing, and were taught about sexual and reproductive health. "Just because you haven't been to school or university, you shouldn't just cross your arms, stay idle or let your head drop... you can make something happen and share your experience with others," she told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. "We (young workers) are not intellectuals, but we are very intelligent."

'Chain of Solidarity'

Across the continent, West Africa had the largest concentration and number of migrants as of 2009, around 8.4 million people, according to the latest figures from the International Organization for Migration (IOM). The 15-member Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) allows people to move openly between member states, giving young Africans the freedom to live, study and work across borders.

While the majority of young people the AMWCY work with tend to move within Africa, some find the allure of life in Europe too hard to resist, said Aimé Bada, who runs the organisation's vocational training programs. "We never say: 'You shouldn't go, don't move.' "But we always tell young people to think about where they are going and to ensure they have contacts there... they should have different options and avenues to help them survive."

With European Union and African heads of state due to meet in Malta next month to discuss the migration crisis, the lack of economic possibilities in Africa must be addressed or the number of people trying to reach Europe will increase, experts say. "Raising awareness is often discussed, but informing migrants of the challenges and dangers of heading to Europe is useless if you do not offer any alternatives," IOM Senegal head of office Jo-Lind Roberts told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. —Reuters



SYRIAN FORCES STRUGGLE DESPITE RUSSIAN HELP

By Rouba El-Husseini

Devastated by years of fighting, Syria's battle-weary armed forces are struggling to make significant gains despite intense Russian air support for a series of new offensives. Nearly three weeks of air strikes have given Bashar al-Assad's regime and his forces a morale boost, analysts say, but so far the effect on the ground has been negligible. Still, military sources in Damascus say it will take time for the regime to regain ground and are confident of a turnaround.

A longtime ally of Damascus, Russia escalated its support in late September with an air campaign aimed at bolstering regime positions and backing ground operations by Syrian government troops. It has so far carried out more than 500 air strikes. Joined by fighters from Lebanon's Shiite Hezbollah movement and Iran's elite Quds force, Syria's army has in the last two weeks launched ground assaults in Aleppo in the north, Hama and Homs in the centre, Latakia along the coast and outside Damascus.

The army has made small gains, seizing some villages in Aleppo, Homs and Hama. But it has yet to regain control over any key sites or supply routes and a major advance launched in Aleppo on Saturday - and boosted by a reported 2,000 Iranian and Iran-backed fighters - seems to have stalled. "The air support from Russia by itself is not

enough to tip the balance in the favour of the regime, especially since there are so many gaps and weak spots in the Syrian army's ground forces," said Yezid Sayigh at the Carnegie Middle East Centre. The Syrian army's 300,000-strong pre-war force has been roughly halved by deaths, defections and widespread draft-dodging.

'Minimal' Effect

According to a recent toll by the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a Britain-based monitor, more than 52,000 regime soldiers have been killed since Syria's conflict began in 2011. The regime is also running short of sophisticated weaponry, experts said. "The Syrian air force had used up nearly all of its ammunition and missiles provided by Russia and was left only with locally-made barrel bombs," a regional military expert previously based in Syria said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

For the moment, Russia's intervention has certainly "restored the morale" of Syria's army, but not done much else, Sayigh said. Since it began strikes on Sept 30, Moscow has said it is targeting the Islamic State jihadist group and other "terrorists," while rebels and their international backers accuse Russia of striking non-IS groups in a bid to prop up Assad.

Although Russia's involvement was received with much fanfare, "changes on the ground are rather minimal," said Karim

Bitar of the Paris-based Institute for International and Strategic Relations. "Militarily, the Russians are mostly trying to preserve the status quo and to make sure territories currently controlled by the Syrian regime remain under Assad's firm hand," Bitar said. After more than four years of fighting that has left more than 250,000 dead, Assad's regime is in control of about 30 percent of Syrian territory. "At this stage, the Russians are not willing to reconquer territory that has already been lost" by stepping up the intervention with ground troops or even more intense strikes, Bitar said.

One of the priority areas is Latakia province, the coastal heartland of Assad's regime and his Alawite sect, an offshoot of Shiite Islam. Latakia has come under attack from a powerful coalition of opposition forces, including Al-Qaeda affiliate Al-Nusra Front, seeking to advance from the strategic Sahl al-Ghab plain at the intersection of Hama, Latakia and Idlib provinces.

'Slow Progress Logical'

For Damascus, keeping Latakia safe means securing Sahl Al-Ghab and the nearby supply routes that link the coast to the capital, Sayigh told AFP. The fighting for the plain and surrounding provinces has been intense, especially as the rebels are entrenched and well-armed - in some cases with US-made TOW missiles provided by

Washington to moderate fighters.

"Regime forces suffered heavy losses in manpower and materiel in the face of heavy rebel resistance," Chris Kozak of the Washington-based Institute for the Study of War wrote in an analysis of recent fighting. "The Syrian regime has not gained much terrain in the first week of its large-scale ground offensive against rebel forces, despite support from intensified Russian airstrikes and hundreds of Iranian proxy reinforcements," Kozak said. The offensives could even backfire, he said, noting that "heavy casualties may leave pro-regime forces vulnerable to a counter-attack by Syrian rebels."

Still, others say it is too soon to discount the ongoing offensives. A Syrian military source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the regime and its allies are prepared for a drawn-out fight. "The ongoing operation in Hama province, for example, will need 90 days to achieve significant gains," he said.

Alwalid Sukkari, a Lebanese military expert and Hezbollah-affiliated member of Lebanon's parliament, agreed. "Just over two weeks have passed (since Russia's intervention began), and the Syrian army is facing the full force of the armed factions, so the slow progress of the operations is logical in this initial phase," Sukkari said. "We must wait until the fighting groups get weaker to talk about speedier progress." —AFP

Washington Watch

THE DEBATE WE HAVE, THE DEBATE WE NEED

By Dr James J Zogby

Since the end of the Vietnam War, every US president has been consumed with and defined by events in the Middle East. During all this time, we spent more money, sent more troops, fought more wars, lost more lives, and expended more political capital in that region than anywhere else in the world. And yet despite this, we continue to suffer from two disturbing maladies: a profound ignorance or, in some instances, a willful ignorance about the Middle East and its peoples, and a failure to engage in reasoned discourse about how we can constructively engage a range of critical problems we face across that region.

I have been following presidential debates for decades now, hoping against hope that either the candidates or the media personalities who question them would provoke a serious discussion about key Middle East issues. Most often, I am disappointed since these matters are either ignored or addressed in glib generalities, which describes perfectly how they were handled in first two Republican debates. When foreign policy was discussed at all, it was limited to either exaggerated expressions of love for Israel or contempt for Barack Obama's "weakness" and what was mistakenly referred to as "his" Iran deal.

Carly Fiorina, for example, pledged that "on day one in the Oval Office, [her first phone call will be] to my good friend Bibi to reassure him that we will stand with the State of Israel", while Ted Cruz promised "to cancel the Iran deal and move the US Embassy in Israel to Jerusalem". Others denounced President Obama's "weakness" and pledged their support for a tougher approach in Syria, with Jeb Bush holding up as an example his brother's "forceful" response to the terrorist attacks on 9/11, which he bizarrely claimed had made America safer and more respected in the world.

While the two GOP debates were disturbing and empty, this week's Democratic presidential debate

was a bit more promising, featuring a significant discussion as to whether the use of force by the US in Iraq, Syria, and Libya was warranted and effective. Four of the Democratic contenders vigorously challenged Hillary Clinton's full-throated support of and vote for George Bush's war in Iraq. Bernie Sanders went so far as to refer to the Iraq war as "the worst foreign policy blunder in the history of this country", with Lincoln Chafee asking whether Clinton's vote for the war called into question her judgment and her fitness to serve as Commander in Chief. Questions were also raised about the role Clinton played in encouraging Obama to use military force in Libya, and her support for US air power to create no-fly "safe zones" in Syria.

These substantive challenges were grounded in an understanding shared by most Democrats that the war in Iraq had been a devastating failure - based on a lie and resulting in regional instability, an emboldened Iran, a weakening of the US military, and a tarnished US image.

As encouraging as these thoughtful challenges were, I was troubled by Clinton's hollow responses and the fact that they went unchallenged by the mainstream media. For example, she dismissed the charge that she had failed to demonstrate good judgment in Iraq, glibly suggesting that when Obama appointed her as Secretary of State, he had, in effect, absolved her of bad judgment. She defended her role in Libya calling it "smart power at its best" and claiming that it resulted in "free elections" in which "moderates" won with the hope of creating a democracy - ignoring the chaos and bloody conflict that soon followed. She also made the evidence-free claim that using military force to create no-fly "safe zones" in Syria would "get the Russians to the table" and would not, as critics charge, simply be pouring more gasoline on the Syrian fire.

The Democratic debate was a good start and I can hope for more, but fear that more may not come for three reasons. It will not come from Republicans, since party has become captive of neo-conservatives

and the Evangelical right. These movements have substituted facts with ideology. They see the world through a primitive lens of good and evil and have replaced diplomacy with the simplistic use of force. Added to this, too many Republicans have become xenophobic, demonizing Arabs and Muslims, in addition to Hispanics. Today's GOP is not the party of George HW Bush and James Baker.

Problems

But Democrats also have a problem. For too long its political leaders have ignored dealing with the uncomfortable complexities of the Middle East because it simply didn't serve any political advantage to know about Arabs and Muslims. All they had to know was that we had an "unbreakable bond with Israel". Seeing the Arab world through this lens led too many politicians to either remain ignorant of Middle East realities or, if they did know, to fail to shy away from elevating these issues into the national debate. As a result, Democrats can debate the use of military force, but are either uncomfortable with or averse to questioning Israeli policies or the treatment of Palestinians, or discussing the political dynamics that shape Arab political realities, or identifying the root causes of conflict in Syria or Iraq.

Finally there is the role played by the media and their paid commentators who are all too often mere purveyors of conventional wisdom. Because they frequently know less than the candidates they are covering, they are ill equipped to challenge them or to report on their dangerous and/or trite responses to critical foreign policy questions. As a result, while I'm pleased that we are seeing at least Democrats having a substantive discussion on the use of force in Middle East conflicts, it's still not the serious and comprehensive discussion about US policy in the Middle East we so desperately need.

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

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BOXER FIGHTING FOR LIFE

WASHINGTON: Boxer Prichard Colon was fighting for his life on Sunday after sustaining an illegal blow to the head during a bout in a Washington, D.C. suburb, the fight's promoter said.

The super welterweight from Puerto Rico was injured during his 10-round fight with Terrel Williams in Fairfax, Virginia, on Saturday, promoter Lou DiBella said in a statement.

Colon, 23, showed symptoms of head trauma in his dressing room following his bout and was rushed to the hospital where he underwent surgery to relieve pressure on his brain, DiBella said.

Colon remained in critical condition on Sunday, according to DiBella. An online video of the fight showed Williams, a 31-year-old fighter from Los Angeles, punching Colon in the back of the head in the seventh round, a shot that appeared to stun Colon, who was briefly examined in his corner. Williams was penalized for the illegal punch. Colon was then knocked down twice in the ninth round. He was disqualified after the ninth round his corner mistakenly took off his gloves, thinking it was the final round and that the fight was complete. — Reuters



KUCHAR WINS IN FIJI

SUVA: American Matt Kuchar shot his second straight 3-under 69 for a four-stroke victory Sunday in the Fiji International. The seven-time PGA Tour winner finished at 4-under 284 at Natadolo Bay in the event sanctioned by the OneAsia and Australasian tours. His father, Peter, served as his caddie.

Coming off the United States' Presidents Cup victory last week in South Korea, Kuchar had five birdies and one bogey in the final round. He opened with rounds of 74 and 72 in high wind, and took a two-stroke lead into the final round. "It was so challenging on Thursday and Friday," Kuchar said. "I felt I was surviving but played some really steady, good golf and that was a real difference - I got off to a start where most people got beat up. I was able to play it 2-over par for the first 36 and had a really steady, nice solid weekend." Australia's Aron Price was second after a 71.

Local favorite Vijay Singh shot a course-record 65 to tie for third at 1 over with New Zealand's Ryan Fox (67) and Australia's Nick Cullen (68). The 52-year-old Singh, a three-time major champion, designed the course. He opened with a 78 in the windy first round. — AP

NEGREDO LEFT OUT AGAIN

VALENCIA: Valencia coach Nuno has left Alvaro Negredo out for today's Champions League Group H match at home to Ghent, the second consecutive game the former Spain striker will not feature in.

Media reports have said Nuno is unhappy with comments Negredo made about tactics but the Portuguese underlined yesterday that the decision not to include him was "purely sporting". Negredo, 30, left Manchester City in the close season for a fee of just under 30 million euros (\$33.99 million) but has yet to reproduce the form that earned him 21 caps, with his most recent appearance for his country coming in November 2013.

He last played for Valencia in the 3-1 La Liga defeat at Athletic Bilbao on Oct. 4 and was omitted for Saturday's 3-0 victory at home to Malaga. "All the decisions we take on the squad are based solely and exclusively on sporting issues," Nuno told a news conference ahead of the clash at the Mestalla.

"We draw up the roster seeking the best for the team and for the game plan. It's a long season, there are a lot of competitions and everyone will be important." Nuno selected three forwards for Tuesday's game, Spain international Paco Alcacer, Rodrigo and Santi Mina.

Goals have been scarce for Valencia this term and they have scored only seven in eight La Liga games, eight fewer than at the same stage last season. —Reuters



THE LAST BIT OF AIR FROM 'DEFLATEGATE' LEAKS OUT

INDIANAPOLIS: We just found out what happened to the air someone took out of Tom Brady's footballs in the playoffs last January. Bill Belichick finally exhaled it.

Moments after the Patriots subdued the Colts 34-27, the New England coach let out a soft "phew" when asked whether he was satisfied with his team's balance between passes (37 attempts) and running plays (25). He looked relieved, rather than a man still bent on revenge. "We don't have a run-pass balance," Belichick said flatly. "We just try to score."

Considering the ruckus "Deflategate" kicked up, and the Colts' role as instigators in the months-long saga, the surprise is that the Patriots didn't - or couldn't - run up the score. For all the talk about getting even, they improved to 5-0 by treating the Colts no differently than any other opponent. Brady kept poking Indianapolis' porous pass defense with short throws to Julian Edelman in the opening half, then gradually expanded his reach by connecting with Rob Gronkowski and Danny Amendola on mid-range and longer throws in the second.

"It's the little things," Colts linebacker Jerrell Freeman said. "You can't give them anything, because they will take everything, everything you give them. A great team will capitalize on any little mistake."

The Colts' biggest mistake was self-inflicted, a bizarre fake-punt formation on fourth-and-3 from their own 37 while trailing 17-20 late in the third quarter. Indianapolis was whistled for an illegal formation - "I have to let the coach talk to you on that one, but we practiced it," was all safety Mike Adams would say about the play - but New England declined the penalty and four plays later, Brady hit LeGarrette Blount with an 11-yard touchdown pass.

Brady finished a respectable 23 of 37 for 312 yards, with three touchdowns and his first interception of the season, but was restrained afterward. Sporting a natty checked suit and few days' growth of beard, he twice denied saving a football and possibly two from the game as souvenirs - despite tucking one into his helmet at the end of the game.

"I didn't keep them," Brady replied. "Are they going to somebody else?" came the follow-up. "I don't know," he said. The lack

of emotion across the Patriots' locker room was in keeping with Belichick's insistence on a business-like demeanor at all times, but it might say even more about their confidence level. This season's team looks even better in the early going than last season's Super Bowl champions and even more determined not to waste much energy trading barbs or picking fights off the field.

When Edelman scored New England's opening touchdown, he thrust out his chest and appeared to scream. But asked whether there was "a little extra emotion" in the celebration, he quickly corrected the questioner, "I'm always emotional."

And so it went the rest of the night. Opponents and haters may pick at the scab of "Deflategate," but good luck getting anyone in a Patriots uniform to flinch at the mention, let alone address it.

Unfortunately, Blount didn't dress as fast as his more experienced teammates and got cornered in a nearly empty visitors locker room. But he had no problem channeling his inner Belichick every time the question was about revenge.

"We treated it just like another game. Everybody prepared for it as we would for any opponent. Everybody was ready to play this game," he said. "It doesn't matter who it is."

The second time it was asked, Blount was more, well, blunt. "Anything in the past," he replied, "was the last thing on our mind." The rest of the NFL moved on after "Spygate," or did, anyway, until "Deflategate" arrived, and this, too, shall pass if the Patriots continue unraveling defenses around the league like just so many cheap sweaters. Too many smart coaches already know what Chuck Pagano did coming into this game - you can either let the Patriots pick you apart slowly; or else big risks and as the Colts did, shoot yourself in the foot. "We didn't want to leave any bullets in the gun," Pagano said. A few minutes later, Pagano was asked whether he wished "Deflategate" had never happened.

"I don't even know what you're talking about," he replied. "The whole inflated football situation," the questioner said."It had nothing to do with the football game or anything else," he said. "That was a long time ago." Exactly. —AP



NEW YORK: Chicago Cubs' Starlin Castro is out at first as New York Mets' Lucas Duda takes the throw during the ninth inning of Game 2 of the National League baseball championship series. — AP

METS TAME CUBS FOR SERIES LEAD

NEW YORK: The New York Mets struck early, using a combination of pitching and power to post a 4-1 victory over the Chicago Cubs on Sunday and take a commanding 2-0 lead in the best-of-seven National League Championship Series.

Daniel Murphy blasted a two-run homer to cap a three-run first inning off Cubs ace Jake Arrieta that was all the Mets and starter Noah Syndergaard needed on a cold night at Citi Field.

It was Murphy's fourth successive post-season game with a home run and his fifth overall in the playoffs, tying Mike Piazza for the franchise record.

Mets starter Syndergaard touched 99 mph with his fastball and kept the Cubs off balance with curveballs and change-ups to rack up nine strikeouts and yield one run on three hits and one walk in 5-2/3 innings for the win.

"They got on us very quickly, good at-bats by the top three guys culminated with the home run,"

said Cubs manager Joe Maddon. "Then you've got to give a lot of credit to their young pitcher. Syndergaard really was very good today."

Arrieta, who was virtually un-hittable in the second half of the season as he went 12-1 after the All-Star break to finish with a 22-6 record, allowed the damage right out of the gate.

Curtis Granderson led off the first with a sharp single to right and David Wright followed with a booming RBI-double over the head of center fielder Dexter Fowler.

Murphy, who also homered in the first inning in Saturday's win, turned on an inside breaking ball from Arrieta and sent it into the right field seats. Arrieta put the blame on himself: "I put us in a pretty big hole there in the first and it was a little too hard to overcome," said Arrieta, who did not have top speed on his fastball and resorted more to secondary pitches. "The biggest part of the night was

the two-run (homer). The mistake to him was really the turning point of the game." The Mets added an insurance run in the third on an infield single by Yoenis Cespedes that scored Granderson, who walked and stole second and third.

Syndergaard, 23, gave way to reliever Jonathon Niese after giving up a RBI-double off the left field fence by Kris Bryant in the sixth that made it 4-1. The left-hander struck out Anthony Rizzo to end the threat. Relievers Addison Reed and Tyler Clippard both provided a scoreless inning before Jeurys Familia got his fourth save of the post-season. The series shifts to Chicago for Game Three on Tuesday, with the Cubs scheduled to start Kyle Hendricks (8-7, 3.95 ERA) against New York's Jacob deGrom (14-8, 2.54).

"They play great in Chicago," said Mets manager Terry Collins. "It's a park built for them, so it should be a great series continued." — Reuters

OILERS SLIP PAST CANUCKS IN OT

NEW YORK: Lee Stempniak scored at 3:07 of overtime as the New Jersey Devils finally gave new coach John Hynes a victory with a 2-1 win over the New York Rangers on Sunday.

Adam Henrique, who scored early in the second period, made the cross-ice pass that Stempniak fired past his former teammate Henrik Lundqvist to end the 3-on-3 overtime.

Derek Stepan, who scored for the Rangers in the opening minutes, had hit the crossbar just before New Jersey won for the first time in five games. The Rangers have lost three straight after opening the season with three victories.

Cory Schneider finished with 26 saves

for New Jersey. Lundqvist stopped 22 shots. Vladimir Tarasenko scored twice for St. Louis and Brian Elliott made 26 saves in the Blues' 4-2 victory over the Winnipeg Jets. Tarasenko gave the Blues a 3-2 lead on a delayed penalty midway through the third period, firing a shot past goalie Ondrej Pavelec and into the corner of the net for his fifth goal of the season.

Scottie Upshall and Carl Gunnarsson also scored for St. Louis. Nikolaj Ehlers and Mathieu Perreault scored for Winnipeg.

Los Angeles' Tyler Toffoli scored on a breakaway late in the second period to help the Kings beat the Colorado



VANCOUVER: Edmonton Oilers' Taylor Hall (4) skates with the puck against the Vancouver Canucks during the second period of an NHL hockey game. — AP

Avalanche 2-1.

Marian Gaborik also scored, and Jonathan Quick made 21 saves. The Kings beat the Avalanche for the sixth straight time to improve to 8-0-1 in their last nine meetings.

Matt Duchene scored for Colorado. The Anaheim Ducks trounced the Minnesota Wild 4-1 after Anton Khudobin rebounded from a

rough outing with 34 saves, and Cam Fowler, Rickard Rakell, Mike Santorelli and scored. Khudobin was pulled less than 13 minutes into a 4-0 loss at Arizona on Wednesday night after giving up three goals on eight shots in his Ducks debut. Nino Niederreiter scored for Minnesota.

Edmonton's Lauri Korpikoski scored on a

breakaway at 1:46 of overtime to lift the Oilers past the Vancouver Canucks 2-1.

Nail Yakupov scored in regulation and Anders Nilsson stopped 33 shots to help Edmonton win for the second straight night after starting the season 0-4-0. Matt Bartkowski scored in regulation for Vancouver and Ryan Miller finished with 22 saves. — AP

NHL Results/Standings

New Jersey 2, NY Rangers 1 (OT); St. Louis 4, Winnipeg 2; Anaheim 4, Minnesota 1; Edmonton 2, Vancouver 1 (OY); Los Angeles 2, Colorado 1.

Western Conference						Eastern Conference							
Central Division						Atlantic Division							
	W	L	OTL	GF	GA	PTS	Montreal	6	0	0	20	7	12
St. Louis	5	1	0	21	14	10	Tampa Bay	4	2	0	19	15	8
Dallas	4	1	0	19	13	8	Ottawa	3	2	1	19	17	7
Nashville	4	1	0	14	9	8	Florida	3	2	0	16	9	6
Winnipeg	4	2	0	20	13	8	Detroit	3	2	0	15	13	6
Minnesota	3	1	1	14	15	7	Boston	2	3	0	18	21	4
Chicago	3	3	0	14	14	6	Toronto	1	3	1	12	17	3
Colorado	2	3	0	16	16	4	Buffalo	1	4	0	9	14	2
						Metropolitan Division							
							NY Islanders	3	1	1	17	15	7
							NY Rangers	3	2	1	14	15	7
							Washington	3	1	0	13	10	6
							Philadelphia	2	1	1	7	10	5
							Pittsburgh	2	3	0	7	9	4
							New Jersey	1	3	1	8	14	3
							Carolina	1	4	0	11	17	2
							Columbus	0	6	0	13	30	0
Note: Overtime losses (OTL) are worth one point in the standings and are not included in the loss column (L)													

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

WALLABIES SQUEEZE THROUGH TO SEMI-FINAL WITH PUMAS

LONDON: Completion of a southern hemisphere sweep of the Rugby World Cup quarter-finals took some unexpected twists and turns before Australia edged Scotland in a dramatic finish at Twickenham on Sunday to line up a semi-final clash with Argentina.

The Pumas, seen as the least likely to reach the last four before the weekend, scored four tries in a convincing 43-20 victory over injury-depleted Ireland in Cardiff before the Scots threatened a big upset in London. Scotland, who had beaten the Wallabies in two of their last three tests, led 16-15 at halftime and 34-32 going into the final minute in a downpour only to lose 35-34 after flyhalf Bernard Foley kicked a controversial penalty at the death.

Both semi-finals will be played at Twickenham next weekend with holders New Zealand taking on South Africa in the other after a Six Nations team failed to reach the last four for the first time.

Scotland had a second semi-final since 1991 within their grasp but South African referee Craig Joubert would not be swayed in his decision to give Australia the last-gasp penalty in a controversial offside decision at a lineout.

Before that, Australia had scored five tries, two by Drew Mitchell who took his World Cup tally to 14, one short of joint record holders Bryan Habana of South Africa and former All Black Jonah Lomu.

Scotland's reply in a match that swayed one way then the other included three tries and 19 points from the trusted boot of their inspirational captain Greig Laidlaw.

A gutted Laidlaw, the tournament's top scorer with 79 points, wondered why Joubert had not checked with the TMO on his penalty decision when the ball had appeared to come off a Wallaby jersey. "They go to the TMO for everything else. It was such a big decision, why didn't they go to the TMO for that?" asked Laidlaw.

Despite Scottish frustration, a World Rugby spokesman said the South African had been right and that such an incident did not fall under the protocols for involv-

ing the TMO. Australian coach Michael Cheika said: "It's a penalty and that's the way it works. You've still got to kick it." That is what Foley, not at his place kicking best earlier in the match when he missed three conversions, did from the touchline.

Cheika also admitted to Australia having maybe played into Scottish hands by sticking to their favoured running rugby, saying: "We didn't go to a kicking game, maybe that was a bit naive from me. Maybe we shouldn't have opened it up for them."

PUMAS POWER

Argentina made a scintillating, almost error free start to their quarter-final at the Millennium Stadium and ran up a 17-0 lead with their first two tries by centre Matias Moroni and wing Juan Imhoff always appearing to have one and sometimes two men extra in their attacks down the wings.

Ireland, deprived through injury of top players including flyhalf Johnny Sexton and captain Paul O'Connell, fought back to within three points early in the second half at 23-20 down after tries by Luke Fitzgerald, thanks in part to a yellow card for prop Ramiro Herrera, and Jordi Murphy.

But the last 15 minutes belonged to Argentina, with tries from fullback Joaquin Tuculet and a second for Imhoff, a sign of the progress in the last four years of Rugby Championship experience by a side who in the past failed to stay in the game for the full 80.

Imhoff, whose tries took his Argentine World Cup record to seven, said the Pumas defence had made the difference. "Ireland played with a great intensity. We are a really good team in offence. But today we had a defence to make the difference," he said.

That defensive effort included a fine contribution with 10 tackles by flyhalf Nicolas Sanchez, more noted for his distribution and kicking which yielded 23 points. It was Argentina's third win in four World Cup meetings with the Irish, a rivalry that has marked the Pumas' progress since they reached their first quarter-final in 1999. — Reuters



CARDIFF: Ireland's Rob Kearney (left) grabs the shirt of Argentina's Joaquin Tuculet during the Rugby World Cup quarterfinal match between Ireland and Argentina. — AP

AUSTRALIA ADVANCE BUT MUCH TO PONDER FOR CHEIKA

LONDON: Nerves of steel, a determination to stick to Plan A and perhaps a little naivety were all a factor Australia's dramatic 35-34 Rugby World Cup quarter final victory over Scotland at Twickenham on Saturday. Flyhalf Bernard Foley kicked a controversial 80th minute penalty to give the Wallabies the win against a brave Scotland side who refused to wilt in the face of five Australian tries before sensationally hitting the front in the dying stages.

Victory brought a sense of relief for coach Michael Cheika, and a semi-final meeting with Argentina next Sunday, but also much to ponder from a game in which Australia were at times their own worst enemy. They allowed Scotland a try from a ruck when their close-in defenders stood statuesque as Peter Horne skipped past them, before their opponents profited from a charge-down of Foley's kick and finally an intercept for a hat-trick of soft tries.

"There were some poor decisions made by us out there," Cheika told reporters after the game. "Our defence was also not up to standard. But after scoring five tries in a quarter final you expect to go through." Cheika asked his team to play an open style of rugby and to attack Scotland with ball in hand. He admits it was a gamble that almost backfired. "Maybe that was naive of me to open it up for them, maybe we should

have played more of a kicking game," he said. The Wallabies were also penalised on five occasions at the scrum, with Scotland turning three of those into points, a reversal in fortunes at the set-piece which had been solid in the tournament to date.

Foley was sensational in Australia's pool victory over England earlier in the tournament, but made basic errors, as well as missing all three first-half conversion attempts, that had coach Cheika pondering replacing him at halftime.

But a desire to stick to the original game-plan and a gut feel he would come right meant the flyhalf known as the "ice man" stayed on the pitch to win the game the game for his side.

"We didn't let it stress us, otherwise we would have changed him at halftime. We know he is a great kicker. "You have to hold your nerve. You can't panic every time something goes against you."

Wallaby Drew Mitchell was a stand-out performer and scored two tries that moved him to 14 in all World Cups, one behind New Zealand's Jonah Lomu and Springbok Bryan Habana.

The Toulon wing, along with Matt Giteau, has been the beneficiary of a recently-introduced rule in Australia that says overseas-based players could be selected for the national side if they have played 60 or more caps for the side. — Reuters

LEGENDS EXCITED AT RENEWING RIVALRY IN GULF

DUBAI: Former cricket greats Brian Lara of the West Indies, Australia's Adam Gilchrist, Pakistan's Wasim Akram and India's Virender Sehwag yesterday showed excitement at renewing their rivalry in a Twenty20 league next year.

The Masters Champions League (MCL), the first of its kind in the United Arab Emirates, is aimed at giving retired players a chance to take the field again. Lara said he was excited at the prospect.

"I am thrilled and honoured to be taking part in what promises to be an exceptional display of competitive cricket. The UAE is a great location for a tournament, with a big fan base in the country," said Lara, who holds the records for the highest Test score of 400 not out and an unbeaten 501 in first class. Sehwag said the league would give the retired players a chance to

renew their rivalries. "It's so exciting. It will be great to renew the rivalries," said Sehwag, part of the Indian team which won the 2011 World Cup.

"It's good to have all of us playing this tournament. The facilities in the UAE have always been world class. I think it's great for cricket to show what we can offer to develop the sport at the grassroots."

Ashes-winning England captain Michael Vaughan, popular former South African captain Graeme Smith, former Indian captain Sourav Ganguly, recently retired Sri Lankan duo of Kumar Sangakkara and Mahela Jayawardene, and former Pakistani all-rounder Azhar Mahmood are also among those who have signed up for the league. League chairman Zafar Shah hoped the league would give fans another chance to see the greats. —AFP



KARACHI: Activists from Pakistan's youth organization Shabab-e-Milli burn an effigy of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi protesting against Indian extremist group Shiv Sena. Shiv Sena extremists stormed the BCCI office in Indian city of Mumbai in an effort to prevent Pakistan Cricket Board chief to meet with India's cricket officials. — AP

INDIAN ACTIVISTS STORM BCCI OVER PAKISTAN TALKS

MUMBAI: Dozens of activists stormed the Mumbai offices of India's cricket board yesterday to disrupt planned talks on resuming matches against Pakistan, the latest protest by hardline Hindu activists in the city. Around three dozen supporters of the Shiv Sena party barged into the headquarters of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) and shouted anti-Pakistan slogans at its president, Shashank Manohar. "Ten people have been arrested and bailed," Mumbai Police Deputy Commissioner Dhananjay Kulkarni told AFP, adding that an offence of "riot-ing" had been registered.

He said 35 demonstrators had been involved in the morning protest. The demonstrators demanded that Manohar cancel talks with Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman Shahryar Khan that were planned in Mumbai yesterday.

Khan had arrived in the city on Sunday to discuss the possibility of an India-Pakistan series, which is in doubt due to strained political relations. Khan is expected to meet other cricket officials in New Delhi today. Zaheer Abbas, president of the sport's world governing body the International Cricket Council, described the situation as "complex".

Abbas told television channels in Pakistan the two nations were due to play the first match in the World Twenty20 competition in India next March. "If there is so much fire in India and people are so against the series with Pakistan, then it will create difficulties for the World Twenty20," the former Pakistani batsman said. Pakistani players, he said, might refuse to tour India because their lives could "be at risk".

In New Delhi, BCCI secretary Anurag Thakur condemned the office incursion. "If you want to protest, protest on the street but not at an office, home or residence," he told reporters.

Thakur, a member of parliament from the ruling Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), had earlier ruled out resumption of cricket



MUMBAI: Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) president Shashank Manohar is escorted out of the Indian cricket board's headquarters at the Wankhede stadium in Mumbai. Dozens of activists stormed the Mumbai offices of India's cricket board on October 19 to disrupt planned talks on resuming matches against Pakistan. — AFP

ties until political tensions ease.

India and Pakistan have been bitter rivals since gaining independence from Britain in 1947 and have fought three wars. The arch-rivals have not played a Test match since Pakistan toured India in 2007.

Pakistan are due to host India for a full tour in the United Arab Emirates in December-one of six series the arch-rivals agreed to play between 2015 and 2023 under an agreement signed last year-pending New Delhi's clearance.

But relations have been strained, with continued border ceasefire violations from both sides, leading to the cancellation of a meeting

between their security advisers in August.

Yesterday's protest came a week after Shiv Sena activists threw ink over the organiser of the launch in Mumbai of a book by a former Pakistani foreign minister.

The Shiv Sena, a junior partner in a ruling coalition with the BJP in the Maharashtra state government, opposes any dealings with Pakistan because of the 2008 terror attacks which India blamed on militants from across the border. Shiva Sena was earlier this month accused of using threats to force the cancellation of an appearance in Mumbai by Pakistani singer Ghulam Ali. — AFP

ICC WITHDRAWS PAKISTANI UMPIRE FROM INDIA GAMES

DUBAI: The International Cricket Council (ICC) announced yesterday that it has withdrawn Pakistani umpire Aleem Dar from the one-day games in India following activists' attacks to disrupt talks between officials of the two countries.

Officials from Pakistan and India were due to talk on a proposed series between the arch-rivals in December-January in the United Arab Emirates, when activists stormed into Indian Cricket's Mumbai office. They shouted anti-Pakistan slogans and asked the Indian officials not to resume cricketing ties stalled in 2008 following attacks on Mumbai, which New Delhi blamed on militants based across the border. Pakistani umpire Dar was officiating the one-day series between India and South Africa.

"The ICC announced that it has withdrawn Dar from the remaining matches in the ongoing India versus South Africa series," an ICC release said.

Dar, a member of the Elite Panel of ICC Umpires, had officiated in the first three one-day internationals and was also scheduled to umpire in the fourth and fifth ODIs in Chennai and Mumbai on 22 and 25 October, respectively.

"The ICC has made the decision following Monday's incident in Mumbai where a group of extremists stormed the Board of Control for Cricket in India offices, and threatened to prevent the umpire from standing in the fifth ODI on Sunday.

"Under the present circumstances, it will be unreasonable to expect from Dar that he will be able to perform his duties to the best of his abilities. As such, he has been withdraw and his replacement will be announced in due course," an ICC spokesman said.

Relations between Pakistan and India have

strained since the start of the year, with regular ceasefire violations on the disputed Line of Control in the disputed Kashmir valley.

That led to the cancellation of talks between the security advisers of both coun-

tries in August. Pakistan and India have not played a bilateral Test series since 2007. Pakistan did tour India for a short limited over series in 2012 but that failed to pave the way for the resumption of full tests. — AFP

JADEJA RETURNS TO INDIA SQUAD

NEW DELHI: Ravindra Jadeja has been recalled to India's squad for the first two tests against South Africa. Jadeja, who has been overlooked for recent limited-overs squads after being dropped for test matches in Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, was selected in 16-man squad announced Monday following some impressive performances with bat and ball in the domestic Ranji Trophy tournament.

The allrounder took 24 wickets in two games with his left-arm spin and also scored 91 and 58 in his two innings playing for Saurashtra.

"We've been watching domestic cricket and considered a number of players before picking the teams," chief selector Sandeep Patil said. "We picked Jadeja considering the kind of wickets we are supposed to be playing on in the tests."

