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GULF SHOULD ADJUST TO OIL PRICE 'REALITY'

DUBAI: Gulf economies need to adjust to the "new reality" of oil prices expected to remain low for some time, the International Monetary Fund says, recommending spending cuts and income diversification. But the oil-rich monarchies remain in a strong position to make the necessary adjustments thanks to the large financial reserves they have built up during years of firmer prices, according to the IMF's regional outlook published yesterday.

Masood Ahmed

"Not only this year, but for the years to come, these countries will need to make an adjustment to better balance their spending to the new reality of the oil prices," said IMF Middle East and Central Asia chief Masood Ahmed. The budgets of Gulf Cooperation Council members Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates are facing an average deficit this year of 13 percent of gross domestic product (GDP), Ahmed told AFP in an interview. (See Page 22)



PARIS: French Prime Minister Manuel Valls stands next to Kuwaiti Prime Minister HH Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah as France's Defense Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian (right) signs an agreement with Kuwaiti Deputy Premier and Defense Minister Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah during a meeting at the Hotel Matignon yesterday. — AFP

PARIS: Kuwait signed €2.5 billion (\$2.8 billion) worth of military fixed and provisional deals led by the purchase of 24 Airbus-built Caracal helicopters, the French government said yesterday. Paris said Kuwait would purchase 24 helicopters for a billion euros with an option for a further six. The Caracal, which is deployed on combat rescue missions and long-distance troop transport, is fitted out with radar missile protection, while its weaponry includes air-to-ground and air-to-sea missiles. The agreements came a month after Kuwait agreed to buy 28 Typhoon combat warplanes from the Eurofighter consortium.

Kuwait is looking to upgrade its firepower amid increased security concerns in the region linked to the rise of the jihadist Islamic State group. Further deals included provision of French light armored vehicles and patrol boat maintenance. A source familiar with the negotiations indicated that the patrol boats would include the revamping of eight P37 craft that France sold to Kuwait after Iraq's 1990 invasion that sparked the first Gulf War in 1991. After the conflict the two countries signed a defence agreement and today Kuwaiti's military hierarchy is largely French-trained. The French defense ministry has yet to confirm whether Paris will ultimately also supply new vessels.

Yesterday's accords were signed by a slew of ministers including French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius and Finance Minister Emmanuel Macron in the presence of French Prime Minister Manuel Valls and Kuwaiti counterpart HH Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. Kuwait also indicated readiness to create a €450 million fund to invest in French small and medium-sized

Continued on Page 13

ASSAD MEETS PUTIN IN SURPRISE TRIP

BIBI SLAMMED OVER REMARKS ON HOLOCAUST

JERUSALEM: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu provoked a Holocaust controversy yesterday, hours before a visit to Germany, by saying that the Muslim elder in Jerusalem during the 1940s convinced Adolf Hitler to exterminate the Jews. In a speech to the Zionist Congress late on Tuesday, Netanyahu referred to a series of Muslim attacks on Jews in Palestine during the 1920s that he said were instigated by the then-Mufti of Jerusalem, Haj Amin Al-Husseini.

Husseini famously flew to visit Hitler in Berlin in 1941, and Netanyahu said that meeting was instrumental in the Nazi leader's decision to launch a campaign to annihilate the Jews. "Hitler didn't want to exterminate the Jews at the time, he wanted to expel the Jews," Netanyahu said in the speech. "And Haj Amin Al-Husseini went to Hitler and said, 'If you expel them, they'll all come here (Palestine). So what should I do with them?'" Netanyahu said Hitler asked the mufti, who responded: "Burn them."

Netanyahu, whose father was an eminent historian, was quickly harangued by opposition politicians and experts on the Holocaust who said he was distorting the historical record. They noted the meeting between Husseini and Hitler took place on Nov 28, 1941.

Continued on Page 13

DAMASCUS: Syria's embattled President Bashar Al-Assad has made a surprise visit to Moscow in his first known trip overseas since his country's conflict erupted, meeting key ally President Vladimir Putin. Assad thanked Putin for launching air strikes in Syria against opponents seeking his overthrow, with both leaders also agreeing during the talks late Tuesday that military operations must be followed by political steps. As part of a flurry of diplomacy, Russia announced afterwards that Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov would meet tomorrow with US Secretary of State John Kerry and their Turkish and Saudi counterparts to discuss Syria.

Putin and Assad's talks focused mainly on military developments, with the Russian leader pledging ongoing support but also urging a political solution to end the war, the Kremlin said. Assad, who last visited Russia in 2008, told Putin that the three-week-old Russian air war - which has prompted an outcry in the West - had helped to stop the spread of "terrorism" in his country, the Kremlin said.

Continued on Page 13



MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin (right) meets Syria President Bashar Al-Assad in the Kremlin on Tuesday. — AP

TEXAS TEEN ARRESTED OVER CLOCK IS MOVING TO QATAR

DALLAS: A 14-year-old Muslim boy who was arrested after a homemade clock he brought to school was mistaken for a possible bomb will be moving with his family to the Middle East so he can attend school there, his family said. Ahmed Mohamed's family released a statement Tuesday saying they had accepted a foundation's offer to pay for his high school and college in Doha, Qatar. He recently visited the country as part of a whirlwind month that included a Monday stop at the White House and an appearance Tuesday at the US Capitol.

"We are going to move to a place where my kids can study and learn, and all of them being accepted by that country," Ahmed's father, Mohamed Elhassan Mohamed, told The Dallas Morning News before boarding an airplane from Washington back home to Texas on Tuesday. The statement said the family has been "overwhelmed by the many offers of support" since Ahmed's arrest on Sept 14 at his school in Irving, a Dallas suburb. The family said it accepted an offer from the Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development to join its

Young Innovators Program.

Ahmed, who along with his family will relocate to Qatar, received a full scholarship for his secondary and undergraduate education. Ahmed said he was impressed with the program and thinks he'll "learn a lot and have fun, too". Ahmed took a homemade clock to his high school to show a teacher, but another teacher thought it could be a bomb. The school contacted police, who handcuffed the boy and took him to a detention center. The school suspended him for three days.

A police photo of the device shows a carrying case containing a circuit board and power supply wired to a digital display. Police ultimately chose not to charge Ahmed with having a hoax bomb, and the police chief has said there was no evidence the teen meant to cause alarm. His parents later withdrew him from the school. US President Barack Obama joined a surge of public support by congratulating the teen on his skills, in what was seen as a pointed rebuke to school and police officials amid accusations of Islamophobia. "Cool clock, Ahmed."

Continued on Page 13



Ahmed Mohamed

E-media bill guarantees rights of organizations



Injury-hit Real hold PSG 0-0 in Champions League



30th & 31st October, 2015
Crowne Plaza Hotel, Kuwait
See Page 3



DOHA: Kuwaiti Minister of Health Dr Ali Al-Obaidi seen during the second meeting of the GCC Committee of Health Ministers in Doha. — KUNA

GCC APPROVES JOINT GUIDELINES FOR MEDICAL RESERVES

SAUDI MINISTER PROMOTES HEALTHY LIFESTYLE

DOHA: The GCC countries approved a joint guideline for strategic medical reserves including medicines and equipment, said Kuwaiti Minister of Health Dr Ali Al-Obaidi. The guideline aims to create further cooperation between the GCC states during disasters and crises, the minister said after heading the Kuwaiti delegation at the second meeting of the GCC Committee of Health Ministers yesterday.

The meeting discussed several health topics, including the equality in providing medical services to all GCC citizens, procedures of receiving medical treatment abroad, strategic cooperation between the Gulf countries with Turkey, Jordan and Morocco and further participation in regional and international health care meetings, Al-Obaidi noted. Meanwhile, Saudi Minister of Health Khalid

bin Abdulaziz Al-Faleh urged Arab Gulf countries to increase their efforts, especially awareness campaigns, to help curb the spread of obesity and diabetes in the region. Speaking at the opening of a conference on controlling obesity and diabetes in the Gulf Cooperation Council states, Al-Faleh underlined the need for persuading and encouraging people adopt healthy lifestyles. He sug-

gested building a partnership between public and private institutions in the region to curb the spiral of the obesity and its related diseases. According to figures of the International Diabetes Federation (IDF), roughly one in five people has diabetes in the Arabian Gulf region.

The IDF data also shows that three Gulf countries, namely Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and

Qatar, are in the top 10 nations globally for the highest prevalence of the disease. There are more than 34.6 million people in the Middle East and North Africa have diabetes, which accounts for 10.9 percent of people world-wide with the disease, and costs governments in the region more than \$12 billion in treatment each year, the IDF has revealed.— Agencies

FRENCH MEDEF BUSINESS CHIEF EAGER TO BOOST KUWAIT TIES

FINANCE MINISTER STRESSES THE BENEFITS OF FRENCH EXPERTISE

PARIS: Director-General for the Middle East at France's Business Federation (MEDEF), Jean-Louis Chaussade, said yesterday that French companies were eager to get an acceleration and progress in business ties with Kuwait and he revealed that MEDEF was proposing another visit by businessmen to the Gulf country next year. In an exclusive interview with KUNA, on the sidelines of a meeting between officials and businessmen from both nations, Chaussade recalled "the very long-standing links" between the Kuwaiti and French business sectors.

"This is not the first time we are meeting. At the beginning of this year there already was a delegation here from Kuwait, led by the Kuwaiti Finance Minister," he remarked. "The links between the business communities of France and Kuwait are already very old and what we are seeking is to develop them," Chaussade indicated, noting "there are historical ties in the oil (sector) and in certain infrastructure areas." "We are now looking

for new business," he affirmed.

Significant bilateral accords

The meeting at MEDEF headquarters was part of an important two-day visit by His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. His visit began Tuesday and included a meeting with President Francois Hollande and meetings with Prime Minister Manuel Valls to sign a number of significant bilateral accords. The Kuwaiti participation in the MEDEF talks was led by Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Anas Al-Saleh and included Osama Al-Nisf, Member of the Board of Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) and who headed the Kuwaiti business delegation.

BOTs for roads, water plants

Kuwait's Ambassador to Paris, Sami Al-Sulaiman, also attend-

ed the MEDEF gathering. In his interview with KUNA, the MEDEF Director-General stressed French interest in developing partnerships with Kuwait to allow for investment opportunities to be expanded further. "We are very attentive to what is going to happen with 'Public Private Partnerships (PPP)' and in particular with the 'Build Operate Transfer (BOT)' system which are under the authority of the Minister of Finance, and we are attentive to all elements which will allow an acceleration of business relations between the two countries," Chaussade stated. "This meeting today is taking place for this so we can see how we can work better together" he added. Chaussade said that French companies were willing to invest in Kuwait and that Kuwaiti legislation was the one they could work with.

"One of the questions is that to invest we need legislation that is relatively simple. The Kuwaiti legislation is one is easy to apply, but there are some complexities that have led to the withdrawal of bids in the past," the MEDEF official said. "One of the ways to simplify things is the use of BOTs, which is a form of concession that allows companies to invest and have use of a resource, or an infrastructure during 20 or 30 years," he continued. "We can use these (BOTs) for roads, for water plants for a whole series of asset investments. It is a way for a country to finance major infrastructure via the private sector," the Director-General said in the interview.

Benefits of French expertise

Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Anas Al-Saleh stressed the importance of benefiting from French expertise in all fields, especially health, industry and power, to offer the best services to the Kuwaiti public. The minister made this remark to KUNA yesterday, after a meeting comprised of Kuwaiti delegation from the private sector and a number of businessmen and members of MEDEF International. MEDEF International is the most representative organization of the French private sector at an international level. The meeting was also attended by Kuwaiti Ambassador to France Sami Al-Suleiman. The Kuwaiti Minister attended the meeting upon the request of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah who is currently visiting France. The premier's visit aims at opening new paths for bilateral cooperation with the French.— Agencies

GCC ANTI-CORRUPTION AUTHORITIES URGED TO COOPERATE, COORDINATE

RIYADH: Cooperation among GCC anti-corruption authorities is important for the regional efforts to combat fraud and corruption, a Kuwaiti official said yesterday. On the sidelines of the fourth meeting for the GCC integrity and anti-corruption, Head of Kuwait Anti-Corruption Authority's Dr Mohammad Buzbar said his country is keen on exchanging expertise with in the field of anti-corruption. Regarding the meeting which began yesterday, the official said that participants were informed on the recent recommendation which came out of meetings held in Oman and Saudi Arabia on the roles of audit bureaus and awareness programs in the anti-corruption efforts. The meeting will continue till today, said the official.

GCC image abroad

Meanwhile, a Kuwaiti official said there is a strategy to further activate role of the Gulf Cooperation Council's (GCC) role abroad. Faisal Al-Mutlaqqem, Information Assistant Undersecretary for External Media, said this strategy would be materialized through solid cooperation among the six GCC countries. Al-Mutlaqqem, in a statement to the press following a meeting of officials in charge of external media, said the ministries of information and culture are expecting great efforts to execute the media strategies. Ahmad Al-Buainain, Director of external media at the Qatari News Agency, said the participants in the meeting discussed the media strategy which aimed at highlighting the true image of the GCC countries, through events that could be held on sidelines of Western conferences and summits. He said the outcome of the meeting would be referred to the GCC information ministers.

Administrative mechanism

In another development, presidents of civil service departments in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries have approved a mechanism for administrative systems, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Sabah said. Sheikh Mohammad, speaking to KUNA following a meeting of heads of civil service departments, said officials also approved a guidebook about administrative terminologies. He said participants discussed a host of issues like exchange of expertise among the six GCC countries - Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman and the United Arab Emirates (UAE). Sheikh Mohammad thanked the State of Qatar for hosting the meeting.— Agencies

Crime

Report

EGYPTIAN JAILED FOR INSULTING AMIR

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: The prosecution decided to jail an Egyptian in a state security offense and insulting the Amir on twitter. A security source said state security detectives arrested an Egyptian who made insulting tweets to HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and the late Amir Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. The man also reportedly published photos of executed Iraqi strongman Saddam Hussain, hurting the feelings of Kuwaiti citizens. The suspect denied the tweets and claimed his account was hacked, but detectives found no evidence of hacking. The suspect made the tweets in hopes of being deported without trial because he is facing other criminal cases for swindling and fraud.



634 liquor bottles

Detectives have arrested two Indians in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh with 634 liquor bottles. The suspects were sent to concerned authorities.



Heroin dealer busted

An Asian was arrested at his home with two kilograms of pure heroin and 250 shabu capsules (methamphetamine). An undercover agent made a deal with the suspect to buy 250 grams of heroin for KD 6,500, and the arrest was made during the exchange. The estimated value of the confiscated heroin is KD 70,000. The man was sent for investigation.



Suicide attempt

A police officer and some patrons foiled an attempt of a citizen to commit suicide by throwing himself from a height at the ministry complex. A security source said the young man suffers from Psychological problems and has a file at the hospital. The motives were not known.

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NEW E-MEDIA 'BILL GUARANTEES RIGHTS'

OUR GOAL IS THE NATIONAL INTEREST: SHEIKH SALMAN

KUWAIT: Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Al-Sabah said a new draft law would organize e-media, but regretted current laws failed to license e-media. He was speaking in a seminar on Tuesday night about a bill prepared by the Ministry of Information for the regulation of e-media. The seminar is co-organized

by the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET) and Kuwait Journalists Association (KJA). He said the new bill would guarantee rights of anyone wishing to establish a professional media organization.

Sheikh Salman said e-media, social media and information technology have been dominating media scene over the past five years, which

required a law to organize them and regulate commercial expansion. He said the information ministry believed in the responsible freedom, which makes sure there are preservation of national unity and intellectual property. Sheikh Salman said a three-day debate was held in the parliamentary education committee with the participation of specialists regarding the draft law. The e-media bill, he added, did not include the personal media, blogs or social media. "Our goal is the national interest," he said, and added that the bill did not include twitter account holders.

Fatma Al-Azmi, director of PAAET's Public Relations and Media office, said information technology has reached the peak which made the world a small village. She said e-media should be discussed in a technical and professional manner in order to maintain "our social and economic principles." Al-Azmi said the e-media has been influential at the political and social arena. Heba Al-Taweel, of KJA's training committee, said the bill that was referred from the government to parliament has created a controversy among the users. MP Mubarak Al-Harees, during a discussion panel during the seminar, said the e-media law did not include any new penalties.

He said the lawmakers would not tolerate any article in the bill that violated the constitution, citing a law that allowed citizens to contest the laws before the Constitutional Court. Former MP Dr Hassan Johar said he believed in the importance of organizing any new sectors, including the e-media which has been mostly used by the youth. The draft law, he added, should be examined thoroughly before being finally approved. Mohammad Al-Awash, information assistant undersecretary for media planning and knowledge development, said the e-media law has been a necessity in order to address the alien ideologies targeted the youth. —KUNA

SMES 'SHOULD BE NURTURED' TO REVIVE THE ECONOMY: MINISTER

KUWAIT: Kuwait has been facing numerous economic challenges, as oil prices were on decline last year; therefore, nurturing small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) would help in reviving the economy, Minister of Trade and Industry Dr Yosif Al-Ali announced yesterday. The minister made this remark in his opening speech at the First

economy through adopting short and medium-term development plans. These plans include: supporting the private sector and the SMEs through cooperation with various business institutions to provide best trade services.