Harbhajan Singh was left out of the squad, with off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin expected to lead the slow bowling attack after missing most of the ongoing limited-overs series against South Africa with a side strain. Ishant Sharma, who will have to serve out a one-test ban imposed during the Sri Lanka tour for bad behavior, has been included in the squad. The four-test series starts Nov. 5 in Mohali, with the second test in Bangalore from Nov. 14. The squad for the third and fourth tests, in

Nagpur and New Delhi starting Nov. 25 and Dec. 3, will be announced during the series.

Meanwhile, Umesh Yadav has been dropped for the last two ODI games against South Africa and replaced by left-arm pace bowler Sreenath Aravind.

South Africa leads the ODI series 2-1 and also won a preceding three-game Twenty20 series 2-0. India lost the first one-dayer by five runs and the third by 18 runs despite having a number of wickets in hand. "We're concerned and have had detailed discussions with the team management," Patil said. "Nobody is happy about losing a game that we should have won but we still back the team and the team management."

Squads:

For two tests: Murali Vijay, Shikhar Dhawan, Virat Kohli (captain), Cheteshwar Pujara, Ajinkya Rahane, Rohit Sharma, Wriddhiman Saha, Lokesh Rahul, Stuart Binny, Ravindra Jadeja, Ravichandran Ashwin, Amit Mishra, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Umesh Yadav, Varun Aaron, Ishant Sharma. For last two ODIs: Rohit Sharma, Shikhar Dhawan, Virat Kohli, Ajinkya Rahane, Mahendra Singh Dhoni (captain), Suresh Raina, Ambati Rayudu, Axar Patel, Harbhajan Singh, Amit Mishra, Gurkeerat Singh, Stuart Binny, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Mohit Sharma, Sreenath Aravind. —AP



KANSAS CITY: Sprint Cup Series driver Joey Logano burns out after winning a NASCAR auto race at Kansas Speedway. — AP

LOGANO SPINS OUT KENSETH, WINS AT KANSAS SPEEDWAY

KANSAS CITY: Joey Logano could have backed off. He could have let Matt Kenseth drive away. He could have prevented all kinds of controversy by deciding that second place was good enough. Instead, he decided to go for first.

Logano got under Kenseth entering Turn 1 with five laps remaining in Sunday's Sprint Cup race at Kansas Speedway, sending him spinning across the track. Logano ultimately drove away for his second straight win in the Chase for the Sprint Cup championship, while Kenseth was left in a win-or-else situation heading into next weekend's race at Talladega.

"That's good, hard racing," said Logano, who was already assured of a spot in the next round of the Chase thanks to his win last week at Charlotte. "We were racing each other really hard. I felt like I got fenced twice. He raced me hard so I raced him back."

Kenseth had every reason to race hard. He had a difficult run at Charlotte, leaving him in a dire situation in trying to make it to the final eight in the "eliminator" round of the playoffs.

"I'm really disappointed," Kenseth said. "I was running the lane he wanted to run in, but my goodness, isn't this racing? Strategically, I think it wasn't the smartest move on his part. He'll probably sleep good tonight. I hope he enjoys that one. It's not what I would have done." Kenseth wound up leading a race-high 153 laps, but his wild ride with a handful of go dropped him to 14th in the race and, more importantly, last among the 12 drivers in the title race. "I don't like to see that any more than anybody else," said Roger Penske, who owns Logano's team. "It's one of those racing accidents. It's real tough when it's in this kind of a situation, but there was no question Kenseth was doing everything he could to keep Joey

from going by." So, Logano did everything he could to get by.

"I saw two guys racing their butts off," said his crew chief, Todd Gordon. "Joey had a couple runs at Matt and Matt blocked both of them and unfortunately got us in the wall."

Already eliminated from contention, Jimmie Johnson had a strong car all day and wound up behind Denny Hamlin in third. Kasey Kahne was fourth, followed by Chase drivers Kyle Busch and Kurt Busch. Ryan Blaney was seventh as the youngster continues to improve, followed by more title contenders in Carl Edwards, pole sitter Brad Keselowski, Jeff Gordon and Ryan Newman.

Hamlin's second-place finish allowed him to climb to second in the standings, giving him the best chance of everybody outside of Logano of moving onto the next round.

"It was a very good day," he said. "I wanted

to be seventh or better entering this weekend, and obviously second was a good run for us. Some of the guys in front of us had some troubles." Plenty of guys behind him, too. When the field pitted under green with 53 laps remaining, Martin Truex Jr. had a tire roll away and served a pass-through penalty, while Kevin Harvick drove off with his fuel can and had to serve a stop-and-go penalty. Both lost a lap and precious points in the title race.

Truex got his lap back and finished 15th. Harvick came across in 16th. Dale Earnhardt Jr. had a wheel go loose during a long run and pitted under green. That dropped him off the lead lap, too, and Earnhardt wound up two laps down and in 21st place.

"There's no place I would rather go next week," said Earnhardt, one of the best restrictor-plate drivers in the series, and the winner at Talladega in the spring.

The wild finish at Kansas led to a massive shake-up in the Chase standings, with Logano the only driver who can head to Talladega without feeling any pressure.

Hamlin, Kurt Busch and Edwards have a bit of a cushion, but everyone else is hanging in the balance. Truex currently holds down the eighth and final spot in the next round, but he's just six points ahead of Kyle Busch. Ryan Newman is only eight points back.

Then there's Kenseth, now 35 points out of the final spot. If he wasn't facing a must-win Sunday, his late-race spin from Logano left him facing exactly that next weekend.

"I thought we did an excellent job this weekend of controlling the things we could control," Kenseth said. "We did everything as a team to win the race, just couldn't get away enough to keep him from pulling that move on me there at the end." — AP



NAPA: Emiliano Grillo of Argentina, kisses his trophy on the 18th green of the Silverado Resort North Course after winning the Frys.com golf tournament. — AP

GRILLO WINS FRYS.COM OPEN

CALIFORNIA: Argentine Emiliano Grillo made a perfect start to his career as a PGA Tour member when he beat American Kevin Na in a playoff at the Frys.com Open in northern California on Sunday.

After missing a three-footer that would have won it at the first extra hole, Grillo made amends at the next, the par-five 18th, with an eight-foot birdie to edge Na at the Silverado Resort in Napa.

A day after almost hitting Rory McIlroy with his drive at the reachable par-four 17th, Grillo became the sixth Argentine player to win on the American circuit, joining Roberto de Vincenzo, Jose Coceres, Angel Cabrera, Andres Romero and Fabian Gomez. It is the second successive victory for the 23-year-old, who won the Web.com Tour Championship on the secondary circuit two weeks ago.

Grillo sank a 25-foot birdie at the final regulation hole to earn a spot in the play-off, but almost threw away the first event on the 2015-16 PGA Tour season when he lipped out his short putt that would have won it at the first extra hole.

The putt was eerily similar to one he missed at the 72nd hole that would have won the Puerto Rico Open in March, though Grillo claimed that this time he did not hit a bad putt.

"The difference is I hit this one good," he

said in a greenside interview. "I don't know what happened (but) I stayed positive. This is awesome."

After Na made a mess of the second extra hole, Grillo had the luxury of two-putting for victory, but he needed only one, ensuring he would be remembered for more than being the guy who nearly hit McIlroy. Earlier, Grillo (69) and Na (70) finished at 15-under-par 273, one stroke ahead of Americans Jason Bohn and Justin Thomas and South African Tyrone Van Aswegen.

Bohn held the sole lead with three holes left, but chunked a pitch shot at the par-five 16th and made bogey. Van Aswegen barely made his tee time after waking up dizzy and going to hospital in an ambulance. "I was not in good shape," he told Golf Channel. "They filled me with two bags of fluid and said I had severe dehydration and vertigo."

"If you go to the ER (emergency room), nothing's quick. I was trying to speed them along. I was still in the hospital bed an hour before the tee time. Thank goodness there was a slight fog delay."

Overnight leader Brendan Steele plunged out of contention with five bogeys in a six-hole stretch on the back nine. He shot 76 to tie for 17th on 10-under, one stroke better than McIlroy (69). — Reuters

FERRER LEADS YEAR-END CONTENDERS IN VIENNA

VIENNA: Spanish scrambler David Ferrer leads a pack of year-end contenders back to Europe as the points race for the ATP World Tour Finals heats up at next week's Austrian Open.

The indoor event at the Stadthalle has been upgraded to an ATP 500 series, with double the ranking points on offer compared to last year when Andy Murray won the title as a wild card.

Ferrer, provisional seventh in the race to London - four places remain open in the field with three weeks of play remaining - will need to recover after losing in the Shanghai second round in a surprise to Australian Bernard Tomic.

But chasing the Spaniard in the sprint to London are rivals including second seed Kevin Anderson, number three John Isner of the United States and fourth seed Jo-Wilfried Tsonga, who beat Rafael Nadal in the Shanghai semi-finals.

The trailing trio stand 10th through 12th in the points chase to the season wrapup starting November 15. Ferrer will be wary as he opens in the first round against compatriot Albert Ramos, who knocked Roger Federer out of an opening match in Shanghai.

Anderson starts with tough, tattooed Austrian Andreas Haider-Maurur, while Isner plays a qualifier and Tsonga will be fighting jet-lag when he takes on Tommy Haas in a highlight of the first round.

Vienna handed the evergreen German a wild card and boosted local interest in the event substantially along the way. The 37-year-old, who is back from yet another shoulder surgery, is ranked a distant 467th but can still trade on Vienna success after titles in 2001 and 2013. He also played the final in 2000, "I've won twice in



David Ferrer returns the ball in this file photo.

Vienna and therefore obviously have very fond memories of this tournament," said Haas. "The upgrade to a 500 series event make it even more attractive for players and fans."

The winner of 15 ATP titles has spent this season since a mid-year return trying to regain form after his surgery. Vienna made a bold attempt to lure two-time champion Federer back for the first time since 2003, when the young Swiss gained the second of two consecutive titles in the capital. But the 34-year-old will spend the

week preparing for his home Swiss Indoors tournament. Canadian Milos Raonic, another outside London contender, was forced out of the field with the hip injury which bothered him in China this week.

Austrian number one Dominic Thiem takes the fifth seeding, ahead of France's Gael Monflis, playing for the first time since quitting a first round US Open match on August 31. Croatian Ivo Karlovic is seeded seventh ahead of Italian Fabio Fognini. — AFP

BEST SEASON EVER? CLAIMS DJOKOVIC

SHANGHAI: Men's tennis has not been short of astonishing feats in recent years but Novak Djokovic is eclipsing even the great Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal as his record-breaking season reaches a crescendo. Two titles in two weeks in China, including the Shanghai Masters, show there's no slowing down for the world number one, who has climbed above the competition this year and keeps rising higher.

Record points and prize money and three of the four Grand Slams, plus an aura of surreal calm, mark one of tennis's best ever seasons - and all emerging from the most unlikely of beginnings. Serbia was at war when Djokovic was a child in Belgrade, and he remembers dodging NATO bombing raids and practising his tennis in a disused swimming pool.

Those are experiences which he says keep him grounded as he methodically pieces together a career which could yet surpass anything seen in modern times.

Gluten-free Djokovic, who got married and became a father last year, says his current season is even better than 2011, when he also grabbed three Grand Slams and had a win-loss

record of 70-6. This year only an inspired Stan Wawrinka in the French Open final denied him a calendar-year Grand Slam, and he has nine titles already with the Paris Masters and World Tour Finals still to come.

With only five defeats and 73 wins this year, the 10-time Grand Slam-winner hasn't lost a set since the US Open final and has convincingly beaten Federer, Nadal and Andy Murray along the way.

"It's the best year of my life. No question about it. Everything is working great. I'm very grateful for the opportunity to be able to play this well, to be successful," he said in Shanghai.

"I don't want to get carried away by success obviously because I want to be playing on this level for many more years to come."

Federer lost only four times in 2005, achieving one of the best winning percentages on record and winning two Grand Slams, but an ankle injury stopped him closing out the year in style. The following season he won all the major titles bar the French Open, but a 2-4 record against Nadal prevented total dominance and pointed to trouble ahead.

John McEnroe had only three defeats in 1984, one of them in the French Open final, as he compiled the best winning percentage in the Open era of 0.965. Ten years earlier, Jimmy Connors went 93-4.

Now Djokovic has become only the third man, after Federer and Rod Laver, to reach all four Grand Slam finals in the same year and on current form, he has no consistent rivals to slow him down.

His points tally of 16,785, nearly double that of second-placed Murray, is a tour record, as is his prize money which is set to top \$16 million.

Much more of this and it won't be long before he is challenging Nadal's tally of 14 Grand Slam titles and making a play for the big one-Federer's all-time record of 17.

"Every time I step on the court, knowing I've had an amazing record this season and also in these tournaments in the previous years makes me play my best and makes me come out on the court with less doubts in my mind, I would say," Djokovic said. Just don't ask him how opponents can beat him. "It's a good question, but I have no answer," smiled the Serb. — AFP

NEYMAR SHOWING HE'S READY TO MAKE LIST OF TOP 3

MADRID: Lionel Messi's injury might just be what Neymar needs. With Messi out of action, the Brazil striker has taken over the spotlight at Barcelona and has the room to prove he has what it takes to finally make the three-player shortlist for the player of the year award. Neymar is almost certain to be in the 23-player list that will be announced today for the FIFA Ballon d'Or award. It would be the fifth consecutive time he makes it that far, but this could be the first year in which he has a realistic chance of breaking into the top three.

Neymar is making a strong case for himself thanks to outstanding performances early in the season, including a four-goal game in the Spanish league on Saturday. "Impressive, unstoppable, electric," Barcelona coach Luis Enrique said of Neymar after

the match. "Almost impossible to stop without committing penalties."

Neymar has become the go-to guy since Messi tore a ligament in his left knee nearly three weeks ago, attracting most of the attention of the defenders, setting up teammates and even taking the penalty kicks. Barring more injuries, there is little doubt that either Messi or Cristiano Ronaldo will win the best player award in January, as has happened the past seven years.

But making it to the top three would be considered a great achievement for the 23-year-old Neymar, who is in his third season with Barcelona.

It would be another step toward his goal of becoming the best in the world, something he has wanted since beginning his career with Brazilian club

Santos. It was one of the reasons he moved to Barcelona, a place where he knew he would have a chance to show what he can do.

Neymar recently played his 100th match with the Catalan club, reaching the milestone with better numbers compared even to Messi, including in goals scored and assists. "I want to keep making history, winning everything with the club," said Neymar, who leads the Spanish league in scoring with eight goals in as many matches. "My life and my game changed for the better (after coming to Barcelona)."

Although Messi and Ronaldo have been regular front-runners in the Ballon d'Or award, there hasn't been much consistency about the third member on that final list, with Manuel Neuer making it last year and Franck Ribery the year before. Andres Iniesta and

Xavi Hernandez were the outsiders in previous years. Neymar was voted the fifth-best player in Europe last season, behind Messi, Barcelona teammate Luis Suarez, Ronaldo and Gianluigi Buffon.

A voting college that includes national team captains, coaches and selected journalists in more than 180 countries are expected to decide the Ballon d'Or top three in November. Whether Neymar will make it this year may depend on how he performs after Messi returns from injury in a few weeks. The spotlight will have to be shared again, and Neymar might have to fall into a supporting role.

But if he can keep it up, it would be almost impossible to keep him from the award ceremony next year. And there is no telling if he will let anyone replace him after that. — AP

BARCA LEAN ON NEYMAR ONCE MORE FOR BATE TEST

BARYSAW: Barcelona can take a big step towards the last 16 of the Champions League for a 12th consecutive season when they travel to face BATE Borisov in the cold of Belarus today.

The depleted Catalans will again be without Lionel Messi and Andres Iniesta, but can count on an on-fire Neymar after he smashed four past Rayo Vallecano in a 5-2 win on Saturday.

Barca boss Luis Enrique described the Brazilian star as "unstoppable" as he has taken on the responsibility of leading the European champions in Messi's absence.

The player himself proudly declared his performance against Rayo as one of his best for the club as he left the Camp Nou with the match ball signed by all of his teammates at the weekend. "Hopefully Neymar doesn't stop and we have to sign a lot more balls for him," said midfielder Ivan Rakitic. Messi scored twice when the sides last met in Belarus four years ago as Barca cruised to a 5-0 win. However, the impact of injuries to the Argentine, Iniesta and Rafinha, allied to a one-year ban on registering new players has left Barca with a very stretched squad for a run of six games in 19 days.

A come from behind win against Bayer Leverkusen in their last European outing did at least put Barca back on course for the last 16

after opening their campaign with a 1-1 draw away to Roma.

Enrique's men will be expected to pick up six points from their two clashes with BATE in the next fortnight with the safety net of knowing Messi will be fit for their final two group games at home to Roma and away to Leverkusen.

"We need to recover well, we have a lot of games in a row and that means we are doing well because you are in all competitions," added Rakitic. "We will prepare well for Tuesday and if something hurts a little you just have to grit your teeth and keep going. That is all we can do."

BATE go into the game against the Spanish giants full of confidence after sealing a 10th consecutive league title on Friday with 2-0 win over Vitebsk. The Belarusians are also well in the fight to qualify for the knockout stages for the first time in their fifth year in the competition. A 3-2 win over Roma last time out means Alyaksandr Yermakovich's side are level with Leverkusen in second place in Group E, just a point behind Barca.

BATE also have Champions League winning experience in their ranks in the form of Alexander Hleb, who was part of the Barca squad that won the competition in 2008/09. — AFP



KIEV: Chelsea players attend a training session at the Olimpiyskiy national stadium. Chelsea and Dynamo Kiev will play today in a Group G Champions League soccer match. — AP

MOURINHO WARY OF 'PSYCHOLOGICAL ISSUES'

KIEV: Jose Mourinho's erratic Chelsea team tackle Dynamo Kiev in Ukraine today knowing defeat would seriously complicate their chances of progressing from Champions League Group G. Chelsea eased some of the pressure on Mourinho by beating Aston Villa 2-0 in the Premier League on Saturday, but go into today's game on the back of a 2-1 defeat at his former club Porto in their previous group match.

The English champions have never previously lost consecutive group games, but ahead of a sapping run of six matches in 19 days, Mourinho knows how damaging another defeat could prove. "Obviously you don't need to lose and lose and lose, because then psychological issues are coming into the game," said the Portuguese, whose side trail Dynamo and Porto by a point after two matches. "In normal conditions, getting normal results—I'm not even saying win, win, win, win, but getting normal results: wins, draws, the odd defeat—then it's a great month."

The victory over Villa saw Chelsea bounce back from a 3-1 home defeat by Southampton in their previous game, but they remain 10 points off the pace in the Premier League.

Seeking to shake Chelsea from their recent torpor, Mourinho dropped Eden Hazard, last season's stand-out player, as well as Gary Cahill and

Nemanja Matic, and saw Diego Costa score on his return from a domestic ban. Hazard eventually joined the fray in the 83rd minute, but Mourinho said that the Belgian winger can expect to remain on the bench until he demonstrates a willingness to up his defensive contribution.

With Branislav Ivanovic sidelined by a hamstring injury, Mourinho must decide whether to persevere with a reconfigured back line that saw Cesar Azpilicueta start at right-back against Villa, with close-season signing Baba Rahman on the opposite flank.

Dynamo have had an extra day to prepare for the game at the Olympic Stadium, having had their most recent Ukrainian Premier League fixture moved forward to Friday, but Mourinho believes his side can compensate in other areas.

"In this moment we are losing 24 hours to Dynamo, like we did against Porto," he told Chelsea TV ahead of the teams' first ever meeting. "Porto played Friday, Dynamo played Friday. We played in Newcastle on Saturday (prior to playing Porto), we played again on Saturday."

"We are losing 24 hours. We have to try to recover that with other ingredients and the ingredients will be the same—fantastic spirit. Let's start from that point."

Dynamo's rearranged fixture may have helped them prepare for Chelsea, but it proved a forgettable experience as they lost 3-0 at home to Shakhtar Donetsk, who knocked them off the league summit in the process.

It was their first league defeat in 39 matches, but Sergei Rebrov's men can take heart from a record of only one loss in 10 European home games—a series that included a 5-2 thrashing of Everton in last season's Europa League.

Mourinho reportedly scouted Dynamo winger Andriy Yarmolenko during Ukraine's 1-0 loss to Spain in Euro 2016 qualifying last Monday, having been caught on camera semi-disguised beneath a grey hood. Yarmolenko, 25, subsequently reaffirmed his commitment to Dynamo by signing a new five-year contract, but he remains open to the idea of playing overseas.

"I still want that (to play abroad). I know that if Dynamo get really worthy offers, we'll find an option that satisfies everyone," said Yarmolenko, who scored in last month's 2-0 win at Maccabi Tel Aviv. "I want the club to get good compensation for me. I could have left for free in a while, but that would have been wrong."

"I am 100 percent a Dynamo player. Our team is like my second family. That's why I keep doing my best to benefit the club." — AFP



SPAIN: Barcelona's Neymar from Brazil, controls the ball during a training session. BATE Borisov will play against FC Barcelona in a Champions League Group E soccer match today. — AP

ROMA FACE 'KNOCKOUT' JOURNEY TO LEVERKUSEN

LEVERKUSEN: Roma stalwart Daniele De Rossi said today's Champions League group stage trip to Bayer Leverkusen is like a knockout game for the Italians. Roma are bottom of Group E with a single point from two matches ahead of the back-to-back clashes with the Germans.

"There's no question, it won't be easy against Leverkusen because we're playing away from home and they are a quality side," said De Rossi. "Qualification for the next round of the Champions League is at stake in this match so it

will be a kind of mini knockout game."

Leverkusen were unlucky to lose 2-1 at the Camp Nou last time out, having led defending champions Barcelona at home after hammering BATE Borisov 4-1 at the BayArena in their opening European match. The Germans are just one point behind leaders Barcelona in the table and eager to claim a win over Roma ahead of the return in the eternal city on November 4.

But Roger Schmidt's Bayer have struggled of late in the Bundesliga and were held to a goal-less draw at home to Hamburg on Saturday, their second straight draw to leave them eighth in the table.

"We created some good opportunities which we didn't use to turn the game in our favor. The result is okay, we have to live with it," said head coach Schmidt after the Hamburg draw.

Germany defender Roberto Hilbert is definitely out with a knee injury, while midfielders Kevin Kampl (illness) and Lars Bender (ankle) face a race to be fit in time.

Leverkusen's home record against Serie A teams is four wins, a draw and three defeats. Roma warmed up for the trip to Germany with a 3-1 defeat of Empoli on Saturday as Italy veteran Daniele De Rossi marked his 500th appearance for the Rome club with his first goal of the season. But they are still seeking a first win after drawing 1-1 at home with Barcelona and losing 3-2 at BATE in Belarus. Coach Rudi Garcia has welcomed Brazilian defender Leandro Castan back for his first home start since May 2014 after a lengthy injury absence.

Garcia hinted that Edin Dzeko, Maicon and Germany international Antonio Ruediger could all be ready for today's game. — AFP

WALCOTT BACKS ARSENAL TO TURN UP HEAT ON BAYERN

LONDON: Theo Walcott insists Arsenal will salvage their Champions League campaign against Bayern Munich today by emulating their ruthless demolition of Manchester United.

Arsene Wenger's side are in severe danger of failing to reach the knockout stages for the first time in 16 years after two dismal defeats.

The Gunners were beaten at Dinamo Zagreb and then suffered the embarrassment of losing at home to Olympiakos, leaving them pointlessly at the bottom of Group F.

Another loss when Bayern visit the Emirates Stadium would put Arsenal on the verge of a stunning exit and, with so much on the line, the German champions' imperious form this season makes facing them even more daunting opponents.

Yet Arsenal go into the crunch clash in good form after winning 3-0 at Watford on Saturday. England forward Walcott claims the north Londoners will have no reason to fear Bayern if they tear into them with the kind of high-tempo attacking style that led to a 3-0 rout of United in the Premier League earlier in October.

"We just need to move on from the first couple of (European) results, they have happened. We know we are capable of getting results against Bayern Munich and we obviously want to put things right," Walcott said. "Looking at our last home match against Manchester United, the intensity of our game was different to what it was like against Olympiakos in the Champions League. "We want put it right and we just need to work hard, and that is what it comes down to. "If everyone is doing their job on the day it is difficult to beat us. "We know the talent is there. We haven't started in the Champions League how we would have liked to, but we will work hard and try to put it right."

Bayern have won on each of their last two visits to the Emirates en route to knocking out the Gunners in the last 16 in 2013 and 2014



LONDON: Bayern's players Xabi Alonso (left) and Thomas Mueller (right) smile during a press conference at Emirates stadium. Arsenal will play Bayern Munich in a Champions League Group F soccer match at the stadium today. — AP

and it would be little surprise to see them inflict another damaging blow. Pep Guardiola's team have won all of their opening nine German league matches—a Bundesliga record—and between them Thomas Mueller and Robert Lewandowski have already scored 21 league goals. Poland forward Lewandowski is enjoying a sensational spell of form, having registered 15 goals in his last seven appearances for club and country.

Walcott acknowledges the magnitude of the task facing Arsenal, but refuses to feel inferior to the swaggering Germans.

"Playing against Bayern and their quality is of course going to be a good challenge for us and a difficult game," Walcott said.

"We know we can beat anyone and we are going to be completely ready for this one." Although there is less at stake for Bayern, who have won their first two Group F fixtures, Wenger and his players have been warned not

to expect an easy ride.

Guardiola says this is Bayern's "first final" in the competition as the Bundesliga leaders aim for a first Champions League crown under the former Barcelona boss.

And he concedes time is running out to lift the European title both he and the club craves in the third-and-potentially final-year of his current contract. "My time here won't have been complete if we don't win the Champions League title. I know where I am, so this isn't a problem for me," Guardiola said.

However, aware of Bayern's status as favourites on Tuesday, captain Philipp Lahm cautioned against complacency. "We have won the first nine games, there is a long way to go, but it is impressive how much this team wants it," Lahm said. "It won't be easy (in London), but we're ready. Arsenal are definitely better than zero points from two games." — AFP



Matches on TV
(Local Timings)

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Borisov v Barcelona 21:45

Abu Dhabi Sport

Leverkusen v Roma 21:45

Abu Dhabi Sport

Arsenal v Munich 21:45

Abu Dhabi Sport

Dinamo v Olympiacos 21:45

Abu Dhabi Sport

Porto v Maccabi 21:45

Abu Dhabi Sport

Dynamo Kiev v Chelsea 21:45

Abu Dhabi Sport

Petersburg v Lyon 21:45

Abu Dhabi Sport

Valencia v Gent 21:45

Abu Dhabi Sport

GAMBA STILL BELIEVE DESPITE FIRST-LEG DEFICIT

SINGAPORE: Gamba Osaka coach Kenta Hasegawa will be looking for his team to stage another famous comeback when they take on Guangzhou Evergrande this week for a spot in the AFC Champions League final.

The Japanese champions have pulled back from the brink on three occasions during their run to this year's last four, and in Wednesday's semi-final second leg they must overturn a 2-1 deficit following defeat in Guangzhou three weeks ago.

But the resilient attitude that helped Gamba claim a domestic treble last season, together with an all-important away goal from the first leg, should give them confidence before the match at Osaka Expo '70 Stadium. "It's a difficult opponent, but we have to try hard and work together to advance to the final," said Hasegawa, who took charge of Gamba in 2013 after they were relegated to Japan's second division. "This time we are playing at home and the most important thing is the motivation of the players. The key is how well we can do in terms of motivation and desire."

"We need to believe in ourselves, our ability to play as a team, and that we are capable of winning. We have to show everything on the pitch," he added.

Under Hasegawa Gamba won promotion in 2013 before completing a clean sweep of Japanese titles last year as they won 15 of their last 20 games to lift the J.League championship. They came from two goals down to beat Sanfrecce Hiroshima 3-2 in the J.League Cup final, and defeated Montedio Yamagata 3-1 in

the Emperor's Cup final.

The club's brinkmanship continued into this season's Champions League. Facing three must-win matches after picking up just one point from their first three group games, Gamba came from behind against Thailand's Buriram United and South Korea's Seongnam-with late goals in both games securing 2-1 victories and a place in the knockout stage. Gamba, who won the tournament in 2008, averted disaster again in the quarter-finals when Koki Yonekura struck deep into stoppage time to earn them a 3-2 win over South Korean champions Jeonbuk Hyundai Motors.

Guangzhou are eyeing a second AFC Champions League title in three seasons and have been unbeaten in 18 competitive matches since Luiz Felipe Scolari took charge of the club in May. But the World Cup-winning Brazilian coach is wary of their Japanese opponents after a hard-fought first leg.

"Gamba Osaka is certainly the best team I have encountered since taking over as coach of Guangzhou. Their team has experience and ability," Scolari said.

"But my players did well in the first leg and I was pleased with them. And I believe they will play well in the second leg. Our team has one goal: win the game."

The winners of the match will face either Al Hilal of Saudi Arabia or Al Ahli of the United Arab Emirates in the final. The two Middle Eastern sides meet in Dubai today following a 1-1 draw in the first leg in Riyadh last month. — AFP



FRANCE: Rennes' Portuguese defender Pedro Teodosio Mendes (left) vies with Nice's Brazilian midfielder Wallyson during the French L1 football match. — AFP

MARSEILLE STUTTER AGAIN AS NICE THUMP RENNES

FRANCE: Olympique Marseille remain mired near the bottom of Ligue 1 after being held 1-1 at home by FC Lorient on Sunday, while Bordeaux and Montpellier were goalless and Hatem Ben Arfa inspired Nice to a 4-1 win at Stade Rennes.

Marseille took the lead through a Michy Batshuayi penalty in the 21st minute, but Benjamin Moukandjo beat goalkeeper Steve Mandanda to equalise 16 minutes later.

Marseille are stuck in 16th place with nine points from 10 games. Lorient are ninth, with 15 points. Bordeaux's underwhelming start to the season continued with a 0-0 draw against struggling visitors Montpellier in a game dedicated to the home side's former keeper Dominique Dropsy who died aged 63 on Oct. 7. Nice secured a thumping victory at Rennes with Ben Arfa scoring the pick of the goals. Marseille

were booed off the pitch after being held by Lorient as the nine-times champions' dismal campaign continued. Michel's Marseille went ahead through Batshuayi's spot kick but Moukandjo levelled in the 37th minute at Stade Velodrome.

Marseille have failed to win in their past six matches in all competitions and stand five points above the relegation zone, 17 points behind league leaders Paris Saint-Germain.

"We are in an emergency situation," said Cameroon defender Nicolas Nkoulou. "We needed the three points, obviously we are disappointed." In a game low on quality, Bordeaux managed only three shots on target at home to injury-ravaged Montpellier, who had none.

The 0-0 draw left Willy Sagnol's side in 14th place, while Montpellier are 18th, one point above the drop

zone, after avoiding defeat for just the third time this season.

Nice, the league's top scorers, beat Rennes away for their fourth straight victory. They took the lead after 14 minutes through Mathieu Bodmer, before Ben Arfa continued his excellent run of form with a sensational strike in the 53rd.

Picking up a long ball from Jean Seri, Ben Arfa dribbled towards goal and shrugged off Sylvain Armand with a change of pace before finding the net from just outside the six-yard box.

Mahamane Traore made it 3-0 after 75 minutes before Said Benrahma added a magnificent fourth from outside the area five minutes later. Kamil Grosicki pulled one back for Rennes. The victory takes Nice to fifth place on 17 points above Rennes, who drop to seventh a point behind. — Reuters



ZURICH: In this May 28, 2015 file photo President of UEFA Michel Platini grimaces during a press conference following a meeting of the UEFA board ahead of the FIFA congress in a hotel in Zurich. — AP

PLATINI HITS BACK OVER FIFA PAYMENT ROW

PARIS: UEFA chief Michel Platini yesterday admitted he had no written contract for a \$2.0 million payment from FIFA president Sepp Blatter as his chances of replacing the Swiss veteran as head of the world body nosedived ahead of a key FIFA council meeting in Zurich today.

In his first interview since being handed a 90-day suspension from all football-related activities by FIFA, the former star player for France and Juventus told Le Monde that, although he had nothing in writing, he had made a "man to man" agreement with Blatter over the contested remuneration. Platini added that, as he understood it, under Swiss law "an oral contract is worth a written contract". FIFA is based in Zurich and is subject to Swiss law.

FIFA chief Blatter, who is also serving a 90-day suspension amid a huge corruption scandal engulfing the game, said last week that the payment made to Platini in 2011 for consultancy work carried out years previously, was "a gentleman's agreement".

Platini, who also had a spell as France coach, told Le Monde he felt Blatter was seeking to "kill me politically" over the payment which looks to have doomed any chance of his succeeding him.

He had been seen as favourite to take over in February until he was named in a Swiss criminal investigation into Blatter's management of FIFA.

"It was a contract I had with Platini, a gentleman's agreement," said the 79-year-old Blatter in an interview with Swiss media RROT.V. "It was implemented. I can't give any more details, the issue is being discussed in two investigations."

The suspensions on Blatter and 60-year-old Platini, were announced as Swiss authorities conduct a criminal investigation into corruption allegations at the scandal-tainted world football governing body.

Platini told Le Monde he felt "shame at being dragged through the mud". He explained that Blatter had wanted him to work alongside him at FIFA after the Swiss took over but he turned down the request as he was organising that year's World Cup which France hosted and won.

Blatter then came back and asked for his services as an advisor, asking "how much do you want?" Platini said he replied: "A million." Asked to specify which currency he said: "Whatever you

want, rubles, pounds, dollars."

He said Blatter agreed to pay a million Swiss francs per year (around \$770,000 at the time). Platini added: "I am not a money man" and said he told Blatter to "choose what you want to pay me", saying he had full trust in FIFA. Blatter was duly elected to head FIFA and Platini said: "I started working in the September." He said several months passed with no payments to him and he asked at the time if there was a problem. Blatter said that it was difficult to pay him three times the 300,000 Swiss francs that FIFA's secretary general was earning at the time.

Quoting Blatter, Platini said: "So we will draw up a contract for 300,000 Swiss francs and give you the balance later."

"But later never came." FIFA's congress is due to meet on February 26 to elect a new president, but Platini's chances of succeeding Blatter have been badly hit by the payment row.

The Frenchman's comments to Le Monde came just a day ahead of an extraordinary meeting of the FIFA executive committee, called to discuss the spiralling crisis which erupted in May with the arrest of FIFA officials ahead of a top meeting in Zurich.

Blatter and Platini will both be banned from attending the gathering, which will hear the first recommendations from FIFA's reform committee, tasked with suggesting changes within the organisation's corridors of power.

Also yesterday, German prosecutors said they were looking into, but not yet formally investigating, claims that Germany bribed football officials to win the right to host the 2006 World Cup.

"This could be about corruption, fraud or breach of trust," Frankfurt chief prosecutor Nadja Niesen told SID sports news agency, an AFP subsidiary.

"We will examine the available documents. But we are still at the very beginning and have not yet launched an investigation. This could happen if we can confirm there is initial cause for suspicion." Germany won the right to host the 2006 World Cup by beating South Africa by 12 votes to 11 after New Zealand's Charles Dempsey abstained in the final ballot.

On Friday, Der Spiegel weekly published a report claiming that the German Football Association (DFB) had a slush fund to buy votes. — AFP

LEAGUE LIMBO LEAVES TOGO'S FOOTBALLERS FRUSTRATED

LOME: Togo's footballers are in limbo, with no end in sight to a suspension of league competitions and fears growing about the impact of the 11-month suspension on the national side.

No ball has been kicked in the country's top two domestic leagues for nearly a year, leaving the 2014-15 season unfinished after deadlines for the resumption of fixtures were missed.

The situation is frustrating the likes of Blaise Kouma, who captains second division side Etoile Filante, based in Togo's capital, Lome.

"We're lacking competition and going backwards. It's bad for Togo. We're a great footballing nation," he told AFP. Tom Saintfiet, the Belgian coach of the national side 'Les Eperviers' (The Sparrowhawks), agreed. "It's a real shame. No competitive football for months. I'm having to do the rounds of small grounds in Lome to watch matches when there's talent elsewhere in the country," he said. "It's not easy in this situation to spot new players."

The restart of the leagues was first due on March 15 and the last on September 12 — but both dates came and went. Most clubs decided to boycott the competitions in protest at the so-called "normalisation committee" headed by former sports minister Antoine Folly. The committee was put in place by world governing body FIFA in December 2014 to replace Togo's football federation (FTF), which was riven with internal dissent and bad management.

FTF officials, including its president Gabriel Ayemi, were all dismissed. The committee's aim is to revise the FTF statutes and organise new elections by November 30 at the latest.

It is also charged with improving the day-to-day running of the game, operating like an electoral commission whose decisions are definitive and binding.

But for most club officials, the committee isn't fit to run the leagues. "It's not the issue," responded one member of the committee, who asked not to be identified. "These club officials tend to make small calculations with the sole aim of scuppering all the work we're doing. Some of them are hiding behind this crisis because they don't have the financial means to take part in this competition."

According to sources close to the committee, a first division club in Togo has to spend at least 60 million CFA francs (91,470 euros) every season.

The Togolese state, however, subsidises every team a total of only 10 million CFA francs. As such, the crisis shows no sign of ending, which is pushing players, coaches and supporters towards small local tournaments. One tournament organised last month by sports television station TLS at the Agoe stadium in Lome's northern suburbs attracted several thousand supporters. Four top-flight clubs took part.

"It's pathetic to see these players in small stadiums because they're lacking competition," said Adekanmi Olufade, a former Togo international. "The members of the federation and the club officials should back down to bring an end to this crisis, which has gone on long enough."

For Kouassi Talon, technical director at Agaza, the championship "is grounded because the normalisation committee is asleep." "They were given nine months, they've done nothing," he added.

Supporters and club managers, tired of traipsing around small stadiums, are also speaking out. "We're



TOGO: Referee Amedjee Aissata penalizes a football player on September 23, 2015, at the Agoe stadium, in the Lome suburb. Togo's footballers are in limbo, with no end in sight to a suspension of league competitions and fears growing about the impact of the 11-month suspension on the national side. — AFP

tired of these repeated crises in the federation," said Michel Solatevi, a former player and supporter.

"Nothing is moving and we're forced to go from ground to ground. Football in Togo is going backwards." "We have to voice our frustrations so those responsible end the crisis that's annoying everybody," added club manager Michel Ajavoin.

The crisis comes just as a number of players, including former captain Emmanuel Adebayor, have

made themselves unavailable for selection.

Former Tottenham Hotspur, Arsenal, Manchester City and Real Madrid striker Adebayor and others have on several occasions criticised the "chaos" in the FTF. To top it all, a friendly match with Egypt in Cairo on October 13 was cancelled due to organisational difficulties, hampering Togo's preparations for upcoming World Cup qualifiers. Togo's only appearance at the finals was in Germany in 2006. — AFP



TOGO: Football players vie for the ball during a football match between Etoile Filante (Lome) and Gomido (Kpalime), on September 23, 2015, at the Agoe stadium. — AFP

Sports

Indian activists
storm BCCI over
Pakistan talks



Platini hits back
over FIFA
payment row



TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2015

NEYMAR SHOWING HE’S READY TO MAKE LIST OF TOP 3



PITTSBURGH: Arizona Cardinals wide receiver John Brown (12) fumbles after being hit by Pittsburgh Steelers outside linebacker James Harrison (92) in the third quarter an NFL football game. — AP

PATRIOTS DOWN COLTS, BILLS STUMBLE

INDIANAPOLIS: Tom Brady threw for 312 yards and three touchdowns and New England took advantage of a botched fake punt in the Patriots’ 34-27 victory over the Indianapolis Colts on Sunday night. The Patriots improved to 5-0 for the first time since 2007. It was the first meeting between the rivals since the “Deflategate” storm erupted after the AFC title game in January. For a half, the teams traded jabs. But New England seized control in the second half. Brady’s 25-yard touchdown pass to Rob Gronkowski gave New England a 27-21 lead.

And when the Patriots stopped the Colts (3-3) on an odd-looking and ill-advised fake punt, the scrambling Brady eventually found LeGarrette Blount for an 11-yard scoring pass that made it 34-21. Andrew Luck was 30 of 50 for 312 yards and three touchdowns in his first game back from an injured right shoulder.

BENGALS 34, BILLS 21
Andy Dalton threw three touchdown passes and Cincinnati beat Buffalo to improve to 6-0 and match the best start in franchise history.

With star receiver AJ Green covered much of the game, Dalton completed touchdown passes to Marvin Jones, Tyler Eifert and Jeremy Hill. Dalton finished 22 of 33 for 243 yards for Cincinnati, which was also 6-0 to start the 1975 and ‘88 seasons.

The Bengals broke the game open by scoring 17 points on their first three second-half possessions to build a 34-14 lead. The Bills (3-3) were undone by injuries and several penalties that allowed the Bengals to enjoy an average drive start of midfield in the first half.

BRONCOS 26, BROWNS 23
Peyton Manning shook off three interceptions and drove Denver in range for Brandon McManus’ 34-yard field goal with 4:56 left in overtime.

Manning took the Broncos from their own 12 to Cleveland’s 16 before McManus kicked his game-winner to make Denver 6-0 for the seventh time in franchise history. The Broncos only rallied thanks to their top-ranked defense, which came up big in overtime. After Manning’s third pick, Denver recorded two sacks to push the Browns (2-4) out of field-goal range.

PACKERS 27, CHARGERS 20
Green Bay stopped San Diego on fourth-and-goal from the 3 with 15 seconds left and overcame a career day by Philip Rivers to hold off the Chargers.

Rivers set career highs with 43 completions, 65 attempts and 503 yards passing. He threw for two touchdowns for the Chargers (2-4). But he needed one more completion.

Rookie cornerback Damarious Randall lunged to poke away Rivers’ short pass to Danny Woodhead near the front right pylon in the final seconds.

The fans inside Lambeau Field erupted with a collective sigh of relief. Green Bay (6-0) survived its biggest

scare of the year to stay unbeaten.

The Packers started strong and finished barely in front. Running back James Starks had touchdowns on a 65-yard run and a 5-yard pass in the first quarter.

LIONS 37, BEARS 34
A win, finally. Matt Prater kicked a 27-yard field goal with 2:29 left in overtime, and Detroit won for the first time this season. Matthew Stafford heaved a 57-yard pass to Calvin Johnson to set up the kick for the Lions (1-5). Johnson finished with six receptions for 166 yards.

The Bears (2-4) had chances for a third straight comeback win. Chicago’s Robbie Gould kicked a 29-yard field goal as time expired in regulation. The tying score was set up by Darius Slay getting called for interference after Jay Cutler’s 25- and 24-yard passes to Alshon Jeffery.

PANTHERS 27, SEAHAWKS 23
Cam Newton threw a 26-yard touchdown pass to Greg Olsen with 32 seconds left and Carolina remained unbeaten, rallying for a stunning win over Seattle.

Newton led the Panthers (5-0) to touchdowns on their final two possessions after trailing 23-14, the second straight week the Seahawks collapsed in the fourth quarter. Newton found Olsen wide open down the seam as All-Pros Earl Thomas and Richard Sherman looked at each other in confusion.

Newton was 12 of 15 for 162 yards in the fourth quarter and threw for 269 yards overall. He led the

Panthers on a pair of 80-yard touchdown drives in the final period as the Panthers improved to 5-0 for the second time in franchise history. It was the second straight week the Seahawks (2-4) suffered a late defensive meltdown.

JETS 34, REDSKINS 20
Ryan Fitzpatrick threw two touchdown passes and ran for another score, and the Jets overcame a sloppy first half. Chris Ivory ran for 146 yards and a TD on 20 carries for the Jets, who improved to 4-1 for the first time since 2010. Brandon Marshall had seven catches for 111 yards, and Eric Decker also caught a TD. The Redskins are 2-4.

STEELERS 25, CARDINALS 13
Landry Jones threw two touchdown passes to Martavis Bryant in relief of Michael Vick and Pittsburgh rallied for the win. Vick left in the third quarter with a hamstring injury and Pittsburgh’s offense took off when Jones took over. Jones hit Bryant for an 8-yard score to give the Steelers (4-2) the lead. The two hooked up later for an 88-yard strike.

Jones completed 8 of 12 passes for 168 yards and the two scores. Bryant caught six passes for 137 yards in his first action of the season.

Carson Palmer threw for 421 yards with a TD and two interceptions. John Brown caught 10 balls for 196 yards for the Cardinals (4-2).

VIKINGS 16, CHIEFS 10

Despite an erratic performance by Terry Bridgewater, Minnesota’s tough defense and rookie wide receiver Stefon Diggs came through over mistake-prone Kansas City.

Alex Smith’s 42-yard touchdown pass to Albert Wilson midway through the fourth quarter pulled the Chiefs within three points, but the Vikings (3-2) played well enough early to survive their ragged finish.

The Chiefs (1-5) had eight penalties for 95 yards. Diggs had 129 yards on seven catches. Bridgewater threw two interceptions. Adrian Peterson, who was on the sideline late in the game with the Vikings trying to put it away, finished with 60 yards on 26 carries.

49ERS 25, RAVENS 20

Colin Kaepernick completed a 76-yard touchdown pass to ex-Ravens star Torrey Smith, Joe Flacco threw two interceptions and San Francisco beat Baltimore to snap a four-game losing streak.

Phil Dawson kicked four field goals in the first win since Week 1 for San Francisco (2-4), while Anquan Boldin - a Super Bowl star for the Ravens against the Niners - made a 51-yard reception late that set up Quinton Patton’s 21-yard TD catch.

Flacco’s desperation pass to the end zone on the final play went incomplete. The rematch of the Super Bowl three seasons ago featured a pair of last-place teams trying to turn around their seasons, and it showed in some sloppy play.

Steve Smith caught a 34-yard TD pass from Flacco in the third, but the Ravens (1-5) are reeling through the worst start in franchise history. Tough weekend for the Harbaugh brothers after Baltimore coach John Harbaugh’s brother Jim’s Michigan team lost Saturday to Michigan State on a botched punt.

DOLPHINS 38, TITANS 10

Cameron Wake got his first four sacks this season and also forced two fumbles - all in the first half - and Miami won in Dan Campbell’s debut as interim coach.

The Dolphins (2-3) came in having lost three straight, costing coach Joe Philbin his job Oct. 5. Miami finished with six sacks and two interceptions against Marcus Mariota. The rookie quarterback needed a knee brace and was replaced by Zach Mettenberger after the 2-minute warning. Lamar Miller ran for 113 yards and a TD for Miami. The Titans (1-4) lost their fourth straight.

TEXANS 31, JAGUARS 20

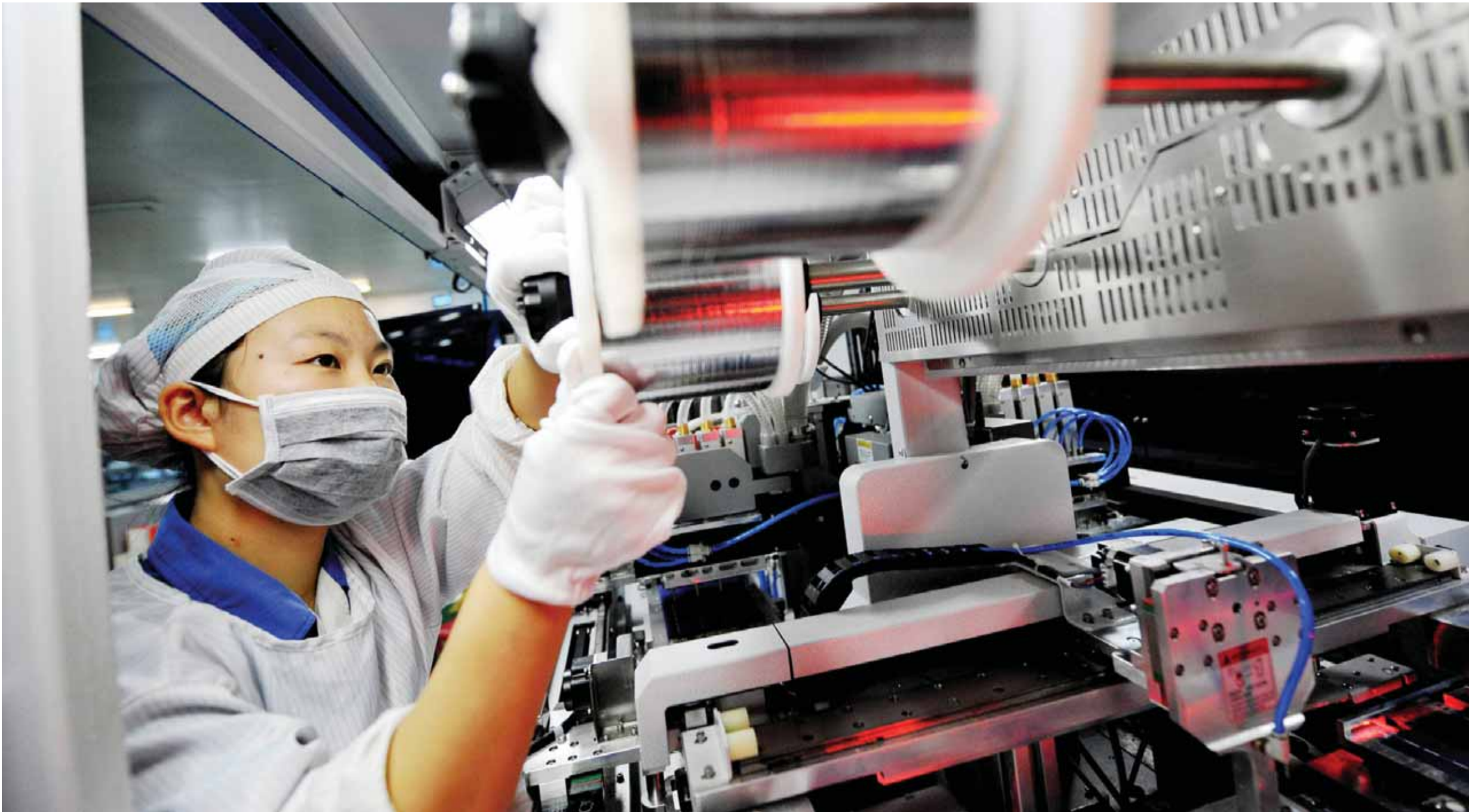
Brian Hoyer threw three touchdown passes on third down, two to DeAndre Hopkins, for Houston. The Jaguars (1-5) lost their fourth in a row and raised more questions about coach Gus Bradley’s job security. The Texans (2-4) started emptying the stadium midway through the fourth after Andre Hal returned an interception 41 yards for a touchdown and a 31-14 lead. It was the sixth pick-six thrown by Blake Bortles in 19 career starts. — AP

NFL results/standings

NY Jets 34, Washington 20; Pittsburgh 25, Arizona 13; Minnesota 16, Kansas City 10; Cincinnati 34, Buffalo 21; Detroit 37, Chicago 34 (OT); Denver 26, Cleveland 23 (OT); Houston 31, Jacksonville 20; Miami 38, Tennessee 10; Carolina 27, Seattle 23; Green Bay 27, San Diego 20; San Francisco 25, Baltimore 20; New England 34, Indianapolis 27.

American Football Conference								National Football Conference							
AFC East								NFC East							
W	L	T	OTL	PF	PA	PCT		W	L	T	OTL	PF	PA	PCT	
New England	5	0	0	0	183	103	1.000	NY Giants	3	2	0	0	132	109	.600
NY Jets	4	1	0	0	129	75	.800	Dallas	2	3	0	1	101	131	.400
Buffalo	3	3	0	0	145	139	.500	Philadelphia	2	3	0	0	117	103	.400
Miami	2	3	0	0	103	111	.400	Washington	2	4	0	1	117	138	.333
AFC North								NFC North							
Cincinnati	6	0	0	0	182	122	1.000	Green Bay	6	0	0	0	164	101	1.000
Pittsburgh	4	2	0	1	145	108	.667	Minnesota	3	2	0	0	96	83	.600
Cleveland	2	4	0	1	141	158	.333	Chicago	2	4	0	1	120	179	.333
Baltimore	1	5	0	1	143	162	.167	Detroit	1	5	0	0	120	172	.167
AFC South								NFC South							
Indianapolis	3	3	0	0	126	147	.500	Carolina	5	0	0	0	135	94	1.000
Houston	2	4	0	0	128	155	.333	Atlanta	5	1	0	0	183	143	.833
Tennessee	1	4	0	0	112	129	.200	Tampa Bay	2	3	0	0	110	148	.400
Jacksonville	1	5	0	1	113	176	.167	New Orleans	2	4	0	0	134	164	.333
AFC West								NFC West							
Denver	6	0	0	0	139	102	1.000	Arizona	4	2	0	0	203	115	.667
Oakland	2	3	0	0	107	124	.400	St. Louis	2	3	0	0	84	113	.400
San Diego	2	4	0	0	136	161	.333	Seattle	2	4	0	2	134	125	.333
Kansas City	1	5	0	0	127	159	.167	San Francisco	2	4	0	0	100	160	.333

GCC MEGAPROJECTS SPUR ME TO REACH RECORD AUDIOVISUAL MARKET



JIANGXI: In this Oct. 11, 2015 photo, a woman works with equipment in a factory manufacturing solar power panels in Shangrao in central China's Jiangxi province. China's economic growth decelerated in the latest quarter but relatively robust spending by Chinese consumers helped to avert a deeper downturn. — AP

CHINA'S GROWTH DECLINES TO 6-YEAR LOW

ECONOMIC GROWTH FORECAST TO DECLINE FURTHER

BEIJING: China's economy decelerated in the latest quarter but stronger spending by consumers who are emerging as an important pillar of growth helped to avert a deeper downturn.

The world's second-largest economy grew by 6.9 percent in the three months ended in September, the slowest since early 2009 in the aftermath of the global financial crisis, data showed yesterday. That was down from the previous quarter's 7 percent.

Weakening trade and manufacturing have fueled concern about possible job losses and unrest. The communist government has cut interest rates five times since last November in an effort to shore up growth. The latest data highlight the two-speed nature of China's economy in the midst of a marathon effort by the Communist Party to nurture self-sustaining growth based on domestic consumption and reduce reliance on trade and investment. Manufacturers are shrinking and shedding millions of jobs while consumer-oriented businesses expand.

In September, growth in factory output slowed to 5.7 percent from August's 6.1 percent. At the same time, retail sales growth rose to 10.9 percent from July's 10.5 percent. E-commerce spending leaped ahead, rising 36 percent in the third quarter over a year earlier.

"Continued downward pressures from real estate and exports caused GDP growth to drop," said Louis Kuijs of Oxford Economics in a report. "But robust consumption and infrastructure prevented a sharper slowdown."

Decline in construction

The decline in Chinese heavy industry and construction has depressed demand for oil, iron ore and other commodities, dragging on growth in Australia, Brazil and other supplier countries.

At the same time, rising Chinese incomes are propelling demand for European wines, wheat and fresh fruit from Australia and the United States, medical technology and other imports.

Private sector forecasters have cut their outlook for China's growth this year to between 6.5 and 7 percent. That still would be the second-strongest of any major country, surpassed only by India, where the International Monetary Fund expects 7.5 percent. It would be more than double the 3.1 percent growth forecast by the IMF for the United States.

Much of China's 5-year-old slowdown has been self-imposed but an unexpectedly sharp decline over the past year, due in part to weak demand for Chinese exports,

prompted concern the downturn might be deepening too sharply. Forecasters expect Beijing to cut interest rates further and take other steps to shore up growth.

The IMF expects growth to slow to 6.3 percent next year and 6 percent in 2017. "We think there is further slowing to go," said Wei Li of Commonwealth Bank of Australia in a report. "Although we do not foresee China falling into a crisis, the economic growth rate is set to stay lower for longer."

New jobs

Communist leaders set an official growth target of "about 7 percent" for this year but have tried to discourage investors and the public from focusing on that figure. The top economic official, Premier Li Keqiang, said in September he would accept growth below that level so long as the economy keeps creating enough new jobs.

"In order to restructure, the economy will face some downward pressure," said Sheng Laiyun, a spokesman for the Chinese statistics agency. "China does not lack growth momentum," said Sheng at a news conference. "Despite a slowdown in the industrial sector, China's services sector is growing rapidly."

Already, e-commerce, restaurants and other services for China's own consumers account for 41.7 percent of the country's employment, well ahead of manufacturing's 34.7 percent share, according to government data.

The economy's latest performance was slightly better than forecast, defying expectations the collapse of a stock market boom the previous quarter would drag down consumer spending. September imports plunged in dollar value but analysts said that was due to lower prices for oil and other commodities. They noted the volume of imports of iron ore, oil and some other raw materials increased slightly, suggesting construction and manufacturing might be accelerating.

Exports in the first nine months of the year were down 1.9 percent from a year earlier, threatening the health of manufacturers that employ millions of workers. Weak global demand makes it unlikely Beijing can meet its trade growth target of 6 percent for this year.

Some forecasters suggest Beijing overstates growth and the true rate might be as low as 5 percent. "Today's data suggest that while the official GDP figures continue to overstate the actual pace of growth in China by a significant margin, underlying conditions are subdued but stable," said Julian Evans-Pritchard of Capital Economics in a report. —AP

ZAIN BAHRAIN ANNOUNCES RISE IN PROFITS BY 16.7%

CUSTOMER BASE INCREASED TO 814,000 ACTIVE CUSTOMERS

MANAMA: Zain Bahrain, the most innovative operator in the kingdom, yesterday announced its results for the nine-month period to Sept 30, 2015. The operator recorded net profit of BD 3.412 million (US\$ 9.026 million) for the nine-month period compared to BD 2.924 million (US\$ 7.735 million) for the corresponding period in 2014, representing an increase of 16.7 percent. Net profit for the three months to September 2015 amounted to BD 1.338 million (US\$ 3.539 million) compared to BD 700,000 (US\$ 1.851 million) reported for the same period in 2014, an increase of 91 percent.

EBITDA for the nine month period was BD 21.0 million (US\$ 55.555 million), representing a 38.6 percent margin, compared to EBITDA of BD 20.2 million (US\$53.439 million) for the previous year. The company recorded revenues of BD 53.630 million (US\$141.878 million) for the nine months, a decrease of 7.6 percent from the same period in 2014 which stood at BD 54.041 million (US\$ 142.965 million) while representing 5 percent growth from the second quarter of 2015 (i.e. from BD 17.489 million to BD 18.508 million).

The rise in company's profits was marked by strong positioning in data and the drive of efficiencies across the operation. At the end of the third quarter, Zain Bahrain maintained a strong growth in its customer base by 3 percent (from 787,000 to 814,000 active customers) while demand for broadband services increased.

Commenting on the company's financial results, Zain Bahrain's Chairman, Sheikh Ahmed Bin Ali Al-Khalifa said: "Our continued focus on maximizing customer experience has enabled Zain Bahrain to maintain its market leadership resulting in an encouraging set of financial and operational results."

"We are pleased that our focus in customer experience has led to exponential growth in mobile data subscribers. Zain Bahrain is committed to fostering innovation, and success can only be achieved by enabling innova-



Sheikh Ahmed Bin Ali Al-Khalifa, Chairman of Zain Bahrain

tion across the full spectrum of products and services," added Sheikh Ahmed. "We ended the third quarter with a growing customer base and positive financial results. We will continue to drive our operations towards growth and allow a better alignment with the competitive environment of the industry," said Sheikh Ahmed.

Key operational and commercial notes for Q3 2015:

- Zain Bahrain launched a series of innovation initiatives during the third quarter of this year. A new service aimed at limiting in-store waiting time across its retail network was

introduced. The new service, utilizing the latest technology to achieve higher levels of customer satisfaction, offers more ease and convenience to the operator's growing customer base by allowing them to schedule appointments based on their busy schedule.

- Another key initiative was the launch of the 'Smart Desk' within four of its retail branches. The customer-focused solution aims to provide Zain customers with walk-in technical support related to devices and services provided by the operator.
- Further strengthening its ties with the expatriate community, Zain Bahrain announced a partnership with the National Finance and Exchange Company (NAFEX), one of the leading providers of foreign exchange services in the Kingdom. NAFEX customers receive three free Zain 'dangerous' SIM cards with every money remittance they make in any of the company's widely spread branches.
- Zain Bahrain launched a series of outreach programs in Ramadhan under the theme of, 'Enrich Your Ramadan'. Initiatives included the launch of a tailor-made package for individuals with special needs and a Ghabga in collaboration with Bahrain Mobility Institute.
- Eighteen students joined the 2015 Summer Training Program under Zain Bahrain's Future University Network (F.U.N) initiative. The unique training program provides university undergraduates with the opportunity to gain valuable and real-life workplace experience through different specialized human development programs.
- Under the patronage of HH Sheikh Nasser bin Hamad Al-Khalifa, Chairman of the Board of trustees to the Royal Charity Organization, Zain Bahrain celebrated the 12th edition of its 'Back to School' project.

ASDA TO FOCUS INVESTMENT ON LARGER STORES

LONDON: Supermarket Asda, the British arm of Wal-Mart, is to accelerate investment in its larger stores and put expansion on hold elsewhere to save money as it seeks to reverse a sharp fall in recent sales. Britain's "big four" supermarkets, Tesco, Asda, Sainsbury's and Morrisons, have been hurt by a price war as they attempt to stem the loss of shoppers to discounters Aldi and Lidl, and the impact of commodity-led deflation.

Without providing new investment figures Asda said on Monday it would speed up existing plans to reconfigure 95 of its larger stores. But it will also slow down planned expansions in London, such as small format stores, as well as a programme to develop small outlets at petrol stations. Asda will put a brake on existing plans to develop remote click and collect sites, while non-core areas such as

its business to business sales operation will permanently close in the next few months. "We need to simplify what we do by prioritising the first line of our strategy-improving our core business - and pausing activity in other areas so that we are not spread too thinly," said Chief Executive Andy Clarke. All the big four supermarket groups have been lowering prices. But Asda was the first, saying in November 2013 it would spend 1 bil-

lion pounds (\$1.6 billion) on cuts over five years. In February, Asda separately said it would invest an additional 600 million pounds on stores this year. Asda's sales performance has deteriorated significantly in 2015, with the firm reporting like-for-like sales declines of 3.9 percent in its first quarter and 4.7 percent in its second quarter. The second quarter outcome, Asda's worst performance in the 16 years it has been owned by Wal-Mart, was described by Clarke as the firm's "nadir". However, recent industry data has shown little improvement. Last week Asda lured Roger Burnley, a top executive from rival Sainsbury's, to be its new chief operating officer, Clarke's deputy and his most likely successor as CEO. Separately last week Wal-Mart warned on profit, blaming higher spend on wages and e-commerce and lower prices, sending its shares down 10 percent.— Reuters



SALT LAKE CITY: File photo, Volkswagen diesel cars are parked in a storage lot near a VW dealership in Salt Lake City. Volkswagen almost inevitably will have to compensate owners of diesel cars equipped with emissions-rigging software. Some legal experts say the automaker could be forced to buy back the cars altogether. —AP

LAWSUITS COULD FORCE VW TO BUY BACK CHEATING DIESELS

DETROIT: Volkswagen almost inevitably will have to compensate owners of diesel cars equipped with emissions-rigging software. Some legal experts say the automaker could be forced to buy back the cars altogether. Many of the more than 200 lawsuits filed in the past few weeks allege that for seven years VW marketed four-cylinder diesel Golfs, Jettas, Beetles and Passats as clean alternatives to gas engines, knowing all along that the cars were spewing pollution that far exceeded legal limits. In September, Volkswagen admitted to rigging emissions tests in the US. Earlier this month, Michael Horn, the head of its US operations, told a congressional panel that VW was considering compensating owners for the lost value of their cars. He also said that it could take from one to two years to fix all the affected cars.

inflict environmental harm and be out of compliance with California law because of the wrong they committed," plaintiffs can argue, says Keating. While Berman's lawsuit covers only cars in California, the consumer fraud argument could be made successfully nationwide, according to Keating. He and Erik Gordon, a business professor and lawyer at the University of Michigan, say the argument for a buyback is a good way to start settlement talks. Gordon says the first option for judges would be to make VW pay buyers the difference between the value of the cars without the cheating software and what they are now worth. That could be hard to calculate. Lawyers also could argue that buyers based their purchase on VW's promises of clean, peppy cars, and because the repairs will hurt performance, VW must buy the cars back, he says. "You have to demonstrate to the court's satisfaction that (money) damages won't make you whole," Gordon says.

Seattle lawyer Steve Berman seized on that time frame when he sued VW last week in Los Angeles, seeking full restitution for owners of nearly 70,000 affected cars in California. In a somewhat unique approach, Berman is seeking to get his clients their money back under California laws requiring automakers to guarantee emissions control parts for up to seven years or 70,000 miles. His lawsuit says that VW can't promptly make its diesels comply with the warranty, so under a different statute it "shall either promptly replace the new motor vehicle or promptly make restitution to the buyer." The Environmental Protection Agency has said the VW diesels emit 10 times to 40 times the legal limit of nitrogen oxide. "Our clients don't want to wait a year. They don't want to be driving a dirty car," Berman says. The plaintiffs make the case that the cars can't be driven legally since they violate pollution standards, says University of Southern California law professor Greg Keating, who specializes in consumer fraud cases. Even though the EPA says the cars can legally stay on the roads, eventually states with pollution tests will force owners to comply with the law, he says.

Fraud argument

"They can't give me the car that they told me I was buying, and they're forcing me to

DISAPPOINTING Q3 EARNINGS HIT SAUDI, EGYPT REBOUNDS

SAUDI PETCHEMS CONTINUE RALLY

DUBAI: Saudi Arabia's stock market fell yesterday after disappointing third-quarter earnings at several companies, while Egypt rebounded from two days of losses because of worries about currency depreciation. The main Saudi index lost 0.4 percent as industrial materials maker National Industrialization Co (Tasnee) tumbled 8.0 percent after reporting a surprise quarterly loss, which it blamed on "lower average sales prices and lower sales volumes". Saudi Arabian Mining Co (Ma'aden) slid 4.3 percent after reporting third-quarter net profit plunged 83.5 percent plunge to 79.9 million riyals (\$21.3 million); analysts had forecast 209 million to 265 million riyals. Construction company Abdullah Abdul Mohsin al-Khodari and Sons sank 7.9 percent after recording a loss. It said new contract awards in the third quarter slumped to 31 million riyals compared with 554.6 million riyals of new work in the same period of 2014 - possibly a sign government spending and construction activity in Saudi Arabia is slowing because of low oil prices. Buy-backs of petrochemical shares, which have been depressed by low oil prices, continued, helping Saudi Basic Industries to edge up 0.3 percent. National Petrochemical Co soared 9.5 percent after reporting a 31 percent jump in quarterly profit. Other Gulf markets moved narrowly in modest volumes. Qatar's index rose 0.2 percent; the most heavily traded stock, Vodafone Qatar, adding 1.7 percent.

Commercial Bank of Qatar dropped 1.8 percent after reporting a quarterly net profit of 275.9 million riyals (\$75.8 million), down from 486.5 million riyals in the same period last year. Analysts polled by Reuters had forecast 495.4 million riyals. Dubai's index slipped 0.1 percent to 3,704 points. The biggest Dubai bank, Emirates NBD, sank 2.3 percent. Abu Dhabi's index rose 0.3 percent. Telecomms company Etisalat, which had risen 22 percent since late August, added a further 0.7 percent. With oil prices low, most Gulf Arab governments tightening spending in response and Gulf currencies strong because of their pegs to the US dollar, some investors see little upside in regional markets. "It is increasingly certain that next year will see a slowdown in economic activity due to the double whammy of tightening fiscal and monetary policies," Tarek Fadlallah, chief executive officer at Nomura Asset Management Middle East, said in a report. "Companies are already feeling the affects of this multiple tightening phenomenon and it is now likely that GCC (Gulf Cooperation Council) firms will experience a profit recession over the next few quarters." Egypt's market rebounded 1.1 percent after dropping the two previous days. The central bank allowed the pound to weaken slightly, which investors think is a signal that another round of managed depreciation may be starting. The pound's official rate has dropped to 7.9301 per dollar from 7.7301 on Thursday. Some

analysts think it may reach about 8.50 in coming months, as the central bank tries to correct the country's endemic foreign exchange shortage. All of the 10 most heavily traded stocks on Monday were higher, however, suggesting investors have long expected the pound to weaken. Egyptian Resorts, which may benefit if a weaker currency boosts tourism, climbed 5.1 percent in heavy trade. Real estate companies, considered a hedge against currency depreciation, also performed well with Talaat Mostafa up 4.1 percent. **Yesterday's HIGHLIGHTS SAUDI ARABIA** The index dropped 0.4 percent to 7,765 points. **DUBAI** The index edged down 0.1 percent to 3,704 points. **ABU DHABI** The index added 0.3 percent to 4,578 points. **QATAR** The index rose 0.2 percent to 11,788 points. **EGYPT** The index climbed 1.1 percent to 7,622 points. **KUWAIT** The index rose 0.3 percent to 5,784 points. **OMAN** The index edged down 0.02 percent to 5,924 points. **BAHRAIN** The index edged down 0.1 percent to 1,248 points. — Reuters

OIL PRICES SLIP BELOW \$50 ON CHINESE DEMAND

LONDON: Oil prices fell yesterday on concerns about the pace of economic growth in China, the world's largest energy consumer, and signs that global oversupply is curbing Saudi crude exports. China's economy grew at the slowest pace in six years in the third quarter, according to official data released yesterday, making it more and more likely Beijing will cut interest rates to spur activity. Data also showed that Chinese oil demand fell slightly in September, meaning the country's year-to-date growth is running behind the International Energy Agency's forecast. Brent for December delivery was down \$1.06 at \$49.40 a barrel at 1209 GMT. U.S. crude for November delivery fell 83 cents to \$46.43 a barrel, extending last week's steep loss. "Chinese GDP data and the rise in the Saudi stockpile due to falling crude oil exports are weighing on prices," said Tamas Varga, oil analyst at London brokerage PVM Oil Associates. Saudi Arabia, the world's biggest crude exporter, shipped 278,000 barrels a day less crude oil in August, trade data showed, suggesting demand for Saudi oil is sliding as the global supply glut persists. Austrian oil producer OMV lowered its oil price forecasts yesterday, seeing 2016 prices at \$55 a barrel, rising to \$70 a barrel in 2017, \$80 a barrel in 2018 and \$85 a barrel from 2019 onwards. The company said it would take a 1 billion euro (\$1.1 billion) charge on asset values in

its upstream business. Investors were also eyeing progress in the removal of Western sanctions on Iran that will allow the oil-rich nation to revamp oil production and resume exports to Western consumers. A senior Iranian oil official said yesterday the OPEC member will boost production by 500,000 barrels a day within one week of sanctions being lifted. The United States and the European Union on Sunday took formal legal steps to lift sanctions on Iran once Tehran meets the conditions tied to a landmark nuclear agreement with major world powers. The Buzzard oilfield in the North Sea, the largest contributor to the Forties crude stream that helps set the global oil price, was gradually ramping up production after a four-day outage. — Reuters



ABERDEEN: In a file picture taken on January 21, 2015 ships are seen in Aberdeen Harbour, the busiest port for the oil industry in the UK, in Aberdeen, Scotland. As the price of oil continues to stagnate after a steep decline, Scotland's northern city of Aberdeen is at a low ebb, and is gritting its teeth praying for a price rise, whilst also preparing for the programmed death of its oil fields. —AFP

EXCHANGE RATES

AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

ASIAN COUNTRIES

Japanese Yen	2.535
Indian Rupees	4.669
Pakistani Rupees	2.895
Srilankan Rupees	2.152
Nepali Rupees	2.922
Singapore Dollar	219.200
Hongkong Dollar	39.032
Bangladesh Taka	3.888
Philippine Peso	6.569
Thai Baht	8.590

GCC COUNTRIES

Saudi Riyal	80.710
Qatari Riyal	83.139
Omani Riyal	786.120
Bahraini Dinar	803.770
UAE Dirham	82.403

ARAB COUNTRIES

Egyptian Pound - Cash	40.050
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	38.209
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.412
Tunisian Dinar	155.930
Jordanian Dinar	426.900
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.017
Syrian Lira	2.157
Morocco Dirham	31.876

EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES

US Dollar Transfer	302.500
Euro	346.610
Sterling Pound	468.570
Canadian dollar	234.770
Turkish Lira	104.530
Swiss Franc	318.420
Australian dollar	221.130
US Dollar Buying	301.300

GOLD

20 gram	237.96
10 gram	121.67
5 gram	61.52

UAE EXCHANGE CENTRE WLL

CURRENCIES

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

TELEX TRANSFER PER 1000

DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

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

Saudi Riyals	81.500
Jordanian Dinar	426.815
Egyptian Pound	38.572
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.163
Indian Rupees	4.672
Pakistani Rupees	2.897
Bangladesh Taka	3.885
Philippines Peso	6.604
Cyprus pound	576.925
Japanese Yen	3.510
Syrian Pound	2.600
Nepalese Rupees	3.915
Malaysian Ringgit	74.100
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	48.045
Thai Bhat	9.495
Turkish Lira	104.250

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY

CURRENCY

	BUY	SELL
British Pound	0.460100	0.469100
Czech Korune	0.004667	0.016667
Danish Krone	0.042001	0.047001
Euro	0.338177	0.346177
Norwegian Krone	0.033266	0.038466
Romanian Leu	0.077701	0.077701
Slovakia	0.009011	0.019011
Swedish Krona	0.032637	0.037637
Swiss Franc	0.310352	0.320552
Turkish Lira	0.098992	0.109292

Australian Dollar	0.2111529	0.223029
New Zealand Dollar	0.199194	0.208694

Canadian Dollar	0.228429	0.236929
US Dollars	0.298400	0.302900
US Dollars Mint	0.298900	0.302900

Asia

Bangladesh Taka	0.003484	0.004084
Chinese Yuan	0.046405	0.049905
Hong Kong Dollar	0.036941	0.039691
Indian upee	0.004378	0.004768
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000018	0.000024
Japanese Yen	0.002450	0.002630
Kenyan Shilling	0.002945	0.002945
Korean Won	0.000259	0.000274
Malaysian Ringgit	0.068548	0.074548
Nepalese Rupee	0.002898	0.003068
Pakistan Rupee	0.002833	0.003113
Philippine Peso	0.006470	0.006750
Sierra Leone	0.000067	0.000073
Singapore Dollar	0.215174	0.221174
South African Rand	0.017068	0.025668
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001858	0.002438
Taiwan	0.009216	0.009396
Thai Baht	0.008201	0.008751

Arab

Bahraini Dinar	0.794758	0.802758
Egyptian Pound	0.037789	0.040619
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000085
Iraqi Dinar	0.000199	0.000259
Jordanian Dinar	0.422651	0.430151
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000150	0.000250
Moroccan Dirhams	0.020452	0.044452
Nigerian Naira	0.001247	0.001882
Omani Riyal	0.779294	0.784974
Qatar Riyal	0.082378	0.083591
Saudi Riyal	0.080030	0.080730
Syrian Pound	0.001282	0.001502
Tunisian Dinar	0.151983	0.159983
Turkish Lira	0.098992	0.109292
UAE Dirhams	0.081378	0.082527
Yemeni Riyal	0.001367	0.001447

INNOVATIVE GREEN FINANCING HAS HOBBOLED HOME SALES IN CALIFORNIA

CALIFORNIA: An innovative, government-sponsored program aimed at funding energy-saving home improvements has drawn praise from powerful supporters, including President Obama. But complaints from a growing number of homeowners, lenders and realtors in California suggest the financing is making homes more difficult to sell and disrupting the mortgage market.