Improving the Kuwaiti economy would translate His Highness the Amir's vision in turning the Gulf country into a commercial and trade hub, where it could attract numerous investments. On his part, the National Fund's chairman Dr Mohammad Al-Zuhair said that the Fund has completed its infrastructure and set up a five-year strategy; however, it still needs support from both public and private sectors as well as civic communities to achieve its comprehensive vision.

Businesses grow in a nurturing and supportive environment, he said, stressing the importance of providing all facilitations and eliminating all obstacles in the face of SMEs development. The Kuwait National Fund for SMEs Development was established under law 98/2013 to support small and medium enterprises, diversify the economy and creating more jobs. Its goal to develop the entrepreneurial spirit among Kuwaitis, help the country take a major stride in efforts to support youth, combat unemployment, and enable the private sector to drive economic growth. — KUNA



Minister of Trade and Industry Dr Yosif Al-Ali

Forum of the National Fund for Development of SMEs.

The minister is representing His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah at the event. In his speech, Al-Ali said that Kuwaiti government has begun taking steps towards resolving structural problems in the Kuwaiti



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COURT SUMMONS CORONERS IN TERRORIST CELL CASE HEARING

CONSTITUTIONAL COURT ADJOURNS MIXED EDUCATION CASE

KUWAIT: The high court's criminal circuit cross-examination into the terrorist cell case, involving 26 suspects, resumed yesterday with the court summoning coroners to listen to their testimonies. The court had summoned, during the previous session held on October 13th, the ballistics officer who testified to the presiding judges. On October 6th, it listened to the criminal inspection officer in a closed-

door session. On October 4th, the court refused to release defendants and listened to the State security officer, who was summoned to testify in a secret hearing. The court freed four of the accused on a KD 500 bail, but banned them from travel and compelled the defendants to attend next sessions. There are 26 persons charged with the case. They are all Kuwaitis, except for a single Iranian.

The court held the first hearing on September 15. The Public Prosecution has called for pre-trial detention of all the suspects, accused of carrying out hostile acts against the State of Kuwait, with possession of firearms, guns, ammunition and eavesdropping devices.

Mixed education case
In another development, the Consti-

tutional Court, presided over by Yusuf Al-Mutawa, has adjourned the case of mixed-sex education to December 16.

The case is related to an appeal filed against the Law No 24/1996 as for higher education at Kuwait University and the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training, as well as education at private schools. — Agencies

Profile

KUWAIT ORPHANAGE

KUWAIT: The Kuwait orphanage is a clear example of the Kuwait government's concern for and support of orphans in the country. The house was established in 1938 by His Highness the late Amir Sheikh Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah-chaired by Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah. The center which housed 100 orphans at that time, was aimed at safeguarding the money of the orphans, invested it in legal ways and covering the living costs of orphans until they reach adulthood.

In 1955, the government was seeking shelter for children with unidentified parents by placing them with new families to raise them, and as part of the country's efforts to protect these children. The first center for children was opened in 1966.

The Kuwait Constitution also includes provisions addressing the orphans' affairs, stating in articles number 9 and 10 that the country is obliged to provide full attention to the needs of orphans. In 1972, another center was established to house children above 10 years of age, who were previously living in the children's center. The duty of the new house was to prepare these children to be citizens and blend in with society. Such centers expanded in 1996 reaching six houses with 85 orphans.

In 1977, law number 82 for orphans affairs was issued, adopted by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor as a base for executing all orphan-related legislations and articles. In the same year, a housing center for girls who were previously living in the children's center was launched, housing only eight orphans up until 1996.

Moreover, Kuwait established a correctional facility for youth in 1956 under the supervision of the Ministry of Interior. The country also established a specialized court to look into the issues of youth, as well as an authority to provide full attention to this category including experts in judiciary, religion, psychology and social affairs. By the end of 1996, the youth centers were housing 529, among them were 18 females.

Meanwhile, a department of family nursery was opened in 1993 for orphans, housing 601 until now. The number of families hosting one of the orphans reached 19, hosting 26 children of six to 16 years old. Another orphan-care project in Kuwait was the launch of the "alternative mother" program in 2014, where one mom is tasked with looking after a specific number of children in one of the orphanage's departments, to provide a life similar with that of a normal family to the child. — KUNA

KUWAIT'S TRADE SURPLUS WITH JAPAN NARROWS 79.7 PERCENT

TOKYO: Kuwait's trade surplus with Japan narrowed 79.7 percent from a year earlier to JPY 14.6 billion (\$122 million) in September - shrinking for the fourth month as exports marked the biggest percentage drop this year, the Finance Ministry said yesterday. However, Kuwait maintained black ink with Japan for the 92nd consecutive month, the ministry said in a preliminary report. Kuwaiti overall exports to Japan fell 59.0 percent year-on-year to JPY 38.2 billion (\$318 million) for the fourth straight monthly fall, while imports from Japan grew 11.7 percent to JPY 23.5 billion (\$196 million) - up for the fourth month.

Middle East's trade surplus with Japan also shrank 54.2 percent to JPY 468.0 billion (\$3.9 billion) last month, with Japan-bound exports from the region tumbling 43.0 percent from a year earlier. Crude oil, refined products, liquefied natural gas (LNG) and other natural resources, which accounted for 95.7 percent of the region's total exports to Japan, declined 44.0 percent. The region's overall imports from Japan went down 1.8 percent, partly due to weak shipments of machinery and steel.

The world's third-biggest economy logged a global deficit of JPY 114.5 billion (\$955 million) in September, but narrowed nearly 90 percent on the year as lower crude oil and other fuel prices reduced import costs. Still, it posted the sixth straight month of shortfall. Exports only expanded 0.6 percent, reflecting weaker demand in China amid its economic slowdown. Imports decreased 11.1 percent, with shipments of crude oil falling over 40 percent.

Exports to China, Japan's biggest trading partner, dropped 3.5 percent. The ministry said that development in China should be closely watched, referring to the nation's slowing economy. Japan's currency weakened against the US dollar by 15.2 percent the year before, according to the ministry. —KUNA



EPA's representatives at the conference

KUWAIT PICKED AS REPRESENTATIVE OF UN COUNCIL ON COMBATING DESERTIFICATION

ANKARA: Kuwait was chosen as the representative of the Asian and Pacific group at the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) council for 2015-17, said Director General and Chairman of the Board for the Environment Public Authority (EPA) Sheikh Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah yesterday. On the sidelines of the 12th session for the conference of the parties of the UNCCD, Sheikh Abdullah Al-Ahmad said that this achievement came in line with Kuwait's efforts within this field of environment protection. He noted that Kuwait will be part of the UNCCD council which already has four state members including France, Algeria, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and Mexico.



Sheikh Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah

On her part, EPA's representative at the conference Farah Ibrahim said that Kuwait was keen on further implementing the UN convention on the combat of desertification, adding that it was important to revitalize environmental agreements which came out of the 1992 Rio Earth Summit. Regarding the current conference in Turkey, which saw the participation of 195 countries and international organizations, Ibrahim said that the Kuwaiti delegation shared the country's experience in combating desertification, adding that the delegation consisted of EPA staff and representative of other state entities, as well as personnel from the oil industry in Kuwait. — KUNA

ABK THE PLATINUM SPONSOR OF 'TAQQABAL'

KUWAIT: Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) yesterday announced that it has joined with the Ministry of Health and the Human Line Organization, as the platinum sponsor of Taqqabal, the National Mental Health Awareness campaign. An event to launch the awareness campaign was held from the 10th -15th October 2015 at the Avenues Mall. 'Taqqabal', which means 'accept', aims to encourage a wider acceptance and understanding of mental health issues and reduce the stigma commonly associated with it. According to the World Health Organization (WHO) statistics, one in five people will become mentally ill during any stage of their lifetime, reinforcing the prevalence of mental illness and the importance of dealing with it professionally.

ABK has supported a number of health & community events throughout the year as part of the Bank's CSR initiatives



and is strongly committed to working with both the public and private sectors to create a deeper understanding of what it means to maintain good health; mentally and physically. For more information about Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait please visit www.eahli.com, contact an ABK representative via 'Ahli Chat' or a customer service agent via 'Ahli Ahli' at 1899899.

KPI CELEBRATES COMPLETION OF Q8, SHELL ITALY MERGING

ROME: Kuwait Petroleum International (KPI), or (Q8), has held a major function to celebrate the completion of Q8 and Shell Italy fueling stations merging. The celebration was held in Rome and attended by KPI Italy staff members, Acting Vice-President of KPI Europe Khaled Al-Mushaileh and Managing Director of Kuwait Petroleum Italia Alessandro Gilotti. KPI Chief Executive Officer Bakheet Al-Rashidi held a meeting with the KPI-Italy staff in the main office in Rome and spoke to the function participants through video conference to congratulate them on completing the merging of Shell Italy assets and outlets in a record time.

After this successful acquisition, the KPI-Italy has become the second biggest fuel supplier in the European country, Al-Rashidi said in his speech on the occasion. He noted that the KPI merging teams have managed to overhaul a number of stations, develop logistical services, complete data systems link with the shell stations and changing the commercial brand to Q8easy in a short time. In a statement to KUNA, Al-Rashidi said that spectacular success of the merging showed the importance of the investing in development of human resources.

This is a great chance for cultural and occupational expansion of Kuwaiti cadres who partake in the KPI overseas projects, he added. As part of the celebration, Al-Rashidi, Al-Mushaileh and Gilotti inaugurated a full service filling station in Milan's town of San Zenone Al Lambro. Al-Rashidi pointed out that the revamped station sells ethane fuel and liquefied natural gas in addition, to conventional petrol and diesel fuels.

He noted that preserving the environment is a top priority for the KPI, so it is keen on expanding in production of eco-friendly products. On 20 February, 2014, KPI announced reaching an agreement with Shell for the acquisition of shares in the companies containing Shell's Retail, Supply Distribution logistics and Aviation businesses in Italy. Shell distributes and markets petroleum products in Italy through a retail network of more than 800 outlets, mainly located in Northern Italy supported by an efficient logistic structure. The retail network will be converted to the Q8 brand, it stated after the signing. In the aviation business Shell operates in the most important Italian airports supplying aviation fuels. — KUNA

KUWAIT HIGHLIGHTS EFFECTS OF 'DETERIORATING LANDS'

ANKARA: Kuwait has highlighted the most important recommendations to trim effects of 'deteriorating lands' in the Asian and Pacific group's countries, on the sideline of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) conference.

The meeting, which was participated by 58 countries including Kuwait, Iraq, and Iran, addressed past experiments in the desertification area and ways to minimize repercussions of drought, Kuwait National Committee Member for Combating Desertification Prof Raafat Misak said.

Misak, who is a Scientist Research for Center Research Science Life and Environment in Kuwait at the Institute for Scientific Research (KISR), noted

importance of establishing a watchdog to assess and evaluate the deteriorating lands in Kuwait, and to provide various readings for creating land environment development programs and to rehabilitate its resources.

Misak noted among the most important aspects is the size of deteriorating lands, its nature, and all causes of such a problem, adding that utilizing the Sustainable Land Management (SLM) represents the first line of defense to protect the various environment systems. Later, the professor discussed a number of ways to effectively use the protective methods, expressed concern on dependency on Bund Walls for protecting vital installations, due to ecological and hydrological side effects. —KUNA

News

in brief

DOLPHINS FOUND IN WATER TANK AT POWER STATION

KUWAIT: Three dolphins were found in one of the water tanks at the Subiya power station and the Kuwait dive team is monitoring the situation, said an official yesterday. Team official Mahmoud Ashkanani said that the team was working with personnel at the power station to make sure that the dolphins were safe. The two sides are also working together to prevent any damage to the facility, he said. A monitoring report on the activities of the dolphins have consulted international experts who suggested that the team should continue to supervise the situation until the marine creatures leave the location on their own accord, said Ashkanani. He added that the dolphins might have ended up in the current location in search for food.



KUWAIT: Kuwait diving team monitors situation of dolphins at Subiya power station. — KUNA

Top Kuwait officials in 'GITEX 2015' week

DUBAI: Senior Kuwaiti officials participating in 'GITEX 2015' week in Dubai have expressed keenness on installing state of art technology in all government sector. "Our ministry is working tirelessly to keep up with all of what is new in technology and the security field," Interior Undersecretary Assistant to Education and Training Affairs Major-General Sheikh Faisal Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah said in a statement to Kuwait Television. Sheikh Faisal, who made his remarks after participating in Smart Government Conference, held as part of GITEX week of activities, said participants in the conference, which included GCC undersecretaries and senior officials from the Arab world, examined three major topics; technology, education and leadership. Meanwhile, Director General of Kuwait Credit Bank Salah Al-Medhaf said in a statement that he focused on leadership, noting that such a topic is a major one in all government sectors.

'No room for mistakes', Sheikh Al-Khaled warns

KUWAIT: No room for mistakes and law must be abided by without complacency, stressed Deputy Premier and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Khaled Al-Sabah late on Tuesday. His remarks came after touring a number of Husseiniyas (congregation halls for Shia commemoration ceremonies) and visiting the decision-making room of the Interior Ministry earlier. Accompanying Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled was Ministry Undersecretary Lt Gen Suleiman Al-Fahad and a number of senior ranks tasked with securing premises of mosques and Husseiniyas during the lunar month of Muharram, said a ministry statement. The Deputy Premier was briefed with plans being implemented on ground through affective security deployment, which also contributed to smooth traffic flow in normally congested areas and exits throughout the six governorates.



KUWAIT: Deputy Premier and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Khaled Al-Sabah touring a number of Husseiniyas. — KUNA

31st meeting of GCC senior municipal officials kicks off

DOHA: The 31st meeting of GCC senior municipal officials kicked off on Tuesday and is expected to discuss a host of issues bound to sustain coordination among member states. Doha Municipality Director Mohammad Al-Sayyed chaired the opening session of the meeting, which is slated to come up with recommendations based on the agenda. Of items listed in the agenda are reports of specialized technical teams, the GCC Award for Municipal Work, beautification of cities, the unified GCC building code and the preparation of a unified GCC strategy for municipalities, Al-Sayyed noted in an opening statement. The meeting is a prelude of the 19th meeting of GCC municipal ministers to be also hosted by Qatar today.

Kuwait fire department ready for torrential rain

KUWAIT: The Kuwait Fire Service Directorate (KFSD) has taken all necessary precautions to cope with incidents that may happen due to possible torrential rains and floods, an official of the department said yesterday. Brig Gen Mohammad Al-Mahmeed, the acting deputy director general for fight sector affairs, said in a statement that the firemen were ready to deal with any emergency round the clock. Special equipment, such as water sucking pumps and light rubber dinghies, has been prepared for the rain season, said Brig Gen Al-Mahmeed while examining the installations at the back-up center. Heavy rain in the past flooded lower parts of roads and locations across Kuwait.



KUWAIT: Acting deputy director general for fight sector affairs Brig Gen Mohammad Al-Mahmeed seen during the examination of the installations at the back-up center. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Ahmadi governor Sheikh Fawaz Khalid Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah recently received the manager of the Martyrs Bureau Fatima Al-Ameer at the Amiri Diwan, where they discussed ways to commemorate Ahmadi martyrs.

UNION CAMPAIGNS FOR OIL SECTOR WORKERS' RIGHTS

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: Kuwait Gulf Oil Company (KGOC) employees' syndicate's secretary general Nasser Abdullah Al-Hajri said "history would never forget those who do not protect oil sector workers' rights", adding one cannot keep silent about the current situation. Expressing absolute rejection of applying the strategic salary alternative project on oil sector employees, Hajri called for exempting both current and future oil sector employees from being subjected to this project. "This project will have catastrophic consequences on oil sector employees," he underlined, noting that it would lead to a sense of vocational insecurity and thus kill creativity and productivity.

Residents 'suffering'

MP Sultan Al-Loghaissam yesterday called for ending Jaber Al-Ahmed City residents' sufferings as soon as

possible, rejecting handing over incomplete houses that lacked basic services in the city. Loghaissam stressed that most of the houses in the area do not have electric power supply yet and that many citizens could not move in, while others had to buy power generators to enjoy living in their new houses. Commenting on calls to reject the resignation filed by MEW Minister Ahmed Al-Jassar over being convicted in the 2007 emergency power plan by a first instance court on grounds that the verdict was suspended, MP Saleh Ashour urged HH the PM to immediately accept the resignation. "Suspending the verdict at this stage of litigation does not annul it nor does it mean that he is innocent," he underlined.

Undersecretary under fire

MP Mansour Al-Thafeiri accused the MPW undersecretary of withholding the truth about violations

the Audit Bureau detected in the new airport project. "The undersecretary said that the Audit Bureau was still studying the airport tender while the bureau has already announced detecting violations," he charged.

Meanwhile, the housing public authority is currently preparing to officially take over the South Sabah Al-Ahmad City project's land from Kuwait Municipality today. Notably, the project, due to be built over a total area of 61,500 hectares, would provide 25,000 housing units.

MoH freezes contracts

MoH recently froze the contracts of two revenue stamp machine operating companies and disconnected their machines from power at the expatriate labor medical tests center after finding 112 KD 10 stamps that did not match the specifications agreed upon with the Finance Ministry.

PANEL TO REFER INVESTMENT SUSPICIONS TO PROSECUTION

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: A National Assembly panel probing suspected violations and graft at the Kuwait Investment Office in London and other investment offices overseas is expected to recommend to refer the case to the public prosecution, rapporteur of the panel MP Madhi Al-Hajeri said yesterday. Hajeri was speaking after the committee held a meeting yesterday with the head of the government legal office and following a visit by the committee members to London to investigate the alleged violations.