More than 50,000 California households have signed up for Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) financing since state legislators passed a law in 2008 allowing residents to borrow money for such things as solar panels and energy-efficient windows. The financing method, authorized by cities and counties, and funded by venture capital-backed startups like Renovate America Inc, Renew Financial LLC and Ygrene Energy Fund Inc, is then paid off through special assessments on property tax bills.

Because the improvements stay with the home, and subsequent owners will reap the benefits of them, the assessments are intended to remain with the property in the event of a sale.

But some homeowners trying to sell their houses have found potential buyers scared off by the higher tax assessments. And now realtors in the state are organizing against PACE, saying it makes getting new mortgages much tougher and can leave sellers stuck in their homes.

In Riverside County, an inland part of Southern California where PACE has

been particularly popular, Paul Herrera, government affairs director for two realtor groups, said he gets daily phone calls from agents reporting difficulties selling homes with PACE assessments.

Sancho Lopez, a Riverside police officer and homeowner in an adjacent county, experienced the problem first-hand. He and his wife financed the \$40,000 cost of 21 dual-pane, energy efficient windows and two sliding doors with a PACE loan. When they decided to sell their house, their realtor warned them it wouldn't be easy.

The house sat on the market for 10 months, and it is in escrow now, Lopez said, only because he has agreed to pay off the loan balance - now \$46,000 because of interest and fees.

"I wouldn't ever do it again," Lopez said of the PACE program he used to pay for the windows.

MORTGAGE HIERARCHY

Banks dislike PACE loans because they take precedent over mortgage debt in the event of a default, upending a basic tenet of the market. "There is a general principle in mortgage banking: first in time, first in line," said Pete Mills, senior vice president with the Washington-based Mortgage Bankers Association. "Taxing authorities are always a risk of jumping ahead, but that's a far different matter than a private company selling energy improvements being able to jump ahead."

Both the Federal Housing Administration and the Federal Housing Finance Agency, while saying they support energy efficiency, have not supported the program up to now because the first lien position of mortgages is not assured. In 2010, the Federal Housing Finance Agency directed mortgage finance giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac not to buy mortgages on properties with PACE liens.

That has exacerbated the problems in Riverside County, Herrera said, where most mortgages are backed by Fannie or Freddie or insured by the FHA.

The federal housing regulators' reluctance has caught the attention of President Obama, who has said he wants the program to succeed and grow because it helps citizens participate in reducing energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions.

In August, the White House said it will work with the Federal Housing Administration to boost adoption of PACE financing nationwide. Nearly 30 states have passed laws to enable residential PACE, but states other than California have sat on the sidelines pending a resolution to the controversy.

JOLT FOR GREEN ECONOMY

The PACE program was created at a time when California's construction sector had been hit hard by the housing crisis. A new funding source for green home improvements was seen as a way

of both putting contractors back to work and helping meet climate goals.

Seven years on, supporters say the program is working. Renovate America, which has financed 90 percent of the residential PACE deals in California through its HERO program, said its 47,000 projects have created more than 8,000 jobs and reduced carbon dioxide emissions by an amount equal to taking 330,000 sport utility vehicles off the road for a year. Wall Street also likes it. Investors have snapped up hundreds of millions of dollars of bonds backed by PACE projects, which are regarded as low risk because they enjoy priority over a mortgage. Renovate America has raised more than \$600 million through bond sales over the last two years.

"PACE is the only financing that allows the seller to transfer the remaining debt to a new buyer," Renovate America spokeswoman Ellen Qualls points out, noting that even under current federal policy, about 45% of home sellers with PACE financing from her company have been able to pass the assessments on to new buyers.

It's difficult to quantify how many homeowners have had difficulty selling their homes since real estate agents don't keep data on deals that don't happen, Herrera said.

Rich Simonin, owner of Westcoast Realtors, a Riverside County real estate company that sells about 700 homes a year, said PACE assessments pose chal-

lenges in about 5 to 10 percent of his deals.

Renovate America has responded to criticism from realtors and others by improving disclosures in its contracts and creating a division focused on resolving issues with home sales.

"I'm not a realtor. I'm a software guy," McNeill said. "When you create something you tend to not know 100 percent about where you are going to go until you get feedback."

Renovate has also started allowing homeowners who ask - generally when trying to refinance or sell - to subordinate their assessments through a separate contract. But if subordinating PACE liens becomes the industry norm, providers argue that could hurt the credit quality of their securities and raise borrowing costs when they issue bonds. In the meantime, people continue to be caught in the middle.

Steve Lista used Riverside County's PACE program to pay for a nearly \$27,000 prepaid lease of solar panels for his Eastvale home. The account manager for an automobile auction company put his 5-bedroom house on the market in June, but despite receiving at least six offers couldn't find a buyer willing to take on the \$3,000-a-year assessment.

"No one was comfortable taking over the terms," he said. Lista, who had hoped to sell his home to pay off some debt, took his house off the market last week.— Reuters

CHINA'S ANTI-CORRUPTION WATCHDOG TARGETS AVIATION INDUSTRY OFFICIALS

BEIJING: Senior Chinese airline and aviation officials misused company funds, took bribes and accepted golf outings as gifts, China's anti-corruption watchdog said in a series of inspection reports of central government agencies and conglomerates.

The Communist Party's official newspaper and its economic planning agency were also singled out by the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection (CCDI) in its latest reports under President Xi Jinping's three-year-old anti-graft drive. At Commercial Aircraft Corporation of China Comac, the manufacturer of China's C919 airplane, officials were found to have taken unnecessary trips overseas at company expense and used company money to pay for personal expenses, the CCDI said in its reports released late on Sunday.

Executives at Aviation Industry Corporation of China AVIC, a shareholder of Comac, accepted bribes or received kickbacks from suppliers, CCDI said. Others took holidays and played golf at company expense.

The CCDI said it also uncovered bribe-taking, at Civil Aviation Administration of China, the industry regulator, as well as at China Eastern Airlines and the parent of Air China.

Comac Chairman Jin Zhuanglong, AVIC Chairman Lin Zuoming and China Eastern Chairman Liu Shaoyong accepted the CCDI findings and pledged to take action, according to the commission's reports.

China Southern Airlines, the first state carrier probed by CCDI earlier this year, has

closed overseas bank accounts, taken action against corrupt executives and stopped free rounds of golf courses for premier clients in the wake of CCDI inspection tours.

China Eastern and Air China group could not immediately be reached for comment. An AVIC spokeswoman also declined to comment, but said the company would put out a statement possibly as early as later on Monday. Comac released a statement late on Sunday pledging to rectify the problems. The CCDI also said it was investigating three officials at the economic planner, the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), for suspected corruption. All were suspected of "serious violations of discipline", it said, the usual euphemism used by Chinese officials for corruption. The NDRC confirmed the investigation and said it was determined to crack down on corruption. The People's Daily newspaper also came in for criticism, with the watchdog alleging it covered up news in exchange for money and abused government funds.

People's Daily Editor-in-Chief Yang Zhenwu was quoted in the commission's statement as saying the paper would step up its vigilance against graft. The paper could not immediately be reached for comment.

The graft-buster's reports come as the government rolls out new guidelines to overhaul China's inefficient state sector. Beijing has targeted 26 major state-owned firms for inspections this year. —Reuters



NEW YORK: In this Wednesday, Oct 10, 2012 file photo, people pass Morgan Stanley's headquarters in New York. Turbulence in global markets hit Morgan Stanley's business particularly hard in the third quarter, sending the bank's earnings down 42 percent yesterday, well short of analysts' estimates. —AP

WALL ST FALLS AS MORGAN STANLEY RESULTS DISAPPOINT WEIGHT WATCHERS SOARS AFTER OPRAH TAKES STAKE

NEW YORK: US stocks opened lower yesterday after a swathe of weak results led by Morgan Stanley and Halliburton. Morgan Stanley's shares fell 6.2 percent to \$31.83 after the bank's profit fell for the second straight quarter. The stock was the second-largest drag on the S&P 500 index.

The bank's results capped mostly downbeat quarterly results from major US banks with struggling trading businesses. Citigroup, JPMorgan, Wells Fargo slipped about half a percent. Goldman fell about 1 percent to \$183.47 and was the biggest drag on the Dow Jones industrial average.

Halliburton fell 1.5 percent to \$37.26 after reporting a bigger-than-expected 36 percent drop in quarterly revenue, hurt by weak drilling activity and pricing in North America.

"After three weeks of market gains, any disappointing earnings this morning could indicate that we could be in for some profit taking," said Peter Cardillo, chief market economist at Rockwell Global Capital in New York.

S&P 500 companies are expected to show a 3.9 percent fall in third-quarter profit, according to Thomson Reuters data. Investors will continue

scrutinizing company reports this week with several Dow components posting quarterly results, including Caterpillar, Boeing, Amazon and Coca-Cola.

At 9:35 a.m. ET (1335 GMT), the Dow was down 60.39 points, or 0.35 percent, at 17,155.58, the S&P 500 was down 7.56 points, or 0.37 percent, at 2,025.55 and the Nasdaq composite index was down 11.16 points, or 0.23 percent, at 4,875.53.

All 10 major S&P 500 sectors were down, with the energy sector leading the decline with a 1.2 percent fall. Data yesterday showed China's economic growth slowed to 6.9 percent between July and September, but still ahead of the 6.8 percent forecast.

GLOBAL MARKETS UP

Reactions were mixed with most global markets rising as the data suggested that China may need more stimulus measures from Beijing though its economic health was not as bad as expected.

Brent crude oil prices fell 2.7 percent to \$49.10 a barrel as worries mount about tepid demand from China and a global supply glut

curbing Saudi exports.

IBM reports quarterly results after the close. Data on US homebuilder sentiment is due at 1000 ET (1400 GMT). The NAHB/Wells Fargo housing market index is expected to remain steady at 62 in October.

Federal Reserve of Richmond President Jeffrey Lacker, Chicago Fed President Charles Evans and Fed Board Governor Lael Brainard are scheduled to speak later.

Weight Watchers surged nearly 70 percent to \$11.40 after it said Oprah Winfrey will buy a 10 percent stake in the company and join the board.

Valeant Pharma's US-listed shares fell 6.6 percent to \$165.70 after the drugmaker reported a better-than-expected quarterly profit. PMC-Sierra jumped nearly 14 percent to \$11.66 after the chipmaker received a buyout offer from Microsemi, valuing the company at \$2.4 billion.

Declining issues outnumbered advancing ones on the NYSE by 1,968 to 661. On the Nasdaq, 1,434 issues fell and 763 advanced. The S&P 500 index showed one new 52-week high and two new lows, while the Nasdaq recorded nine new highs and seven new lows. — Reuters

GOLD SLIPS AS STOCKS, DOLLAR STRENGTHEN

LONDON: Gold fell yesterday as a rebound in stocks and strength in the dollar pulled the metal further from last week's 3-1/2 month high, though prices remained underpinned by uncertainty over the timing of a US rate rise. Spot gold was down 0.4 percent at \$1,171.95 an ounce at 1202 GMT, while US gold futures for December delivery were down \$11.00 an ounce at \$1,172.10. Last week the metal hit its highest since late June at \$1,190.63 an ounce. Gold rose more than 7 percent to last week's peak after US jobs data on Oct. 2 disappointed financial markets, prompting investors to dial back expectations for an imminent increase in US interest rates.

Analysts say the move showed signs of becoming overstretched. Hedge funds and money managers raised their bullish bets in COMEX gold and silver to near five-month highs in the week ended Oct. 13, US Commodity Futures Trading Commission data showed on Friday.

"The biggest threat to gold right now is the big jump in speculative long bets during the past couple of weeks," Saxo Bank's head of commodities research Ole Hansen said. "It did not take long for the ECB either to come out on the attack against the rising euro and the EUR/USD retracement since

then has also sapped confidence a bit."

The dollar rose against the euro on Monday as investors waited to see whether the European Central Bank would unveil more stimulus plans at a meeting this week. European stocks climbed after Chinese economic growth data marginally beat expectations, calming months of concerns over the prospect of a hard landing in the world's second-largest economy.

The world's largest gold-backed exchange-traded fund, New York-listed SPDR Gold Shares, reported its first outflow in over a week on Friday, of 6.3 tonnes. Silver was down 1.5 percent at \$15.81 an ounce, while platinum was flat at \$1,011.75 an ounce and palladium was down 1.2 percent at \$684.72 an ounce. Platinum hit its highest since late August on Friday after tumbling to 6-1/2 year lows earlier this month on the Volkswagen emissions scandal, which some feared could cut demand for diesel engines, and catalytic converters that contain the metal. "While it is too early to quantify the impact of the VW scandal on diesel vehicles and platinum demand, we highlight that lower prices have reinvigorated jewellery interest in platinum," Standard Chartered said in a note. "China's platinum imports bounced back in August." — Reuters



PARIS: (L to R) French Economy Minister Emmanuel Macron, French Minister for Social Affairs, Health and Women's Rights Marisol Touraine, Labour Minister Myriam el Khomry, French Prime Minister Manuel Valls and President of the Economic, Social and Environmental Council (CESE) Jean-Paul Delevoye, listen the opening speech of French President during the 2015 Social Conference for Employment, yesterday in Paris. — AFP

INDIAN BUDGET CARRIER INDIGO WANTS \$500M FROM IPO

MUMBAI: India's booming budget airline IndiGo hopes to raise up to \$500 million in a share sale next week that will help fund expansion, its president Aditya Ghosh said yesterday. IndiGo had previously said it would seek \$200 million through the initial public offering (IPO) but Ghosh wants a bigger war chest to extend the carrier's dominance of India's budget airline market. "There is huge opportunity in India due to very limited supply and rising demand," Ghosh told reporters in Mumbai, announcing that the IPO would open to the public on October 27.

The sale will run for three days and IndiGo hopes to raise between \$470 mil-

lion and \$500 million, Ghosh said, adding that some of the funds would go to trimming the airline's debt. IndiGo was launched in 2006 and quickly became India's largest carrier, enjoying a nearly one-third share of the domestic air market as tens of millions of increasingly affluent citizens take advantage of cheap air travel. Increased demand over the past decade has fuelled a price war among Indian airlines, which coupled with rising fuel costs, have sent most domestic carriers deep into the red.

IndiGo has bucked the trend however, largely thanks to its no-frills approach and new fuel-efficient aircraft, and is the only Indian carrier to have consistently

reported profits in recent years. "We have a simple model and we intend to keep it. There is no need to complicate things with frequent flyer programme or lounges," Ghosh said. IndiGo will sell shares for between 700 rupees (\$11) and 765 rupees. The IPO will close on October 29 and is set to be the largest in India in three years.

It comes after the Cafe Coffee Day chain floated on the stock market last week as India's IPO market enjoys a mini resurgence. In August, IndiGo placed an order worth \$26.5 billion with Airbus for 250 A320neo planes. IndiGo's debt currently stands at 39.12 billion rupees, according to Ghosh. —AFP



MUMBAI: Indian President and Executive Director of InterGlobe Aviation Limited Aditya Ghosh speaks during a press conference announcing the company's IPO in Mumbai yesterday. — AFP

UNFAZED BY THE TURMOIL

MARKET COMMENTARY

By Byron Wien

For the past several decades I have organized a series of lunches on summer Fridays with a number of hedge fund activists, corporate chiefs, venture capitalists, private equity stars and others. Many are well-known and there are more than a few billionaires. The goal is not to see



how much net worth I can cram onto a shaded terrace, but how much wisdom I can focus on the key investment issues facing all of us. And whilst I think it's fair to say that last year nobody anticipated the sharp drop

in the price of oil, the Greek crisis or the Chinese devaluation, over the years there have been a number of impressive insights.

World equity markets were weakening during the four weeks the lunches were taking place, but few anticipated the precipitous decline we all painfully experienced in August. In spite of that downturn, most believed that the United States would avoid a recession and grow 2% or better; housing would be the driver. China would have a soft landing. If these conditions prevailed, we were only going through a long, overdue correction (it has been more than three years since the Standard & Poor's declined 10%) and the market would recover afterwards. Many believed the S&P 500 would deliver positive performance at year end.

Those in the group who were close to operating companies said that the problems in China had not yet had an impact on their business. They offered that investors were over-reacting to China's softening. Only 1% of US corporate earnings came from China out of 38% from all foreign sources, one participant pointed out. Lower oil and commodity prices were a positive, and US companies were able to borrow at attractive interest rates. Most economic indicators, such as durable goods orders, supported the view that the US economy was still okay. The main concern however was the contagion effects of the Chinese slowdown. China is a major consumer of commodities, and a high percentage of commodity production comes from emerging countries. These markets, including China, account for 40% of world GDP. If 40% of the world were in recession, how could the developed economies not be affected?

Some complained that overall demand was soft and it was hard to increase revenues. This explained the vigorous merger and acquisition activity undertaken by chief executives desperate to increase earnings and making strategic acquisitions to do so. By combining marketing and administrative functions, a new company could improve profits with even modest revenue increases. The general view was that buybacks and merger and acquisitions activity was a positive for the market but a few worried that the buybacks were occurring at too high prices and companies were only buying their stock back because they had to do so in order to inflate earnings.

At the beginning of August, most attendees thought the first Fed tightening would be in September, but by the end of the month there was much more uncertainty. A sizeable portion of the group thought the first move would be in 2016 because of the unsettled markets.

One guest pointed out that the only reason the world economies seemed to be doing well was because companies had access to cheap debt. This may be at the heart of China's problems because many of the loans there are thought to be in default and the market may sense a credit meltdown is occurring. In the United States, the Federal Reserve increased its balance sheet from \$1 trillion to \$4.5 trillion between 2008 and 2014 and this kept the economy growing at a modest rate. Easing across the world has sustained growth everywhere, but the main purpose of the monetary expansion was to trigger a natural economic momentum that would continue when the central banks became less accommodative. The data on the US economy turned less robust last October when the Fed stopped infusing liquidity into the system, but second quarter real GDP of 3.7% was encouraging, even if some of it was due to inventory building. The concern is that the debt accumulated during the easy money period may be difficult to pay back. This is particularly true in the energy sector where there is a lot of high-yield paper outstanding and some of the weakest companies were heavy borrowers. The

decline in equities may also be reflecting the problems in credit.

There was good news and bad news on the technology front. A senior executive at one of the major Internet companies attended one of the lunches. I asked him my favorite question: "Will developments in the next thirty years match those of the last thirty?" I just cannot conceive of the next thirty years producing anything comparable to the Internet and the smartphone. He answered without hesitation. The advances of the next thirty years will be more dramatic. He said there are hundreds of entrepreneurs coming up with change-the-world ideas and seeking capital from venture capitalists. Unlike the period when Google, Facebook and Amazon were looking for money, capital is readily available to those with promising concepts.

He cited artificial intelligence as a fertile area. Any repetitive function done by a human being can be done by a computer. This applies to many white collar jobs in the government, law firms and media. Just as technology hollowed out a large number of jobs in factories, it will eliminate a number of jobs in offices. This brings us to the bad news. The elimination of a large number of well-paying positions in offices will add to the problem of middle-class unemployment. Real median family income has not increased as the economy has recovered and this will be a growing problem going forward. A second area where technology is poised for a breakthrough is pharmaceutical development. Rapid access to big data should speed the introduction of drugs to treat and/or cure a number of diseases, including cancer, heart disease and Alzheimer's. The combination of fewer middle-class white collar jobs and longer lifespans could place a burden on the government to support a growing, less productive population. The increasing number of people on disability is a problem as well.

Back to China and the group believed that what may come out of this turmoil is a more cautious Chinese leadership. They may move slowly on their rebalancing efforts, and they are almost surely going to pull back on any territorial expansionist efforts to concentrate on keeping the economy growing. China's authoritarian government depends on strong central leadership. An escalation of civil unrest would challenge that and they will do everything possible to avoid it. The consensus of the group is they will be able to maintain stability.

A chief executive of a major oil company participated in one of the sessions. He said the drop in the price of crude had really hurt smaller exploration and production companies around the world. Many companies have suspended their efforts to find new deposits, and energy capital expenditures are down substantially. In spite of the drop in price, companies have stepped up production from existing wells. The result is that there is plenty of supply on the market now, depressing the current price, but several years from now there may be a shortage of crude. In addition, production from existing wells is eroding by about two to three million barrels per day out of ninety-five million total, and demand from the developed and emerging markets will continue to increase as long as we do not go into a worldwide recession. So, while the price may stay at present levels or go somewhat lower for a while, if you can be patient until the end of the decade, we should see West Texas Intermediate crude back around the \$70 level or even higher.

Finally, We spent some time at each session discussing the Donald Trump phenomenon. In the first session at the beginning of August, most thought he would implode somewhere along the way, but in the last session at the end of the month, he was being taken more seriously. The attendees believed his success so far was more than a result of the American tendency to reverse celebrities or name recognition. There was a feeling that three quarters of the population is dissatisfied with the direction in which the country is heading, and they want an outsider in Washington who is committed to changing the status quo. His positions may be impractical, but he gives people the feeling he will get something done to put America on a more positive track. He benefits from the fact that the other Republican candidates are unexciting. Jeb Bush has to move away from the Republican mantra of lower taxes, reducing regulation and limiting women's reproductive rights and come up with his own ideas. Most believe that Hillary Clinton is in trouble because of the private e-mails, but the election is fifteen months away and she is likely to survive the controversy because other Democratic potential candidates cannot raise her kind of money.

FED WILL LIKELY PASS THIS YEAR, MARKET VOLATILITY OFF BUT SOURCES REMAIN

NBK ECONOMIC REPORT

KUWAIT: 2015 market volatility, expected by many for this year, did not disappoint but was certainly much more vicious in the third quarter, spurred by expected sources: China's economy and Fed monetary policy. The third quarter ended with stocks significantly lower in most markets, on a year-to-date basis with US markets down some 7% for the Dow Industrials, 5% for the S&P 500. The markets have recovered some ground early in Q4 however. The US dollar was up against most currencies, up 8% ytd against the euro. And ironically US interest rates were little changed or down slightly, on the year, though the Fed keeps getting closer to raising rates for the first time in nine years, or so it seems. The weaker US September employment report, a gain of 142K new jobs, should put to rest any notion of a Fed hike this year.

The recent volatility and equity losses were driven largely by developments in the US and China, the world's two largest economies. In China, economic growth disappointed, equities weakened in response, and the government attempted to prop up both the financial markets and economic growth; with little success, at least in regards to the equity markets. A series of policy moves were undertaken: looser lending regulations, official purchases of equities, a ban on equity sales in some cases, reducing interest rates, devaluing the renminbi and freer FX trading. These measures failed to convince investors and stem the decline in China's equities. The lack of results also changed unrealistic perceptions: China's government is not all-knowing, all-competent and omnipotent all the time. A side-effect was also to revive dormant doubts about the reliability of economic and business data in the Chinese economy.

In a nutshell, and suddenly, both weaker data and eroded confidence hit Chinese equities in the midst of a massive bull run that had seen stocks double in price in less than one year. The volatility from China reverberated in all

other markets, including emerging markets (FX and fixed-income) and commodity economies. Chinese equities are now 7% lower ytd (28% lower in Q3), and the economic outlook was revised down by most analysts to under 7% GDP growth, though questions still linger as to the "real/actual" pace of growth there. Recent official data showed Chinese GDP grew 6.9% y/y in Q3, the slowest pace since 2009.

'Lift off'

For its part, the Fed was poised to "lift-off" (raise the federal funds rate 25 bps) at the recent September meeting. However the move was derailed and delayed, clearly, by financial market havoc in Q3. The Fed thus decided to buy itself some extra time and it announced (through Chair Yellen and the FOMC's dot-plots) that it still expected a rate rise before year-end. While everything was "reasonable" on the surface of the FOMC September decision, it kept two sources of uncertainty alive. One: when is lift-off (really), and what will be the reaction of the markets? Two: is the Fed really serious about "lift-off"? In the sense that it once again delayed that crucial decision, based on international developments. The latter are not explicitly in the Fed's mandate. China and its markets are of course very important and can, and will, affect the US economy, world inflation, FX and commodity prices etc. However the Fed's knack, more than once since 2008, in finding and adding new justifications, or targets, to delay raising rates is getting to become an issue, and has started to gnaw at the Fed's credibility. At the September FOMC meeting, fourmembers looked for the rate rise(s) to start in 2016, versus only two at the July meeting. A vast majority was still expecting the first rate hike this year, with two FOMC meetings to go: October and December. But that was before the September jobs report.

Now, after volatility has somewhat subsided,

MALAYSIA'S PM NAJIB FACES BUDGET TEST AMID OIL SLUMP

KUALA LUMPUR: Dogged by scandal and hampered by falling oil and gas revenues, Malaysia's Prime Minister Najib Razak will present a budget on Friday that will look to shore up economic growth and appease voters unhappy with his leadership and rising living costs.

It is unlikely to alter investors' disillusion with Najib's Malaysia, reflected by the ringgit currency's 20 percent drop since the start of the year to levels unseen since the Asian financial crisis in the late 1990s.

While the government would like to show it is business as usual, passage of the budget could test the support Najib commands in the ruling United Malays National Organisation (UMNO) as he fends off corruption allegations over indebted state-fund 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB).

Najib, who is also the finance minister, prepared the ground for a voter-pleasing budget in a blog post last week, saying a state survey found cost of living, housing and education were the most important issues for Malaysians. "Preservation of household income is important. That is why I am stressing on the people's economy," Najib wrote.

Self-preservation is also likely to figure in the equation, analysts say. Opposition lawmakers are pushing this week for a confidence vote in parliament, which Najib would almost certainly survive if it did happen.

But he still needs to convince worried UMNO members that he can come through the multi-billion dollar scandal at 1MDB to lead them into an election due by 2018.

A poll by Merdeka Center, published by the Singapore Straits Times on Saturday, showed support for the government among the country's ethnic Malay majority had sunk to 31 percent in August from the 52 percent in January. Support among the minorities, notably the Chinese, was even lower.

Making it harder for Najib,

and employment, Najib can ill-afford to take risks fiscally, or politically after the introduction of a highly unpopular sales tax on goods and services in April.

HANDOUTS, BONUSES

Singapore-based Nomura economist Brian Tan foresaw no major budget surprises this time. "There



KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia's Prime minister Najib Razak (C) leaves after a parliament session in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. Malaysian opposition leader Wan Azizah Wan Ismail said she planned to submit a motion for a parliamentary vote of no confidence in Prime Minister Najib Razak, who is under fierce scrutiny over a slew of corruption allegations. —AFP

Malaysia's economy is showing signs of slowing after growing 5.3 percent annually in the first half of 2015 and low prices for exports of oil, gas and other commodities have reduced its external surpluses. While wanting to boost growth

would just be more cash handouts and infrastructure projects," Tan said. "The more he tries to change, the more is the risk of taking unpopular decisions, which the government wants to avoid."

The budget is likely to include

measures to cushion the impact of new taxes, hikes in road tolls and subsidy cuts on households through cash payouts, bonus payments for civil servants and individual tax relief.

Economists foresee subsidies increasing through a cash handout programme for the poor called BR1M. Affordable housing programmes could be expedited also. Other likely measures include more spending on road building, particularly in the politically key Borneo states of Sabah and Sarawak.

The government is already struggling to bring its fiscal deficit down to a targeted 3.2 percent of gross domestic product this year.

Unhelpfully, the dividend received from state oil and gas firm Petronas is expected to be far lower than the committed 26 billion ringgit (\$6.18 billion) for 2015.

On the plus side, the new sales tax has raised a more than expected 23.2 billion ringgit since its introduction, deputy finance minister Chua Tee Yong told parliament yesterday.

Despite ringgit's slump, international credit rating agencies have kept Malaysia's sovereign debt at investment grade and all of them have a "stable" outlook for the rating. But room for stimulus remains limited.

"The government has to consider the trade off between maintaining fiscal consolidation mentioned in the new five-year plan and maintaining near term support for this economy," said Christian de Guzman, Moody's analyst, referring to the 11th Malaysia Plan unveiled in May. —Reuters

NEPAL OFFICIAL SAYS INDIA TO INCREASE FUEL SUPPLIES

KATHMANDU: The deputy prime minister of fuel-starved Nepal said yesterday that Indian officials have assured him of increased supplies.

Kamal Thapa returned home after meeting in India with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj. Ethnic Madhesi protesters in southern Nepal have been demonstrating against the makeup of states created by the country's new constitution by blocking a key border crossing with India, which

supplies all of landlocked Nepal's fuel. Thapa said the Indian leaders promised that fuel trucks lined up at the crossing would be rerouted and that more fuel would be supplied through other border points to ease the shortage. "The Indian leaders have assured me that there will be no obstructions of the flow of trucks to Nepal from the points that are not blocked, fuel supply will be improved, and trucks that were stuck would be rerouted," Thapa told reporters at Kathmandu airport.

India, which has close cultural ties with the Madhesis, has expressed unhappiness over the constitution. Protesters have blocked the main crossing point at Birgunj, where cargo trucks have been lined up for weeks.

The other border points are generally clear of protesters and trucks are moving without problems, but Nepal says it has not received much oil from its supplier, Indian Oil Corp. —AP



NEW 2016 FORD EXPLORER BRINGS EVEN MORE SMART TECHNOLOGY

BUILDING ON 25 YEARS OF INNOVATION AND SALES LEADERSHIP

DUBAI: The vehicle that gave us room to roam reminds us that there is always room to grow and explore more. "Explorer helped define how the world thinks about SUVs," said Raj Nair, Ford group vice president and chief technical officer, Global Product Development. "Explorer is the centerpiece of Ford's global utility vehicle lineup because it delivers an ideal combination of form and function. And with well over 7 million already sold, nearly everyone has an Explorer story."

Introduced in 1990 as a 1991 model, Explorer featured generous interior space customers were looking for, and was engineered specifically for people seeking adventure for their families and a way to express their individuality.

Greater performance

Even more smart technology - that's what customers will get with the new Ford Explorer. It offers more technologies than previous models, features that enhance the driving experience. New technologies available for 2016 include:

- Front and rear cameras with washers: Both have wide-angle lenses and come equipped with a washer - a class-exclusive, segment-first feature
- Enhanced active park assist with perpendicular park assist, park-out assist and semi-automatic parallel parking: The system uses ultrasonic sensors and electric power-assisted steering to help drivers with parallel parking and perpendicular parking maneuvers. Enhanced active park assist includes park-out assist to help a driver pull out of parallel parking spots. The system controls the steering wheel, while the driver operates the accelerator and brake pedals, and shifts

the vehicle into gear

- Smart-charging USB ports: Located in the front and rear of the vehicle are USB ports able to charge smart devices up to two times faster than conventional ports

- Hands-free liftgate: A customer need only kick his or her leg below the center of the rear bumper to open or close the liftgate

- Air curtains: Standard air curtains create a high-pressure region of air that impacts the outer surface of the wheels and tires. The result is airflow held close to the vehicle body, minimizing drag

The following features, while not new for Explorer, are also available on the 2016 model:

- Adaptive cruise control and collision warning with brake support: Uses radar to detect moving vehicles directly ahead and changes the cruising speed if necessary

- Lane-keeping system: Automatically detects left- and right-hand road lane markings using the front camera system. A vibration in the steering wheel alerts the driver if the vehicle begins to drift out of the intended lane. The system can also provide steering torque to help guide the vehicle back into the lane if needed

- Blind Spot Information System: BLIS(r) uses radar to trigger a warning when another motorist is in the driver's blind spot

- Cross-traffic alert: Uses radar to help alert drivers to oncoming traffic when backing out of a parking space

- Auto high-beams: Using windshield-mounted cameras, the feature automatically switches between high-beam and low-beam settings when oncoming traf-

fic is detected

- Inflatable rear safety belts: Introduced on 2011 Explorer as an industry-first feature, the belts deploy an airbag over the torso and shoulder of an outboard passenger to help distribute crash forces over up to five times more area than a traditional safety belt. Spreading forces over a larger area helps reduce pressure on a passenger's chest, and helps control head and neck motion
- "The new Explorer isn't giving up its reputation as a leader in highway fuel efficiency - which is especially key for customers who want a vehicle that is also a capable trail warrior," said Groeneveld.

The standard 3.5-liter V6 engine for base, XLT and Limited models - with 294 PS at 6,500 rpm and 346 Nm of torque at 4,000 rpm - is paired with a six-speed SelectShift(r) Automatic transmission. Explorer Sport 6 5,500 rpm and 470 Nm of torque at 3,500 rpm - also mated with the six-speed SelectShift.