But the lawmaker said that the final decision on the issue will be taken after the ministry of finance completes the translation of a large number of documents and answers sent to the committee in English. The committee will ask the Assembly to extend its work until completing its investigation, he said.

But Hajeri insisted that a decision will be taken only after providing solid evidence about the claimed

wrongdoings at the London office which comes under the Kuwait Investment Authority (KIA). He said that there are many suspicions about several issues at the office and that they had sent many questions and received answers in English, which are being translated by the finance ministry.

Committee member MP Sultan Al-Shemmari yesterday called for referring the whole issue to the public prosecution immediately. He said there are suspicions about illegal profits and misleading information by the KIA director, and the issue should be sent to the judiciary. On his part, MP Abdulhameed Dashti threatened to grill Finance Minister Anas Al-Saleh if he did not move to take action against those who squandered public funds at the investment authority.

In another development, the criminal court yesterday held a new hearing in the case of 25 Kuwaitis and one Iranian accused of spying for Iran and Lebanese Shiite militia Hezbollah

and plotting to carry out attacks on Kuwait. The hearing was again held behind closed doors. Judge Mohammad Al-Duaij set the next hearing for Nov 3 for filing arguments but rejected requests by defense lawyers to summon Sheikh Athbi Al-Sabah for testimony.

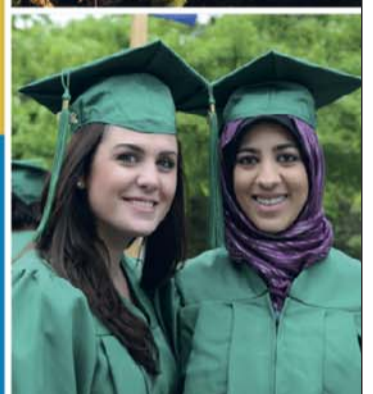
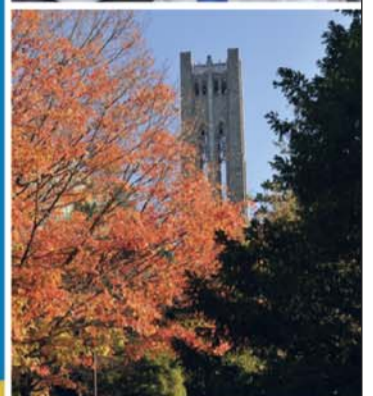
One of the suspects said last month that he had received the arms busted in his house from Sheikh Athbi during the 1990-91 Iraqi occupation of the country. Four of the suspects had been released on KD 500 bail each while three are still at large. The rest are in custody. Most of the men are charged of being members of Hezbollah and training on the use of arms and explosives.

The constitutional court meanwhile set Dec 16 to issue its verdict in a case challenging the constitutionality of a 16-year-old law enforcing sex segregation at universities. The law was passed and implemented but a lawyer filed a challenge against it, saying that it is not in line with the constitution.

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KUWAIT

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Self Defence Expert

Photo

of the day



KUWAIT: Photo shows a group of dancers performing Zaffna - a famous folk dance, usually performed by two dancers on the rhythms of small drums (Merwas) in (Alsout) songs. —KUNA

Al-Anbaa

ENEMIES OF STABILITY

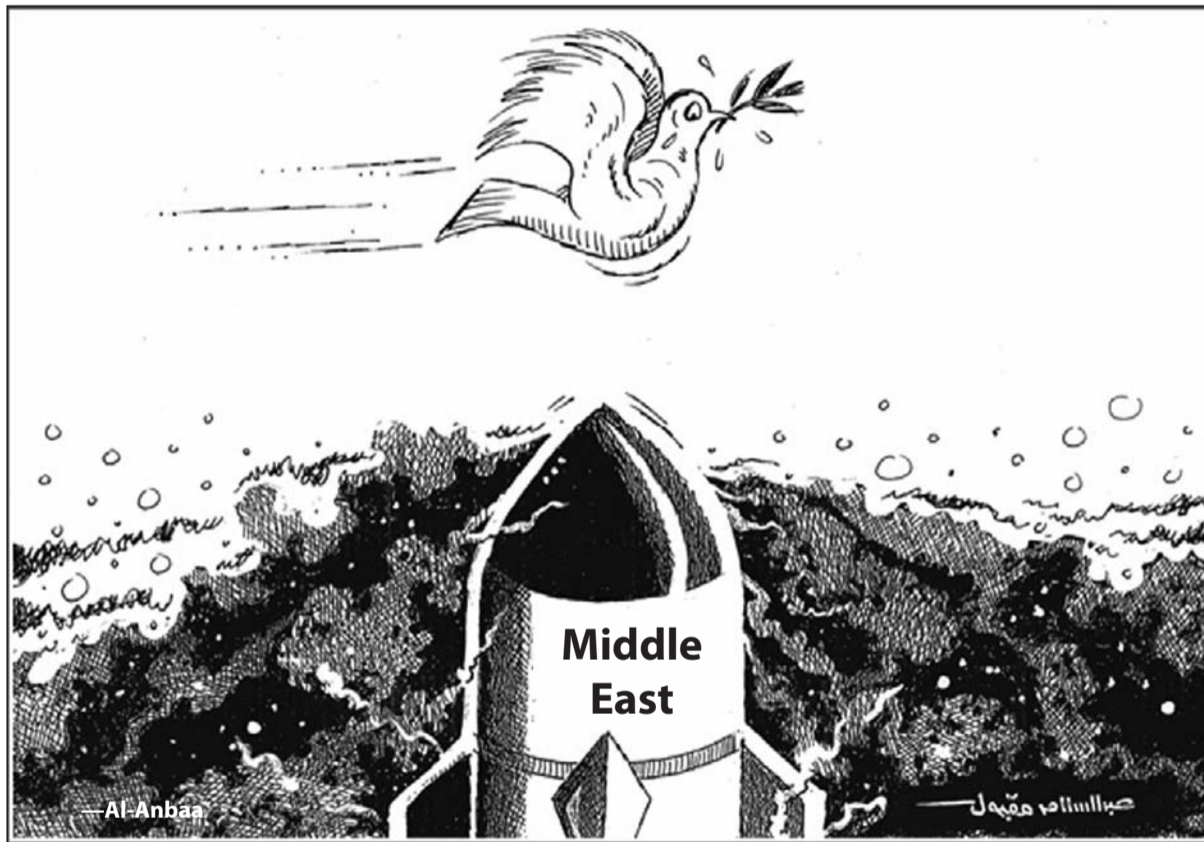
By Salah Al-Sayer

Stability and settling down in one place had never been man's aim on Earth. Nomadic people have always roamed and traversed the globe, going from one place to another since prehistoric ages. It is even said that the first human migrations left Africa for the Arabian peninsula, crossing the Bab El-Mandeb Strait in large groups, followed by other migrations to Europe and other parts of the world to build civilizations and demolish others. Man went on roaming the planet that rotates around its axis.

Man has moved long distances and been to the gloomiest caves on foot before he made sleds to pull himself before inventing the wheel. Man also managed to tame wild animals initially to help him fulfill his passion for traveling and moving around from one spot to another. Thus, he used small animals like donkeys and large ones like camels to keep on moving either for fear of enemies, to run away from wild animals, in search of food and water or even to loot others' wealth.

For the very same reason of moving from one place to another, man invented vehicles, ships, trains, planes and paved roads and built ports and airports, which all seemed not enough to him, so he made rockets and used them to go exploring other planets. Man has never been satisfied with his own time, and thus unleashed his imagination to imagine building a time machine to fictionally take him back to ancient ages. It seems that the most important thing is this 'roaming, unsettled nomadic man' is doomed to go on moving and never settle down except when laid to rest!

—Translated by Kuwait Times



Al-Anbaa

THE FLOOD YEARS

By Dr Saleh Al-Ojairi

Kuwaitis have been using certain events to mark specific historic incidents such as the 'great flood year' during which many houses were washed away and destroyed by heavy rainfall.

However, many citizens, particularly younger generations, have been mixing up the dates of those historic incidents. Well, they do not know that actually there were three years carrying that name as heavy rainfall destroyed many houses. The first one took place in 1872, when very heavy rainfall flooded Kuwait during the Islamic calendar month of Rajab, and that is why it is known in Arabic as the 'Rajabiya' destructive rainfall. The second one took place on the first of Ramadan

in 1934, when very heavy rainfall (300 mm) dropped in just fifteen minutes and flooded all ditches and trenches and destroyed several houses that had been built of clay bricks. The third incident took place on Nov 30, 1954, when rainfall far exceeded that of the 1872 and 1934 floods. Rain fell or three consecutive days non-stop, destroying many old houses and buildings, which displaced thousands of Kuwaitis, who sought refuge and shelter in schools and government buildings built of concrete. In that year, a special reconstruction committee was formed under the late Sheikh Jaber Al-Ali to reconstruct and rebuild damaged houses.

—Translated by Kuwait Times

Al-Qabas

WHAT DO WE WANT?

By Qais Al-Usta

Our colleague Abdelaziz Al-Khatir wondered in a nice column in Qatar's Al-Watan newspaper about the possibility of a car with a decal "Be victorious for your Prophet", defending the Prophet (PBUH) while at the same time committing all traffic violations that may lead to the killing of innocents whose only guilt is being near the car of a reckless driver. Truly, who are we? And what do we want? Is it to defend religion with bad behavior and lack of manners? Do we mean the slogans we raise? And are slogans enough to defend anything we like?

In Kuwait, for example, we want our country to become a financial and commercial center, and despite this, we hear about banks that do not keep banking secrets, and there is no need to remind about an employee in one of the banks who leaked a cheque of a prominent personality to a former MP. We see with our own eyes Kuwait International Airport, and the level it has reached. In the same context, a leasing manager in one of the commercial malls signed a contract with a Gulf investor to lease a store in the complex, but a few months later, this investor still could not get the required approvals from the municipality, commerce ministry, fire department and other government bodies.

We want to be like some Gulf countries in attracting tourists, bearing in mind that this attraction requires opening the country for tourists and granting entry visas to foreigners, because the majority of those I meet reject this out of the belief that this may lead us to social and sharia taboos. We all want the law to be implemented strictly on all, but when any of our relative commits a violation of any type, even if it is a felony, we rush to the nearest wasta to get him out.

I am the last person to volunteer defending the current government, because it reached a stage that cannot be treated. This is my personal conviction, but before this and that, we are the people who everyone swore to serve, but what do we want? I tell you from now, that we will continue asking in vain, and will continue to consider the presence of shrimps and zubaidi in the freezer evidence of wealth, and our wise government and esteemed Assembly will continue its "outstanding" performance. Was the message delivered? I hope so.

—Translated by Kuwait Times

DRUNK MAN ARRESTED

KUWAIT: A drunk man decided to have a tipple in his neighbor's garden, who saw him and called the police. Ahmadi patrolmen went and arrested him with a bottle of liquor, and took him to the police station.

Forging signature

A citizen accused one of his employees of forging his signature on a work permit transaction in favor of a compatriot. A security source said the citizen told Saad Al-Abdullah police that an Egyptian working for him forged his signature on a transaction, so detectives were asked to arrest the suspect. In another development, eight persons entered the house of a non-Kuwaiti in Fintas and destroyed its contents. Security cameras captured the incident. Ahmadi detectives are working on the case.

Funds embezzlement

Deputy Premier and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khalid ordered the suspension of a leader at the Interior Ministry until investigations are complete over charges of public funds embezzlement. The leader was sent to a disciplinary council at the orders of the minister after using his job to benefit from a contract to purchase vehicles with the help of an expat who worked with him in the same department. He equipped the vehicles at the lowest prices to benefit from the price difference, which amounted to tens of thousands of dinars without care to quality. The expat was terminated and sent to prosecution, while the leader was sent to a disciplinary council, then following several sessions, it was decided to send him to the public prosecution.

Absconding woman

Abu Halifa police returned an absconding woman to her family after she spent a week with a friend who works in a beauty salon. Abu Halifa detectives found the 19-year-old was staying in a Salmiya flat, so they went there and arrested her. She told them she fled because of family disputes, and she was asked by her friend to stay with her.

Mandoub mugged

A passport mandoub was mugged by two persons who attacked him in Maidan Hawally. While the victim was heading to a government department, two persons stopped him, beat him and took KD 1,200 and several passports before escaping. The mandoub went to Maidan Hawally police station and informed the police. —Al-Rai

ARAB INTERIOR MINISTERS CALL FOR UNIFIED ANTI-TERRORISM STRATEGY

TUNIS: Secretary General of Arab Interior Ministers Council Mohammad bin Ali Koman yesterday called for adopting a unified strategy to promote cooperation among the Arab countries in the fight against terrorism. In a speech during the opening of 18th Arab conference on combating terrorism, Koman said that the event is held at a time when factors fueling terrorism in the Arab region are still present.

Among the factors are the spread of extremist discourse and sectarianism, and increasing tensions and armed disputes as well as the absence of peaceful solutions for crises, the spread of firearms and the growing terrorist financing, he said. He warned that these factors contributed obviously to increasing terrorism operations in the first half of this year. Koman called for boosting Arab cooperation in order to counter this phenomenon, and

working on finding suitable solutions for the factors that fuel terrorism through formulating an Arab strategy for combating the spread of illegal weapons and uncovering "terrorist" plots.

In this regard, he noted that the council formed a committee to designate terrorist organizations and entities and use certain criteria to blacklist perpetrators, committers and financiers of terrorism. This move will help Arabs to get a unified stance against terrorism. He, meanwhile, condemned the "terrorist acts" committed by the Israeli forces in the occupied territories against Palestinians, saying that these acts violate the international law. The conference is expected to discuss experiments of the Arab countries in countering terrorism and an Arab strategy to combat the spread of illegal weapons as well as the approval of a plan to bolster intelligence role in uncovering terrorist plots. —KUNA



Tough times ahead for Japan's yakuza gangs

POLLING AT 1%, US CANDIDATES REFUSE TO BOW OUT

IRAN'S SUPREME LEADER ENDORSES NUCLEAR DEAL

WARNS PRESIDENT THAT DEAL CONTAINS WEAKNESSES

TEHRAN: Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei explicitly endorsed a nuclear deal with world powers for the first time yesterday, but warned his president it contained weaknesses that must be guarded against. Despite years of negotiations that culminated in a July 14 accord, Khamenei had never before said openly that he backed the diplomacy. Nor had he said he was against talks. The agreement with the five permanent members of the UN Security Council plus Germany will see a raft of trade sanctions against Iran lifted in return for curbs lasting up to 15 years on its atomic activities.

After years of tension and Western sanctions, which have ravaged Iran's economy, Khamenei permitted secret talks on the nuclear issue with the United States, which commenced in Oman in 2012. But the process only gained momentum and became official, involving Britain, China, France, Russia and the US plus Germany, after Iranians elected President Hassan Rouhani, a relative moderate, in June 2013.

The supreme leader's remarks on the final nuclear deal came in a letter to Rouhani a week after Iran's parliament approved it, after months of often fierce opposition from hardliners angered by what they said were too many concessions. Khamenei, who has the last word for Iran on all policy matters, said he had approved the decision of the country's top security committee, the Supreme National Security Council (SNSC), to implement the agreement.

Warning on breaches

However he told Rouhani the deal had "many ambiguities and structural weak points" which must be closely monitored. "In the absence of tight control these could bring significant damage for the present and the future of the country," Khamenei said of such shortcomings, repeating his long-held stance that the United States cannot be trusted.

A committee, controlled by the SNSC, will be formed to monitor "possible breaches and deception by the other parties, in particular the US" he said in the letter, which was published on his website. Iran has always denied pursuing an atomic weapon but Western intelligence agencies alleged that work to develop a bomb had taken place.

The lifting of sanctions is conditional on Iran putting stringent curbs on its nuclear programme, including on its enrichment of uranium, the processing of which at high purity can produce bomb material. The main provisions of the agreement, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), extend for between eight to 15 years.

Khamenei said any new sanctions against Iran would be a fatal breach. If such occurred "under any pretext by any country engaged in negotiations, it will be a violation of the JCPOA and the government will be obligated to stop the agreement," the 76-year-old leader said.

On Sunday, US President Barack Obama and the European Union announced measures to ensure the lifting of sanctions, including those on Iran's banks and energy sector, as soon as international monitors complete a probe into possible military dimensions of Tehran's past nuclear activities.

IAEA probe due

The UN nuclear watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is due to submit that report by December

15. The deal's crucial "implementation day" can only happen after. Khamenei said the IAEA investigation must be closed before Iranian officials will take steps to ensure its Arak reactor cannot produce plutonium — another potential route to an atomic weapon. China has agreed to work with Iran and the United States to alter the Arak reactor, officials have said.

Another condition of the deal—that Iran's stockpile of low-enriched uranium be exported out of the country—also cannot go ahead until the IAEA has completed its investigation, Khamenei stipulated. Iran has also agreed to disable more than two-thirds of its 19,000 centrifuges-fast-spinning machines that enrich uranium—with just over 6,000 being left in place.