For the exterior, signature lighting surrounds the LED headlamps, giving the vehicle a continuous glow. Other features include a standard dual-panel moonroof, premium silver-painted front and rear skid plate elements, and an all-new 18 and 20-inch wheel line up.

The integrated exhaust is designed to reduce the appearance of soot collecting at the rear of the vehicle. Inside the chrome bezel of the exhaust, engineers designed a shield that catches the soot so it doesn't collect around the outlets.

Intelligent four-wheel drive: Ready for any adventure

Explorer's intelligent four-wheel drive with Terrain Management System(tm) reassesses conditions about 20 times

faster than the blink of an eye - providing precise handling and traction.

Intelligent four-wheel drive continuously monitors wheel speed, throttle position and steering wheel angle to determine vehicle conditions and driver intent. The system then determines the optimal amount of front and rear torque for the given conditions to prevent slip from even occurring, which helps keep the vehicle sure-footed on virtually any terrain. In sand, grass or gravel mode, the antilock braking system changes its pulse rate, which allows material to build up in front of the wheels, acting as a doorstep of sorts to help slow momentum. To help maintain efficiency, in most steady-state cruising conditions the new Explorer equipped with intelligent four-wheel drive seamlessly and quickly transfers torque between the front and rear wheels. A newly refined, intelligent four-wheel-drive gauge display shows power being distributed to front and rear wheels under all conditions - from heavy four-wheel-drive system usage to when the system is not transmitting power at all.

Comfortable and capable

The new Explorer benefits from an improved suspension for better handling and a quiet cabin, enabling a comfortable ride even when the pavement turns to dirt. Ford completely retuned the Explorer chassis to clearly differentiate the driving experiences offered by the XLT and Sport models. The suspension uses MacPherson construction with an isolated subframe and 32-millimeter stabilizer bar at the front, while an independent multilink rear setup uses a 22-millimeter stabilizer bar. Explorer Sport

customers looking for a more dynamic driving experience will benefit from unique steering gear, front and rear springs, struts and rear dampers.

Interior changes help enhance quietness in the cabin. There are new door seals, and an enhanced sound package includes engine subframe mounts specially tuned to reduce vibration. Acoustic glass is used on the windshield and front doors on XLT and higher trim levels.

New look

Rugged - that's the word that inspired the designers creating the look of the new Ford Explorer.

Exterior styling updates - such as positioning the grille and LED headlamps even higher, adding a new closed-off lower roof rack with channels that cascade rainwater off the vehicle and a new rear spoiler - also improve aerodynamics.

The 2016 Explorer features more robust headlamps, with available LED signature lighting, standard LED low-beams and available LED fog lamps.

Visible heat-sink structures for cooling the LED headlamps are a meaningful detail. These radiator-like grilles are typically hidden behind the light cluster, but on Explorer they are part of a complex headlamp design that puts innovation on display.

Interior design changes reflect desires customers expressed through Ford consumer research, which shows one in five Explorer Sport customers previously owned a luxury vehicle. Changes include a higher-mounted, wrapped and stitched door armrest, real buttons to replace touch-sense buttons on the infotainment system and more refined detailing throughout.

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OOREDOO KUWAIT ANNOUNCES FANTASTIC BENEFITS FOR IPHONE 6S AND IPHONE 6S PLUS PACKAGES

KUWAIT: Hot on the heels of Ooredoo Kuwait's iPhone 6s and iPhone 6s Plus official launch at the Ooredoo Tower last weekend, Kuwait's fastest growing telco, has raised the bar again, offering fantastic benefits for customers.

Ooredoo Kuwait, which is a member of the international Ooredoo Group, held a star-studded launch on Friday evening with the new iPhone 6s and 6s Plus literally dropping into Kuwait by parachute.

Today, Ooredoo Kuwait offered a range of special offers to partner the new iPhones which include unlimited talk-time, unlimited messages and unlimited access to four popular messaging applications from as little as KD 35 per month.

Mijbil Alayoub, Director of Corporate Communications at Ooredoo Kuwait said: "If our customers thought we couldn't beat the excitement of Friday's launch event then they will be pleasantly surprised with our fantastic new packages. Inspired by the iPhone 6s, we have attempted to change everything once again, with six super benefits for Ooredoo customers.

"Our customers have really busy and exciting lives, and we are delighted and grateful to support them. Our launch event

and our amazing new packages show our clear intent to live up to, if not exceed their expectations."

Ooredoo Kuwait is offering customers a choice of three great packages. For KD 35 per month Ooredoo customers can get an iPhone 6s or 6s Plus 16GB with 500 GB of data, a KD 80 voucher against a future device purchase and Ooredoo Passport roaming packages valid for two subscriptions.

The iPhone 6s and iPhone 6s Plus 64Gb devices are available at the rate of KD 45 per month with Ooredoo increasing the data allowance to 750Gb, with three subscriptions to the Ooredoo roaming Passport.

The top of the range 128GB devices are available at the rate of KD 60 per month includes unlimited mobile internet, four Ooredoo roaming Passports and a KD 200 voucher against a future device.

All packages include unlimited calls and SMS, a free router, a free data SIM and unlimited usage of WhatsApp, Viber, Tango and Skype.

The new iPhone 6s and iPhone 6s Plus are now available from Ooredoo stockists and retail partners.

UAE BANKS FEDERATION LAUNCHES TRUST INDEX IN UAE BANKING INDUSTRY

DUBAI: The UAE Banks Federation, the professional representative body for the UAE's banks, has launched an independent study commissioned with Brunswick Insight and Ipsos Observer to track the level of trust among the country's banking customers. The results of this study will form the basis of a trust index deriving from further surveys in future.

The results of the first survey show that most (70%) customers in the UAE have a high level of trust in their banks, especially compared to customers in other international banking markets, and that UAE banking customers are five times more likely to say their view of banks has improved rather than worsened in the past six months.

The study is based on responses from 1,040 adults with bank accounts who are resident in the UAE. The survey was conducted in August and the sample of respondents reflected a representative cultural and gender mix. The interviews were conducted using a variety of channels to ensure an optimum level of representativeness.

The survey found that while banks can do more to understand customers' needs, to offer them

products that they want, and to offer more reasonable fees and charges, only a quarter (23%) of expatriates believe banks at home are better than those in the UAE.

"As the organization which advocates best practice for banks in the UAE, the Federation has a duty to gauge whether the efforts that



Abdul-Aziz Al Ghurair, Chairman of the UAE Banks Federation

banks make to meet their customers' needs are effective and being felt by their customers," said Abdul-Aziz Al Ghurair, Chairman of the UAE Banks Federation. "More importantly, we want to know where the banks need to up their

game, from the point of view of their customers. This project forms the beginning of a process whereby we will be able to better understand whether we are improving our service performance or not, and how we can pinpoint the actions that need to be taken," he added.

"While we are delighted to see that these results bear out our own expectations, we accept that there is still room for improvement, not least in terms of giving customers what they really want, and in delivering it in a way that provides them with the best value," he said.

The findings of the survey were presented to the recent meeting of the Federation's CEO Advisory Council, and agreement was reached on an action plan to communicate the outcome of the survey and to address areas identified in which the banking sector can improve its reputation among its customers.

Survey

- Most of the UAE banking customers questioned have confidence in banks to behave responsibly (74%) and trust banks to do what is right (70%).

- In terms of top of mind responses about their banks, customers placed good customer service, loans and safety and security significantly ahead of excessive interest rates, high profits and poor customer service.

- Customers are five times more likely to say their view of banks has improved (41%) than worsened (8%). They are also more likely to say that banks in their home country are worse (38%) rather than better (23%) than banks in the UAE. Arab expats (56%) are especially likely to say banks in their home country are worse.

- Majorities of consumers feel that banks are dealing well with a variety of issues facing the sector, especially keeping up with digital innovations (78%), responding to new regulations (71%) and preventing cybercrime (71%).

An International trust barometer carried out by an independent agency (Edelman), states that the UAE comes 4th with a rating of 81%, after Indonesia, China and India. This barometer has an average median of 53%, and countries such as the US (51%), UK (32%) and Australia (51%) fail to meet the average ranking.

AHLI UNITED BANK ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF WEEKLY DRAW

KUWAIT: Ahli United Bank held its weekly draw of Al-Hassad Islamic Saving program on October 14. This program offers the biggest prize amount to the largest number of winners. The prize program succeeded in becoming the first and only prize account in Kuwait compliant with the Islamic Shari'a principles. The program has been developed to fulfil the needs of the Bank customers and increase their opportunities in winning sizeable and attractive prizes in addition to enjoying the latest banking advantages that Ahli United Bank provides.

On this occasion, the bank issued the following press release: Al Hassad Islamic Saving program offers the highest amounts of prizes which amount to KD 3.4 Million per year. This Program also offers 26 weekly prizes, with the highest number of weekly winners. The Islamic Hassad

Saving Account may be opened by the lowest amount to open an account, which is KD 100.

The winner of the weekly grand prize in the amount of KD 25,000/- is: Abdulwahab Mohyi Aldeen Khazmah.

The winners of the KD 1,000 prize each: Nabeelah Abdullah Mohammad Al-Matrouk, Fatimah Ali Abdulla, Bader Saleh Al-Otaibil, Mohammad Nayrouz Ashkanani, Samiha Kamal Bahnasawil, Mariam Khalaf Shawi Abdulla, Jnainah Abdul Ghani Abdulaal, Biju Vijayan Pilai, Mohammad Ali Al-Atar, Yaqoub Habib Haji, Salim Abdulla Salim, Rim Esam Alomar, Mahasen Fadel Al Matrod, Ali Abdulhussain Hasan, Maha Othman Alhbaishi, Mohamed Essa AlRasheed, Barrak Meshari Mohammad, Ali Hussain Dashty, Jannat Abdulla Sool Mohamed, Jamleh Youusif, Yasmeen Mohammed Juma, Ahmed Yousha

Hashim, Khalifa Abdulla Nasser, Ebrahim Hasan Mahdi.

The Prize program of "Al Hassad Islamic Saving" from Ahli United Bank offers a weekly grand prize worth KD 25,000/- in addition to 25 weekly prizes worth a total of KD 25,000 distributed to 25 prizes, KD 1,000 for each winner.

In addition, prizes of Al Hassad Islamic saving program from Ahli United Bank offer 4 quarterly grand prizes announced in quarterly draws. Each is a "Salary for Life" prize which is worth KD 25,000/-.

In general, Ahli United Bank continues to offer innovative tools and means to meet the needs of its customers to match the Bank's long history of distinctive services which extend over 73 years during which the Bank managed to take the lead among local banks.

FANTASY FIGHTS AND SHAM SHOOT-UPS LURE INVESTORS TO E-SPORTS STOCKS

LONDON: Paying to watch people play computer games may seem curious to some, but it is catching on not only in sporting arenas but also on the stock market and business world.

While many financiers have been glued to the Rugby World Cup, London has also hosted the equally competitive, if less strenuous, League of Legends E-sports event last weekend.

About 24,000 youngsters streamed in under a cold autumnal sky to Wembley, the home of English soccer, to see teams take each other on in a computer game.

Fans cheered as players lined up on opposing computer keyboards ready to wage virtual war, while in the background coaches prowled around in the manner of soccer's Jose Mourinho. Over the road, fans huddled outside the Wembley Hilton hotel for autographs of

their favourite players.

E-sports is a generic term for events ranging from virtual warfare games to computer-simulated soccer matches, often played for big prize money. Market research firm Superdata said the global E-sports audience stood at 134 million viewers and was growing, while organisers said 6,000 turned up each day to attend the four-day League of Legends tournament that ended on Sunday, with some paying nearly 30 pounds (\$46) for a ticket. Analysts and executives said this offered an array of lucrative opportunities, although it was still early days. The League of Legends event is run by Riot Games, a company in which Chinese online entertainment and media group Tencent Holdings owns a majority stake.

Whalen Rozelle, director of E-sports at Riot Games, said that while League of

Legends was not yet profitable, the company was confident it would be. "I absolutely foresee a day when the E-sports industry will be incredibly profitable. It will just take time," he said, speaking on the tournament sidelines.

STOCK MARKET EXPOSURE

Shares in Tencent are up about 30 percent since the start of 2015, while those in Activision Blizzard, which is also setting up an E-Sports tournament for its "Call of Duty" game, have hit record highs this year.

Gfinity, which hosts E-sport events, floated on the London stock market last year and while its shares are not as actively traded, they are still nearly 50 percent above their debut flotation price of 17 pence.

Gary Paulin, co-founder at brokerage

Aviate Global, said the E-sports trend could also give a lift to Logitech, by spurring sales of Logitech's joysticks, and Modern Times Group given Modern Times' acquisition of a stake in E-sport company Turtle Entertainment in July.

Roche Brune Asset Management fund manager Gregoire Laverne and SYZ fund manager Giacomo Picchetto also tipped video games publisher Ubisoft as being able to benefit from the trend via a bigger profile for its games such as "Rainbow Six".

Media group Vivendi announced last week it had bought stakes in Ubisoft and rival Gameloft, and Ubisoft shares are up 60 percent so far in 2015.

To be sure, those holding stocks with links to the sector must be prepared to ride out the ups and downs. Ubisoft had profit warnings in 2013 and 2010, due

partly to delays in the releases of some games.

Logitech in July reported lower first quarter revenues, but it has been starting to focus more on the video games sector to offset a decline in personal computers. Thomson Reuters StarMine data brings up more positive readings for others involved, forecasting earnings growth for both Ubisoft and Activision above that of the broader stock market. Fans attending the League of Legends showdown included 23-year Arthur Picaud from France, 24-year old Tabitha Hastie from London and 22-year old overseas Chinese student Zeyu Liu, who was supporting Chinese E-sport team EDG. "Right now, E-sports is a nascent idea, but we would like to think that if we're successful, it will be a rising trend that will lift all the others," said Riot Games' Rozelle. —Reuters

CHINESE CYBERATTACKS ON US COMPANIES CONTINUE

WASHINGTON: Chinese hacking attempts on American corporate intellectual property have occurred with regularity over the past three weeks, suggesting that China almost immediately began violating its newly minted cyberagreement with the United States, according to a newly published analysis by a cybersecurity company with close ties to the US government.

The Irvine, California-based company, CrowdStrike, says it documented seven Chinese cyberattacks against US technology and pharmaceuticals companies "where the primary benefit of the intrusions seems clearly aligned to facilitate theft of intellectual property and trade secrets, rather than to conduct traditional national security-related intelligence collection."

"We've seen no change in behavior," said Dmitri Alperovich, a founder of CrowdStrike who wrote one of the first public accounts of commercial cyberespionage linked to China in 2011.

One attack came on Sept. 26, CrowdStrike says, the day after President Barack Obama and Chinese President Xi Jinping announced their deal in the White House Rose Garden. CrowdStrike, which employs former FBI and National Security Agency cyberexperts, did not name the corporate victims, citing client confidentiality. And the company says it detected and thwarted the attacks before any corporate secrets were stolen.

A senior Obama administration official, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not allowed to discuss the matter publicly, said officials are aware of the report but would not comment on its conclusions. The official did not dispute them, however.

The US will continue to directly raise concerns regarding cybersecurity with the Chinese, monitor the country's cyberactivities closely and press China to abide by all of its commitments, the official added.

CHINA DENIES

The US-China agreement forged last month does not prohibit cyberspying for national security purposes, but it bans economic espionage designed to steal trade

secrets for the benefit of competitors. That is something the US says it doesn't do, but Western intelligence agencies have documented such attacks by China on a massive scale for years. China denies engaging in such behavior, but threats of US sanctions led Chinese officials to conduct a flurry of last-minute negotiations which led to the deal.

CrowdStrike yesterday released a timeline of recent intrusions linked to China that it says it documented against "commercial entities that fit squarely within the hacking prohibitions covered under the cyberagreement."

The intrusion attempts are continuing, the company says, "with many of the China-affiliated actors persistently attempting to regain access to victim networks even in the face of repeated failures."

CrowdStrike did not explain in detail how it attributes the intrusions to China, an omission that is likely to draw criticism, given the ability of hackers to disguise their origins. But the company has a long track record of gathering intelligence on Chinese hacking groups, and US intelligence officials have often pointed to the company's work.

"We assess with a high degree of confidence that these intrusions were undertaken by a variety of different Chinese actors, including Deep Panda, which CrowdStrike has tracked for many years breaking into national security targets of strategic importance to China," Alperovich wrote in a blog posting that laid out his findings.

The hacking group known as Deep Panda, which has been linked to the Chinese military, is believed by many researchers to have carried out the attack on insurer Anthem Health earlier this year.

CrowdStrike and other companies have tracked Deep Panda back to China based on the malware and techniques it uses, its working hours and other intelligence.

In 2013, another cybersecurity company, Mandiant, published a report exposing what it said was a hacking unit linked to China's People's Liberation Army, including identifying the building housing the unit in Beijing. Those findings were later validated by American intelligence officials. —Reuters



WASHINGTON: File photo, the sign used as the backdrop for press briefings at the US Department of State is seen before a news conference at the State Department in Washington. The State Department was among the worst agencies in the federal government at protecting its computer networks while Hillary Rodham Clinton was secretary from 2009 to 2013, a situation that continued to deteriorate as John Kerry took office and Russian hackers breached the department's email system, according to independent audits and interviews. — AP

UNDER CLINTON, STATE'S CYBERSECURITY SUFFERED

NETWORK SECURITY REMAINS SUBSTANDARD

WASHINGTON: The State Department was among the worst agencies in the federal government at protecting its computer networks while Hillary Rodham Clinton was secretary from 2009 to 2013, a situation that continued to deteriorate as John Kerry took office and Russian hackers breached the department's email system, according to independent audits and interviews.

The State Department's compliance with federal cybersecurity standards was below average when Clinton took over but grew worse in each year of her tenure, according to an annual report card compiled by the White House based on audits by agency watchdogs. Network security continued to slip after Kerry replaced Clinton in February 2013, and remains substandard, according to the State Department inspector general.

In each year from 2011 to 2014, the State Department's poor cybersecurity was identified by the inspector general as a "significant deficiency" that put the department's information at risk. The latest assessment is due to be published in a few weeks.

Clinton, the front-runner for the Democratic presidential nomination, has been criticized for her use of a private email server for official business while she was secretary of state. Her private email address also was the recipient of malware linked to Russia, and her server was hit with malware from China, South Korea and Germany. The FBI is investigating whether her home server was breached.

State Department officials don't dispute the compliance shortcomings identified in years of internal audits, but argue that the audits paint a distorted picture of their cybersecurity, which they depict as solid and improving. They strongly disagree with the White House ranking that puts them behind most other government agencies. Senior department officials in charge of cybersecurity would speak only on condition of anonymity.

ATTEMPTED INTRUSIONS

"We have a strong cybersecurity program, successfully defeating almost 100 percent of the 4 billion attempted intrusions we experience each year," spokesmen Mark Toner said. Two successive inspectors general haven't seen it that way. In December 2013, IG Steve Linick issued a "management alert" warning top State Department officials that their repeated failure to correct cybersecurity holes was putting the department's data at risk. Based on audits by Linick and his predecessor, Harold Geisel, State scored a 42 out of 100 on the federal government's latest cybersecurity report card, earning far lower marks than the Office of Personnel Management, which suffered a devastating breach last year. State's scores bested only the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Housing and Urban Development. State Department officials complain the grades are subjective.

In late 2014, cyber intruders linked to Russia were able to break into the State Department's email system, infecting it so thoroughly that it had

to be cut off from the Internet in March while experts worked to eliminate the infestation.

Clinton approved significant increases in the State Department's information technology budgets while she was secretary, but senior State Department officials say she did not spend much time on the department's cyber vulnerabilities. She was aware of State's technological shortcomings but was focused more on diplomacy, her emails show.

Clinton's campaign staff did not respond to repeated and detailed requests for comment. Emails released by the State Department from her private server show Clinton and her top aides viewed the department's information technology systems as substandard and worked to avoid them. "State's technology is so antiquated that NO ONE uses a State-issued laptop and even high officials routinely end up using their home email accounts to be able to get their work done quickly and effectively," top Clinton aide Ann-Marie Slaughter wrote in an email to Clinton on June 3, 2011.

ALERTING HACKERS

Slaughter suggested that someone write an article to point out the deficiencies, but Clinton aide Cheryl Mills argued that doing so might alert hackers to their use of private email.

Under Clinton and Kerry, the State Department's networks were a ripe target for foreign intelligence services, current and former government officials say, echoing the situation at OPM, which last year saw sensitive personnel data on 21 million people stolen by hackers linked to China.

The Russian hackers who broke into State's email system also infiltrated networks at the Defense Department and the White House, officials say, and no clear line can be drawn between their success and State's dismal security record.

But as with OPM, State's inspector general identified many of the same basic cybersecurity shortcomings year after year, and the department failed to correct them, records show. Officials in the inspector general's office believe the department's cybersecurity shortcomings played a role in the email breach, said two officials familiar with their thinking. Senior State Department officials disagree. They say the Russian hack was the result of a "well-crafted intelligence operation" designed to look normal to the employee who clicked on the attachment, and it was unrelated to other cybersecurity deficiencies.

No technology can completely thwart the most sophisticated of such hacks, but one official familiar with State's cyber deficiencies argues that the department's sloppy security means officials can't be sure other breaches haven't gone undetected.

State Department officials say that only email was taken in the hack, and that no sensitive databases were breached. The National Security Agency conducted a classified assessment and deemed the breach significant and severe, two officials say. A State Department official said the assessment concluded there was no way to be sure

what the hackers accessed.

Those officials, and many others interviewed for this story, declined to be quoted because they were not authorized to address the matter publicly.

Although the hacked email system was unclassified, State Department personnel regularly use it to communicate very sensitive information, some of which is routinely withheld on national security grounds when the emails are made public. It would be valuable intelligence for a foreign adversary, officials say.

SLOPPY MANAGEMENT

Sen. Patrick Leahy, the ranking Democrat on the committee that funds the State Department, is concerned about cybersecurity problems "that have existed for several years," a senior Leahy aide said, speaking on condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorized to discuss the matter publicly.

While many of the details have been blacked out of the audits, the inspector general has criticized State for not implementing an effective risk management program. Without one, "the department cannot prioritize, assess, respond to, and monitor information security risk, which leaves the department vulnerable to attacks and threats," the IG wrote in the latest report, issued last October.

There are also examples of sloppy management. For example, in 2012, the IG reported that of 116,821 unclassified email accounts, 5,717 had not been used, 529 had passwords set not to expire, 19,335 had been set not to require passwords, and 6,269 users had not logged into their accounts between 2005 and 2011. Such a large volume of unattached accounts makes it easier for hackers to co-opt one of them without anyone noticing.

In 2013, an inspection by the IG into State's cybersecurity office - the Bureau of Information Resource Management's Office of Information Assurance - found waste, mismanagement and dysfunction. The office required State Department agencies to fill out paper spreadsheets to track system updates, and was "unable to locate information in a timely manner," the report found.

State Department officials responsible for cybersecurity acknowledged that the department had gotten behind in its compliance with standards in the Federal Information Security Management Act, known as FISMA, which requires, for example, that agency systems be certified as secure. Many of the State Department systems had not been certified for many years. Officials say they have made great strides in the last year.

"FISMA is very important, but it is process-oriented, and compliance is judged on meeting the process," not whether data is actually protected, Toner said. State Department officials argue that their system for continually monitoring its networks for threats, known as iPost, exceeds FISMA's security standards.

The inspector general and the Government Accountability Office concluded, however, that iPost did not provide a true picture of the risk to State's networks. —AP



WASHINGTON: In this Friday, Sept 25, 2015, file photo, President Barack Obama, right, pauses during a joint news conference with Chinese President Xi Jinping in the Rose Garden of the White House in Washington. An analysis by a cybersecurity company finds that Chinese hacking attempts on American corporate intellectual property have occurred with regularity over the past three weeks. — AP

EX-MICROSOFT CEO BUYS 4% STAKE IN TWITTER

NEW YORK: Los Angeles Clippers owner and former Microsoft CEO Steve Ballmer has bought a 4-percent stake in Twitter, a vote of confidence in the struggling messaging company.

That makes Ballmer one of Twitter's largest shareholders. A Twitter account that identified itself as Ballmer's said Friday morning that he bought stock in Twitter in the last few months. Seth Burton, a representative for the Clippers, confirmed that Ballmer had made the investment.

The high-profile investment comes as Twitter is trying to win more users and turn a profit. This month, its co-founder Jack Dorsey returned as its permanent CEO. Then the company announced that it would lay off up to 8 percent of its workforce and unveiled a new feature, "Moments." Those packages of commentary, video and photos about major events are an attempt to make Twitter more accessible and broaden its appeal.

The company's shares lost about half their value between late April and late August as investors worried about Twitter's disappointing financial performance and slowing user growth. The nine-year-old

company has never reported an annual profit.

The stock has recovered some of those losses as the broader markets rose in October, and is up \$1.51, or 5.1 percent, to \$31.22 in afternoon trading.

Ballmer also said he liked that Saudi billionaire Prince Alwaleed bin Talal and his investment company bought more shares of Twitter. The prince and his firm said this month the stake had doubled over a six-week period to more than 5 percent.

Dorsey was the San Francisco company's CEO during its early years and became interim CEO in July, when Dick Costolo stepped down. Twitter said on Oct. 5 that he would become its permanent CEO. Ballmer tweeted that day that Twitter "is remarkable" and called Dorsey an "impressive dude."

According to FactSet, Ballmer's holdings would make him the third-largest individual owner of Twitter shares after company co-founder Evan Williams and bin Talal. Ballmer, who was Microsoft's CEO for 14 years ending last year, is also the largest individual owner of Microsoft stock with a 4.2-percent stake. —AP



NEW YORK: Caroline Bragdon, a rat expert with New York City's Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, points out garbage containers near a park in the Chinatown neighborhood. — AP photos



NEW YORK: A rat leaves its burrow at a park in the Chinatown neighborhood.

RAT RACE: WITH COMPLAINTS ON RISE, NYC REDOUBLES EFFORTS

NEW YORK: To many in New York City, the rats are winning. The city's complaint hotline is on pace for a record year of rat calls, exceeding the more than 24,000 over each of the last two years. Blistering audits have faulted efforts to fight what one official called a "rat crisis." And even jaded New Yorkers were both disgusted and a little impressed by "Pizza Rat," the plucky rodent in a recent viral YouTube clip seen dragging a large cheese slice down a subway stairwell.

Nora Prentice, who lives on Manhattan's Upper West Side, has repeatedly complained to the city about a colony of about 200 rats in a neighborhood park. "It's like the Burning Man of rats," she said. "They're just sitting there in a lawn chair waiting for you. I don't know what the city can do about this rat condominium. It's really gross." Prentice said that she avoids the area because of the rats and that complaints she filed with the city were closed after officials told her they were "working on the problem."

More rats

"It means you can't lay down and relax in that park," she said. "What kind of an answer is this?" Such gripes have found an advocate in Comptroller Scott Stringer, the city's top financial officer, who has taken on the self-appointed

role of rat czar. In separate audits over the past two years, he has criticized the city's health department for not responding quickly enough to rat complaints, and the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, which runs the subways, for not cleaning stations more regularly. Such breakdowns, he says, have allowed rats to thrive.

"I've seen rats walking upright, saying, 'Good morning, Mr Comptroller,' he said. "It's unsightly to see rats running through neighborhoods like they actually bought a co-op somewhere." New York officials who have been fighting the battle for decades say rising complaint numbers don't mean there are more rats, and they argue the rat population has actually been holding steady the past few years.

A Columbia University doctoral student using statistical analysis last year estimated the number of rats in the city at 2 million, claiming to debunk a popular theory that there is one rat for each of the city's 8.4 million people. But scientists and city officials say it's impossible to accurately estimate the number. "There's no way to do that," said Caroline Bragdon, a city's health department scientist and resident rat expert. Scientists can estimate the number of rats in a fixed area, like a park, by counting burrows and multiplying it by 10, but larger estimates are just not accurate, she said.

'Rat index'

The spike in complaints of rat sightings and conditions attracting rodents is probably because garbage was left festering on sidewalks during last winter's large snowfalls, and registering complaints is easier now with the city's 311 complaint line smartphone app, Bragdon said. Bragdon's team responds to such complaints, compiles a citywide "rat index" and inspects dozens of buildings each month. What started as a team of less than a dozen has now expanded to nearly 50 people, working with a nearly \$3 million annual budget to implement the latest push to control rodents.

Mayor Bill de Blasio's new "rat reservoir" plan targets communities with the highest number of rat complaints and seeks to dismantle habitats and food sources. That effort includes setting traps, installing rodent-resistant trash cans and working on legislation that would require restaurants to hose away sludge from dripping garbage. Every little bit helps, Bragdon said. Unlike the voracious Pizza Rat, she says, most rats need only an about an ounce of food and water daily to survive.

"It's an apple core, it's a piece of a hotdog, a couple of chips. It's the crumbs," she said. "You'd much rather prevent rats from being here than treat them with poison after they're here." But not all new techniques have worked out.

State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli released an audit finding little tangible success from a pilot program by the MTA to rid the subways of rats by removing trash cans from some stations, forcing riders to go above ground to throw away their garbage. The audit said the MTA had mostly selected stations with low rodent sightings to begin with, so it was hard to gauge any reduction.

They're everywhere

"There are a lot of rats, especially at night," subway rider Yessenia Alvarez said as she waited on a platform in Harlem. "When they come out, it's like they're everywhere." City health inspectors regularly scour the city, poking into sewer grates and crawling under park foliage, searching for the signs many would never notice: tiny mounds of dirt that lead to an underground rat burrow, streaks in walls about an inch off the ground left by greasy fur, or tiny holes the critters can crawl through.

"Here's a big burrow, and it's fresh," Bragdon said during a recent inspection of a small park in Manhattan's Chinatown neighborhood, notorious for its rat problem. As she pointed to the hole, a furry little head popped out, revealing one of the newest generation of New York City rats. Bragdon greeted it: "Hi, mister." — AP

VAST ANTARCTIC MARINE RESERVES IN FOCUS AT AUSTRALIA TALKS

SYDNEY: Campaigners yesterday urged global leaders to put aside differences and create two vast Antarctic marine sanctuaries to protect one of the world's last untouched wildernesses and a unique array of species including whales and giant squid. The fate of the plans to shield critical areas of ocean around the frozen continent is in the hands of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR), which opened its annual meeting in Hobart.

The talks run until October 30, with both an Australian-backed East Antarctic scheme and a US-New Zealand bid for a protected zone in the Ross Sea blocked four times so far due to a lack of consensus among the 24 member countries and the European Union. "Antarctica is one of the world's last untouched wildernesses and is critical for scientific research, both for studying how intact marine ecosystems function and for monitoring the impacts of climate change," said Maritza Schaefer, Greenpeace International's global campaign leader for oceans.

"Fully protected marine reserves are the single most powerful tool that CCAMLR has for fulfilling its mandate and protecting the astounding array of Antarctica's marine life and enabling the Southern Ocean ecosystem to best withstand the impacts of climate change and ocean acidification." Environmentalists say the Southern Ocean is home to more than 10,000 unique species, including penguins, whales, seals and colossal squid, as well as being a region critical for scientific research.

Mark Epstein, executive director of the Antarctic and Southern Ocean Coalition, added that "CCAMLR promised that this protection would come by 2012, yet the process has been stalled for the last four meetings." "Global leaders-many of whom are CCAMLR members-have a responsibility to take action now, ensuring these marine protected areas come into force at this meeting," he said. Australia, France and the European Union first put forward a bid for a 1.9 million square kilometer (760,000 square mile) Marine Protected Area encompassing seven stretches of the pristine continent in 2011. But it was again knocked back last year with Russia and China citing geo-political issues and concerns about its size. Compromises have been made with the current proposal for a 1.0 million square kilometer zone over four areas with some fishing and research allowed as long as conservation values are met.

Set aside differences

The Ross Sea plan has also been scaled down, to 1.25 million square kilometers, with 1.14 million square kilometers proposed as a "no take" zone in an area often referred to as the "Last Ocean" due to its pristine condition. Both of them must win the support of all 25 members of CCAMLR-a treaty tasked with overseeing conservation and sustainable exploitation of the Antarctic Ocean, also known as the Southern Ocean-to succeed. Australian Antarctic Division director Nick Gales, who is leading Australia's delegation, said ensuring the impacts of climate change were factored in to CCAMLR management decisions would also be a priority issue. — AFP



HOBART, TASMANIA, Australia: A handout photo taken and released yesterday shows environmentalist campaigners dressed as penguins outside the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) annual talks in Hobart. — AFP



NEW DELHI: Pushplata Sharma, left, mother of Tejaswi Sharma, a 34-year-old software engineer, talks to her son who is recovering from a very fatal stage of dengue at Holy Family hospital. — AP photos



NEW DELHI: Municipality worker uses a machine to fog for mosquitoes at a neighborhood in New Delhi.

INDIAN CAPITAL STRUGGLES TO CONTROL DENGUE FEVER OUTBREAK

'PUBLIC HEALTH MEASURES ARE NOT ADEQUATE IN TERMS OF QUANTITY AND QUALITY'

NEW DELHI: At dusk, the foggers come out to spray their sticky-sweet clouds of diesel smoke and insecticide across the Indian capital. Mothers scold their children for wearing short sleeves. Posters glued to signposts warn about the perils of neighborhood puddles. Such efforts to stop mosquitoes from spreading dengue fever in New Delhi have failed to keep the city from its biggest outbreak in almost two decades: more than 10,190 registered cases, including 32 deaths. Experts say it didn't need to be this way, and blame health officials for being slow on both prevention work and medical response.

They say, for example, that the Delhi municipal government should have started much sooner and anticipated a longer-than-usual mosquito-breeding season months ago, when weather forecasters predicted this year's monsoon would extend beyond September. "If they clean up in time, if they have those anti-mosquito, anti-larval measures on time, they can contain dengue," general physician Devendra Jain said in the small single room, crammed with patients, where he operates his private practice in south Delhi. Some officials reject the idea that the high numbers are a result of neglect, and instead say they prove the city is simply conducting more tests. Some infections go unreported every year because some people with dengue fever don't seek medical treatment, and others visit doctors who don't report cases.

Rarely fatal

Health officials also note that while the number of cases this year has almost surpassed the 1996 high of 10,252, the death toll is far lower than the 423 who died from dengue 19 years ago. There are no statistics on dengue for years before 1996. Three weeks into October, new cases were still being reported. The Holy Family Hospital alone said it was still detecting about 27 cases a day on average, down from a September peak of 75 cases a day.

Dengue leaves its victims exhausted and in great pain, though it is rarely fatal, claiming less than 1 percent of those infected. There is no cure; patients need rest and to be monitored and treated for symptoms, including high fever, dehydration, skin rash, exhaustion and a low blood platelet count. "It is not rocket science," said Manish Kakkar, a researcher at the Public Health Foundation of India, a research and consulting group. "We know what we have to do, but what happens in India is that the public health measures are not adequate both in terms of quantity and quality."

The dengue outbreak has highlighted India's striking healthcare inequalities. It is home to a \$4 billion medical tourism industry - offering everything from bargain tummy tucks to experimental stem-cell treatments - and to hundreds of millions of impoverished Indians who still have no access to trained doctors or basic medicine. When two young boys died last month after their parents said they were denied treatment at private hospitals, India's Health Minister warned the government would yank licenses

from any hospitals who turned patients away. State-run hospitals canceled doctors' vacations, ordering them back to work. Delhi capped the cost of lab tests at 600 rupees (\$10) and set up 55 "fever and dengue clinics" to handle the throngs of patients crowding into hospital foyers. Just one of those clinics, near Jamia Millia Islamia university on the southern outskirts of New Delhi, reported screening 800 patients a day.