The nuclear agreement, which has brought Iran out of the diplomatic cold after years of high tension on the nuclear issue, raised expectations of further detente. However, Khamenei has since banned other negotiations with the United States, Iran's main adversary since the Islamic revolution toppled the US-backed shah in 1979. The supreme leader's letter to Rouhani reiterated the point. "You know the US government had an attitude of hostility. They are unlikely to change their attitude in the future," Khamenei wrote. —AFP



TEHRAN: In this picture released by the official website of the office of the Iranian Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei delivers a speech during a meeting. — AP

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US BOOSTS PRESENCE TO AVOID BENGHAZI REPEAT

MORON DE LA FRONTERA: When armed militants stormed the American consulate in Benghazi in 2012, the United States couldn't get its crisis-response forces to Libya fast enough. By the time troops were ready to mount a rescue, it was too late—Ambassador Chris Stevens and three other American personnel were dead. Three years on, even as the fallout from the attack still clouds the American political scene, the Pentagon has moved to make sure such a disaster won't happen again.

Here on a flat, muddy-brown expanse of fields near Moron de la Frontera in southern Spain, about 60 kilometers southeast of Seville, the United States has struck a military cooperation deal with Madrid that allows for a permanent deployment of up to 2,200 US service members, mainly Marines and sailors. Currently, about 800 US forces are deployed here, along with a fleet of MV-22B troop-carrying Osprey aircraft that can take off and land like helicopters,

then tilt their rotors to fly like planes.

Though it is in Europe, the sprawling Marine Corps base answers to the US military's Africa command and concentrates on the other side of the Mediterranean. "Right now, we are focused on those embassies that are positioned in the countries deemed most at risk for crisis," Colonel Calvert Worth told AFP during a trip to the base this month. "We have forces here that can operate out of Moron that can respond to western Africa, the Gulf of Guinea and northern Africa when called upon," Worth added.

AFP visited Moron while accompanying US Defence Secretary Ashton Carter, who visited US troops and thanked his Spanish counterpart Pedro Morenes ahead of a NATO meeting called to assess emerging security threats along the 28-nation alliance's southern flank. Alongside the US personnel, the Spanish military has hundreds of its own troops at the base as part of two Spanish air

force squadrons, and troops from the two nations train together.

Too slow

Stevens was the first ambassador to be killed on duty since 1979 in the horrific attack on the Benghazi consulate on September 11, 2012 when dozens of armed men stormed the building, bombarding it and torching it. Officials have said the consulate was a sitting duck, with weak security and requests for extra staffing denied despite a rising Al-Qaeda threat. Pentagon officials tried to respond to an unfolding crisis but were hamstrung by distance. Then defense secretary Leon Panetta sent a surveillance drone but it took about 90 minutes to get there.

He also ordered troops from the United States and special operations forces in Europe to a NATO base in Sigonella in Sicily for a potential rescue. But by the time the units arrived in southern Italy, the consulate had already

been torched and ransacked.

Republicans mauled Hillary Clinton, who was then secretary of state, blaming her for what they called a lack of security. She will testify Thursday before a House of Representatives panel investigating the attacks at the consulate and another Benghazi compound also hit that night. Although critics accuse the panel of a witch hunt targeting Clinton, the issue likely will keep dogging Clinton as she seeks the Democratic presidential nomination. She is the frontrunner in the Democratic race.

Six hours to deploy

The Benghazi attack happened fast, catching the US off guard. Though there's no way troops could have been deployed from Moron quickly enough to intervene, the idea now is that they will travel to hot spots and be within striking distance at the first sign of trouble. Such prepositioning in bases like Sigonella and also in Africa including in Senegal,

Ghana and Gabon means troops can pounce on an emerging crisis.

Troops are on a constant state of readiness and can be in the air soon after an alarm sounds. "Once we get a call from here, we can be wheels-up on our birds (Ospreys) within six hours," said Sergeant David Bloxham, a Marine machine-gunner. "We have a thousand-mile bubble that we can generally deploy to." The Special-Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force Crisis Response team, or MAGTF, has already deployed several times.

In July of last year, Marines flew from the sister base in Sigonella and provided air support while the US embassy in Tripoli was evacuated. In that event, the troops were not needed on the ground and remained airborne, but they could have landed at a moment's notice. Carter also visited Sigonella, which houses a fleet of drones including armed Predators and Global Hawk surveillance craft. — AFP

NAZI RESEARCHERS PROBE IS OVER YAZIDI 'GENOCIDE'

BERLIN: A group that documented Nazi war crimes is now investigating whether massacres committed by Islamic State jihadists against Iraq's Yazidi minority amount to genocide. Three European researchers have embarked on the gargantuan task of establishing that the IS crimes aimed to systematically wipe out an ethnic group, in a bid to push the international community to halt the brutal crimes.

"We are not seeking to be sensational but to establish the stages of the criminal process for each category of the Yazidians, women, children in order to back up the claim of genocide," Andrej Umansky, criminal law specialist at Cologne University, told AFP. The Yazidis are neither Arabs nor Muslims and have a unique faith which IS jihadists consider to be heretical and polytheistic. The Kurdish-speaking minority is mostly based around Sinjar Mountain in northern Iraq. When the jihadists made an unexpected push in August last year into parts of northern Iraq under Kurdish control, the Yazidis were the worst hit, with many massacred and abducted. The small European team from Yahad In Unum-an association that collected evidence of Nazi slaughters of Jews and Roma in former Soviet areas-has travelled to collect evidence at a Kurdish refugee camp just 20 kilometers from the frontline where battle was raging with IS militants.

Since August, they have filmed 50 interviews with Yazidi men, women and children who have managed to flee the terror of IS. While the witness accounts could be used to back up future legal proceedings, "our first aim is to stop this crime" which is still being perpetrated, said Umansky. "Imagine if we had questioned the escapees of Auschwitz in 1942: reacting with legal procedures would not have been the priority."

Child soldiers and sex slaves

The initiative began last year following a meeting in Belgium with three Yazidi refugees, said Costel Nastasie, a Belgian former police officer who specialized in investigations of crimes against the Roma. The team's small size and French foreign ministry backing helped open the doors to the Kurdish refugee camps. The greatest challenge has been finding recent Yazidi arrivals who clearly recollect the crimes and are willing to talk about their traumatic experiences.

"Most people are very emotional, there have to be frequent breaks," said Nastasie. "And we have to explain to the victims' family members why we have to be in a room alone with the person. "Some women are willing to speak in front of us, but others would only remain with our Yazidi investigator."

UN investigators have said that the IS jihadists appeared to be committing

genocide against the Yazidis. The jihadists themselves have called in their magazine Dabiq for fighters to "kill (them) wherever you find them, and capture them, and besiege them". They have also said the Yazidi women "could be enslaved".

For French priest Patrick Desbois, the "organized and administrative" characteristic of these crimes "in different places that are far from each other (is) astounding". And it is this characteristic that might qualify the violations as genocide crimes committed against a specific group of people with the intent of destroying them. Such violence can include killings, causing mental harm, imposing measures to prevent births, or forcibly transferring children to another group.

'Everyone is registered'

The Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) in August said there were 550,000 Yazidis in Iraq-but they also account for 400,000 of the more than three million people displaced in Iraq since the IS violence erupted in early 2014. According to the KRG, 1,280 Yazidis were killed in the IS offensive, 280 died from conditions they were subjected to and 841 remain missing.

More than 5,800 were abducted by IS, of whom just over 2,000 had managed to flee, the KRG said. Witnesses have spoken of a shockingly orderly process in which "everyone is registered" by the IS, and where the jihadists obsessively sought to obtain their captives' documents. Desbois said IS medical experts were present at all stages of the process to check women's virginity, to drug sex slaves, and to force young boys to swallow painkillers during military training.

He also said that when young Yazidi refugees watched IS militants speaking in propaganda videos, "the young people knew them all, showing how important indoctrination was in the training camps". The investigators are also looking into how the IS has snatched babies on the pretext of giving them a new life in a Muslim family.

"It's possible that these children are sold to Qatari or Saudi families," said Nastasie. The process of identifying perpetrators looks promising, as many jihadists do not bother to hide their faces and are also often known at least by their nicknames, said Umansky, who said he was stunned by how people from all over the world had joined the IS. As they try to piece together precise information about the training of child soldiers or the sale of abducted women, the investigators are struggling with the fact that the victims are spread out over a large geographic area-also a problem for any potential rescue operations. "The Yazidis are in the lives of the IS-in their prisons, in their families, next to fighters over a vast territory," said Desbois. — AFP



LESBOS: A man sits with a young girl wrapped in a blanket on the shore after arriving with other refugees and migrants on the Greek island. — AFP

FLYING ON A FAKE ID: REFUGEES' PATH LESS TRAVELLED TO EUROPE

CRISIS CREATES MASSIVE DEMAND FOR FAKE IDS

PARIS: Ali, a Palestinian-Syrian banker desperate to reach the Netherlands, had to hide his surprise when he finally met a shadowy forger known as "The Whale" at an Arab-style shisha cafe near Athens. "It turns out the guy I'd been speaking to, who sounded so big and scary on the phone, was actually tiny," said 31-year-old Ali, now living as a refugee in The Hague which he reached by plane several months ago using a forged Italian identity card that cost him just 30 Euros (\$34).

Unlike tens of thousands of other refugees and migrants, he was able to avoid the perilous, exorbitantly-priced land journey through the Balkans and central Europe, all thanks to "The Whale". The rush to Europe has fuelled a massive demand for fake IDs among people like Ali-not his real name-who already risked their lives once to reach Greece from Turkey on inflatable boats. Yet dealing with gangsters like "The Whale", Ali warned, was also risky and cost him his dignity.

"All along, you know they're cheating you, but you can't say anything. You have to beg them to get what you want. It's humiliating," he said, speaking to AFP through the Viber phone app from his new home. In April Ali used the ID, which carried his picture but was in the name of someone called Marco Rossi. He caught a flight from Crete airport—"where security is lower than Athens"—to Paris, and then a train to The Hague. His older brother, who paid 100 Euros (\$114) for his Spanish forgery, wasn't so lucky—he was caught out and would end up making the 3,000-kilometre journey to the Netherlands by land.

'Supermarket of false documents'

"He was very upset that I left him at the airport, but what could I do, turn back and give myself up? I was really sad, but I had to keep going," he said. Before the Syrian war broke out four years ago, Ali had been through airports dozens of times and speaks perfect English. "My brother hadn't left Syria before and didn't know how to navigate the airport. It was a lot harder for him to blend in," he said. Every day, Greek police find up to 200 fake IDs, "most of them of poor quality", at Athens airport, a European security expert told AFP speaking on condition of anonymity. While the Greek capital has for decades been "an international supermarket of false documents", the current migrant crisis has vastly exacerbated the problem, he added. "At least once a month, a fake ID 'laboratory' is dismantled in central Athens," he said, adding that the people who run them are "mainly Albanians, Pakistanis, Iraqis and Syrians who have lived in Greece for a long time." Ali had made two failed attempts using a fake French ID and a Swedish passport before making it to the Dutch capital, where his Syrian girlfriend was already living. "I bought the Swedish passport for \$1,000 (880 Euros) from its holder, a man of Iraqi origin. It was due to expire, I thought he was just out to make a quick buck," said Ali.

It turned out that the Iraqi-Swede was wanted by Greek police for drug-related crime. "Only when I managed to convince them I was actually a Palestinian refugee did they let me go," he said. On October 7, Greek police arrested 12 members of a gang that forged documents for migrants.

Part of the network operated on the island of Kos in the Aegean Sea, close to the Turkish coast, from where thousands of migrants attempt the sea crossing every day. On arrival in Greece the migrants are often held in apartments to stop them finding other smuggling gangs.

'Like in the movies'

Ali's girlfriend Rania-like Ali, her name has been changed to protect her identity-has been living in the Netherlands since November last year, but to get there she was among those who paid for a smuggling "package". For 3,000 Euros (\$3,400), she was held in an apartment, handed a stolen Bulgarian ID and told that for five days her smuggler would pay for as many flights as necessary to get her to her destination.

"The picture on the ID looked like me. I was caught the first time, but I hid my fear and got through the second time. When I reached Amsterdam Schiphol airport, I went to the bathroom and threw the ID away, just like you see in the movies," said Rania, 28. The young woman said that before the war she would never have imagined travelling illegally. But she could not risk being returned from Dubai, where her residence permit was due to expire, to Syria: her uncle is a high-profile dissident, which puts the whole family at risk of arrest. "I was very scared, smugglers are criminals. But for we Syrians, death is everywhere. Rather than criticize me for forging an identity, people should try to put themselves in my shoes," she said. "If there had been a legal way for me to get here, I would have taken it." — AFP

IS NOT ALONE IN LOOTING SYRIA CULTURAL HERITAGE

NEW YORK: The Islamic State group may dominate headlines about the destruction of heritage sites in Syria, but it is far from the only culprit, new US research warned yesterday. The Syrian regime, Kurdish and other opposition forces are also major players in the destruction, according to the study led by a specialist in Middle East archaeology at Dartmouth University.

The findings, published in the journal *Near Eastern Archaeology*, are based on analysis of satellite imagery from nearly 1,300 out of Syria's estimated 8,000 archaeological sites. Media attention "has led to a widespread misunderstanding that ISIS is the main culprit when it comes to looting," said Jesse Casana, associate professor at Dartmouth, using another acronym for the IS group.

"Using satellite imagery, our research is able to demonstrate that looting is actually very common across all parts of Syria." The research found that more than 26 percent of sites were looted in regions held by Kurdish or other opposition groups. Around 21.4 percent of sites were looted in IS-controlled areas and 16.5 percent in Syrian regime areas.

Severe looting by Syrian military

But while minor looting was most common in Kurdish and opposition-held areas, IS dominated when it came to heavy destruction, the study found. The study classified 42.7 percent of looting in IS-held areas as heavy, 22.9 percent in Syrian regime areas, 14.3 percent in opposition force-held areas, and 9.4 percent Kurdish areas. "To the best of our knowledge, the sites that

were within ISIS-held areas now have a much higher incidence of moderate or severe looting than sites we have sampled in other places, and a much lower incidence of looting overall," Casana told AFP. "ISIS is terrible, awful," he said. "On the other hand, looting on an equally large scale is taking place at a large number of sites all across Syria."

Episodes of severe looting have been perpetrated under the direct watch or perhaps by the Syrian regime military and not been widely reported, Casana told AFP. IS has carried out a sustained campaign of destruction of heritage sites in Syria and Iraq, most notoriously dismantling the ancient ruins of Palmyra since capturing the area in May. In September, CBS News reported on smugglers selling looted artifacts to help fund IS, including a mosaic purportedly dug up in the Roman city of Apamea in western Syria.

War problem, not IS problem

But Casana said Apamea was first looted by the regime military. Satellite images indicate that the looting began in 2012 after Syrian forces moved in, and that the most extreme phase took place in the government-administered portion of the site. — AFP



NEWROZ: A handout picture released by International Rescue Committee on August 14, 2014, and taken on August 13, 2014 shows Iraqi Yazidi refugees at Newroz camp in Al-Hassakah province, north eastern Syria, being cared for by the International Rescue Committee, after fleeing Islamic State militants. — AFP



DOUMA: A Syrian man carries a bicycle amid the rubble of destroyed buildings following a reported air strike by Syrian government forces in the rebel-held area. — AFP

WHY BOTHER? POLLING AT 1%, US CANDIDATES REFUSE TO BOW OUT

WASHINGTON: Their campaigns flatlined long ago. But several low-polling candidates in the US presidential race insist they are still viable contenders, even as voters and experts ask: Why? Jim Webb, for instance, has made zero impact on the race. He exited the Democratic nomination battle on Tuesday much like he entered it-with few people noticing.

But instead of riding his political horse into the sunset, the gruff-talking former senator and US Marine is threatening one final mission: an independent run against the likes of Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump, respectively the Democratic and Republican frontrunners. Senator Lindsey Graham keeps spinning his wheels at the back of the broad Republican field, caught between debate-shaping foreign policy guru and political laughing stock with little support.

No support, in some cases. In an August poll of 957 voters in North Carolina, which borders Graham's home state, not one



WASHINGTON: Former US Sen Jim Webb (D-VA) speaks as his wife Hong Le Webb listens during a news conference at the National Press Club. — AFP

respondent backed him. He fares little better today. Yet the no-hopers persist, toiling away in a brutal ground game that rewards deep pockets and name recognition.

Catching fire
They smile through gritted teeth, insisting their campaigns are one debate away from catching fire. They wonder whether

the candidacies of Clinton, Trump, Jeb Bush or Bernie Sanders will implode, and mercifully send support their way. But the question observers ask 13 months before the election is, why not pull the plug on campaigns that are clearly on life support?

The arduous, exhausting run for the US presidency is the natural next step for some politicians in the public spotlight, clouded by ego and fuelled by ambition. Dropping out

early is not an option. For others, a long shot 2016 race strategically positions them for a viable vice presidential nod, or lays the groundwork for 2020 or beyond. Several back-of-the-pack Republicans are stubbornly holding firm, including Graham, Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal, ex-New York governor George Pataki, and ex-senator Rick Santorum. None surpasses the one percent bar in the RealClearPolitics poll average. Democrats in

the same bind include former Maryland governor Martin O'Malley and Rhode Island's ex-governor Lincoln Chafee, whose performance at last week's Democratic debate was so awkward that his state's political chorus rose up in unity urging him to quit the race. "Chafee's good day for dropping out is about a week old now," political science professor Joseph Cammarano of Rhode Island's Providence College told AFP. — AFP



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BREZICE: A plume of smoke rises from a camp for migrants near Slovenia's border with Croatia. — AP

CAMP FIRE IN SLOVENIA AS MIGRANTS PUSH FORWARD

HEIGHTENED MISERY FOR THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE

BREZICE: Freezing temperatures and burning tents heightened the misery of thousands of people yesterday as they pushed their way through Europe, hoping to find refuge at the end of their arduous treks. The European Union's executive, meanwhile, summoned leaders of the countries on the migrant trail to a summit in Brussels on Sunday in an effort to better coordinate the flow from one country to another.

A fire broke out on yesterday at a camp for migrants in Slovenia, the current gateway to Austria and beyond. The cause of the fire at the camp in Brezice, on Slovenia's border with Croatia, was not clear, but migrants had been lighting fires outside their tents to ward off the chilly fall weather. Several tents were destroyed before firefighters extinguished the flames, and women and children were evacuated from the camp. Many of those at the Brezice camp arrived in the dark after wading or swimming across the Sotla River in temperatures close to freezing.

'Dissatisfied and unrestful'

Slovenian Interior Secretary of State Bostjan Sefic said he was waiting for a police report on the fire. The migrants "just want to go on their way as soon as possible," Sefic said. "They are very dissatisfied and unrestful when they stay at a certain place." Serbia, Croatia and Slovenia have struggled to cope with the relent-

less flow of migrants traveling through the Balkans, their journey made more difficult since Hungary erected fences protected by razor wire, police and soldiers on its southern borders, forcing migrants to find new routes west.

Hungary closed its border with Serbia to the free flow of migrants on Sept. 15 and clamped down on its border with Croatia on Saturday. Since then, 21,500 migrants have entered Slovenia from Croatia, including 8,000 on Tuesday, with many thousands more on their way. Early yesterday, Slovenian lawmakers granted more powers to the army to work with police in managing the migrant influx along the borders of the small Alpine nation. A few hours later, some 200 soldiers were already taking part in border control. Slovenia's Sefic said a new entry point into Austria was being discussed with its northern neighbor to relieve pressure on Slovenia.

In Austria, at least 1,000 migrants rushed in from Slovenia, eluding police controls. They began walking northward on a smaller road next to the A9 highway to Graz. Police spokesman Fritz Grundnig said officers were blocking entry points to the A9 highway and accompanying the migrants on their march.

'I am sorry for Europe'

Further back, hundreds of migrants pushed into Croatia after spending the night out in the open in

freezing cold, waiting to cross from Serbia. Exhausted and chilled, migrants walked down the muddy border passage and over corn fields. Croatian police had deployed on the boundary to stop them but then moved away. "I am sorry for Europe," said Iraqi migrant Ari Omar in a field in Rignone, Slovenia, on the border with Croatia. "We did not think Europe is like this. No respect for refugees, not treating us with dignity. Why is Europe like this?" UN refugee agency officer Francesca Bonelli said around 3,000 migrants were there overnight, including little children, the elderly, people in wheelchairs and many sick and exhausted.

In Cyprus, an EU country in the Mediterranean Sea, 114 people aboard two fishing boats, including 28 children, came ashore at a British air base on the island's southern coast. Greek emergency workers joined a search for 15 people reported missing after a small boat carrying refugees sank in Turkish waters on its way to a Greek island. More than 500,000 people have arrived so far this year on Greece's eastern islands, paying smugglers to ferry them across from nearby Turkey.

A statement from EU Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker's office said Sunday's summit was a response to "a need for much greater cooperation, more extensive consultation and immediate operational action." — AP

POPE'S BRAIN TUMOR? TRY KEEPING UP WITH HIM PROCLAIMS VATICAN

VATICAN CITY: The Vatican yesterday dismissed a report that Pope Francis has a brain tumor as baseless, with a spokesman challenging anyone who thinks the pontiff is seriously ill to try keeping up with him. Quotidiano Nazionale (QN), the newspaper which made the claim, said it stood by its story that a "small dark spot" had been detected on the 78-year-old pontiff's brain several months ago. The paper said it was discovered by Japanese neurosurgeon Takanori Fukushima, a world expert on skull base tumors who is partly based at the San Rossore di Barbaricina clinic near Pisa in central Italy. According to the report, the professor and a medical team were flown by helicopter to the Vatican to examine Francis and concluded that the tumor was treatable without surgery.

Quotidiano based its story largely on the supposed account of a nurse at the clinic who reportedly saw medical notes under Francis's real name, Jorge Mario Bergoglio. But Vatican spokesman Father Federico Lombardi, insisted the claims were baseless and that he had checked them with the pope himself. "I can confirm that no Japanese doctor came to the Vatican to see the pope and there were no examinations of the type indicated in the article," he told hundreds of journalists in an unusually well-attended Vatican press briefing. He repeated an early condemnation of the report as "an irresponsible act that was completely unjustified and unspeakable."

Clearly exasperated, the Vatican media chief resorted to irony to get his message across. "If you had to run after him during his overseas trips, you'd know," (he is in good health), Lombardi said. "He does have some problems with his legs but the head seems to me to be working absolutely perfectly."

'Not long to live'

Fukushima did meet Pope Francis but it was in October 2014, according to a post on the surgeon's Japanese blog, which does not indicate any professional connection. Andrea Cangini, the director of Quotidiano, said he

had anticipated the Vatican reaction. "This denial is understandable and to be expected," he said. "We waited a long time before publishing the report in order to carry out every possible check. We don't have the slightest doubt that it is founded."

Pope Francis has maintained an intense work schedule throughout his two and a half years in the Vatican, eschewing the long summer breaks enjoyed by many of his predecessors. He has looked extremely weary at times and in several interviews he has made reference, sometimes light-heartedly, to an apparent belief that he only has a few years to live.

At his weekly audience yesterday, the pope looked cheerful but also pale and tired as he made comments touching on the theme of failing health. Recalling how one of his predecessors, John Paul II, had remained at the head of the Church until his death in 2005 despite suffering from Parkinson's disease, the pope said sick people should follow his example and "bear with joy the cross of suffering as he (John Paul II) taught us."

Despite fatigue and a constant battle with sciatica, Francis shows no sign of slowing down. His recent nine-day trip to Cuba and the United States was one of the most grueling yet and he is preparing for a five-day visit to Kenya, Uganda and the conflict-torn Central African Republic at the end of November. There has also been no sign of his intellectual energy diminishing as he has participated in an ongoing synod of clerics which has seen his vision of how Church teaching on issues such as divorce and homosexuality should evolve meet with resistance from conservatives. Vatican expert Iacopo Scaramuzzi said the scare story about the pope's health could be related to tensions in the church at a time when allegations of Machiavellian skulduggery abound. "The timing of this news, exactly when a turbulent synod is concluding, is curious," he told AFP. "What is striking is that the article does not clearly reveal its sources and the Vatican has made such a vehement denial." — AFP



VATICAN: Pope Francis catches a scarf thrown by a worshipper as he greets the crowd from the popemobile before his weekly general audience at St Peter's square. — AFP

ROMANIA PROBES EX-PRESIDENT FOR 'CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY'

BUCHAREST: A Romanian court has begun a probe into former president Ion Iliescu for alleged crimes against humanity over the violent suppression of protests in 1990, months after the fall of the Communist regime, prosecutors said yesterday.

The 85-year-old is accused over the violent crackdown on an opposition

movement that staged sit-ins blocking downtown Bucharest for several weeks in mid-1990, just six months after the fall of Nicolae Ceausescu's Communist regime. The ex-president spent an hour at the prosecutors' office yesterday and refused to answer questions from journalists when he left.

"The violent repression of the

demonstration organized at University Square killed four people and wounded some 1,000, three of them with gunfire," prosecutors said. Virgil Magureanu, Romania's then-intelligence chief, told prosecutors yesterday about his role in the incidents that cast a shadow over the country's transition from Communism.

Iliescu is accused of bringing thousands of miners to Bucharest to add muscle to efforts to end the protests. On the day of the crackdown hundreds of people deemed "enemies of the regime", some simply having beards or wearing jeans, were beaten as security personnel looked on. The prosecution opened an investigation into the incident in March, after the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) in September criticized Bucharest for failing to properly probe the violence. "Mr Iliescu has been informed that legal proceedings have been initiated against him," a spokesman for prosecutors told AFP.

Death, beating

Iliescu was charged with murder and attempted murder in 2005 over the protests but the charges were dropped in 2007. The ex-president, who ruled Romania from 1990 to 1996 and then again from 2000 to 2004, said in 2005 that his conviction would be a "national shame". In 2008, prosecutors decided to drop the case entirely, stating that the allegations against him were baseless.

The ECHR case was brought by the wife of a man who was killed in the crackdown with a bullet fired from the interior ministry. It was also brought by another defendant, a man who suffered ill-treatment at the hands of policemen and men in plain clothes in the basement of a building housing the public television headquarters. — AFP



BUCHAREST: In this Thursday, June 14, 1990, file photo pro-government coal miners wield clubs against an anti-government demonstrator at University Square. — AP

SAN FRANCISCO OFFICIALS CONFIRM STATUS AS IMMIGRANT SANCTUARY

SAN FRANCISCO: Officials have determined that San Francisco will remain an immigration-related sanctuary city, despite criticism after a woman was killed by a Mexican national who had been released from jail even though federal agents wanted him detained for deportation.

The Board of Supervisors unanimously approved a resolution Tuesday that urges the sheriff not to participate in a detainee-notification system that asks jails to let Immigration Customs and Enforcement officials know when an inmate of interest is being released. The action sent a strong but symbolic message to critics who had lambasted San Francisco after the July 1 waterfront shooting of 32-year-old Kate Steinle.

Earlier in the day, Senate Republicans in Congress tried but failed to push through legislation punishing sanctuary cities. The death of Steinle cast an uncomfortable spotlight on the city that proudly declares itself a refuge for immigrants. As outrage mounted nationally, US Sen. Dianne Feinstein, a California Democrat, criticized San Francisco's sheriff, saying that suspect Juan Francisco Sanchez-Lopez should have been detained.

Sanchez-Lopez says he found the gun under a bench on the pier, and it accidentally fired when he picked it up. "All of us in this room agree that the death of Kathryn Steinle was senseless and tragic, but what many of us disagree on is the role - if any - that San Francisco's existing sanctuary and due-process-for-all ordinances played in the event, Supervisor Malia Cohen said to cheers from the crowd that gathered for the meeting.

Hateful commentary

Supervisors said they wouldn't let hateful commentary undermine a long-standing policy

that improves public safety and embraces immigrants. "I'm so proud of San Francisco," Supervisor David Campos, who co-sponsored the nonbinding resolution, said after the vote. "I'm so proud that notwithstanding the climate at the national level of scape-goating immigrants that San Francisco went against that."

Roy Beck, director of NumbersUSA, which calls for limiting immigration, said it's frightening that supervisors sided with immigrants who are in the country illegally - even violent ones - rather than public safety. San Francisco declared itself a sanctuary city in 1989, passing an ordinance that bans city officials from enforcing immigration laws or asking about immigration status unless required by law or court order. A follow-up ordinance in 2013 allows detention only under a court order targeting violent felons.

San Francisco and other cities and counties have routinely ignored requests from ICE to keep people in custody. The jurisdictions say they can't hold arrestees beyond their scheduled release dates without probable cause. However, more than half of the roughly 340 jurisdictions that previously declined to cooperate with ICE are now doing so in some form, as long as they don't have to keep immigrants in custody.

The shift came after outreach by federal immigration officials and several high-profile cases, including the one in San Francisco. San Francisco Sheriff Ross Mirkarimi said on Tuesday through a spokeswoman that the unanimous vote by the board validates his policy. Supervisors voted to table another resolution urging the sheriff to revoke a department-wide memo prohibiting communication between his staff and federal immigration authorities, saying it would send the wrong message to people living in the city illegally. — AP

CLASHES IN CONGO AFTER DAY OF DEADLY PROTEST

BRAZZAVILLE: Demonstrators and security forces clashed for a second day in Congo's capital yesterday in unrest triggered by the president's bid to extend his three-decade term in office, an AFP correspondent said. After a day in which four people were killed and 10 hurt in clashes, dozens of youths took to the streets in western Brazzaville in an apparent bid to throw up barricades as security forces fired rounds of tear gas grenades to hold them back.

Opposition supporters also reported clashes in southern parts of the capital, but it was not clear if yesterday's fresh violence had caused any casualties. For the second day

running, mobile Internet, text messaging services and French radio RFI's signal were cut throughout the city.

Clashes broke out on Tuesday after the government banned a planned opposition rally against Sunday's referendum which could allow President Denis Sassou Nguesso to prolong his stay in office. The vote proposes changing the constitution to increase the maximum age of presidential candidates, currently 70, and to scrap a rule that limits the number of seven-year terms to two.

Speaking late on Tuesday, Interior Minister Raymond Mboulou said the unrest which he described as an "organized and

coordinated insurrection" had left three people dead in Brazzaville and another in Pointe-Noire, the country's economic capital and its second city. Symbols of the republic, such as the headquarters of the police (or) the gendarmerie, were targeted," he said. Northern and eastern areas of the capital were calm, but a resident of a southern neighborhood told AFP several shops were looted during the night.

'Peaceful popular insurrection'

Pascal Tsaty Mabiala, a leader of the main opposition PanAfrican Union for Social Democracy, called Tuesday for "a peaceful

popular insurrection" to prevent the referendum from taking place. Speaking by phone, Public Works Minister Emile Ouosso who has led a "yes" to the referendum campaign claimed he had been "taken hostage" for nearly five hours by "activists opposed to changing the constitution".

Sunday's referendum amendment would allow Sassou Nguesso, who was returned to power in 1997 elections after a brief but bloody civil war, to seek a third term in office. The former Marxist soldier also ruled Congo from 1979 to 1992. Under the current constitution, Sassou Nguesso, 72, is not able to run again because of his age and due to the fact

that he has already served two seven-year terms. In the last presidential poll in 2009, he won nearly 79 percent of the votes. Half of his 12 rivals boycotted the election. Tens of thousands of the president's supporters staged a rally on Saturday in favor of the constitutional changes.

The turnout dwarfed the size of an anti-government demonstration late last month, when several thousand people poured onto the capital's streets to protest against the president's plan to cling to power. They had rallied under the cry "Sassoufuit", a pun on the French expression which means "that's enough". — AFP

JAIN MONK REQUIRES EIGHT MONTHS TO WALK TO COURT

AHMEDABAD: An itinerant Jain monk ordered to appear in court in the Indian city of Ahmedabad has said he needs eight months to get there because his strict faith prevents him from using any form of transport.

Acharya Kirti Yashurishwarji Maharaj is currently in the eastern city of Kolkata, about 2,200 kilometers

from Ahmedabad—a journey the 60-year-old says he will only undertake on foot. But a court rejected his request for the lengthy journey and told him to appear in court next month. Maharaj faces charges of promoting Bal Diksha—the recruitment of children into the Jain monastic order—by publishing forged government

documents endorsing the practice.

The charge was filed by Jashmin Shah, a local Jain community leader who has fought a campaign against Bal Diksha. Shah's lawyer Nitin Gandhi told AFP the court had ruled out an eight-month delay. "The court has issued a fresh bailable warrant against the monk and directed him to appear

before court by November 4," Gandhi said yesterday.

Jainism is an ancient Indian religion whose followers live a spartan lifestyle according to strict non-violent principles. Jain monks renounce all worldly goods and even sweep the floor in front of them and cover their mouths with their hands as they walk to avoid

stepping on or swallowing insects. They live an itinerant life, meaning Maharaj has no fixed address although he regularly visits Ahmedabad in the western state of Gujarat, home to many Jain holy sites. Hindu-majority India is home to around four million Jains, many of whom live in Gujarat and neighboring Rajasthan. —AFP

TOUGH TIMES AHEAD FOR JAPAN'S YAKUZA GANGS

INFLUENCE OF JAPANESE MAFIA BEGINS TO FADE

HIMEJI: A decade after retiring from a life of crime, Satoru Takegaki now spends his days helping other ex-gangsters find regular jobs and adjust to life outside Japan's notorious yakuza mob. The former mafia boss bodyguard hopes he will see a lot more disaffected yakuza on the doorstep of his anti-gang support group, as Japan's underworld faces its biggest shakeup in years.

In September, the Yamaguchi-gumi, Japan's largest organized crime gang, was shaken by the high-profile defection of about a dozen top leaders who formed their own group. The split prompted police warnings of a possible repeat of a 1980s gangland bloodbath, but also revealed the internal struggles and fading influence of the Japanese mafia, once infamous for a rigid honor system that called on them to chop off fingers for even minor transgressions.

"Looking back, there was nothing to earn by being yakuza, except for some temporary pleasure," 64-year-old Takegaki told AFP, his voice thick with an accent long associated with Japanese gangsters. "We no longer live in a world where yakuza can do business in the open. They're no longer needed," he said from his home in Himeji city, not far from Kobe where the Yamaguchi-gumi are based.

Observers said the turbulence highlights the fact all is not well in Japan's quasi-legal organized crime groups, as a poor economy and steadily falling membership hurt the bottom line. Less organized rivals are also muscling in on traditional yakuza territory, while at the same time public tolerance for their actions is disappearing.