Aches and pains

Some doctors complain that many people seeking medical attention don't need it, and blame the media for hyping the outbreak. "Basically there is a panic and patients are very scared," said Dr Sonika Bali, the medical officer in charge at one government clinic, whose own 12-year-old daughter was among those infected. "We can't have every patient come in and ask for a blood test. It is becoming very difficult to convince patients that their symptoms are not that of dengue." Some who truly have dengue, meanwhile, wait before seeking treatment, worsening their symptoms. Noor Jehan had aches and pains for days before seeking help. By the time she finally visited the clinic, she had become so weak her husband had to pick her up from her housekeeping job and take her home in a wooden cart. "My legs hurt," the 40-

year-old Jehan said. "I would get chills at night." Tejaswi Sharma, a 34-year-old software engineer, waited even longer for a diagnosis - until his body went into shock and his kidneys malfunctioned. "When I first had a fever, I went to my doctor," but he didn't test for dengue and instead told Sharma he probably had the flu, he said. "My health deteriorated so fast that I started having breathing problems." That's when Sharma's mother took him to Holy Family.

Argentine lawyer Laura Vassallo was struck with dengue during the first week of her six-month "dream trip" to India, and said her own country was much more proactive in fighting dengue. No water is left to stagnate, she explained. "They are very, very strict with the cleaning, and no throwing garbage on the streets." People who live outside the areas covered by the city's anti-mosquito program try to ward off mosquitoes any way they can - including hiding under mosquito nets or generating plumes of smoke by burning egg crates, incense or whatever is at hand. "Certainly this is a peak year for dengue," said Babita Bisht, chief entomologist of the North Delhi Municipal Corporation. Her teams are working through weekends to visit all city neighborhoods, fumigating foliage to kill mosquitoes and spraying puddles to kill their larvae. —AP

ARM MOLE COUNT COULD INDICATE SKIN CANCER RISK

LONDON: Counting the number of moles on a person's right arm could indicate vulnerability to skin cancer, with 11 or more moles being a "strong predictor" of melanoma, research published yesterday suggested. The study in the British Journal of Dermatology found that the number of moles on the right arm was the closest predictor of the number on the entire body. The greater the total number of moles on the body, the higher the risk from melanoma, or skin cancer.

Scientists at King's College London said the findings could help doctors more easily identify patients at risk, by using the arm as a "proxy" area. Researchers studied 3,594 female Caucasian twins, using data collected over an eight-year period, with each person undergoing a mole count on 17 body areas. The exercise was then repeated on a group of around 400 men and women with melanoma. Women with more than 11 moles on their right arm were more likely to have over 100 on their body in total, which was a "strong predictor" of melanoma, researchers said.

A previous study conducted in Australia suggested that 10 moles on the arms represents an 11-fold increase in the risk of melanoma. Lead author Simone Ribero, of the department of twin research and genetic epidemiology at King's College, said the findings could have a "significant impact", allowing doctors to "more accurately estimate the total number of moles in a patient extremely quickly via an easily accessible body part." "This would mean that more patients at risk of melanoma can be identified and monitored," Ribero added.

The appearance of a new mole or a change in an existing one are the most common signs of the disease. Claire Knight of Cancer Research UK said the study could be helpful but warned: "It's important to know what's normal for your skin and to tell your doctor about any change in the size, shape, color or feel of a mole or a normal patch of skin. "Don't just look at your arms-melanoma can develop anywhere on the body, and is most common on the trunk in men and the legs in women." — AFP



OSTEOPOROSIS CAN BE TREATED

By Abdellatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: Our spinal column is made up of 33 vertebrae that protect the spinal cord, while at the same time help us to stand upright and move around. When one has a spinal fracture, it means that some of the vertebrae have hairline fractures that may lead to a total collapse. Orthopedic surgeon Dr Abdulrazzaq Al-Obaid, head of the spine unit and ER chief at Al-Razi Hospital spoke to Kuwait Times about a new minimally invasive procedure that can repair spinal fractures, called "balloon kyphoplasty". The procedure uses a balloon to lift the vertebrae and create a cavity for bone cement to stabilize the fracture. Another procedure called vertebroplasty is also minimally invasive, where liquid bone cement is injected into the fractured vertebrae to stabilize it and reduce the pain.



KUWAIT: Dr Abdulrazzaq Al-Obaid, head of the spine unit and ER chief at Al-Razi Hospital.

This is also a good opportunity to speak about osteoporosis now because October is 'osteoporosis month', and a conference will be held with lots of educational material for doctors and activities to educate the public. Osteoporosis can be treated by prevention, and the patient can be advised in advance to avoid this disease.

Kuwait Times spoke to Dr Obaid to learn more.

Kuwait Times: Is physical activity recommended for osteoporosis patients?

Dr Obaid: Absolutely. Actually some studies recommend that physical activity is even better than medication. People should maintain a good quality of life and be physically active. A classical example is of people who live on farms outside the city - they have less incidents of osteoporosis compared to people who live in the city with sedentary lifestyles without exercise. The types of activities that can help prevent osteoporosis include walking and swimming. Walking is best between 10:00 am to 2:00 pm to get exposure to sunlight, as this boosts vitamin D.

KT: What are the effects of hormones on osteoporosis?

Dr Obaid: It is well known that certain hormones have direct influence on osteoporosis. If you have a patient with deficiency of parathyroid hormone, this prevents the absorption of vitamin D, and it will interfere with vitamin D activity and subsequently with calcium absorption. This leads to osteoporosis. For patients who have hormonal problems and produce large quantities of cortisone in the body system, this will affect bone quality and lead to early osteoporosis. Hormones definitely have a big impact. A classical example of hormones is in women. The groups most at risk of osteoporosis are postmenopausal women, and this is due to hormonal changes.

KT: Can osteoporosis be prevented in women who give multiple births?

Dr. Obaid: It is not about the number, but osteoporosis can be prevented and should be prevented. It is easy to prevent, easy to diagnose and the treatment is simple, either with medications or injections. Not only pregnant women should check their vitamin D level, but everyone is advised to do so. It is more important in pregnant women for the safety of the child, because if she has vitamin D deficiency, then obviously the child will be at risk, so we care for both the mother and child. This can be done by simply correcting the level of vitamin D, provided that there are no other causes such as hormonal diseases or medications that contain cortisone or steroids, or patients who take antiepileptic medications.

KT: What are the ideal means to prevent or delay osteoporosis?

Dr. Obaid: The first thing is vitamin D; secondly, people at risk should have routine DEXA scan, which checks bone quality. It is an easy and advisable test every two years for patients at risk. One needs to stay for around half an hour under the sun with enough surface area exposed. We are talking about the extremities, face and the back. You need three times a week of exposure. Some studies show that the presence of melatonin which causes dark skin in the Middle East prevents the absorption of ultraviolet light. If people are behind glass, exposing themselves to the sun may not benefit them because glass may prevent UV absorption. So one has to be outdoors. The way people dress in the region also does not allow proper exposure to the sun.

KT: What is the prevalence of osteoporosis in Kuwait?

Dr Obaid: Unfortunately, we do not have a solid number at this stage, but are collecting data to check the prevalence and incidents of osteoporosis in the country. The numbers are not confirmed so far, but initial results indicate that they are high.

KT: What is the recommended dose of vitamin D to keep bones healthy?

Dr Obaid: This depends on age, sex and risk factors. It varies according to the condition of the patient. If patients have

deficiency, we recommend 50,000 IU per week.

KT: What are the warning signs of osteoporosis?

Dr Obaid: Unfortunately, when you start getting signs of osteoporosis, then it's too late. This is a silent disease, and there are no warning signs. When osteoporosis is established and the bone is weak, people will be exposed to what we call fragility fracture, when a bone breaks very easily.

KT: Can osteoporosis be cured?

Dr Obaid: Yes, if treated properly by correcting calcium and vitamin D levels, and there are tablets and injections that can help improve the quality of bone. Treatment depends on the age. Everything had to be individualized, because there are certain categories of patients who cannot use regular medications, like patients with kidney problems, those with borderline renal function and patients with a history of cancer.

Most of the anti-osteoporosis treatments can actually stimulate cancer cells, so we have to be careful.

KT: Can chronic diseases' medication cause osteoporosis?

Dr Obaid: Yes, they cause many problems, and part of them is osteoporosis. Examples are diabetics, the obese and anorexics. Smoking is a risk factor, along with patients on antiepileptic medication.

Technology nowadays has evolved big time. If the patient is not diagnosed with osteoporosis early, when he sustains a fracture, it can be treated by an advanced method. For example, spinal surgeries are dealt with minimal invasive techniques with minimum amount of anesthesia without big scars. Such procedures are balloon kyphoplasty, which is now the standard procedure for spinal surgeries.

KUWAIT HEALTH PROFESSIONALS WARN AGAINST HIDDEN RISKS OF THE DEBILITATING DISEASE

KUWAIT: Medtronic and concerned healthcare professionals have today issued a strong message urging those either at risk or already suffering from osteoporosis to take additional steps to tackle this often debilitating disease. This plea coincides with World Osteoporosis Day (WOD) today. Osteoporosis is the most common type of bone disease. It is characterized by low bone mass and loss of bone tissue that may lead to fragile bones. People suffering from osteoporosis have an increased risk of bone fractures.

"At least one in three women and one in five men over the age of fifty will suffer from a fracture due to osteoporosis," said Dr Abdulrazzaq Al-Obaid, Orthopedic Spine Surgeon, Alrazi orthopedic Hospital "Despite being a serious health issue that is only set to become more common as our population ages, awareness of osteoporosis is low in Kuwait- even among some healthcare providers."

Unfortunately, this lack of awareness means many people with osteoporosis go undiagnosed and are at risk of painful and debilitating fractures and an impaired quality of life. For patients who have the disease and aren't undergoing treatment the risk of suffering new fractures is high. The exact prevalence of osteoporosis in the Kuwait is unknown but one study of nearly 2300 women aged 40 to 87 years, found that 19.3% suffered from osteoporosis.

Meaningful innovation

Prevention approaches focus on lifestyle factors, such as eating a healthy balanced diet and exercising regularly to keep the bones strong, as well as having a periodic bone health check-up.

For those who have developed osteoporosis but haven't been diagnosed, back pain could be a sign that

something is wrong. Sudden onset of pain or a chronic, dull ache in the back could indicate that a spinal fracture has occurred.

"If you have back pain that lasts for more than several days, schedule a visit with your doctor so that the cause of your back pain can be determined and treated," urged Dr Al-Obaid. Spinal fractures can cause extreme pain, long or short-term disability, Dowager's hump, and significant loss in quality of life. Fortunately, an innovative treatment is now available that can alleviate the suffering associated with this kind of fracture.

Medtronic - the world's largest medical technology development company - has developed a quick, minimally invasive treatment that is available in Kuwait. The treatment uses small balloons to gently elevate the fractured area of the spine, creating a cavity, and then special cement is used to fill the cavity, forming an internal cast. After the procedure patients experience a significant reduction in back pain and are soon able to return to their daily activities.

"This is truly an example of meaningful innovation that is globally accessible," said Joe Akel, Vice President for Restorative Therapies Group, Medtronic. "With our unique procedure called Kyphon Balloon Kyphoplasty it only takes about an hour to treat a fracture and the procedure can be done on an outpatient or an inpatient basis, depending on the needs of the patient."

"On this important global awareness day we're urging people to learn about osteoporosis and how to prevent it and for those already with the disease to educate themselves about treatment options that can relieve the burden of the disease."

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Mexican Ambassador Miguel Angel Isidro with other guests during the art exhibition titled 'Urban Stories' by the Mexican artist Paloma Torres on Sunday at the Kuwait Museum of Modern Art, in Sharq. Photos from the event and the folk dances.



MEXICAN ART EXHIBITION 'URBAN STORIES' EXCITES GUESTS

By Faten Omar

The Mexican Embassy, led by Ambassador Miguel Angel Isidro, hosted an art exhibition titled 'Urban Stories' by the Mexican artist Paloma Torres on Sunday at the Kuwait Museum of Modern Art in Sharq. The exhibition sheds light on the urban setting, which is the focus of her sculptural exploration. She believes that all city spaces shape the spirit of their citizens, hence her concern for creating awareness of the contaminations to which we are subjected, whether through sight, sound or smell. Her work strips away all forms of visual saturation

and excess in order to achieve minimal constructive expression and thereby make an impact on her reconfiguration of the space.

"I'm very honored to hold my art exhibition in Kuwait, and I'm thankful to the Kuwaiti government and the Mexican embassy that made this link between the two countries through art," she said. Torres' works are renowned for the abstract symbolism of recycled materials that are exquisitely transformed into shapes and painting. Her oils and sculptures reflect the hidden beauty in trivial objects. She makes her paintings with fabric and cotton frames in Oaxaca, a state in southern Mexico known for its indigenous cultures.

Her artwork can be about an urban object - a bench - to an element of nature - a cloud - creating utilitarian and playful work designed to reveal the intimate relationship between the city and nature.

Torres explained to the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL) Secretary General Ali Al-Youha how she uses recycled materials in her paintings, along with the fabrics, yarns and leather that she uses, and showed him the various materials in other beautiful shapes and forms with deep abstract meanings. Youha was impressed and told her about the similar "Sadu" art in Kuwait that showcases the country's

history. Sadu is an ancient Bedouin tribal weaving art form, which in its broadest linguistic identity is rhythmically linked to poetry, memory, the weaving practice, the extension of the hand and the graceful moving pace of a camel.

Torres was born in Mexico City in 1960 and studied at the National School of Visual Arts, National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) in Mexico City. She subsequently gained a master's degree in color engraving from the National Institute of Fine Arts. She has exhibited widely since 1986 and is a professor of art history and graphic design at the Iberoamericana University in Mexico City. She

has been a member of the National Creators' System panel since 2000. Among the awards she has received, of particular note are: The sculpture commemorating the seven-hundred-year anniversary of the Swiss Confederation in the city of Cumbel, Switzerland and honorable mentions in the IV Ceramics Biennial in Korea and the Sculpture Triennial in Mexico.

A Mexican folk dance was held as part of the inauguration. "Urban Stories" will remain open to the public until Sunday, Nov 1, 2015. Visiting hours at MOMA are from 9 am to 1 pm, and from 4:30 pm to 8:30 pm, from Sunday to Thursday.



'SNOWING IN AL-SALAM MALL' ADDS CHEER TO SHOPPING FESTIVAL AT AL-SALAM MALL

The ongoing shopping festival at Al-Salam Mall got even more exciting with the launch of 'Snowing in Al Salam Mall' - a pioneering concept that utilises a first-of-its-kind machine capable of creating a winter-like atmosphere throughout the mall. However, the shopping festival at Al Salam Mall, is owned and operated by Dar Sama Real Estate

Company, which started on 23 September 2015 and will run until 8 November 2015.

The 'Snowing in Al Salam Mall' concept was launched at a social event hosted by Noha Nabil, a Kuwaiti fashion Instagrammer, with local media and social media influencers in attendance.

"Al Salam Mall has already established itself

as the preferred shopping and leisure destination for families in Kuwait," said Abdullah Al-Eseimy, Chairman of Dar Sama real estate development. "Our commitment at providing excellent customer experiences include exclusive, one-of-a-kind attractions that make every visit to our mall truly fun, exciting and memorable.

"Being in this part of the world, not everyone may have the chance and opportunity to experience snow," he added. "In our desire to give something back to our valued customers, we want them, especially kids, to know how it is to experience and enjoy snow."

Complementing the 'Snowing in Kuwait' concept is a British winter stilt walker Show that

will perform at the mall. As part of the shopping festival, there will be four different raffle draws that will take place every Thursdays, with the first one happening on 8 October.

Among the prizes to be given away at the raffle are two Chevrolet Sonic cars and a Chevrolet Tahoe as grand prize and many of Electronic awards.



THE REGENCY HOTEL, KUWAIT OPENS 'FROM KOREA TO KUWAIT' FOOD FESTIVAL

Under the patronage of Shin Boonam, the Korean Ambassador in Kuwait, The Regency Hotel, Kuwait launched on the 15th of October 2015, its first 'From Korea to Kuwait' five days food festival and just one day after Korea's National Day. The event which took place at the hotel's main restaurant Silk Road, was attended by delegates from the Korean Embassy in Kuwait as well as members of the press. Together with department heads from the hotel, all guests were welcomed by The Regency's General Manager Aurelio Giraudo and special host guest from Seoul Ms Han Yoon Joo.

During the five days promotion, guests enjoyed a variety of dishes and drinks from the Korean's cuisine prepared by the famous Seoul based restaurant Congdu, featuring the world-famous and Korea's national dish "kimchi (pickled cabbage; vital to any meal in Korea), Grilled lamb with spicy red pepper sauce, Korean noodles, traditional rice cakes and much more.



On his comment on the promotion, the General Manager of the Regency Hotel, Kuwait Aurelio Giraudo said 'we are so pleased about the success of the Korean's food debut. And I would like to thank the Congdu's culinary team for their great efforts put together with the Regency's team to

make it happen. And of course, special thanks to our guests for appreciating this initiative and for their continuous support to their one and only leading hotel in Kuwait, The Regency.

Silk Road Restaurant at The Regency Hotel, Kuwait features luxurious panoramic view of the swimming pool and Arabian Gulf and is considered to be one of the finest restaurants in Kuwait that continuously serves extensive culinary offerings with a rich variety of foods prepared by a group of professional chefs from all over the world.

The Regency Hotel, Kuwait is a multi-award winning five star hotel property and is recognized as Kuwait's Leading Luxury Hotel and Kuwait's Leading Conference Hotel (World Travel Awards® 2013-2015). With 152 rooms and 51 suites the hotel offers excellent, five star service, a wide choice of restaurants and lounges as well as perfect beaches, swimming pools and views of the Arabian Gulf.



TEC TO HOLD ANNUAL FISHING COMPETITION AT FAHAHEEL MARINE CLUB

The Touristic Enterprises Company will hold a Narrow-Barred Spanish Marlin Fishing competition to be organized by Fahaheel Marine Club on December 19, 2015, said TEC's PR and media manager, Sager Al-Bader noting that the competition would be on from 6:00 am till 9:00 pm.

Al-Bader accordingly invited all fishing lovers from Kuwait (citizens and expats) and GCC nationals to take part in the competition. "Interested applicants can obtain participation forms and the competition conditions from Fahaheel marine Club", he added explaining

that entry forms would be obtainable in the period of November 1 until December 15, 2015.

Further, Al-Bader explained that valuable prizes had been allocated for the first three winners including KD 2000 for the first winner, KD 1500 for the second and KD 1000 for the third winner in addition to a KD 300 special prize for the largest fish. "A special meeting will be held December 15 with all participants to brief them about the competition conditions", he concluded.



KALA-KUWAIT TO HOLD DRAWING AND PAINTING COMPETITION

Kerala Art Lovers Association, KALA-Kuwait, the oldest among Indian Associations, is working constructively in the Indian Society, upholding the rich cultural heritage of the nation. KALA has verities of programs, covering different sections of the society. Art & Cultural promotions, Malayalam Education program, Seminars & Symposiums, literary programs, Award functions and charity for destitute. Now KALA-Kuwait is again putting here a milestone...with "Mazhavillu-2015" Drawing & Painting competitions for Indian School Children, to discover the true talents. The competitions are classified into four categories, as follows, with several prizes. Kindergarten (LKG & UKG), Sub-Junior: (Class I-IV), Junior (Class V-VIII) & Senior (Class IX-XII) The competitions will start at 1.30 pm on 13th November 2015 at Indian Carmel School, Khaitan and results will be announced on 20th November 2015. The school with highest aggregate points will be awarded with the "Mazhavillu-2015 Trophy". The prize distribution schedule and venue shall be announced later. Online registrations are open at our websites www.kalakuwait.com Participants may please carry the filled form to be handed over in the venue while collecting chest numbers.

HILTON KUWAIT RESORT AWARDED TOP CONFERENCE & EVENTS HONOR

Hilton Kuwait Resort is the proud recipient of the latest Hilton Worldwide Group Conference & Events Team of the Year Award 2014, a prestigious recognition bestowed upon Hilton Worldwide hotel teams for achieving high revenue across the Middle East and Africa (MEA) Hilton Hotels & Resorts.

Hilton Kuwait Resort is a popular choice for key business and leisure event organizers and brides and grooms eager to sample and welcome guests at first class conference and events venues in Kuwait.

In addition to its indoor venues, the hotel offers 10 spacious meeting rooms and holds large-scale events in its Royal Marquee - a 700 sq. meter air-conditioned events space by the beach, able to host up to 600 guests. The hotel also boasts the 1,100m2 Al Dorraballroom - which plays host to mixed, ladies and men's wedding parties.

Ziad Tantawi, general manager of Hilton Kuwait Resort, said: "We are extremely proud to have received the Group Conference & Events Team of the Year Award for the MEA region. Our Team Members are at the core of our commit-

ment to providing outstanding hospitality to our guest from around the world - and we are delighted that our team's hard work and dedication have been recognized as the region's best."

Previous awards at Hilton Kuwait Resort include 2013 Circle of Excellence Marketing Award, EMEA, Best Breakfast Experience in MEA guest survey, 2015 Trip Advisor Certificate of Excellence and 2015 Best Business Hotel in Kuwait - Business Traveler Award, MEA.

About Hilton Kuwait

Set on five private beaches, Hilton Kuwait Resort offers stunning sea views and is close to many local attractions. Travel to and from Kuwait International Airport and Kuwait City on the complimentary hotel shuttle service.

The hotel boasts many restaurants and a café. Enjoy the International buffet at Teatro restaurant and the weekly theme night offers. Experience unique dining in a private tent, and savour authentic Arabic cuisine with a mocktail and shisha at the Palm Court. Indulge in a tempting selec-

tion of French pastries and freshly brewed coffee at SongBird café.

For a great leisure experience, treat your senses and relax at The Spa, featuring an aquamedic pool, sauna, steam room, ice room and tropical showers with a range of exotic treatments, or enjoy the resort's recreational facilities.

Hold a seminar in the 10 well-equipped meeting rooms offering free WiFi. The Al Dorra Ballroom is perfect for weddings, exhibitions and other ceremonies. Beach 5 is a unique place to plan a free day in an air conditioned tent on the private beach. Consult with planners who are available to help with the details, from stage and seating setup to themed menus for events.

From long-term corporate and family accommodation to unforgettable weekend celebrations, resort services and facilities are designed with guests in mind. Browse the extensive selection of stylish and comfortable rooms, villas and chalets, and plan a memorable stay on the beaches of Kuwait.

TALABAT.COM ANNOUNCES MCLAREN 650S WINNER

Talabat, pioneer and giant in online food ordering, ranks number one globally among online food delivery with over 2.5 million downloads in the region. Talabat, Kuwait's No 1 online food portal service, wrapped up its groundbreaking campaign "Let's Eat". International and local concepts participated, over one hundred thousand participants competed, and in the end there could only be one grand prize winner of the luxurious, one-of-a-kind McLaren 650S. By simply ordering through Talabat, Bader Al Nasser has engraved his name in the Talabat Hall-of-Fame.

Talabat promised more and gave more. "Let's Eat" campaign gave the opportunity for customers to enter the draw versus each KD 1 they spent by on any order placed through all Talabat.com platforms, including the website, mobile site, call center and/or mobile applications and

winners were randomly chosen by a lucky draw. All of the draws were held under the supervision of Kuwait's Ministry of Commerce and Industry. During the month long competition, participants ordered for a chance to win Mini Coopers, tickets to Istanbul, tickets to Dubai, and Talabat credit vouchers.

"The tremendous success that "Let's Eat" has achieved is yet another milestone added to the achievements of Talabat.com. We are proud of the positive outcome the campaign echoed amongst our customers", said Rabih Al-Asmar, Head of Commercial and Offline Marketing in Talabat.com while congratulating the McLaren 650S winner. "Talabat.com has always been at the forefront by constantly launching out of the box campaigns, perfectly designed to fulfill customers' needs, retain their loyalty and award them".



El Asmar, confirmed that Talabat.com is ongoing in its endeavor to exceed customers' expectations with top-notch services and campaigns marked with flexibility and easiness to turnout their life into more convenient, he said: "Talabat.com series of campaigns has just started and more to come in the near future, therefore we prom-

ise our customers lots of surprises, unprecedented services and of course a wide array of prizes".

"Let's Eat" McLaren 650S winner, Bader Al Nasser expressed his gratitude to Talabat.com and said: "As I appreciate Talabat.com initiative for the generous prize, I'm keen to confirm that Talabat.com is the perfect online food delivery portal, marked with convenience and put at our hand-reach a big range of food choices with just few clicks". "The leading portal leads the online food delivery industry in Kuwait with its state-of-the-art applications which have been developed to add value to customers daily needs for food".

The award-winning service provider has revolutionized the food delivery concept in Kuwait since its inception, providing an easy and simple way for users to order from any of their favorite restaurants with just a few clicks.

BBC
lifestyle

00:15 Marbella Mansions
01:00 The Planners
01:50 Antiques Roadshow
02:45 Come Dine With Me
03:05 Bargain Hunt
04:00 Hairy Bikers: Meals On Wheels
04:50 Marbella Mansions
05:35 Fat & Fatter
06:25 The Roux Legacy
07:00 Antiques Roadshow
07:50 Come Dine With Me
08:15 Phil Spencer: Secret Agent - Specials
09:05 Rachel Khoo's Kitchen
Notebook: Cosmo Cook
09:30 Marbella Mansions
10:15 The Planners
11:05 Antiques Roadshow
11:55 Bargain Hunt
12:50 Hairy Bikers: Meals On Wheels
13:40 Fat & Fatter
14:30 Phil Spencer: Secret Agent - Specials
15:20 Rachel Khoo's Kitchen
Notebook: Cosmo Cook
15:45 Marbella Mansions
16:30 The Planners
17:20 Fat & Fatter
18:15 Phil Spencer: Secret Agent - Specials
19:05 Rachel Khoo's Kitchen
Notebook: Cosmo Cook
19:30 Marbella Mansions
20:15 The Planners
21:05 Antiques Roadshow
21:55 Come Dine With Me
22:20 Bargain Hunt
23:10 Phil Spencer: Secret Agent - Specials

Discovery
CHANNEL
HD

00:20 Fast N' Loud
01:10 Deadliest Catch
02:00 Outback Truckers
02:50 Manhunt With Joel Lambert
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 Deadliest Catch
11:25 Outback Truckers
12:15 Manhunt With Joel Lambert
13:05 Container Wars
13:30 Dallas Car Sharks
13:55 Baggage Battles
14:20 Ice Cold Gold
15:10 Junkyard Empire
16:00 Fast N' Loud
16:50 How It's Made: Dream Cars
17:15 How Do They Do It?
17:40 Marooned With Ed Stafford
18:30 Kings Of The Wild
19:20 Dual Survival
20:10 Dallas Car Sharks
20:35 Baggage Battles
21:00 Marooned With Ed Stafford
21:50 Kings Of The Wild
22:40 River Monsters
23:30 Junkyard Empire

E

00:00 EIES
00:55 The Grace Helbig Show
01:25 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
02:20 E! News
03:15 Escape Club
04:10 Beyond Candid With Giuliana
05:05 EIES
06:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
06:55 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
07:50 Style Star
08:20 E! News
09:15 Giuliana & Bill
10:15 Giuliana & Bill
11:10 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills
11:35 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills
12:05 E! News
13:05 House Of DVF
14:05 Fashion Bloggers
14:30 Fashion Bloggers
15:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
16:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
17:00 Giuliana & Bill
18:00 The Grace Helbig Show
18:30 We Have Issues
19:00 WAGS
20:00 Hollywood Cycle
21:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
22:00 E! News
23:00 Dash Dolls

itv
CHOICE

00:10 The Chase
01:05 May The Best House Win
02:00 Emmerdale
02:25 Eggheads
02:55 Coronation Street
03:25 Agatha Christie's Partners In Crime
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 Agatha Christie's Partners In Crime
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 Doc Martin
17:25 Shetland
18:20 Take On The Twisters
19:10 Coronation Street
19:35 Who's Doing The Dishes?
20:30 Doc Martin
21:25 Shetland
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 World's Most Extreme
01:00 Building Wild
02:00 Engineering Connections
02:55 Construction Zone
03:20 Chasing Time
03:50 World's Most Extreme
04:45 Bad Trip
05:40 Hunter Hunted
06:35 Wicked Tuna
07:30 Monster Fish
08:25 Is It Real?
09:20 Bad Trip
10:15 Ultimate Survival Alaska
11:10 Airport Security: Colombia
12:05 Ultimate Airport Dubai
13:00 Is It Real?
14:00 Monster Fish
15:00 Wicked Tuna
16:00 Yukon River Run
17:00 Airport Security: Colombia
18:00 Drugs Inc
19:00 Wicked Tuna
20:00 Yukon River Run
20:50 Airport Security: Colombia
21:40 Drugs Inc
22:30 Wicked Tuna
23:20 Hunter Hunted

OSN FIRST HD
COMEDY

00:30 Last Man Standing
01:00 Last Week Tonight With John Oliver
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
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 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
21:00 Last Man Standing
21:30 The Nightly Show With Larry Wilmore
22:00 Veep
22:30 Brickleberry
23:00 Curb Your Enthusiasm
23:30 Late Night With Seth Meyers

OSN FIRST HD

00:00 The Americans
01:00 Quantico
02:00 Homeland
03:00 The Leftovers
05:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
06:00 The Astronaut Wives Club
08:00 Chicago Fire
09:00 Quantico
10:00 The Astronaut Wives Club
12:00 Emmerdale
13:30 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 The Voice
21:00 Blood & Oil
22:00 Downton Abbey
23:00 TyrantOSN FIRST
MORE

01:00 Good Morning America
03:00 Salem
04:00 Grimm
05:00 Good Morning America
07:00 Emmerdale
07:30 Coronation Street
09:00 Suits
10:00 Emmerdale
10:30 Coronation Street
11:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
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
ACTION

00:00 Rush
02:15 April Rain
04:00 The Last Castle
06:15 Last Passenger
08:00 Closed Circuit
10:00 Special ID
12:00 Kill Em All
14:00 Last Passenger
16:00 Closed Circuit
18:00 Rush Hour
20:00 Kill Em All
22:00 The Day The Earth Stood Still

OSN MOVIES HD
ACTION

00:15 April Rain-18
02:00 The Last Castle-PG15
04:15 Last Passenger-PG15
06:00 Closed Circuit-PG15
08:00 Special ID-PG15
10:00 Kill Em All-PG15
12:00 Last Passenger-PG15
14:00 Closed Circuit-PG15
16:00 Rush Hour-PG15
18:00 Kill Em All-PG15
20:00 The Day The Earth Stood Still-PG15
22:00 Turkey Shoot-18

OSN MOVIES HD
COMEDY

00:00 Keith Lemon: The Film
02:00 Life With Mikey
04:00 Planes, Trains And Automobiles
06:00 The Last Shot
08:00 Simon Birch
10:00 Planes, Trains And Automobiles
12:00 The Ladykillers
14:00 The Naked Gun: From The Files Of Police Squad
16:00 Simon Birch
18:00 Captain Ron
20:00 Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues
22:00 Not Another Teen Movie

OSN MOVIES
DRAMA

01:00 Mr. Pip-PG15
03:00 Devil's Knot-PG15
05:00 Reclaim-PG15
07:00 Knockout-PG15
09:00 Reclaim-PG15
11:00 Reclaim-PG15
13:00 Chale! Girl-PG15
15:00 The Citizen-PG15
17:00 Dawn Rider-PG15
19:00 God Help The Girl-PG15
21:00 Two Night Stand-PG15
23:00 Maps To The Stars-18

OSN MOVIES
FESTIVAL

01:00 The Bag Man
03:00 Blue Ruin
05:00 Atlas Shrugged Part 2: The Strike
07:00 Grand Piano
09:00 Jodorowsky's Dune
11:00 Atlas Shrugged Part 2: The Strike
13:00 Far And Away
15:30 Phantom
17:15 Jodorowsky's Dune
19:00 Against The Ropes
21:00 Grace Of Monaco
23:00 The Departed

OSN MOVIES HD

01:00 Swelter-PG15
03:00 At Middleton-PG15
05:00 Quartet-PG15
07:00 The Last Days On Mars-PG15
09:00 Alexander And The Terrible... Very Bad Day-PG

11:00 Step Up All In-PG15
13:00 Parkland-PG15
14:45 Planes: Fire And Rescue-PG
16:15 Alexander And The Terrible... Very Bad Day-PG
18:00 Transformers: Age Of Extinction-PG15
21:00 Stranded-PG15
23:00 Neighbors-18

OSN MOVIES
KIDS

01:00 Goat Story 2
02:45 Patoruzito: The Great Adventure
04:30 Jelly T
06:00 The Olsen Gang In Deep Trouble
08:00 Back To The Sea
10:00 Earth To Echo
11:30 Blue Elephant 2
13:00 Patoruzito: The Great Adventure
14:30 Blackie And Kanuto
16:00 Kikoriki: Team Invincible
18:00 Earth To Echo
20:00 True Story Of Puss'n Boots
22:00 Blackie And Kanuto
23:30 Kikoriki: Team Invincible

OSN MOVIES
PREMIERE

00:00 Outlaw Prophet: Warren Jeffs-18
02:00 Million Dollar Arm-PG15
04:15 House Of Versace-PG15
05:45 Saving Mr. Banks-PG15
08:00 Stolen Child-PG15
10:00 Marvel's Hulk vs. Thor & Wolverine-PG
12:00 Brick Mansions-PG15
14:00 Babylon A.D-PG15
16:00 Stolen Child-PG15
18:00 Homefront-PG15
20:00 Let's Be Cops-PG15
22:00 Riddick-18

STAR
MOVIES

01:15 Grave Encounters
03:00 Ladder 49
05:00 Signs
06:45 Struck By Lightning
08:15 The Limits Of Control
10:00 Hidalgo
12:15 Tomorrow When The War Began
14:00 Ladder 49
16:00 The King's Speech
18:00 Under The Tuscan Sun
20:00 Seabiscuit
22:30 Starship Troopers

WORLD

00:00 Grey's Anatomy
01:00 MasterChef Australia
02:00 Private Practice
03:00 Private Practice
04:00 Grey's Anatomy
05:00 Cougar Town
05:30 Cougar Town
06:00 The Simpsons
07:00 Lost
08:00 Grey's Anatomy
09:00 MasterChef Australia
10:00 Private Practice
11:00 Private Practice
12:00 Grey's Anatomy
13:00 Cougar Town
13:30 Cougar Town
14:00 The Simpsons
14:30 The Simpsons
15:00 Lost
16:00 Grey's Anatomy
17:00 MasterChef Australia
18:00 Revenge
19:00 Revenge
20:00 Bones
21:00 Scrubs
21:30 Scrubs
22:00 The Simpsons
22:30 The Simpsons
23:00 Lost

HISTORY

00:00 American Restoration
00:30 American Restoration
01:00 Pawn Stars
01:30 Pawn Stars
02:00 American Pickers
03:00 American Restoration
03:30 American Restoration
04:00 Shipping Wars
05:00 American Pickers
06:00 Ax Men
07:00 Swamp People
08:00 Mountain Men
09:00 Duck Dynasty
10:00 Down East Dickering
11:00 The Legend Of Shelby The Swamp Man
11:30 The Legend Of Shelby The Swamp Man
12:00 American Pickers
13:00 Storage Wars
13:30 Storage Wars



THE LAST SHOT ON OSN MOVIES HD COMEDY

14:00 Pawn Stars
14:30 Pawn Stars
15:00 Shipping Wars
15:30 Shipping Wars
16:00 Pawn Stars
16:30 Pawn Stars
17:00 American Pickers
18:00 American Pickers
19:00 Storage Wars
19:30 Storage Wars
20:00 Duck Dynasty
20:30 Duck Dynasty
21:00 Pawn Stars
21:30 Pawn Stars
22:00 Storage Wars
22:30 Storage Wars
23:00 Storage Wars: New York
23:30 Storage Wars: New York

04:15 Snake Sheila
04:38 Snake Sheila
05:02 Treehouse Masters
05:49 Killer Ig: Lion vs Hyena
06:36 Call Of The Wildman
07:00 Call Of The Wildman
07:25 Snake Sheila
07:35 Snake Sheila
08:40 Treehouse Masters
09:10 Tanked
10:05 Tanked
11:00 Dogs 101
11:55 Bondi Vet
12:50 River Monsters (Best Of Series 1-5)
13:45 Snake Sheila
14:10 Snake Sheila
14:40 Treehouse Masters
15:35 Tanked
16:30 Megalodon: The Monster Shark Lives
18:20 Snake Sheila
18:45 Snake Sheila
19:15 Treehouse Masters
20:10 Tanked
21:05 Shamwar: A Wild Life
21:30 Shamwar: A Wild Life
22:00 Serial Killer Tiger At Large
22:55 Gator Boys
23:50 Snake Sheila
00:15 Snake Sheila
00:45 Call Of The Wildman
01:10 Call Of The Wildman
01:40 Serial Killer Tiger At Large
02:35 Tanked

BBC
entertainment

03:35 Inside No. 9
04:05 The Cafe
04:30 Only Fools And Horses
05:00 The Green Balloon Club
05:25 Nuzzle & Scratch: Frock n Roll
05:45 Nuzzle & Scratch: Frock n Roll
06:05 Giggglebiz
06:20 The Green Balloon Club
06:40 Nuzzle & Scratch: Frock n Roll
07:00 Charlie And Lola
07:15 The Weakest Link
08:00 My Hero
08:30 Doctors
09:00 Eastenders
09:30 Call The Midwife
10:20 Silk
11:15 The Weakest Link
12:00 Me & Mrs Jones
12:30 My Hero
13:00 Call The Midwife
13:55 Silk
14:50 Me & Mrs Jones
15:20 My Hero
15:50 Doctors
16:20 Eastenders
16:50 The Weakest Link
17:35 Me & Mrs Jones
18:05 Call The Midwife
19:00 Doctors
19:30 Eastenders
20:00 Lorna Doone
20:50 Little Britain
21:45 New Tricks
23:05 The Weakest Link
23:50 Doctors
00:20 Eastenders
00:50 Call The Midwife
01:45 Lorna Doone
02:35 Lorna Doone

ID.
INVESTIGATION
DISCOVERY

03:00 California Investigator
03:25 California Investigator
03:45 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
04:10 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
04:30 The Haunted
05:20 Forensic Detectives
06:10 True Crime With Aphrodite
07:00 Nightmare Next Door
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
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 Deadly Affairs
22:50 Devil In The Details
23:40 Who On Earth Did I Marry?