"The split means both sides get weaker—you cannot deny that Japan's mafia is fading away," said Atsushi Mizoguchi, a freelance journalist and expert on Japan's organized crime. Long tolerated as a necessary evil for ensuring order on the street and getting

things done quickly—however dubious the means—the yakuza blossomed from the chaos of post-war Japan into a multi-billion-dollar criminal organizations involved in everything from gambling, drugs and prostitution to loan sharking, protection rackets and white-collar crime.

'Mob uprising'

Yakuza numbers have been falling steadily for years, last year there was estimated to be 53,000 yakuza members—down from 180,000 at their peak in the sixties. The Japanese mafia's self-professed claims of operating with honor took a blow when a financially struggling mobster murdered the mayor of Nagasaki in 2007 because of a grudge against city officials.

It is estimated around 10 percent of the Yamaguchi-gumi's 23,000-strong membership have now defected to a breakaway group leaving its leader—Kenichi Shinoda, also known as Shinobu Tsukasa—vulnerable to charges of tax evasion like those that toppled Chicago mobster Al Capone, Mizoguchi said.

"Those that split off are believed to have data about how much Tsukasa has pocketed" over the years, Mizoguchi, adding that defectors might pass the sensitive information to police. A rival crime boss was arrested this summer on tax evasion charges. The breakaway mobsters left after becoming angry at the millions of dollars which they had to hand over to top brass annually, including their dapper boss who is known for donning expensive Italian suits.

"What was behind the break-up is that the Yamaguchi-gumi's top management was siphoning off too much money — (prompting) an uprising among members," Mizoguchi said. Tsukasa was released from prison in 2011 after serving six years for gun

possession and the 73-year-old has since demanded about 30 million yen (\$250,000) a year from each of his gang's 70-odd factions across the country, along with other gifts.

"The head of the Yamaguchi-gumi is estimated to have an annual income of about one billion yen," Mizoguchi told AFP. "On the other hand, a low-ranking yakuza member feels rich and happy with a 10,000 yen bill in his wallet—that is how much the income gap has widened."

Legal grey zone

Unlike the Italian Mafia or Chinese triads in other countries, yakuza have long occupied a peculiar grey area in Japanese society—they are not illegal and each group has its own headquarters in full view of police. But "the law is not meant to recognize them as legal entities to protect—it is meant to control their activities," said Kazuhito Shinka, who heads up Japan's organized crime unit.

Now, stiffer anti-mafia regulations are making life a struggle as businesses are banned from dealing with yakuza and mobsters struggle to even open a bank account or receive mail at their office. The changes have even led to a handful of lawsuits filed by legitimate businesses against mobsters to recover years of protection money.

Retired mobster Takegaki—who still keeps "heartfelt" letters that his late Yamaguchi-gumi boss sent to him while doing prison time — said the loyalty and brotherhood that he insists once typified the yakuza are long gone. "Everything seems to revolve around money now, not 'giri' (duty) and 'ninjo' (humanity)," said Takegaki, whose life of crime started at the tender age of 21. "I'm hoping the breakup will convince more yakuza members to leave that life and become upstanding members of society." —AFP



HIMEJI: Satoru Takegaki, 64, a one-time bodyguard for a former Yamaguchi-gumi leader, shows an anti-gang campaign poster during an interview. —AFP

PAKISTAN HANGS MORE PRISONERS

MULTAN: Pakistan yesterday hanged at least five more men for murder, an official said, bringing the total number of people executed in just 24 hours to 14. The latest executions took place in cities of Lahore, Bahawalpur, Toba Tek Singh, Mianwali, Dera Ghazi Khan in central Punjab province.

"One convict was hanged in each jail in the five cities," a senior prisons official, who did not want to be named, told AFP. On Tuesday, Pakistan executed nine convicts, also in prisons in Punjab. The hangings brought the tally of executions to more than 250 since the Pakistan ended a six-year moratorium on

the death penalty in December, after Taliban militants gunned down more than 150 people, most of them children, at a school in the restive northwest. Hangings were initially reinstated only for those convicted of terrorism, but in March they were extended to all capital offences.

The European Union, the United Nations and human rights campaigners have all urged Pakistan to reinstate the moratorium. Amnesty International estimated in December that Pakistan has more than 8,000 prisoners on death row, most of whom have exhausted their appeals. —AFP



BISARA: A bruised Asgari Begum, mother of 52-year-old Muslim farmer Mohammad Akhlaq, killed over rumors he slaughtered a cow stands by the entrance of her home. — AP

MOB KILLING OVER BEEF PRE-PLANNED

NEW DELHI: Government investigators said yesterday the mob killing of a Muslim man over rumors he slaughtered a cow was premeditated, and not a spontaneous act stemming from heightened emotion and religious devotion as many Hindu nationalist politicians have claimed. The killing of Mohammed Akhlaq in north India last month has sparked furious debate about religious tolerance within India and what role Indian politicians play in defusing or exacerbating communal tension.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been criticized for not saying enough, or not saying it quickly enough. Two weeks after the attack, he called it "sad and undesirable" but questioned why the central government should be expected to weigh in rather than the state government. Senior officials from his Bharatiya Janata Party described the attacking mob as "innocents" or the attack as an "accident" that was either under-

standable or justified.

Hindus consider cows to be sacred, and for many, eating beef is taboo. The debate - highlighted by Indian media headlines about similar attacks and editorials on religious intolerance - has forced the nation into a period of soul-searching that many have said is needed to reaffirm India's secular identity.

'Hapless family'

Amid the uproar, the National Commission for Minorities sent three investigators to Bisada village, on the outskirts of Delhi, to investigate the attack. The team concluded in its report that the mob violence against Akhlaq and his family - his son was badly beaten - had been planned and a Hindu temple was used "to exhort people of one community to attack a hapless family."

Nothing provoked attack, other than the temple's announcement that beef had been found at Akhlaq's house, commission member Farida Abdullah Khan said. "He had no idea, but enough people were there to attack the family and kill one man and grievously injure his son," Khan said. The fact that so many people amassed within minutes "at a time when most villagers claimed they were asleep, seems to point to some premeditated planning," the report said.

Laboratory tests later showed the meat in Akhlaq's refrigerator was goat, but that news made little impact. The commission's report, which is separate from an ongoing investigation by police, gives fuel to those who allege that Hindu hard-liners, encouraged by having a Hindu nationalist party government, are using religious sentiment to whip up anger against India's minorities. Muslims are the largest minority at 13 percent.

President Pranab Mukherjee has repeatedly appealed for tolerance. "May compassion, love and brotherhood prevail over all forces of obscurantism and evil that seek to divide us," he said Tuesday. Hindus make up more than 80 percent of India's 1.25-billion population, and many have reveled in Modi's championing Hindu culture through measures like hosting the first international yoga day. Many Indian states banned cow slaughter long ago and hard-liners want a national ban.

The issue has sparked violent protests in the mostly Muslim region of Kashmir after a Hindu mob fatally set a teenager on fire last week over rumors he slaughtered cows. Another attack, near the Himalayan town of Shimla, saw a mob beat a man to death and injure four others over rumors that they were smuggling cows. — AP



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TWO CHINESE DIPLOMATS SHOT DEAD IN PHILIPPINES

MANILA: China's consul general in the Philippines' second biggest city was wounded and two of his staff members were killed yesterday during a lunchtime gun attack at a restaurant, police said. Two other Chinese at the lunch, a consular officer and her husband, were arrested on suspicion of involvement in the shootings, national police spokesman Wilben Mayor told AFP.

Officers retrieved a semi-automatic .45 Colt pistol and three bullet shells from the scene, he added. Police said the attack occurred at 1:30pm at Lighthouse, a popular restaurant that serves Filipino food in Cebu, the trading capital of the central Philippines

and the nation's second biggest city. Staff at the upmarket restaurant told AFP a group of nine people had gathered in a private room to celebrate the birthday of the consul general, Song Ronghua.

Restaurant cashier Remedios Rivalde, 27, said she was at work at the cash register outside of the function room when she heard gunshots. "I dived under the counter and covered my ears. Then there were other shots that followed," Rivalde said by phone.

She said the reservation had been made shortly before lunch for the consul general's birthday, and the group had ordered a banquet that included popular local delicacies

such as tuna head, shrimps and roasted pork. "They ordered a lot of food, but no liquor," she said.

Bullet through the neck

Song was shot in the neck, but his injuries were not believed to be life threatening and he was in a stable condition in hospital, regional police chief Tom Banas told AFP. "The bullet went clear through (his neck)," Banas said. Police identified his dead staff members as Sun Shan, the deputy consul general, and Hui Li, a finance officer. Banas said the husband and wife were arrested without any resistance. But he said they had

not immediately co-operated with police, and so the details of the shootings and the motives were not known.

"They claimed they cannot speak English. Maybe they don't want to give a statement," he said, adding they had a lawyer. Lighthouse manager Stephen John Patero said staff did not see the shooting because only the guests were in the private room at the time.

But he said waiters who served them beforehand had heard the guests shouting at each other. "They are all friends who apparently figured in an argument," he said. Song was born in October, 1962, according

to a biography published on news website Sina News.

He has been a career diplomat, joining the foreign ministry in 1987 then serving in New Zealand, Japan and Hong Kong before his current posting, according to the biography. A spokeswoman at the Chinese embassy in Manila, Li Lingxiao, said she could not yet comment. "Our embassy is still verifying the facts. We'll update you as soon as I have anything new," Li said in a text message to AFP. Philippine foreign ministry spokesman Charles Jose also said he had no comment, as authorities were still determining what happened. — AFP



NORTH KOREA: South Korean Song Young-geun, 60, (left) arm-wrestles against his North Korean uncle Son Dong Ho, 81, during the Separated Family Reunion Meeting at Diamond Mountain resort. — AFP

KOREAN REUNIONS HAMPERED BY RESTRICTIONS, MONITORING MEETINGS HAVE OFTEN ENDED WITH DEEP REGRETS

SEOUL: The Koreans tearfully reuniting this week after being torn apart by war for six decades yearn for details about their loved ones. But with strict rules and constant hovering by North Korean officials, the brief reunions have often ended with deep regrets over questions not asked and future meetings never to come.

Participants from democratic, wealthy South Korea travel with a guidebook warning about what not to say to relatives from impoverished, authoritarian North Korea: nothing about food shortages and economic malaise; nothing that questions the competence of three generations of Kim dictators.

"I just looked at their faces and asked questions like how many family members were still living in the North," said Jang Choon, 83, who was reunited with his younger brother and sister at the last round of the reunions before this week's. "We should have been given more time," said Jang, who still weeps whenever he thinks about the siblings he saw in February of last year but knows he'll likely never see again.

After the tears and hugs, genuine conversation is often tough, maybe impossible, during the reunions at North Korea's Diamond Mountain resort. Here's a look at what past participants say happens when the journalists covering the reunions, which end Monday after two three-day rounds, leave and long-lost families from two

starkly different countries have time to themselves:

South Korean rules

South Koreans often want to ask whether their North Korean relatives have been well fed despite the North's chronic food shortages. But the guidebook issued by South Korea's Red Cross, which organizes the reunions with its North Korean counterpart, warns that could provoke the North.

"It's desirable to avoid an expression that North Korea might misunderstand ... even though you are curious," said the guidebook issued before last year's reunions. Seoul says this year's participants received essentially identical warnings. It said South Korean participants must understand that "political comments, like criticism of North Korea's leadership and economic situation, may put your family members in a difficult situation."

It went on to advise South Koreans to try to "naturally" change the topic when their North Korean relatives sing propaganda songs or make political comments.

North Korean surveillance

South Koreans who attended last year's reunions said their North Korean relatives appeared to be watched constantly by North Korean officials at the reunion center. "I stifled some questions that I wanted to ask," said Kim Se-rin, an 86-year-old South Korean.

Jeon Ho-yeon, an 82-year-old South Korean, said his 79-year-old North Korean brother tried to preach to him about the benefits of North Korea's socialist system. Jeon said he awkwardly tried to change the subject to family topics at the time. Jeon said they later went to a hotel room to get away from reporters and TV cameras. But he still worried about what he said in the room because South Korean officials had earlier told him that even those conversations might be monitored.

"I had a lot of things I wanted to ask, like about how my father and mother had lived before they died, but I couldn't because I had to be sensitive about everything," Jeon said. Park Chun-jae, 73, said his North Korean nephews, whatever the topic, seemed determined to tell him of the high quality of their lives in North Korea. "I wondered whether they were taught to say that, although it wasn't a bad thing to hear," Park said.

Stilted words, fleeting time

Some South Korean participants said it was difficult to have genuine, in-depth talks because of the South Korean-imposed restrictions, worries about monitoring and intense media coverage. "We didn't have any talks worth remembering," said Jeon said. "I saw his face, learned that my parents were dead, but that was it."

Like this year's reunions, the Koreans who reunited last year weren't allowed

to sleep in the same room and were allowed a total of only 12 hours together. Many said they ran out of time before they could find out what kind of lives their loved ones led.

"We should have been allowed to sleep in the same room," Jang said. "It had been so long since we'd seen each other that we just cried when we met. But then it was like the meeting was over just as we managed to stop weeping."

"They've changed so much. They used to be kids romping together every day, but we could only reunite after our hair turned nearly white," Jang said.

South Koreans can't give North Korean relatives luxury items because of UN Security Council resolutions imposed over Pyongyang's nuclear and long-range rocket tests. Gifts like alcohol, cosmetics and watches that cost less than \$88 are allowed; gold, silver and pearls are banned. Cash gifts have to be in US dollars and must not exceed \$1,500. North Koreans usually give local liquor to their South Korean relatives.

Some South Koreans believed that if they gave too much money North Korean officials would confiscate it. Jeon said he spent \$880 packing two bags full of clothes, medicine and everyday items for his brother. He also gave him \$500 in cash. "He didn't show much gratitude," said Jeon, laughing. "I later learned that most of the other South Koreans gave about \$1,000 to their relatives." — AP

CHURCH LEADERS CONVICTED OF FRAUD IN MUSIC VENTURE

SINGAPORE: Six Christian church leaders in Singapore were convicted of fraud yesterday for using \$36 million to turn the pastor's glamorous singer wife into a global pop star to attract more followers. After a two-year trial that captivated Singapore with tales of lavish spending and financial deceit, pastor Kong Hee and five aides were found guilty of diverting Sg\$24 million (\$17 million) to finance his wife Sun Ho's singing career, which failed to take off.

The six, who insisted the project was conceived for religious reasons, were also found guilty of misappropriating another Sg\$26 million from the evangelical City Harvest Church (CHC) to cover their tracks, prosecutors said. Ho, 43, who appeared in a 2007 music video with rapper Wyclef Jean in an attempt to cross over from Mandarin pop and reach a wider English-language audience, was not charged. The church tried to justify the use of the money saying Ho's music could be used to attract followers overseas, and spent large sums on high glitz music videos featuring skimpily clad dancers. Judge See Kee Oon found pastor Kong and one other church leader guilty of criminal breach of trust. The four others, including the church accountants, were convicted of varying counts of criminal breach of trust as well as the falsification of accounts.

Criminal breach of trust carries a maximum penalty of life imprisonment, but judicial sources said the actual prison term is limited to a maximum of 20 years. The six used a practice called "round-tripping", channeling money allotted for a building fund into sham bonds in linked companies, to finance Ho's music career, prosecutors said. They also falsified church accounts to make it appear as though the bonds were redeemed.

"The accused persons chose to engage in covert operations and conspiratorial cover-ups. They contrived to create cover stories and clever

round-trips concealing their unlawful conduct," Judge See said in court. He said there was "no evidence of any wrongful gain" by the accused, but stressed that this was not an issue. All six were released on bail until sentencing, with Kong's bail set at Sg\$1.0 million.

Showbiz ambitions

The church had defended Ho's attempt to become an international music star as a campaign to spread God's message to the secular world through music. About 100 people, mostly church members, packed the courtroom, some having queued overnight to get a seat, and sat in stunned silence as the guilty verdict was read out.

Kong, who founded the church with Ho in 1989, declined to answer questions after the hearing. His wife, who showed up for the verdict in a grey pantsuit and sporting heavily highlighted hair, thanked followers in a Facebook post.

"Pastor Kong and I are humbled by the tremendous outpouring of love and support shown to us during this time. We thank you for your prayers," it read. The post quickly garnered hundreds of comments, many mocking her and the church leaders, while others expressed support. The pastor and his wife were once a high-profile couple who led the expansion of their congregation to more than 17,500 members, according to a 2014 annual report. But they quickly fell from grace after charges were filed in 2013 and the court was told how church funds were spent on elaborate music videos, marketing and a luxurious lifestyle. Ho moved to Los Angeles in 2009 and tried to break into Hollywood music circles before the scandal scuttled her showbiz ambitions. Singapore is predominantly Buddhist and Taoist but some local Christian churches have amassed large fortunes thanks to the city-state's affluent population. — AFP



SINGAPORE: This combo picture of six City Harvest Church (CHC) leaders, the founder Kong Hee (top center), Serina Wee, former finance manager (top left), Sharon Tan (top right), Tan Ye Peng (bottom left), John Lam (bottom center), and Chew Eng Han (bottom right) arrive at the district state courts. — AFP

THAI FORTUNETELLER, POLICEMAN CHARGED WITH ROYAL DEFAMATION

BANGKOK: Three Thais including a well-known fortune teller and a senior police officer were charged with royal defamation yesterday, as cases under a controversial lese majeste law continue to surge in the junta-ruled kingdom.