CN
CARTOON NETWORK

03:20 Grojband
03:42 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

00:05 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
00:30 The Haunted
01:20 Ghost Lab
02:10 Deadly Affairs

SC
discovery
science

03:00 How It's Made
03:23 How It's Made
03:48 Moon Machines
04:36 Home Factory
05:00 Home Factory
05:24 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
06:12 How Do They Do It?
06:35 How Do They Do It?
07:00 Mythbusters
07:50 Bang Goes The Theory
08:15 Bang Goes The Theory
08:40 X-Machines
09:30 Food Factory
09:55 Food Factory
10:20 Race To Escape
11:10 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
12:00 Moon Machines
12:50 Bang Goes The Theory
13:15 Bang Goes The Theory
13:40 X-Machines
14:30 How It's Made
14:54 How It's Made
15:20 Race To Escape
16:10 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
17:00 Bang Goes The Theory
17:25 Bang Goes The Theory
17:50 Mythbusters
18:40 The Big Brain Theory
19:30 Food Factory
19:55 Food Factory
20:20 How It's Made
20:45 How It's Made
21:10 How Do They Do It?
21:35 How Do They Do It?
22:00 The Big Brain Theory
22:50 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
23:40 Moon Machines
00:30 Mythbusters
01:20 The Big Brain Theory
02:10 Food Factory
02:35 Food Factory

NAT GEO
people
HD

03:30 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
03:55 Baking Good, Baking Bad
04:20 The Food Files
04:45 The Food Files
05:10 Bondi Rescue Outback Adventure
06:00 World's Best Chefs
06:25 Tales From The Bush Larder
06:50 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces
07:40 Dog Whisperer
08:30 City Chase Rome
09:20 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
09:45 Baking Good, Baking Bad
10:10 The Food Files
10:35 The Food Files
11:00 Bondi Rescue Outback Adventure
11:50 World's Best Chefs
12:15 Tales From The Bush Larder
12:40 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces
13:35 Cesar To The Rescue
14:30 City Chase Rome
15:25 Poh & Co.
15:50 Poh & Co.
16:20 The Food Files
16:45 American Food Battle
17:15 Cradle Of Mandopop
18:10 Grandma's Boy
18:35 Meat v Veg
19:05 City Chase Rome
20:00 Poh & Co.
20:25 The Food Files
20:50 American Food Battle
21:15 Cradle Of Mandopop
22:05 Grandma's Boy



LAST PASSENGER ON OSN MOVIES HD ACTION

CLASSIFIEDS



KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (15/10/2015 TO 21/10/2015)

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

Urgent Requirement in a Multinational Industrial Services Company (Painting / Insulation) in Kuwait

Designation	QTY	Designation	QTY
Projects Manager	1	Drivers Heavy	5
Commercial Engineer	1	Forklift Operator (10 Tons)	1
Accountant	1	Brush Painters	10
Public Relations Officer	1	Painters (Airless spray)	12
HSEQ Engineer	1	Sand blasters	10
HR & Admin. Coordinator	1	Brush Painters	10
Procurement and Inventory Controller	1	Riggers	4
Manpower and Facility Coordinator	1	Q.C Painting	1
IT Administrator	1	Safety Officer	1

Note: Transferable visa article 18 only

All the positons must possess relevant qualification and adequate experience.

**Applications are invited with their updated CV to
talents4sa@gmail.com not later than 30th Oct 2015.**

CHANGE OF NAME

The public is hereby notified that MS. SUSAN VASQUEZ ARCA has filed with the Embassy of the Republic of the Philippines, State of Kuwait, a Migrant Petition for Correction of Clerical Error to correct the middle name of her son, from A To VASQUEZ, in the Report of Birth field with the Embassy on 22 October 2001. Any person having knowledge and/or claiming interest or may be adversely affected by said Petition, file his written opposition with the Embassy within ten (10) working days. **(C 5056) 20-10-2015**

I, Mohammad Imran (PNo: M7063192) r/o Peeli Haveli Chowk Kamptee 441002 Dist. Nagpur (MS) India, would like to correct my son's name on the passport bearing No. L8616706 from "Yousuf" to "Yousuf Mohammad Imran". Hereafter in all his dealings and documents, he will be known by the name "Yousuf Mohammad Imran". **(C 5054)**



Floor for rent in Salwa

- 4 master bedrooms ensuite
- Guest toilet
- Maid room with bathroom
- Laundry room
- Basement car parking for 2 vehicles

**Directly from Owner
Middle agents are not welcome
66944929**

Prayer timings

Fajr:	04:33
Shorook	05:52
Duhr:	11:33
Asr:	14:47
Maghrib:	17:13
Isha:	18:30



Arrival Flights on Tuesday 20/10/2015				Departure Flights on Tuesday 20/10/2015			
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
DLH	637	Dammam	00:35	MSC	412	Asyut	13:55
THY	772	Istanbul	00:35	MSR	611	Cairo	14:00
FDB	069	Dubai	00:55	THY	767	Istanbul	14:10
JZR	539	Cairo	01:30	UAE	872	Dubai	14:15
ETH	3403	Addis Ababa/Riyadh	01:35	MSR	576	Sharm el-Sheikh	14:40
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:40	QTR	1079	Doha	15:05
RJA	642	Amman	01:45	GFA	222	Bahrain	15:05
OMA	643	Muscat	02:05	FDB	058	Dubai	15:05
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15	AXB	394	Kozhikode	15:15
KKK	6507	Istanbul	02:15	KAC	617	Doha	15:15
JZR	529	Asyut	02:20	KAC	673	Dubai	15:20
UAE	853	Dubai	02:25	SVA	501	Jeddah	15:45
MSC	403	Sohag	02:30	KAC	741	Dammam	15:55
QTR	1076	Doha	02:55	KAC	773	Riyadh	15:55
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:05	KNE	473	Jeddah	16:00
CEB	7694	Manila	03:10	OMA	646	Muscat	16:05
FDB	067	Dubai	03:15	RJD	136	Abu Dhabi	16:10
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	16:45
KAC	1544	Cairo	03:35	NIA	252	Alexandria	16:50
THY	1464	Istanbul	03:55	RJA	641	Amman	16:55
MSC	401	Alexandria	04:00	JZR	266	Beirut	17:05
PGT	860	Istanbul	04:05	FDB	052	Dubai	17:10
DHX	170	Bahrain	04:20	QTR	1073	Doha	17:25
THY	770	Istanbul	04:40	UAE	858	Dubai	17:40
KAC	412	Manila/Bangkok	06:15	SVA	511	Riyadh	18:15
BAW	157	London	06:35	JZR	184	Dubai	18:20
KAC	206	Islamabad	07:30	UAL	982	Bahrain	18:40
KAC	382	Delhi	07:30	JZR	238	Amman	18:45
IRC	6521	Lamerd	07:40	FDB	066	Dubai	18:55
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	GFA	218	Bahrain	19:50
OMA	641	Muscat	07:50	FDB	064	Dubai	19:50
QTR	1086	Doha	07:55	QTR	1081	Doha	19:55
KAC	354	BLR	07:55	ABY	124	Sharjah	20:00
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:55	KAC	361	Colombo	20:00
KAC	154	Istanbul	08:10	UAE	876	Dubai	20:35
KAC	344	Chennai	08:15	JAI	571	Mumbai	20:35
KAC	352	Kochi	08:15	FDB	062	Dubai	20:35
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	KAC	287	Dhaka	20:40
KAC	362	Colombo	08:30	KAC	1543	Cairo	20:55
KAC	284	Dhaka	09:00	KAC	343	Chennai	20:55
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:05	OMA	648	Muscat	21:00
IRA	667	Esfahan	09:05	DLH	636	Dammam	21:00
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:10	KAC	353	BLR	21:00
QTR	1070	Doha	09:25	KAC	351	Kochi	21:05
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	MEA	403	Beirut	21:15
KAC	350	Kochi	09:40	MSR	607	Luxor	21:40
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	DHX	171	Bahrain	21:50
UAE	873	Dubai	10:40	ETD	308	Abu Dhabi	22:05
MEA	404	Beirut	10:55	FDB	074	Dubai	22:10
AXB	889	Mangalore/Bahrain	11:15	ALK	230	Colombo	22:20
MSC	405	Sohag	11:20	KAC	381	Delhi	22:20
JZR	561	Sohag	11:25	UAE	860	Dubai	22:25
AGY	680	Alexandria	11:40	KLM	415	Dammam/Amsterdam	22:25
JZR	165	Dubai	11:50	KAC	349	Kochi	22:30
FDB	075	Dubai	12:25	KAC	301	Mumbai	22:30
UAE	871	Dubai	12:45	QTR	1075	Doha	22:40
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	GFA	220	Bahrain	22:45
THY	766	Istanbul	13:10	KAC	345	Ahmedabad	22:55
KAC	620	Doha	13:10	ETD	310	Abu Dhabi	23:00
FBA	831	Baghdad	13:30	KAC	205	Islamabad	23:05
KAC	672	Dubai	13:55	KAC	203	Lahore	23:10
QTR	1078	Doha	14:05	KAC	411	Bangkok/Manila	23:25
				PIA	240	Sialkot	23:35
				FDB	060	Dubai	23:50

DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page (www.kuwait-airport.com.kw)

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

CROSSWORD 1054

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9	10		11	12	13	14
15					16							17			
18					19						20				
21				22					23	24					
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46						47	48			49				50	
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77				78										79	

ACROSS

1. Extremely robust.
5. The whiteness that results from removing the color from something.
11. Type genus of the Aceraceae.
15. A strip of land projecting into a body of water.
16. One of two flaps attached to a cap to keep the ears warm.
17. Herb of the Pacific islands grown throughout the tropics for its edible root and in temperate areas as an ornamental for its large glossy leaves.
18. Capital and largest city of the Ukraine.
19. English theoretical physicist who applied relativity theory to quantum mechanics and predicted the existence of antimatter and the positron (1902-1984).
21. A member of the Mayan people of the Yucatan peninsula in Mexico.
23. The most important person in a group or undertaking.
25. A potent estrogen used in medicine and in feed for livestock and poultry.
28. A deep bow.
31. (Greek mythology) Goddess of the earth and mother of Cronus and the Titans in ancient mythology.
32. United States newspaper publisher (1858-1935).
35. A city in the European part of Russia.
36. A Hindu prince or king in India.
39. 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.
40. A port city in northeastern Sicily on the Strait of Messina.
44. 100 agorot equal 1 shekel.
46. American Revolutionary leader from Virginia whose objections led to the drafting of the Bill of Rights (1725-1792).
47. Freight car without permanent sides or roof.
50. A state in east central United States.
51. Large long-armed ape of Borneo and Sumatra having arboreal habits.
52. An act of gracious kindness.
53. A Loloish language.
55. A yellow trivalent metallic element of the rare earth group.
60. Wasting of the body during a chronic disease.
66. A doctor's degree in music.
69. (Irish) Mother of the ancient Irish gods.
70. A Shinto god of war.
73. Aircraft landing in bad weather in which the pilot is talked down by ground control using precision approach radar.
74. An Indian unit of length having different values in different localities.
75. A remedy that stops or controls the effects of a poison.
76. (informal) Roused to anger.
77. Used of a single unit or thing.
78. Related to or derived from the people or culture of Spain.
79. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.

DOWN

1. (informal) Very bad.
2. Radioactive iodine test that measures the amount of radioactive iodine taken up by the thyroid gland.
3. An organization of countries formed in

- 1961 to agree on a common policy for the sale of petroleum.
4. A state in the western United States.
5. A person who is paid to pray for the soul of another.
6. Concerning those not members of the clergy.
7. To make a mistake or be incorrect.
8. A flat wing-shaped process or wrinkle part of an organism.
9. The sound made by a hen after laying an egg.
10. A unit of power equal to 746 watts.
11. (of tempo) Leisurely n.
12. A high-crowned black cap (usually made of felt or sheepskin) worn by men in Turkey and Iran and the Caucasus.
13. (Norse mythology) Goddess of old age who defeated Thor in a wrestling match.
14. (used of especially horses) Having a brownish coat thickly sprinkled with white or gray.
20. The portion of the vertebrate nervous system consisting of the brain and spinal cord.
22. Marked by extreme intensity of emotions or convictions.
24. A plant hormone promoting elongation of stems and roots.
26. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
27. An informal term for a father.
29. Regional and archaic.
30. The sacred city of Lamaism.
33. The Teutonic goddess of fertility.
34. The upper house of the parliament of the Republic of Ireland.
37. A port in western Israel on the Mediterranean.
38. The cry made by sheep.
41. (of a woman's body) Having a large bosom and pleasing curves.
42. (Polynesian) An alcoholic drink made from the aromatic roots of the kava shrub.
43. (physics and chemistry) The smallest component of an element having the chemical properties of the element.
45. United States evangelical preacher famous as a mass evangelist (born in 1918).
48. A title used to address any peeress except a duchess.
49. A hard brittle blue-white multivalent metallic element.
54. Preaching the gospel of Christ in the manner of the early church.
56. One million periods per second.
57. A public promotion of some product or service.
58. Lower in esteem.
59. Italian violin maker in Cremona.
61. Sweet pulpy tropical fruit with thick scaly rind and shiny black seeds.
62. Title for the former hereditary monarch of Iran.
63. A book of the New Testament.
64. Large genus of tropical shrubs or herbs some of which yield fibers of mucilaginous substances.
65. A primeval personification of air and breath.
67. Someone who works (or provides workers) during a strike.
68. An informal term for a father.
71. Black tropical American cuckoo.
72. An acute inflammatory disease occurring in the intestines of premature infants.

Yesterday's Solution

H	E	L	P		D	A	S	S	I	E		E	S	A	U
O	L	E	A		A	M	H	A	R	A		Y	A	R	N
T	I	N	N	E	D		A	N		R	H	E	X	I	A
H	A	D	J		A	K	H	A		N		B	E	A	U
		L	A	B		O		A	M	E	B	A			
A	L		B	A	A	L			I	D	Y	L	L	I	C
S	U	L	I	N	D	A	C		L		E	L	I	N	T
S	P	A		D	A	M	A		L	W			L	I	E
A	I	R	T		D		L	A	D	E		K	A	O	N
I	N	V	A	R			A	R	A	B		A	C	N	E
L	E	A	S	E	D		B	O	M	B	A	Y			
			M	A	Y	H	A	W			P	O	L	K	A
N	O	P	A	L	E	A			F	O	R	E	L	E	G
A	K	A	N		I		A	B	O	R		D	A	B	A
R	A	G		E	N	T	R	A	N	C	E		M	A	M
D	Y	E		A	G	A	M	I	D	A	E		A	B	A

STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

You may breathe a sigh of relief today because it seems like recent tensions are beginning to subside. Although there are positive signs that make you smile, you won't likely get the full resolution you seek. You're not in an optimal position to make significant progress but, at least, you're growing more confident about the future. There's nothing to be gained by being overly ambitious now; just hold your ground and wait for a clear signal before moving forward.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

You're happily surprised by how quickly things change today as you're catapulted out of your regular routine and shot into a new orbit. Although the quirky Aquarius Moon might not bring emotional comfort, it sounds a loud wake-up call to remind you of the radical ideas you set aside recently in your quest to fit in. Your fan base is solid now, so you really don't have anything to lose. Thinking outside of the box will be instrumental to your future success.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Oddly enough, your growing sense of freedom may relieve your need to rebel against the status quo. Although you don't feel as independent as you wish, at least some restrictions appear to be lifting now. But don't spoil your opportunity to be productive by frittering away your precious time. Stay as focused as you were when you were under pressure and you might just accomplish more than you ever thought possible. Demonstrating your willingness to work hard earns you extra brownie points.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

The slow pace of change might not be speedy enough for you today. You are acutely aware of how far you have already traveled on your journey, but there's still a huge gulf between where you are now and where you want to be in the future. However, there's no point in dwelling on your limitations. Instead of constantly comparing your current progress to your beautiful dreams, just concentrate on the task right in front of your nose. Inch by inch it's a cinch; yard by yard, it's hard.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

Unexpressed feelings cultivate unrest in your life, but you can't seem to find the real source of the problem. Paradoxically, the closer you get to the truth, the more obscured the answer becomes today. Although it may be wise to dig deep on other occasions, this isn't one of them. Leave the sleeping mysteries alone while you redirect your attention to those things that are most obvious. For now, what you don't know can't hurt you. Save your impressive roar for another day.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

So much has happened in your life over the past few months, yet you might not be able to see the ramifications of the changes yet. Although the transition continues to evolve slower than you wish, your life is undergoing a subtle-but-total transformation. Instead of ruminating over your past mistakes, focus on small tasks that you can start and finish in a day. Rather than working harder, work smarter. Consider yourself a diamond in the rough; don't let any criticism get in the way of your ultimate success.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

Instead of stressing over a recent lost opportunity, try a more radical solution to your woes, like letting go and trusting the universe. Ironically, taking a well-deserved break may carry you further toward success now than if you push relentlessly ahead. It's essential to revitalize your creativity and reestablish your center. Don't be concerned if you aren't very productive today; it could take several more days to generate the results you want. Good things come to those who wait.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

You might want to disconnect from your emotional roots today because you don't want anyone to perceive you as being overly needy. You can outwardly demonstrate an apparent aloofness so no one suspects that you're actually feeling quite vulnerable now. However, your reverse psychology could backfire by amplifying your sense of alienation and deepening your sorrow. You must take a risk if you want to break an old pattern based on mistrust and secrecy. Sharing your truth with someone you trust helps to heal your heart.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Unfinished projects continue to pile up at work, yet you could find time today to play a bit of catch-up. You might give yourself the luxury of relaxing later if you can stay on task during the day. But there is simply too much going on for you to check out completely. It may help to create a detailed list of everything you want to accomplish and then cross the items off one at a time. Believe it or not, the satisfaction you gain from a job well done is more gratifying now than any transient pleasures.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

A highly productive morning goes a long way to ease the current pressure in your life. But slacking off before you do your chores is not your modus operandi, especially when there are so many people counting on you. Get down to work instead of wasting time replaying your recent accomplishments or fretting about missed deadlines. Just tie up as many loose ends as possible to fully prepare for the busy week ahead. The more you finish now, the more reason you have to celebrate later.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

You could grow quite weary and discouraged today, if all of your hard work hasn't yet paid off. However, you may have already made more headway than you realize, since the moody Moon's shift into your sign might color your perceptions with doubt or deception. But don't shut down your awareness even if you want to escape from your feelings. Your negativity will fade if you put your emotions into a healthy perspective. Your sense of humor can be your saving grace if you are willing to laugh at yourself as much as others.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Although today may be a harbinger of exciting new beginnings, the Moon's presence in your 12th House of Endings also brings good fortune if you're willing to reflect on the past. But don't get too hooked by the mundane world or you could miss the intuitive inspiration that's bubbling up from your subconscious. There are unseen forces at work now and your subtle impressions can be instrumental for successfully guiding you through the major changes ahead.

WORD SEARCH

1950'S MOVIES WORD SEARCH PUZZLE

A	L	Y	N	T	H	E	S	E	A	R	C	H	E	R	S	I	Y	S
F	R	O	I	W	V	Q	A	S	R	R	Z	D	A	E	K	A	L	K
O	O	N	D	E	T	V	U	U	V	O	T	S	I	J	N	L	W	N
R	M	T	B	O	T	F	H	F	E	L	E	E	S	I	O	J	T	X
B	A	H	W	F	U	N	N	Y	F	A	C	E	R	D	W	R	H	F
I	N	E	Q	O	E	E	M	H	C	G	Y	B	D	O	N	I	E	O
D	H	W	J	B	F	K	B	S	W	U	A	N	D	A	A	I	R	S
D	O	A	J	J	E	K	U	E	D	S	A	N	T	R	H	A	O	O
E	L	T	A	O	D	I	A	V	J	S	I	N	U	T	Q	L	B	M
N	I	E	C	L	L	L	L	N	Y	W	A	M	A	M	V	L	E	E
P	D	R	J	U	Y	B	I	U	R	I	A	H	H	I	R	A	N	L
L	A	F	J	N	T	H	G	A	G	S	C	N	L	M	Z	B	G	I
A	Y	R	X	E	G	H	E	G	N	T	G	K	T	N	I	O	R	K
N	H	O	S	Z	G	R	B	E	A	D	G	P	G	T	G	U	Z	E
E	B	N	J	J	W	A	V	C	F	Y	L	F	J	I	S	T	F	I
T	U	T	V	C	E	E	O	J	G	K	O	A	T	A	H	E	O	T
S	H	L	L	Q	S	T	H	I	F	T	R	W	F	A	V	I	H	
I	J	R	C	D	T	N	Z	B	N	Q	E	J	F	O	N	E	B	O
E	A	S	T	O	F	E	D	E	N	V	M	F	A	E	R	G	T	

ALL ABOUT EVE
BEN-HUR
EAST OF EDEN
FORBIDDEN PLANET
FUNNY FACE

GIANT
GUYS AND DOLLS
JULIUS CAESAR
ON THE WATERFRONT
REAR WINDOW

ROMAN HOLIDAY
SABRINA
SEVEN SAMURAI
SHANE
SOME LIKE IT HOT

SUNSET BLVD
THE ROBE
THE SEARCHERS
TO CATCH A THIEF
VERTIGO

Daily SuDoku

			5	7		9	1				
9	4			5		1				6	
1						6			5		
	9					7	3	8			
3				1		2				7	
	5	6	3					1			
	2			8						1	
6				9		5			4	8	
			8	2		3	5				

Yesterday Solution

SOLUTION TO IN THE LAB PUZZLE

T	H	E	R	M	O	M	E	T	E	R	A	L	P	V	K	X	A	O
I	Y	H	B	Z	M	Q	U	N	N	N	F	T	O	N	G	S	B	S
T	D	R	T	X	I	M	W	E	S	Z	Q	I	R	X	Y	S	E	S
G	R	B	U	N	S	E	N	B	U	R	N	E	A	T	Y	C	L	T
P	O	C	D	H	B	C	A	K	T	O	K	L	C	C	E	A	J	E
O	M	G	W	D	Y	M	Q	F	T	A	O	E	X	V	C	L	Q	S
T	E	W	G	F	N	G	B	S	E	X	P	E	R	I	M	E	N	T
M	T	T	C	L	O	H	I	B	M	O	V	I	M	J	K	E	V	T
I	E	U	Q	W	E	T	L	J	C	P	V	E	E	T	G	V	C	U
C	R	T	F	K	N	S	M	H	E	H	V	A	E	X	Q	C	B	
R	W	O	N	E	S	J	T	G	S	C	Y	O	L	Z	T	D	Y	E
O	J	L	I	N	E	X	U	I	R	O	C	O	B	F	E	T	K	W
S	X	C	C	I	B	E	D	B	W	B	S	T	B	X	X	W	E	F
C	S	N	A	C	I	X	R	A	I	N	C	U	B	A	T	O	R	
O	V	N	Y	B	R	I	Z	L	I	T	Y	U	F	K	U	O	E	K
P	A	I	T	T	K	P	O	C	X	J	A	J	E	L	W	U	J	V
E	B	N	E	J	N	P	E	R	I	O	D	I	C	T	A	B	L	E
T	E	P	E	T	D	J	C	A	N	O	T	K	J	E	N	S	N	L
C	U	L	T	U	R	E	S											

Yesterday's Solution

5	1	9	2	4	3	6	7	8
8	3	7	9	6	1	5	4	2
4	2	6	5	7	8	1	9	3
9	4	2	3	1	6	8	5	7
7	5	1	8	2	9	3	6	4
6	8	3	7	5	4	2	1	9
1	9	4	6	3	2	7	8	5
2	6	5	4	8	7	9	3	1
3	7	8	1	9	5	4	2	6

For labor-related inquiries
and complaints:
Call MSAL hotline 128

Hospitals

Sabah Hospital	24812000
Amiri Hospital	22450005
Maternity Hospital	24843100
Mubarak Al-Kabir Hospital	25312700
Chest Hospital	24849400
Farwaniya Hospital	24892010
Adan Hospital	23940620
Ibn Sina Hospital	24840300
Al-Razi Hospital	24846000
Physiotherapy Hospital	24874330/9

Clinics

Kaizen center	25716707
Rawda	22517733
Adaliya	22517144
Khaldiya	24848075
Kaifan	24849807
Shamiya	24848913
Shuwaikh	24814507
Abdullah Salem	22549134
Nuzha	22526804
Industrial Shuwaikh	24814764
Qadsiya	22515088
Dasmah	22532265
Bneid Al-Gar	22531908
Shaab	22518752
Qibla	22459381
Ayoun Al-Qibla	22451082
Mirqab	22456536
Sharq	22465401
Salmiya	25746401
Jabriya	25316254
Maidan Hawally	25623444
Bayan	25388462
Mishref	25381200
W Hawally	22630786
Sabah	24810221
Jahra	24770319
New Jahra	24575755
West Jahra	24772608
South Jahra	24775066
North Jahra	24775992
North Jleeb	24311795
Ardhiya	24884079
Firdous	24892674
Omariya	24719048
N Khaitan	24710044
Fintas	23900322



PHARMACIES ON 24 HRS DUTY

GOVERNORATE	PHARMACY	ADDRESS	PHONE
Ahmadi	Sama Safwan Abu Halaifa Danat Al-Sultan	Fahaeel Makka St Abu Halaifa-Coastal Rd Mahboula Block 1, Coastal Rd	23915883 23715414 23726558
Jahra	Modern Jahra Madina Munawara	Jahra-Block 3 Lot 1 Jahra-Block 92	24575518 24566622
Capital	Ahlam Khaldiya Coop	Fahad Al-Salem St Khaldiya Coop	22436184 24833967
Farwaniya	New Shifa Ferdous Coop Modern Safwan	Farwaniya Block 40 Ferdous Coop Old Kheitan Block 11	24734000 24881201 24726638
Hawally	Tariq Hana Ikhlās Hawally & Rawdha Ghadeer Kindy Ibn Al-Nafis Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Salmiya-Amman St Hawally-Beirut St Hawally & Rawdha Coop Jabriya-Block 1A Jabriya-Block 3B Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	25726265 25647075 22625999 22564549 25340559 25326554 25721264 25380581 25628241

STATE OF KUWAIT DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



Tel: (+965) 161 Ext: 2627 - 2630
Fax: (+965) 24348714
www.met.gov.kw



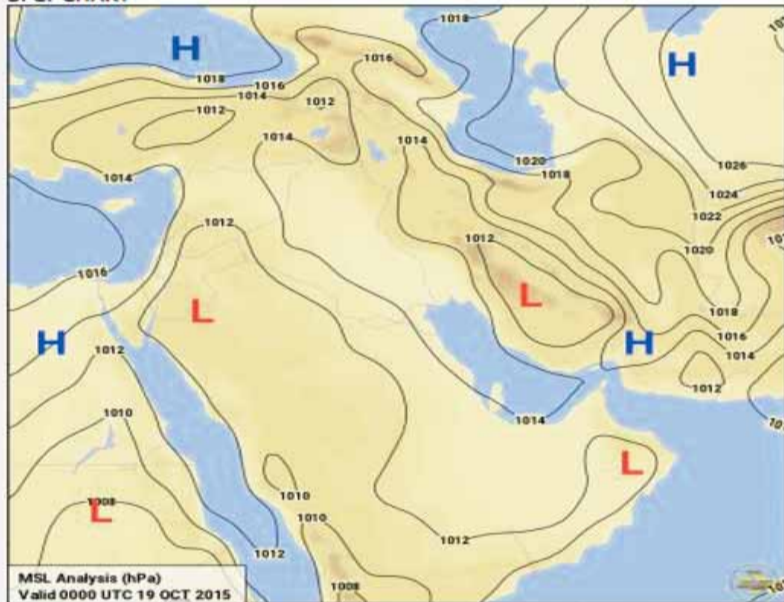
Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

Issued 19/10/2015-07:00 LT UTC +3hr

MAX Temperature 38 °C

By Day : Sunny with light to moderate north westerly to light variable wind, with speed of 06 - 28 km/h and some high clouds will appear
By Night : Fair with light variable wind, with speed of 06 - 22 km/h and some scattered clouds will appear

SFC. CHART



Four-Day Forecast

	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Expected Weather	sunny	clouds to increase gradually	partly cloudy + scattered rain	partly cloudy + scattered rain
Min Temp °C	22	23	24	23
Max Temp °C	38	39	35	34
Wind Direction	north westerly to light variable	variable wind changing to light to moderate south easterly	easterly to south easterly	easterly to south easterly
Wind Speed km/h	06 - 28	08 - 30	12 - 35	15 - 38

All times are local time (GMT+3) unless otherwise stated

Warnings

NO CURRENT WARNINGS

Kuwait Forecast

Station	MIN °C REC	Max °C EXP
KUWAIT CITY	27	33
KUWAIT AIRPORT	22	38
ABDALY	22	36
BUBYAN	22	31
JAHRRA	25	37
FAILAKA ISLAND	24	33
SALMIYAH	28	33
AHMADI	27	34
JAL ALIYAH	23	35
QAROH ISLAND	29	33
UMM AL-MARADEM	28	33
NUWAISIB	25	33
WAFRA	22	38
MANAGISH	23	39
SALMY	24	39
MUTRIBA	22	37

Recorded Yesterday at Kuwait Airport

Max Temp (°C)	36
Min Temp (°C)	24
Max Rel Hum (%)	82
Min Rel Hum (%)	29
Max Wind Speed (km/h) and Direction	32 S
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR	0 mm

	Sunrise	05:52
	Sunset	17:14

Prayer Times

Fajr	04:32
Sunrise	05:52
Zuhr	11:33
Asr	14:48
Sunset	17:14
Isha	18:31

INTERNATIONAL CALLS



Afghanistan	0093	Luxembourg	00352
Albania	00355	Macau	00853
Algeria	00213	Macedonia	00389
Andorra	00376	Madagascar	00261
Angola	00244	Majorca	0034
Anguilla	001264	Malawi	00265
Antiga	001268	Malaysia	0060
Argentina	0054	Maldives	00960
Armenia	00374	Mali	00223
Australia	0061	Malta	00356
Austria	0043	Marshall Islands	00692
Bahamas	001242	Martinique	00596
Bahrain	00973	Mauritania	00222
Bangladesh	00880	Mauritius	00230
Barbados	001246	Mayotte	00269
Belarus	00375	Mexico	0052
Belgium	0032	Micronesia	00691
Belize	00501	Moldova	00373
Benin	00229	Monaco	00377
Bermuda	001441	Mongolia	00976
Bhutan	00975	Montserrat	001664
Bolivia	00591	Morocco	00212
Bosnia	00387	Mozambique	00258
Botswana	00267	Myanmar (Burma)	0095
Brazil	0055	Namibia	00264
Brunei	00673	Nepal	00977
Bulgaria	00359	Netherlands	0031
Burkina	00226	Netherlands Antilles	00599
Burundi	00257	New Caledonia	00687
Cambodia	00855	New Zealand	0064
Cameroon	00237	Nicaragua	00505
Canada	001	Nigar	00227
Cape Verde	00238	Nigeria	00234
Cayman Islands	001345	Niue	00683
Central African	00236	Norfolk Island	00672
Chad	00235	N. Ireland (UK)	0044
Chile	0056	North Korea	00850
China	0086	Norway	0047
Colombia	0057	Oman	00968
Comoros	00269	Pakistan	0092
Congo	00242	Palau	00680
Cook Islands	00682	Panama	00507
Costa Rica	00506	Papua New Guinea	00675
Croatia	00385	Paraguay	00595
Cuba	0053	Peru	0051
Cyprus	00357	Philippines	0063
Cyprus (Northern)	0090392	Poland	0048
Czech Republic	00420	Portugal	00351
Denmark	0045	Puerto Rico	001787
Diego Garcia	00246	Qatar	00974
Djibouti	00253	Romania	0040
Dominica	001767	Russian Federation	007
Dominican Republic	001809	Rwanda	00250
Ecuador	00593	Saint Helena	00290
Egypt	0020	Saint Kitts	001869
El Salvador	00503	Saint Lucia	001758
England (UK)	0044	Saint Pierre	00508
Equatorial Guinea	00240	Saint Vincent	001784
Eritrea	00291	Samoa US	00684
Estonia	00372	Samoa West	00685
Ethiopia	00251	San Marino	00378
Falkland Islands	00500	Sao Tome	00239
Faroe Islands	00298	Saudi Arabia	00966
Fiji	00679	Scotland (UK)	0044
Finland	00358	Senegal	00221
France	0033	Seychelles	00284
French Guiana	00594	Sierra Leone	00232
French Polynesia	00689	Singapore	0065
Gabon	00241	Slovakia	00421
Gambia	00220	Slovenia	00386
Georgia	00995	Solomon Islands	00677
Germany	0049	Somalia	00252
Ghana	00233	South Africa	0027
Gibraltar	00350	South Korea	0082
Greece	0030	Spain	0034
Greenland	00299	Sri Lanka	0094
Grenada	001473	Sudan	00249
Guadeloupe	00590	Suriname	00597
Guam	001671	Swaziland	00268
Guatemala	00502	Sweden	0046
Guinea	00224	Switzerland	0041
Guyana	00592	Syria	00963
Haiti	00509	Serbia	00381
Holland (Netherlands)	0031	Taiwan	00886
Honduras	00504	Tanzania	00255
Hong Kong	00852	Thailand	0066
Hungary	0036	Toga	00228
Ibiza (Spain)	0034	Tonga	00676
Iceland	00354	Tokelau	00690
India	0091	Trinidad	001868
Indian Ocean	00873	Tunisia	00216
Indonesia	0062	Turkey	0090
Iran	0098	Tuvalu	00688
Iraq	00964	Uganda	00256
Ireland	00353	Ukraine	00380
Italy	0039	United Arab Emirates	00976
Ivory Coast	00225	United Kingdom	0044
Jamaica	001876	Uruguay	00598
Japan	0081	USA	001
Jordan	00962	Uzbekistan	00998
Kazakhstan	007	Vanuatu	00678
Kenya	00254	Venezuela	00582
Kiribati	00686	Vietnam	0084
Kuwait	00965	Virgin Islands UK	001284
Kyrgyzstan	00996	Virgin Islands US	001340
Laos	00856	Wales (UK)	0044
Latvia	00371	Yemen	00967
Lebanon	00961	Yugoslavia	00381
Liberia	00231	Zambia	00260
Libya	00218	Zimbabwe	00263
Lithuania	00370		