Soothsayer Suriyan Sucharitpholwong, 53, his assistant, and Police Major Prakrom Warunprapa were charged under the legislation which carries up to 15 years in jail for anyone convicted of insulting the king, queen, heir or regent.

"The NCPO (junta) has found a group of people committed wrongdoing by making false claims of closeness to the highest institution (the monarchy) to gain benefits," said a statement from the Bangkok military court where the three accused were brought yesterday in handcuffs. "Their wrongdoing has widely damaged the highest institution," it added, saying the fortune teller had confessed to the crime while the other two men denied all charges.

The police officer, 44, faces additional charges including possessing unlicensed firearms and falsifying documents. The statement did not elaborate on how the men defamed the monarchy as is common in lese majeste cases in Thailand. Even in cases where the minutiae of the allegations are known, journalists must routinely self-censor as repeating details of charges can mean breaking the law.

Falling fowl

Thailand's King Bhumibol Adulyadej, 87, is protected by one of the world's toughest royal defamation laws and prosecutions under it have skyrocketed since last May's coup. Those who have fallen foul of the law since the coup have largely fallen into two camps—people who criticise the monarchy and those accused of falsely claiming connections to the royal family.

The latter category includes more than half a dozen relatives of Crown Prince Maha Vajiralongkorn's former wife, Princess Srirasmi, who have been jailed. The prince divorced Srirasmi and stripped her of her royal title late last year following allegations some of her relatives, including a senior police officer, had run a corrupt patronage network. Critics of the law say it is used to pursue political opponents of the country's military and royalist elite. Thai junta leader Prayut Chan-O-Cha has vowed to crack down on lese-majeste. On Tuesday he told reporters that those who defame the monarchy are "destroying everything for unlimited democracy".

Prayut led the military takeover last year as then army chief, claiming it was vital to seize power from Yingluck Shinawatra's elected government to restore order after months of protests against her administration. — AFP

DEATH TOLL FROM STORM IN PHILIPPINES CLIMBS TO 39

CABANATUAN: The death toll from a storm that battered the Philippines' main island over the weekend has climbed to at least 39, officials said yesterday. Tropical Storm Koppu, which barreled ashore as a powerful typhoon in the

northeastern Philippines on Sunday before weakening, forced more than 100,000 villagers into emergency shelters and destroyed rice fields ready for harvest.

The storm blew away from the main

island of Luzon on Tuesday and was over the Balintang Channel in the country's northern tip yesterday morning, with winds of 55 kilometers per hour near its center, according to the government's weather bureau. At least 39 people were

killed in the storm, mostly due to drowning, landslides, fallen trees and collapsed walls, said civilian defense officials. Several people were reported missing and more than 500,000 were affected by Koppu, including 107,000 who fled to evacuation centers.

Disaster-response agencies said the rain dumped by the storm in the mountainous north flowed down rivers and flooded villages downstream in provinces including Pangasinan, where thousands of residents were evacuated Monday. "We saw that there was lot of rain that fell in the mountains. There was a possibility of flash floods so residents were evacuated to safer grounds," said Melchito Castro of the regional Office of Civil Defense.

An initial government estimate showed damage to agriculture and infrastructure amounted to at least 5.3 billion pesos (\$115 million). Koppu, Japanese for "cup" was the 12th storm this year to batter the Philippines, one of the world's most disaster-prone countries. In 2013, Typhoon Haiyan leveled entire towns in the central Philippines, leaving more than 7,300 people dead or missing. — AP



MACAPAGAL: Levelyn Alcoriza leaves her flood—submerged house to evacuate to Balzain Elementary School. — AFP



A resident fishes yesterday by the river in Palangkaraya city, one of worst-hit by haze in central Kalimantan province. Indonesian forest and agricultural fires cloaking Southeast Asia in acrid haze are spewing more greenhouse gases into the atmosphere each day than all US economic activity, according to an environmental watchdog. — AFP

BIBI SLAMMED OVER REMARKS ON HOLOCAUST

Continued from Page 1

More than two years earlier, in Jan 1939, Hitler had addressed the Reichstag, Nazi Germany's parliament, and spoke clearly about his determination to exterminate the "Jewish race".

"To say that the mufti was the first to mention to Hitler the idea to kill or burn the Jews is not correct," Dina Porat, a professor at Tel Aviv University and the chief historian of Yad Vashem, Israel's Holocaust memorial museum, told Israel Radio. "The idea to rid the world of the Jews was a central theme in Hitler's ideology a long, long time before he met the mufti."

It is not clear why Netanyahu decided to launch into the issue now, but his remarks came with tensions between Israelis and Palestinians at a new peak, particularly over a Jerusalem holy site overseen by the current mufti. A German government spokesman, asked about Netanyahu's comments, said the Holocaust was Germany's responsibility and there was no need for another view on it.

Responding to the criticism, Netanyahu said yesterday there was "much evidence" to back up his accusations against Hussein, including testimony by a deputy of Adolf Eichmann, an architect of the Holocaust, at the Nuremberg war crimes trials after World War Two. Netanyahu, in a statement issued by his office, did not name the aide, but he seemed to be referring to Eichmann assistant Dieter Wisliceny, who has been quot-

ed in news reports dating back to the late 1940s as having told the war crimes court that Hussein repeatedly suggested the extermination of European Jews to Nazi leaders.

Saeb Erekat, the secretary-general of the Palestine Liberation Organization, accused Netanyahu of using the human tragedy of the Holocaust to try to score political points against Palestinians. "It is a sad day in history when the leader of the Israeli government hates his neighbor so much that he is willing to absolve the most notorious war criminal in history, Adolf Hitler, of the murder of six million Jews," Erekat said. At a meeting with the visiting UN chief Ban Ki-moon, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas accused Netanyahu of trying to rewrite history. "Now he says Hitler is not responsible," he said.

Netanyahu dismissed any such notion. "It's absurd. I had no intention of absolving Hitler of his satanic responsibility for the annihilation of European Jewry. Hitler is the one who made the decision," he said. But he added: "At the same time, it is absurd to ignore the role the mufti ... played in encouraging and motivating Hitler" and other Nazi leaders to take such action. Hussein was sought for war crimes but never appeared at the Nuremberg trials, and later died in Beirut. Even Netanyahu's defence minister, close ally Moshe Yaalon, said the prime minister had got it wrong. "It certainly wasn't (Hussein) who invented the Final Solution," he told Israel's Army Radio. "That was the evil brainchild of Hitler himself." — Agencies

TEXAS TEEN ARRESTED OVER CLOCK IS MOVING...

Continued from Page 1

Want to bring it to the White House? We should inspire more kids like you to like science. It's what makes America great," Obama had tweeted.

But in recent weeks, the teenager has been traveling the world, tweeting photos of visits to New York, Sudan, Qatar and Makkah. Ahmed earlier this week told AP that he had visited Google and Facebook, along with other companies and institutions. He also visited the President of Sudan Omar Al-Bashir, which has prompted some criticism because Bashir is wanted by International Criminal Court on charges of genocide and war crimes for atrocities linked to the Darfur fighting. Ahmed's father is a Sudanese immigrant to the US and a former presidential candidate in Sudan who ran opposing Bashir.

Before attending "Astronomy Night" at the White House on Monday, where he chatted briefly with President Barack Obama, Ahmed said he was grateful. He said the lesson of his experience is:

"Don't judge a person by the way they look. Always judge them by their heart." "So happy, I can't believe that I met the #president of the #unitedstates!!!" he tweeted, in all caps, alongside a photo which showed Obama hugging Ahmed. On Tuesday at the US Capitol, Ahmed stood alongside California Rep Mike Honda as the Democrat praised the teen, saying Ahmed had used his negative experience to raise awareness about racial and ethnic profiling. Honda and more than two dozen other congressmen sent a letter to Attorney General Loretta Lynch last month calling on the Department of Justice to investigate Ahmed's detention and arrest. — Agencies

ASSAD MEETS PUTIN IN SURPRISE TRIP

Continued from Page 1

The strikes are reported to have killed 370 people so far, a third of them civilians, according to a monitoring group.

Russia says the campaign targets the extremist Islamic State group and others it describes as "terrorists". But rebels and the West accuse Moscow of seeking to prop up Assad and of striking moderate and Islamist opposition forces rather than just jihadists. Putin's spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Assad's "working visit" was at the invitation of the Kremlin. The Syrian presidency said yesterday that Assad had returned to Damascus.

Peskov declined to say whether the "lengthy" talks, which included a one-on-one between the leaders and a joint dinner, brought any firm results, or whether Assad's fate had been discussed. Russia's foreign and defence ministers also participated in a meeting between the two leaders. Putin said Russia was ready to do all it could to help secure peace in Syria, which has been ravaged by the conflict that began with anti-government protests in March 2011. More than 250,000 people have been killed and millions forced from their homes, sparking a mass migration of around four million refugees. "We are ready to make our contribution not only during armed hostilities in the fight against terrorism but also during a political process," Putin said.

Assad also stressed the importance of "further political steps" and praised Russia for its military and political efforts, the Kremlin said. "I need to say that the political steps which Russia has taken since the start of the crisis prevented the events in Syria from developing along a more tragic scenario," he said. Putin also emphasised that the Syrian people should decide their country's fate, a thinly veiled jab at the United States and other opposition backers who insist Assad must go in any peaceful settlement. "Based on positive results in military operations at the end of the day a long-term settlement can be achieved on the basis of a political process with the participation of all political forces, ethnic and religious groups," the Kremlin strongman said. "And ultimately, the final word no doubt should rest solely with the Syrian people."

After the talks, Russia said Lavrov would meet with his US, Saudi and Turkish counterparts to discuss Syria in Vienna today. And Putin spoke with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Saudi Arabia's King Salman about Assad's visit, the Kremlin said. Saudi Arabia, Turkey and the United States are all key backers of the Syrian opposition and have criticized Moscow's military intervention in support of Assad's regime. They have also long insisted Assad cannot be part of Syria's future, though some experts see a softening of the international line on whether the embattled leader could stay on during a political transition. — AFP

KUWAIT, FRANCE SIGN €2.5BN CHOPPER DEAL

Continued from Page 1

technology and health firms, a French government source said, in cooperation with BPIFrance, a public sector body dedicated to investment. France said it will meanwhile build a €100 million oncology centre in Kuwait.

Kuwait and France also signed a number of other agreements, memorandums of understanding and declarations of intent at the conclusion of bilateral talks. The two countries signed an agreement involving the French institute for archeology and social sciences. They signed

declarations of intent on availing Radio France International the right to broadcast its programs on Kuwaiti airwaves, on cooperation between French and Kuwaiti financial institutes, and on cooperation between the Kuwait National Guard and its French counterpart. Furthermore, the countries signed an educational agreement between Kuwait's Public Authority for Applied Education and Training and the Paris Academy and another regarding water desalination between the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research and a French university. — Agencies

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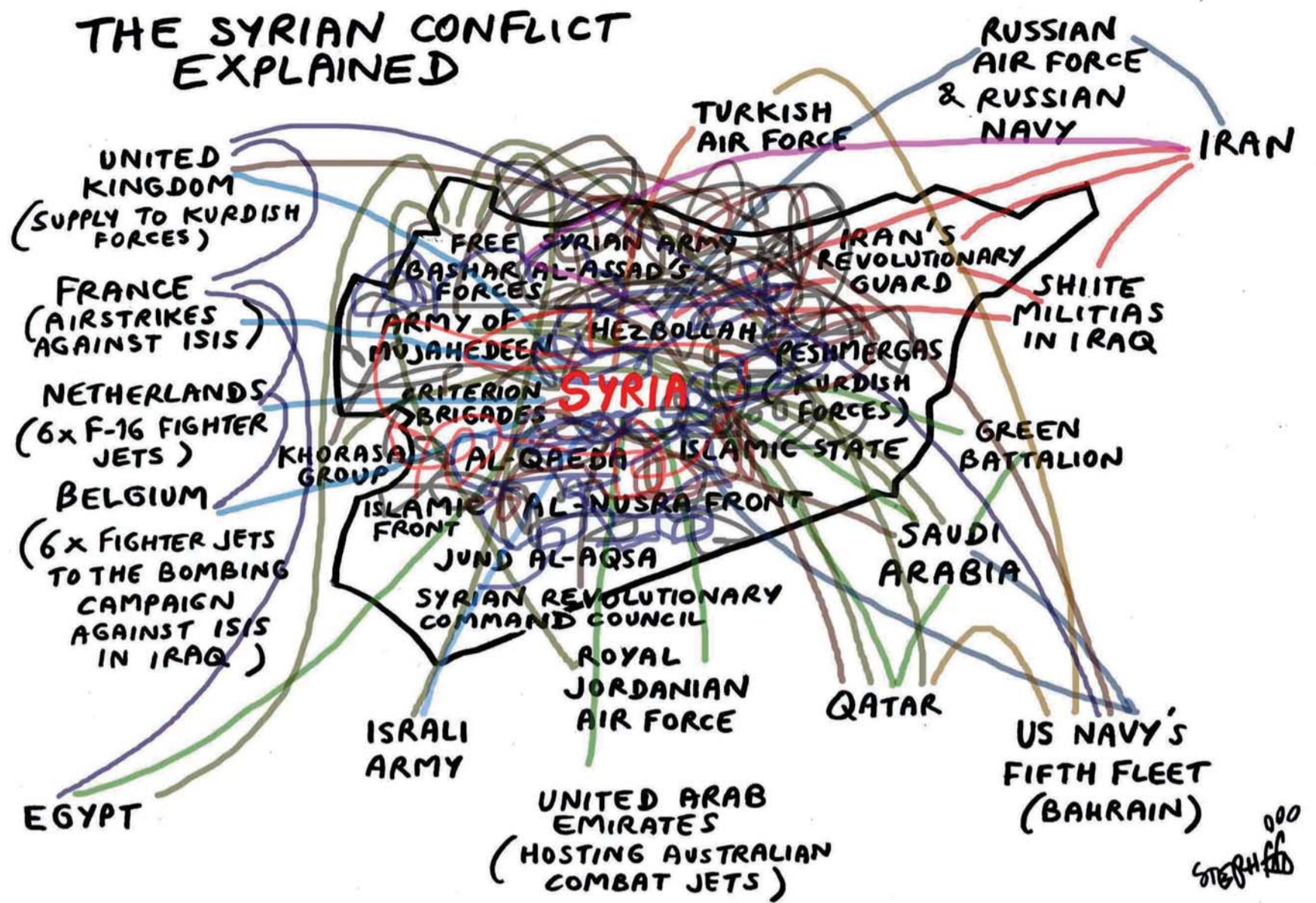
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Focus
POOR TURNOUT TO STRENGTHEN SISI'S HAND
 By Lin Noueihed and Michael Georgy

Turnout was so low in the first round of Egypt's parliamentary elections, that satirist Bassem Youssef derided it as an ingenious strategy to show the world Egypt had rid itself of its notorious overcrowding. Empty polling stations highlight disillusionment with Egypt's chaotic political transition but could have the surprise effect of bolstering President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi's authority by suggesting that, four years after they revolted against one-man-rule, Egyptians still look to the presidency as the main seat of power.

Voting in the first of two election rounds took place on Sunday and Monday but lack of interest from voters, even many who support the former general, could be interpreted as a green light to consolidate his own rule. "This adds to his mandate and takes away from that of the parliament. This is part of this depoliticisation process within which Sisi rose to power. All in all, I don't think he is a loser from what happened," said Amr Adly, non-resident scholar at the Carnegie Middle East Center.

When the Tahrir Square uprising ended Hosni Mubarak's 30-year rule in Feb 2011, critics likened him to a modern-day pharaoh, lamenting the series of strongmen that have risen from the military since 1952 to lead the most populous Arab country. The democratic transition was meant to widen political participation, increase oversight of the presidency and ensure Egyptians would never be ruled by one man again. Fast forward 16 months and the first freely-elected main chamber, then dominated by the Muslim Brotherhood, was dissolved by a court order, leaving Egypt without a parliament ever since.

As military chief, Sisi ousted President Mohamed Morsi, a Brotherhood member, a year later, in 2013, after mass protests against his year in office. He banned Egypt's oldest Islamist movement and launched the bloodiest crackdown on dissent in its modern history. Sisi won backing for Morsi's ouster from other opposition forces with a roadmap to democracy that promised parliamentary elections in six months. But critics say Egypt lost its way when it decided to hold presidential elections first, putting Sisi rather than parliament in control of the democratic transition.

In the absence of a parliament, Sisi has wielded legislative power, passing several hundred laws by decree, including some that curb the right to protest and widen the remit of military courts. The new legislature is required by the constitution to approve this within two weeks, putting pressure on lawmakers to rubber stamp the lot to avoid a constitutional crisis. Official figures have yet to be published for this week's poll, and another round of voting takes place on Nov 22-23. But a low turnout could leave the legislature, whatever its makeup, without a popular mandate to overturn Sisi's laws.

Sisi won 97 percent of the presidential vote in mid-2014 with an official turnout of 47.5 percent after elections were extended to a third day following a slow start. "If parliament comes into session with such a low turnout, the authorities could claim it would never have popular legitimacy comparable to Sisi's," said H A Hellyer, Associate Fellow at the Royal United Services Institute in London. "Parliamentary elections were never a priority... They have to take place, but this political dispensation was always more interested in the presidential and constitutional votes."