PRIVATE CLINICS

Ophthalmologists	
Dr. Abidallah Al-Mansoor	25622444
Dr. Samy Al-Rabeea	25752222
Dr. Masoma Habeeb	25321171
Dr. Mubarak Al-Ajmy	25739999
Dr. Mohsen Abel	25757700
Dr. Adnan Hasan Alwayl	25732223
Dr. Abdallah Al-Baghly	25732223
Ear, Nose & Throat (ENT)	
Dr. Ahmed Fouad Mouner	24555050 Ext 510
Dr. Abdallah Al-Ali	25644660
Dr. Abd Al-Hameed Al-Taweel	25646478
Dr. Sanad Al-Fathalah	25311996
Dr. Mohammad Al-Daaoory	25731988
Dr. Ismail Al-Fodary	22620166
Dr. Mahmoud Al-Booz	25651426
General Practitioners	
Dr. Mohammed Y Majidi	24555050 Ext 123
Dr. Yousef Al-Omar	24719312
Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhaizeem	23926920
Dr. Kathem Maarafi	25730465
Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadad	25655528
Dr. Nabeel Al-Ayooobi	24577781
Dr. Dina Abidallah Al-Refae	25333501
Urologists	
Dr. Ali Naser Al-Serfy	22641534
Dr. Fawzi Taher Abul	22639955
Dr. Khaleel Abidallah Al-Awadi	22616660
Dr. Adel Al-Hunayan FRCS (C)	25313120
Dr. Leons Joseph	66703427

Plastic Surgeons	
Dr. Mohammad Al-Khalaf	22547272
Dr. Abdal-Redha Lari	22617700
Dr. Abdel Quttainah	25625030/60
Family Doctor	
Dr Divya Damodar	23729596/23729581
Psychiatrists	
Dr. Esam Al-Ansari	22635047
Dr. Eisa M. Al-Balhan	22613623/0
Gynaecologists & Obstetricians	
DrAdrian arbe	23729596/23729581
Dr. Verginia s.Marin	2572-6666 ext 8321
Dr. Fozeya Ali Al-Qatan	22655539
Dr. Majeda Khalefa Aliytami	25343406
Dr. Ahmad Al-Khooly	25739272
Dr. Salem soso	22618787
General Surgeons	
Dr. Amer Zawaz Al-Amer	22610044
Dr. Mohammad Yousef Basher	25327148
Internists, Chest & Heart	
Dr. Adnan Ebil	22639939
Dr. Mousa Khadada	22666300
Dr. Latefa Al-Duweisan	25728004
Dr. Nadem Al-Ghabra	25355515
Dr. Mobarak Aldoub	24726446
Dr Nasser Behbehani	25654300/3

Paediatricians	
Dr. Khaled Hamadi	25665898
Dr. Abd Al-Aziz Al-Rashed	25340300
Dr. Zahra Qabazard	25710444
Dr. Sohail Qamar	22621099
Dr. Snaa Maarroof	25713514
Dr. Pradip Gajare	23713100
Dr. Zacharias Mathew	24334282
Dermatology	
Dr. Mohammed Salam Bern University	23845955
Dentists	
Dr Anil Thomas	3729596/3729581
Dr. Shamah Al-Matar	22641071/2
Dr. Anesah Al-Rasheed	22562226
Dr. Abidallah Al-Amer	22561444
Dr. Faysal Al-Fozan	22619557
Dr. Abdallateef Al-Katrash	22525888
Dr. Abidallah Al-Duweisan	25653755
Dr. Bader Al-Ansari	25620111
Neurologists	
Dr. Sohal Najem Al-Shemeri	25633324
Dr. Jasem Mola Hassan	25345875
Gastrologists	
Dr. Sami Aman	22636464
Dr. Mohammad Al-Shamaly	25322030
Dr. Foad Abidallah Al-Ali	22633135

Endocrinologist	
Dr. Abd Al-Naser Al-Othman	25339330
Dr. Ahmad Al-Ansari	25658888
Dr. Kamal Al-Shomr	25329924
Physiotherapists & VD	
Dr. Deyaa Shehab	25722291
Dr. Mused Faraj Khamees	22666288
Rheumatologists:	
Dr. Adel Al-Awadi	25330060
Dr. Khaled Al-Jarallah	25722290
Internist, Chest & Heart	
DR.Mohammes Akkad	24555050 Ext 210
Dr. Mohammad Zubaid MB, ChB, FRCP, PACC Assistant Professor Of Medicine Head, Division of Cardiology Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital	25339667
Consultant Cardiologist	
Dr. Farida Al-Habib MD, PH.D, FACC	2611555-2622555
Inaya German Medical Center Te: 2575077 Fax: 25723123	

Psychologists
/Psychotherapists

Soor Center
Tel: 2290-1677
Fax: 2290 1688

info@soorcenter.com
www.soorcenter.com

Kaizen center
25716707

Noor Clinic
23845955

William Schuilenberg, RPC 2290-1677
Zaina Al Zabin, M.Sc. 2290-1677



Winslet reveals Jobs movie fears

Kate Winslet was paranoid about fluffing her lines while making 'Steve Jobs'. The 40-year-old actress - who stars as Joanna Hoffman, a member of the original Mac team, in the new Danny Boyle-directed movie - has revealed she became anxious during shooting because of the lengthy nature of the script. Kate shared: "When I first read it I looked at page one and page two and thought, 'God these people

talk for a long time. Oh God they're still talking... page 55 and they're still talking. How are we going to get through this one?'" The actress stars alongside Michael Fassbender in the movie and admitted she was determined to not forget her lines. She said: "Much is being made about the length of the script and how much there was to learn but you're an actor, you learn your lines and that's the first thing you do,

you just get on with it."The pressure really is in not forgetting the words, that really is it because you screw everybody up if you drop a word. The whole thing melts into utter dogs**t, it really does."

Liam Hemsworth: Fame is a 'rollercoaster'

Liam Hemsworth thinks fame is a "rollercoaster". The 'Hunger Games' star admits he sometimes struggles with how "chaotic" his life can get but insists most of the time things are "pretty calm". He

said: "The fame is a normal part of my job. It's really nice to see how happy it makes people when they meet me. The only time things get really chaotic is when we head off on a press tour for a film. Then it really feels like an adrenaline-fuelled rollercoaster. There's just so much going on at once! "But that's not my day-to-day life. It's not like there are screaming fans waiting at every corner! My everyday life is generally pretty calm." And the 25-year-old actor prefers hanging out with his older brothers, Chris, 32, and Luke, 33, in their native Australia as he can escape the paparazzi but admits his life is "nowhere near as free and easy" as it was before. He told Germany's Bravo magazine: "I don't really need any new people in my life ... Just the other day I hit my head on a rock when I was surfing. The difference is that in Australia, no one cares. "In LA, hundreds of people, including reporters, gather to capture that moment. My life is nowhere near as free and easy as it used to be."



Monica Bellucci: Daniel Craig is 'so generous'

Monica Bellucci says Daniel Craig is "so generous." The 'SPECTRE' star portrays widow Lucia Sciarra in the new movie opposite the 47-year-old actor's alter-ego James Bond and has admitted he never once made her feel "uncomfortable" during their intimate scenes. She explained: "Daniel is so generous as an actor and a man, so I was never uncomfortable. "When you have to do intimate scenes with someone, it's so important for the chemistry to be there - because then it becomes more like a tango." She added to the Sunday Telegraph's Stella magazine: "But I don't think it's a coincidence that a lot of roles I'm playing now are women coming out of the darkness

into the light because I do feel that ageing has given me a new freedom."The 51-year-old beauty - who is the oldest Bond Girl in the franchise's history - initially thought director Sam Mendes was casting her as the new M, formerly played by Dame Judi Dench, due to her age. She explained: "I assumed they wanted me to play the new M. I really did but when Sam explained that he wanted 'an adult woman to seduce Bond for the first time, I realized that this was going to be revolutionary. It's such a beautiful example to set for other actresses - and other women."



Danny Boyle: Steve Jobs was like a film director

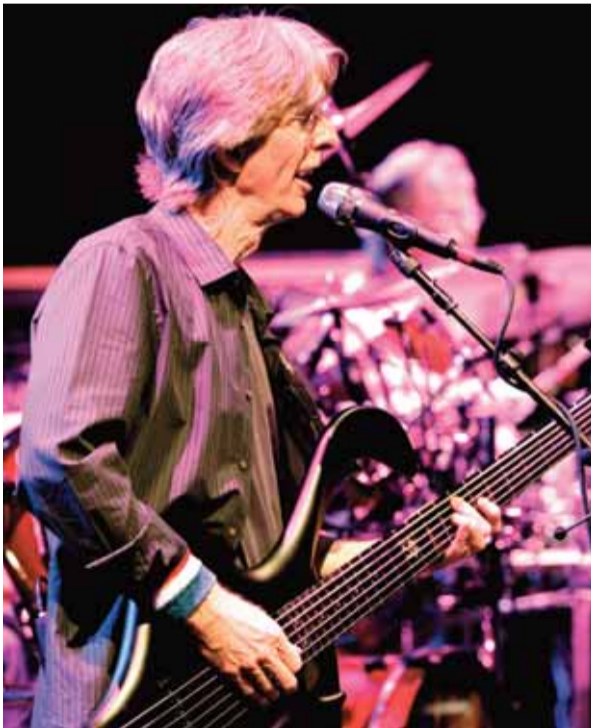
Danny Boyle thinks Steve Jobs' working life was similar to that of a film director. The 58-year-old movie-maker has helmed the new film about the Apple co-founder and has revealed he sees "similarities" between his chosen profession and what the tech whiz did on a day-to-day basis. Speaking at the premiere of 'Steve Jobs' in London's Leicester Square, Danny told BANG Showbiz: "[In the film], Seth Rogen - who's playing Steve Wozniak - says to him, 'You're not an engineer, you're not a designer, you can't compute, you can't code - what do you do?' And you know, you feel like that sometimes as a filmmaker. Because, you know, if the camera is broken, I can't fix them and I can't act and I can't do make-up or anything like that ... but you kind of try and have a vision of something that all the people who do have those abilities, you synthesize their talents to that one focal point. "I'm not comparing myself to Steve Jobs, believe me, but there are some similarities to his job to what film directors do." Danny also said the new movie is distinguished from previous portrayals of Jobs' life because it doesn't give a distorted view of the Apple boss. He said: "One of the great things about doing a story of his like this is that doesn't follow exactly what Apple would like you to believe. It's actually independent from these huge companies and actually tells its own story."

Martin 'recording music for The Office' soundtrack

Chris Martin is recording music for 'The Office' movie. The Coldplay frontman has reportedly teamed up with Ricky Gervais - who played the hapless David Brent in the award-winning sitcom - to record music for the soundtrack of the eagerly-awaited new film, titled 'Life On The Road'. An insider told The Sun newspaper: "Chris has known Ricky for years. They're good friends and he is always up for getting involved in his projects. "He went to visit Ricky last week and they had great fun messing around in the studio." Ricky's latest project is being made without the help of his long-time friend and co-writer Stephen Merchant, who was also the co-director of the original sitcom. A source close to the situation previously said: "Ricky has every right to do a David Brent movie on his own but fans will understandably be gutted to have it confirmed that Stephen is not involved at all. "Together they created one of the all-time classic TV shows with 'The Office', and all their projects as a team have been so well received." Meanwhile, Ricky previously revealed the new movie will explore the private life of David Brent. He said: "I'm so excited that the world will see what David Brent is up to now and where his future lies. "This film delves much more into his private life than 'The Office' ever did, and we really get to peel back the layers of this extraordinary, ordinary man."



Grateful Dead's Phil Lesh battling cancer



Grateful Dead's bassist Phil Lesh is battling bladder cancer. The 75-year-old musician has revealed he was diagnosed earlier this month, but is "fortunate" that the tumors are "non-aggressive". Phil - who's cancelled two Phil & Friends gigs - wrote on the website for his restaurant, Terrapin Crossroads: "Dear Friends, I am sorry to let you know that I will need to cancel the October 24th and 25th Phil & Friends shows with Chris Robinson. "I was diagnosed with bladder cancer in early October, and have spent the last few weeks at the Mayo Clinic in Scottsdale doing tests and eventually surgery to remove the tumors. "I am very fortunate to have the pathology reports show that the tumors are all non aggressive, and that there is no indication that they have spread."The 'Sugar Magnolia' star told fans he will be able to perform two weeks after undergoing surgery and promised to return with a free live show soon. He continued: "So thanks to my local doctor Cliff Sewell, and the incredible team at the Mayo Clinic, all is well and I can return to normal activities in two weeks from my surgery. Unfortunately, that means I will have to cancel the PLF shows scheduled for Oct 24/25. "We will reschedule these shows as soon as we can, but in the meantime, keep a lookout for a free Grate Room show before I leave for the East Coast shows. I also plan to pop in and jam in the bar before we leave, so I hope to see you there at Terrapin. Love Will See You Through.... -Phil (sic)"

Adele appears to tease music fans with new material in TV ad

Is the long wait almost over for Adele fans? Four years after her last album, the singer appears to have teased British television viewers with a snippet of new music, broadcast during an ad break on prime-time TV. The 30-second ad shown Sunday evening during TV talent show "The X Factor" featured Adele's distinctive tones over a black screen on which heartache-filled lyrics appeared. The ad ended with an ellipsis and contained neither Adele's name nor a release date for a new album. The London-born diva won six Grammy Awards for her 2011 album "21," and took home an Academy Award for the theme to the 2012 James Bond film "Skyfall." Adele's publicist declined to comment yesterday.-Bang Showbiz



Perry performs last show on Prismatic World Tour

Katy Perry's 151-show Prismatic World Tour ended in Costa Rica last night. The 30-year-old pop-star blazed a trail across Europe, Australia, Asia and North and South America during her third ever tour, which saw her perform hits from her fourth studio album 'Prism'. The 'Roar' hitmaker closed with a sell-out show in San Jose, Costa Rica, and took to social media to show her excitement. She wrote: "ONE. LAST. TIME. #ThePrismaticWorldTour #151 (sic)" However, Katy added afterward that she felt it was time to take a break and rejuvenate. She wrote: "151 shows later it is only By The Grace Of God that I made each & every one of them. Thank you, time to grow now... (sic)" The star - who was named the third highest paid celebrity in the world by Forbes this year after earning \$135 million, largely thanks to the success of the tour - thrilled fans with a futuristic concept and mixed Amazonian tribal costume with outfits inspired by outer space. The 'Dark Horse' singer's fascination with cats also featured as she dressed backing dancers in full tiger costumes, while she adorned a pink hot catsuit with ears and a tail. However, Katy also posted a cryptic tweet that suggested she won't be slowing down for long. She wrote: "The higher you get up the mountain, the stronger the wind blows."



FASHION WEEK OPENS IN SAO PAULO

Sao Paulo kicked off the 40th edition of its Fashion Week Sunday featuring the winter 2016 collection of Brazilian designer Alexandre Herchcovitch. Latin America's biggest fashion extravaganza got under way in the rather unusual setting of the Sao Paulo's municipal building, in the heart of the city. Long-sleeved frocks in silk and tulle were among the highlights of Herchcovitch's collection, which seemed playfully to allude to the theme of power.

The collection featured attire almost entirely in shades of

black, white, or black-and-white plaid, some with peek-a-boo cutouts that displayed a flash of bellybutton. Statuesque models strutted in knee-high patent leather stiletto boots accessorizing flowing, calf-length skirts. Sao Paulo Fashion Week (SPFW) has been held twice each year, in spring and fall, for the past 20 years. Running through October 23, SPFW features collections from more than 30 designers, including local favorites such as Ronaldo Fraga, Reinaldo Lourenco, Fernanda Yamamoto, Joao Pimenta and Vitorino Campos. — AFP



Dita Von Teese



Dita Von Teese brings the 'past' to life

Dita Von Teese brings the "past" to life through her style. The 42-year-old burlesque star revealed she wants to show people "another time" through her distinct look - which includes wearing low-cut corsets that ooze femininity - and likes to mix it up with fetish pieces, such as elbow-length gloves and skyscraper heels. Dita shared: "My aim has always been to capture the spirit of the past but to show people something they haven't seen before; to bring something new to the aesthetic of another time ... I always love distinctive, feminine silhouettes with a touch of whimsy plus something fetishistic, like an opera length leather glove, a skyscraper patent stiletto paired with a fully-fashioned contrast seamed stocking.

It's all about timeless, luxe, unusual details." Meanwhile, the femme fatale is set to appear as a guest judge on the season finale of GSN series 'Steampunk'd' - which sees contestants compete to be named the best retro-futurist designer in America. Dita will judge hopefuls on the "originality and quality" in their designs and thinks the show is line with her fashion ethos. The star told fashionstyle.com: "It captures the spirit of the past but brings it into the future. It's about imagination and the absolutely exquisite." — Bang Showbiz



Elizabeth Hurley

Hurley says 'discipline' is secret to looking good

Elizabeth Hurley has the "discipline" to look good. The 'Royals' actress - who turned 50 in June - has revealed she's had her ups and downs when it comes to looking after her figure and has had to be strict with herself in order to "shape up" at times. She explained: "I certainly look different when I'm in the country, when I haven't been through hair and makeup. On those days I certainly don't look glamorous at all. But it's been part of my life having to shape up. I go up and down in weight, like everybody, and I definitely go through stages of looking after myself better at some times than others, but it's very much been a part of my career to have to look after myself. I think having that discipline has helped quite a lot."

The brunette beauty - who has 13-year-old son Damien with ex-boyfriend Steve Bing - is aware she can't escape ageing and joked that being half a century old feels "hideous". She told News.com.au: "It was a hideous birthday this year. It's not a secret that I'm 50! "The lucky thing for me is that as well as being in movies and TV, I've been in the beauty business with Estee Lauder all that time. So I have been incredibly privileged. I have had the best advisers and products at my fingertips for a long time. But like everybody, everything changes." — Bang Showbiz



Visitors view an exhibition of Belgian artist Luc Tuymans in the Qatar Museums' Gallery Al-Riwaq in Doha yesterday. — AFP photos



Qatar showcases painter Tuymans in major exhibition



A retrospective of the works of acclaimed Belgian artist Luc Tuymans opened in Doha Sunday as Qatar reinforces its position as a global art centre with one of its largest-ever exhibitions. Featuring about 100 paintings and 80 drawings, "Intolerance" showcases Tuymans's work back to the 1970s and features a new work—"The Arena"—specifically for the exhibition in the Gulf. The show, two years in the planning, is Tuymans's first in the Gulf and he described it as "very, very big enterprise". Tuymans, who hails from Antwerp, said he was attracted to exhibit in Qatar because of "its clear interest" in his work and its commitment to art.

"The fact that it (Qatar) is a Gulf state that puts its money into culture and intelligence—they don't have to do that," he told AFP. The works have been drawn from private collections and galleries from around the world. The Doha exhibition comes following a personal invitation to Tuymans from Sheikha Al-Mayassa al-Thani, chair of Qatar Museums, who was

named as "Queen of the Art World" by Forbes magazine earlier this year.

Among the paintings on display at the cavernous Al Riwaq gallery in central Doha include a portrait of former US secretary of state Condoleezza Rice and "Prisoners of War", an image of allied pilots shot down in the first Gulf War. Tuymans is the latest big name to exhibit in Qatar, after Louise Bourgeois, Damien Hirst and Richard Serra in recent years. Jean-Paul Engelen of Qatar Museums said bringing contemporary exhibitions helps foster "an existing culture of artistic appreciation and participation in Qatar". Away from major exhibitions, Qatar has also made headlines in recent times for buying major works of art including Cezanne's "Card Players", worth up to \$300 million (265 million euros). — AFP



France's 'irresponsible' makeover of medieval Chartres Cathedral shocks

An unholy row has broken out over the restoration of France's medieval landmark, Chartres Cathedral. State-funded work to return the interior of the towering 13th-century cathedral to its original creamy white hues has sparked a howl of protest from as far away as the US. Even the discovery of original decor has failed to placate shocked architecture lovers across the Atlantic who have slammed the makeover as "irresponsible". The UNESCO World Heritage listed masterpiece, renowned for its blue stained-glass windows, is one of Europe's best preserved churches and a magnet for pilgrims and architecture lovers.

But "the notion that we can recreate the exact quality of the building when it was new by such artificial means is as wrong-headed as an ageing actress thinking she can recapture her lost youth by having a facelift," said US architecture specialist Martin Filler.

He feels so strongly that he took to the pages of the prestigious New York Review of Books in late 2014 to vent his anger. Launched in 2008, the project aims to restore the cathedral to

its full former glory at the time of its consecration from under the age-old layers of soot and dust that had given it its more familiar blackened appearance.

Fake stones on sidings, mainly colored in pale ochre, and columns and arches highlighted in white have come to light as the cleaning has progressed. Restorers have even discovered a trace of the 1789 French Revolution with the words "republic" and "constitution" written in the soaring nave area of the cathedral, 80 kilometers (50 miles) southwest of Paris.

'Irresponsible restoration'

Filler said he was mostly "shocked" by the organizers' disregard for established guidelines. "What is most shocking about the changes at Chartres is that they completely ignore the universally accepted guidelines established by the Charter of Venice more than 50 years ago," he complained in an interview with AFP by email. Their most important principles, he continued, are that "no harm be done to a landmark in its restoration and that all changes must be reversible." "Although the interi-

ors of Chartres were initially lighter, they have not been seen in that condition for many centuries," Filler said. Another US-based critic and Gothic art fan, Stefan Evans, has initiated an online petition which has gathered several hundred names.

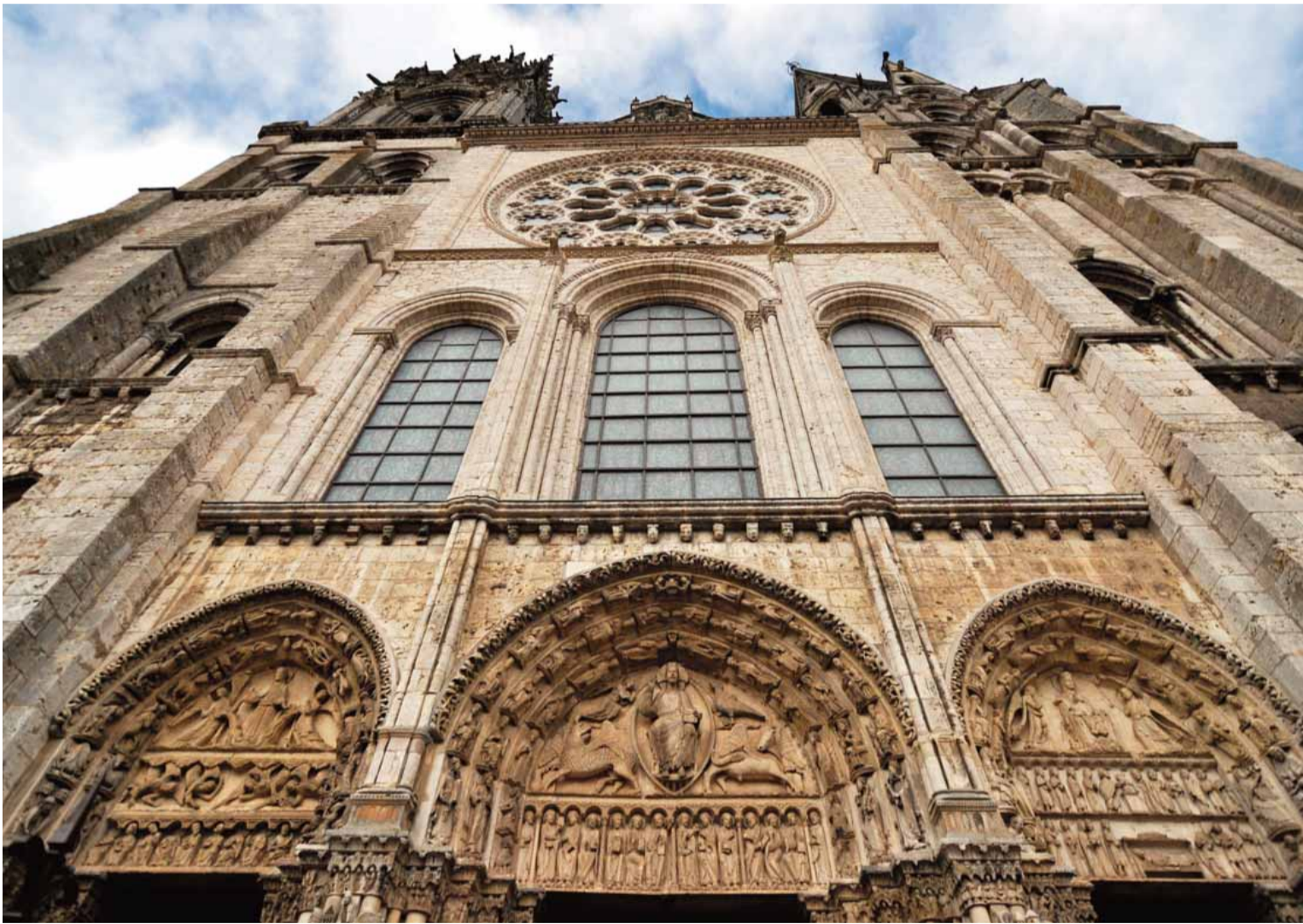
"Irresponsible restoration is erasing history from the Gothic masterpiece," it says, complaining that historically inaccurate paint and filling material was being used in a setting with 800 year-old windows and floors. Evans, a physics PhD student at Arizona University, said it had been "heartbreaking" to see the transformation inside the cathedral during a visit to Chartres earlier this year.

'Not on a whim'

But France's state authorities for culture, who are carrying out and funding the 20-million-euro (\$23 million) restoration, say they have not been directly contacted by the critics and are only aware of their arguments via press reports. "We don't wish to enter into the debate," the regional management of cultural affairs told AFP, adding that all the restoration works had been

thought out by a number of experts. "We didn't act on a whim," it stressed, inviting naysayers to come and see for themselves what has been done.

The cathedral in the form it is in today, including the wall paintings, was built in a just-over 30 year period, ending in 1225. Restoration work is focused on two choir chapels. "Seven spans and 14 bay windows are in the process of being restored, of which the first part is just finished," engineer Daniel Alazard, who is working on the project, told AFP. The nave's overhaul is expected to be finished at the end of next year while the transept is also lined up for restoration. And the cathedral's famous blue stained-glass windows are also on the agenda. "The glass panes are dirty on the inside due to pollution and smoke but also due to patinas applied during restorations in the 19th century," Alazard said. "We have great difficulty in removing them to make them really transparent again." — AFP



The western facade of Chartres Cathedral during renovation work. — AFP photos



A picture shows the vault of the Cathedral during its renovation.



People walk inside Chartres Cathedral during renovation work.



A view of the interior of Chartres Cathedral during renovation work.



A worker restores stained glass at Chartres Cathedral during renovation work.

The annual Vegetarian Festival



A devotee has his cheek pierced with spears.



A devotee of the Chinese Jui Tui Shrine has her cheek pierced with a spear.



A devotee of the Chinese Jui Tui Shrine has his arm pierced with needles ahead of a street procession during the annual Vegetarian Festival in the southern Thai town of Phuket yesterday. During the festival, which begins on the first evening of the ninth lunar month and lasts nine days, religious devotees slash themselves with swords, pierce their cheeks with sharp objects and commit other painful acts to purify themselves, taking on the sins of the community. — AFP photos



A devotee cut his tongue with a sharp blade mounted on a spear.



A devotee has his cheek pierced with knives.



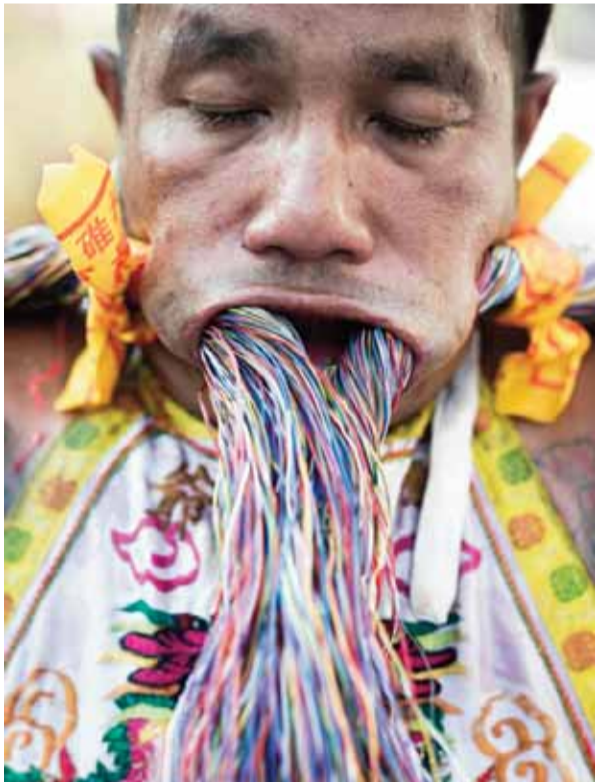
A devotee has his cheek pierced with artificial beard hair.



A devotee of the Chinese Jui Tui Shrine has her cheek pierced with metal rods.



An elderly devotee of the Chinese Jui Tui Shrine has her cheek pierced with a small spear.



A devotee of the Chinese Jui Tui Shrine has his cheeks pierced with electric cables.



A devotee has his cheek pierced with a saw and metal items.



A devotee of the Chinese Jui Tui Shrine has his cheeks pierced with small spears mounted with feathers.



A devotee of the Chinese Bang Neow Shrine with the front of a motorbike inserted into his cheek.



A devotee of the Chinese Jui Tui Shrine has his cheeks pierced with metal rods.



A devotee of the Chinese Bang Neow Shrine poses with guns through his pierced cheeks.



A devotee of the Chinese Jui Tui Shrine has her cheeks pierced with spears.



A devotee of the Chinese Jui Tui Shrine has his cheeks pierced with guns as he attends a street procession during the annual Vegetarian Festival in the southern Thai town of Phuket yesterday. During the festival, which begins on the first evening of the ninth lunar month and lasts nine days, religious devotees slash themselves with swords, pierce their cheeks with sharp objects and commit other painful acts to purify themselves, taking on the sins of the community. — AFP (see page 39)

Smile, it's an emergency: clowning around with refugees

It's miserable and raining outside as a few hundred tired migrants mill around a damp underpass at Vienna's main train station waiting to continue their long journey to northern Europe. Suddenly, a man wearing a red nose, tartan plus-fours and a brown leather aviator's cap enters, leading a noisy procession of three clowns-all with a silly but also serious mission. They are from "Red Noses Emergency Smile Austria", a project using 66 clowns to spread some cheer among the thousands of migrants still arriving Austria daily, particularly the children. "You don't need to know the language, you just laugh and you feel a connection," Simone Mang, a spokeswoman for the organizers, told AFP.

"Children need to have a little time to themselves, and play and laugh and forget about the circumstances," she said. At first there is a stunned silence as the clowns-professional actors who underwent special training-stomp in, playing an accordion and rattling tambourines. But as the trio engage in a slapstick routine, the ice breaks. Laughter, clapping and cheering erupts as people gather round, carrying children on their shoulders and filming the scene on their phones.

Then there is a dancing session just for the children, who are given tambourines, ribbons and little pots of bubble-blowing solution. Afterwards they are led away, giggling, to a special play room where they can draw, paint and interact with the clowns. "They are happy, at least we find peace," said Hossam, a Palestinian, as he watched his four young children

play, blowing bubbles and leaping onto a blue crash mat. "I escaped from my country for them... For their future, to have good education, to have a good life, if God is willing."

Beautiful eyes

"The (reaction) is amazing. So many eyes, so many beautiful eyes. Such beautiful colors, so clear and so direct," one of the clowns, Marie Miklau, 37, told AFP. "But at the same time we had very sensitive moments to look behind the party to see the more silent people, the humans inside. You see also the journey they had, and also the suffering," she said. The project came from Red Nose Clowndoctors, a charity sending clowns into Austrian hospitals to cheer up patients since 1994 and now active in 10 countries. It is part of an immense voluntary effort that has sprung up since migrants began flooding into Austria in large numbers in September-mostly on their way elsewhere-and who keep coming every day.

"Train of Hope", for example, a private initiative coordinating the volunteer effort, has 3,500 helpers who have put in a total of 300,000 man-hours in the past five weeks, its spokesman Benjamin Fritz told AFP on a tour. "It began with a couple of tables and some bottles of water," the 26-year-old explains on a tour of tents and containers around the back of the station, a hive of activity. "Now it's like a small town." Organized largely on social media, the initiative provides

everything from hot food and medical help-they even have an electrocardiogram machine with doctors on hand-to clothing and hygiene articles. There are also interpreters, psychologists and a missing persons point that posts pictures on Facebook and shares information with other organizations abroad.

Winter's coming

The project has been so successful that organizers have asked people to stop donating certain items such as crayons for kids, toilet paper, tampons and even wheelchairs. They still need many things, however, like formula milk, cereal bars and razors. And with winter fast approaching, the Facebook page now calls for warm coats, thick socks, hats and gloves. More and more of the new arrivals are becoming sick because of the weather. And at the same time, there has been a noticeable drop in donations and volunteer numbers, Fritz said.

"If it snowed tomorrow, then we would clearly have a problem. But we have had countless problems every day over the past five weeks and we solved them. We will manage somehow," he said. "We will keep doing this until there are no more migrants here." — AFP

Lessons in art from China's Xi in new book

China's ruling party has compiled a book based on a call by President Xi Jinping for art to serve communism, state media reported yesterday, heightening concerns among free speech advocates over artistic restrictions. Xi's speech last year, urging artists not to chase popularity with "vulgar" works but promote socialism instead, drew comparisons to a 1942 address by China's communist founding father Mao Zedong insisting that culture should have an appropriate political purpose.

"Art and culture will emit the greatest positive energy when the Marxist view of art and culture is firmly established and the people are their focus," read a transcript of the speech released by the official news agency Xinhua last week. The text has now been edited, with some widely reported controversial elements removed, and previously unreported supposed passages added, including a list of more than 100 foreign cultural figures Xi found inspiring, among them Wagner, Tolstoy, Victor Hugo, Jean-Paul Sartre and Ernest Hemingway.

The book's chapter titles include "Strengthening and improving the Party's leadership over artistic practice" and "The achievement of a great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation requires a prosperous flourishing of Chinese culture", state broadcaster CCTV reported. The ruling party's publicity department issued a directive urging local authorities to organize seminars and classes to teach the book's contents, Xinhua reported.

Chinese authorities maintain a wide-ranging system of censorship that reaches deep into the media and online networks, and Hu Jia, one of China's most outspoken dissidents, said the renewed emphasis on Xi's text augured badly for free thinkers. Xi was targeting the arts as a means of "undetectable control", he told AFP. "The Communist Party is emphasizing the importance of culture, but it's a socialist culture-it is not a free culture of democracy and rule of law," he said. "What the Communist Party is promoting, it's not culture or art-it's all propaganda."

Soft power is increasingly important to China as it attempts to expand its influence abroad, but campaigners say the process will be difficult without allowing creative freedoms. Hu added: "As long as you come out with a voice that's different from theirs, it doesn't matter whether it's poetry, painting, movies, television, or any other artistic practice-it's likely the political police and then the jails that will await you." — AFP



Members of the 'Red Nose Clown doctors' perform for migrants at the Main Train Station in Vienna, Austria on October 15, 2015. — AFP photos