Stillborn Parliament
 Approved by popular referendum in early 2014 - after Morsi's ouster but before Sisi won a presidential vote - Egypt's constitution envisages the transition leading to a semi-presidential system with an empowered parliament. On paper, Egypt's new legislative chamber has the authority to impeach the president, question the prime minister and withdraw its confidence in him. It must approve all laws. Yet ahead of elections, speculation was rife that the new parliament would revise the constitution to curb some of those powers and hand prerogatives back to the presidency. Any constitutional change would have to be approved by popular referendum.

Nevertheless, a low turnout could bolster politicians who have suggested rolling back the remaining accomplishments of the 2011 revolt. With the main opposition Muslim Brotherhood branded a terrorist organisation and its leaders in jail alongside youth activists at the forefront of the 2011 revolt, ballot papers offered voters a multitude of names but little genuine choice. The legislature will comprise 568 elected members - 448 entering as individuals and 120 through winner-takes-all lists. Critics say the emphasis on individuals makes it more likely for figures with cash and connections to dominate, much as they did under Mubarak. Indeed many members of Mubarak's now-defunct National Democratic Party (NDP) are campaigning once more. Brotherhood supporters have boycotted, as have many secular government critics. A list of liberal and socialist parties that would have been the main opposition choice eventually withdrew, leaving the field dominated by Sisi loyalists. Preliminary results suggest For the Love of Egypt, a loyalist coalition led by a former intelligence officer, has already picked up 60 list seats. —Reuters

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NATO SEARCHES FOR RESPONSE TO RUSSIA

By Robin Emmott

The brass band played, the flags waved and Western generals delivered speeches brimming with resolve as NATO began big war games in the central Mediterranean this week. But the military display seemed faintly unreal while Russian warplanes were bombing Syrian rebels a few hundred kilometres to the east in a coordinated action with President Bashar Al-Assad's armed forces and Iran's Revolutionary Guards. NATO, which waged an air campaign to help Libyan rebels oust Muammar Gaddafi, then left that country to descend into anarchy, is not a player in Syria and is watching uncomfortably as its former Cold War adversary Russia widens its role there.

The speed and scope of Moscow's intervention in Syria's four-year-old civil war, coming after Russia's seizure of Crimea and support for pro-Kremlin rebels in eastern Ukraine last year, wrong-footed the US-led alliance and has heightened soul-searching about its future. "The West has been tactically surprised. I don't think they anticipated what (Russian President Vladimir) Putin would get up to," said Nick Witney, a former European Defence Agency chief now at the European Council on Foreign Relations.

NATO last year set in motion its biggest modernisation since the Cold War. But the alliance's political and military elite now see the need for a broader plan that goes beyond deterring Russia in the east. They call it thinking "360 degrees". "We need to develop a strategy for all kinds of crises, at 360 degrees," said Gen. Denis Mercier, the Frenchman who heads NATO's command focused on future threats. "We need to react

in the south, in the east, the north, all around."

NATO's problem is that such a strategy is still embryonic while developments in Europe's neighbourhood are moving faster than the ponderous approach of the 28-nation defence pact, created in 1949 to deter the Soviet threat. From the Baltics, where Russia has a naval base in Kaliningrad, through the Black Sea and annexed Crimea, to Syria, Moscow has stationed anti-aircraft and anti-ship missiles able to cover huge areas. NATO officials see the emergence of a strategy of defensive zones of influence, with surface-to-air missile batteries and anti-ship missiles that could disrupt NATO moving across air, land and sea or deny it access to some areas. Unconventional warfare techniques are part of the equation, ranging from unidentified troops - the so-called "green men" without insignia on their uniforms seen in Crimea and eastern Ukraine - to disinformation operations and cyber attacks.

Overestimating Russia?
 NATO also faces failing states, war, Islamist militancy and a refugee crisis at Europe's borders. That is partly a result of the European Union's inability to stabilize its neighbourhood economically. But critics say it is also due to US President Barack Obama's aversion to entanglement in Middle East wars in the wake of the US invasion of Iraq in 2003. That has led to a decline in Washington's influence across the region. While NATO is drawing up a multi-layered deterrence plan, officials acknowledge a risk that Russia might again move faster to pre-empt Western action. For instance, it could move warships from the Eastern

Mediterranean to the Libyan coast to hamper any possible NATO effort to support a government of national unity in the future.

Still, some say NATO has been here before and any talk of a lack of preparedness is overblown. Past bouts of questioning of the alliance's relevance led to operations in the Balkans and in Afghanistan - a significant departure from 40 years of Cold War deterrence in which NATO forces never operated "out of area". A NATO official rejected any suggestion the alliance was passively watching Russia's military build-up in Syria, noting that three allies - the United States, France and Turkey - were involved individually in the coalition waging air strikes against Islamic State rebels in Syria and Iraq.

Some experts see a danger of overestimating Putin, who oversees an economy weakened by Western sanctions and lower oil prices and cannot match NATO military power over the long term. "We should be under no illusions about Putin's hostility to the West but also be very careful not to over react to what a damaged Russian economy can produce in the way of military capability," said Witney, a former British defence planner.

Looking To Amazon, DHL
 NATO's public response is to test its new spearhead force of 5,000 troops, ready to move within a few days. Over the next five weeks, the alliance is carrying out its biggest military exercises since 2002, with 36,000 troops, 230 military units, 140 aircraft and more than 60 ships, to certify the force. Such measures, agreed at a NATO summit in Wales last year following Russia's annexation of Crimea, are aimed chiefly at

reassuring eastern allies that Russia will not be able to invade them too. There is still debate about whether the spearhead force could be used in North Africa or beyond.

Small command posts with NATO flags from Estonia to Bulgaria and the spearhead force are ready. But one NATO diplomat called such measures "the minimum necessary", and Gen. Mercier said the so-called Readiness Action Plan was "just a first step". "We have worked on reassuring our allies," said Gen. Philip Breedlove, NATO's supreme commander in Europe. "We are not exactly sure what it will take to work in the future," he said when asked what NATO's modern deterrents might look like.

The next NATO summit next July in Warsaw is the target date for proposals for more modern, agile deterrents. Such ideas include setting up NATO-flagged command posts on the southern flank and adapting the spearhead force for maritime and air operations. They could also feature a permanent naval force to patrol the Mediterranean and work more closely with the European Union and the United Nations in stabilizing fragile states. Another idea involves including a nuclear deterrent in training exercises, something Britain supports but others, such as Germany, worry would be seen as a provocation by Russia.

NATO's Gen. Mercier even suggested looking to companies such as courier DHL Worldwide Express and online retailer Amazon.com to improve NATO's deployment speed. "The question is how to have new ideas to make deployments easier. We should look at what the civilian world does, to DHL and Amazon. How do they improve their logistics?" Mercier said. —Reuters

SECTARIAN HATE TAKES ROOT IN YEMEN

By Angus McDowall

Mohsen Saleh Al-Muradi does not just want to drive the Shiite Houthi fighters out of Yemen's capital 130 km from his home town, he wants to hunt them down and stamp them out. "I will keep fighting all the way to Maran," said the slight, moustached native of the north Yemen town of Marib, wearing a bright red headscarf and a bullet pouch on his chest, referring to the Houthis highland stronghold. "I want to trample them under my feet."

In a messy conflict of many fronts, the forces backed by wealthy neighbouring Gulf states against the Houthi fighters that control Sanaa often have little in common with each other and scant enthusiasm for the leader on whose behalf they are ostensibly fighting: President Abd Rabbu Mansour Al-Hadi. What they increasingly share is a visceral sectarian hatred for Shiites, a dangerous new trait in a country where different interpretations of Islam co-existed for centuries.

The Houthis fought for two decades on behalf of the Zaydi Shiite sect which ruled a kingdom in north Yemen for 1,000 years until it was toppled in a military coup in 1962. Since last year Houthi fighters emerged as the most powerful force in the country, after forming an alliance with their former nemesis, ex-President Ali Abdullah Saleh, himself born a Zaydi but long a leader of the republican political establishment opposed to the old monarchy.

In Marib's market, the different backgrounds of the hundreds of armed men who said they had come there to fight against the Houthis shows the complexities of a war in which Yemen's old tribal hierarchy and its sectarian harmony have eroded. Some were from the Red Sea coastal plain of Tihamah and its terraced mountain hinterland of Jebel Raymah, others had come from Sanaa, from the northern highland areas of Hajjar and Amran, or from Dhamar, a city in Yemen's central plateau.

What united them was vehement anger at Saleh, the Houthis and their presumed Shiite ally Iran. Many described the militia using the highly sectarian anti-Shiite term "rejectionists". The Houthis, for their part, typically accuse all their Sunni foes of supporting Islamic State. "The Houthis weren't here before. But they want the whole country. The problem is their religion. It comes from Iran," said Ahmed, a soldier from the Red Sea, mostly Sunni, city of Hodeida. He was wearing a uniform provided by the Saudi-led coalition of Arab countries, who joined the war in March and have helped drive the

Houthis from Aden in the south.

A percussive boom rolls over Marib from rugged mountains to the west, in what is likely to be the next pivotal battlefield as the anti-Houthi fighters try to close in on Sanaa. They are now fighting in the Sirwah region, but may soon move north through Al-Jawf, the fighter said. The war will dictate who rules Yemen, whether it remains a single country and the prospects of ending a human crisis affecting millions in one of the poorest Arab states. It has also become the latest theatre in a wider regional rivalry between Sunni Saudi Arabia and Shiite Iran, whose proxies and allies have killed hundreds of thousands of people in civil wars in Iraq and Syria.

Little Tradition of Hatred
 The sectarian hatred that has consumed much of the Middle East in recent years has traditionally been unheard of in Yemen. Between a fifth and a third of Yemenis are Zaydis, belonging to an ancient branch of Islam that is grouped with Shiites because of the side its followers took in a 7th century dispute over the succession to the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). But unlike the branch of Shiite Islam that later became Iran's state religion, Zaydis never developed major doctrinal differences with mainstream Sunni schools. Many of north Yemen's big tribes have long followed both Zaydi and Sunni Islam without controversy.

A civil war in the 1960s was fought not on sectarian lines, but between supporters of the old Zaydi monarchy, backed by Sunni Saudi Arabia, and republicans aided by Egypt. When the republicans won, some top tribal leaders embraced Sunnism as a way of diminishing the influence of the Zaydi old guard. During his nearly three decades in power, Saleh played down his own Zaydi background, as did other members of the tribal elite that backed him.

From the 1970s onwards, a more explicitly sectarian element was introduced as migrant Yemeni workers in Saudi Arabia embraced its rigid Wahhabi Sunni doctrine, often in response to the stultifying social hierarchy of Yemen's old monarchy. The Saudis, for their part, started a decades-long policy of buying influence in Yemen by distributing patronage to northern tribal sheikhs, and lavishing money on Wahhabi mosques.

Saleh aided the rise of Sunni militant sentiment by cutting a deal with returning veterans of the 1980s jihad against the Soviets in Afghanistan. He recruited Sunni militants to help fight against Communist and Socialist separatists in the

south. Opponents of the Houthis accuse them of seeking to revive the monarchy and promote Iranian influence. The Houthis deny this, casting themselves as a nationwide revolutionary organisation, fighting corruption.

The One with the Money Can Win
 Still, the war has yet to be reduced to a straightforward conflict between Sunnis and Shiites, like those that have unleashed bloodbaths from Damascus to Baghdad. In the mainly Sunni south, many of Hadi's supporters are driven more by regional separatism than sectarianism, though the area does include entrenched Sunni militant groups that have called for battle against the Houthis on religious grounds. In the more religiously mixed north, many anti-Houthi fighters are followers of the Islah party, a political movement which includes Yemen's branch of the Sunni Islamist Muslim Brotherhood and Sunni leaders of historically Zaydi tribes.

Many of the Yemeni soldiers now opposing the Houthis fought against them when Saleh was in power, as members of the 1st Armoured Division led by General Ali Mohsen Al-Ahmar, a senior Islah figure now in exile in Saudi Arabia. Marib's new governor, Sultan al-Arada, is an Islah leader, and the armed forces' Chief of Staff Mohammed Al-Maqdisi is a party sympathiser. Fuad Mohammed Ali Marhaba, a 26-year old veteran of the 1st Armoured Division from Sanaa, now serving in an army uniform provided by the Saudis, says the new battle is a continuation of the old fight: "That was our war. It was against the Houthis. Now we are fighting them again," he said.

The key to the capital is winning the allegiance of tribes in the area. But six months since the Gulf countries joined the conflict, they have yet to secure reliable tribal support. "There's no neat division of tribes. Families will back both sides to ensure they have somebody on the winning side," said Adam Baron, a visiting fellow of the European Council on Foreign Relations. "It makes it very hard for the Saudis to figure out who to empower with money and arms."

A soldier at the Saudi air base in the border town of Sharura, deep in the Empty Quarter desert and a main supply route across the open dunes to Marib 400 km away, said winning the support of tribes would require spending money. "The one with the money can win in that area," he said, standing by a wall map showing Houthi positions in large scale. "You can buy loyalty." —Reuters

NEW CONTRACT EXCITES AMIR

LAHORE: Returning paceman Mohammad Amir yesterday said playing a Twenty20 league in Bangladesh next month will be the first step towards reviving his international career, halted by a spot-fixing ban. The 23-year-old is contracted to feature in the Bangladesh Premier League for Chittagong Vikings starting from November 24 in a pre-draft deal finalised and signed last week. "I am really thankful to the team for choosing me and I will try my best to give them my 100 percent performance and enthrall the Bangladeshi fans," Amir told AFP. "It will be the first step towards reviving my international career." His burgeoning talent, described as the "hottest" in international cricket by legendary Pakistan all-rounder Imran Khan, was halted by a five-year spot-fixing ban in 2011.



Amir, along with former Test captain Salman Butt and fellow bowler Mohammad Asif, was banned for accepting illegal money to orchestrate deliberate no-balls in the Lord's Test against England in 2010. The trio, along with their agent Mazhar Majeed, were also jailed in the UK. In January this year the International Cricket Council allowed Amir to feature in domestic home matches after an amendment to its anti-corruption code which allows all banned players to resume cricket at a lower level a few months prior to the end of their bans. Butt and Asif were not allowed the dispensation.

Amir has been in great form in the qualifying rounds of the Quaid-e-Azam Trophy, taking 34 wickets in just four matches to help Sui Southern Gas qualify for the main tournament. —AFP

AYERZA EYES SCRUM BATTLE

LONDON: For Pumas prop Marcos Ayerza, the battle of the scrums will be another cherry on the cake of Argentina's Rugby World Cup semi-final against Australia on Sunday. "It's another cherry to add to a world championship semi-final (and) a nice challenge to face a team looking to dominate in the scrum," loosehead Ayerza said. "Let's hope it's a great contest."

Ayerza said Australia had changed their attitude towards scrimmaging since former Pumas hooker Mario Ledesma joined coach Michael Cheika's staff as scrum guru.

"What Mario has changed most in the Australia team is the players' heads concerning the set piece," Ayerza told Argentine newspaper La Nacion. "Talking with their tighthead Ben Alexander, he said Argentina's inclusion in the Rugby Championship was changing (Australia's) mentality about the scrum. They have gone from a platform in which to put the ball and play it to preparing to fight for it. They changed drastically in the last year and that's Mario's credit," Ayerza said.

Given the attacking style of both teams, though, an exciting running game is in the offing. "It's great to see an Argentina team playing such good rugby and it's a bonus on top of the passion of our traditional game," said Ayerza, part of the squad that won the bronze medal in 2007. —Reuters

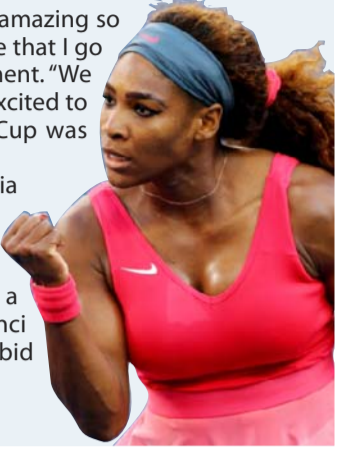
SERENA TO PLAY IN PERTH

AUSTRALIA: World number one Serena Williams will again launch her season at the Hopman Cup in Australia, tournament organisers said yesterday. Williams reached the final of the mixed team event earlier this year with American compatriot John Isner to kick off a superb season where she won the Australian and French Opens and Wimbledon to take her grand slam singles haul to 21.

"Perth definitely started something quite amazing so I think it's only natural and fair and reasonable that I go back to Perth," the 34-year-old said in a statement. "We were so close to winning last year. I'm really excited to be back." Williams added that the Hopman Cup was excellent preparation for the Australian Open.

"In 2016 I want to play doubles in Australia so it will be really exciting for me to get there, play some doubles and get some little experience at the Hopman Cup," she said.

Williams has not played since suffering a shock semi-final defeat to Italian Roberta Vinci at the US Open last month which ended her bid for a rare calendar grand slam. —Reuters



FENNINGER KNEE INJURY OPENS DOOR FOR RIVALS

PARIS: Two-time defending overall World Cup champion Anna Fenninger will miss the entire alpine skiing season after tearing ligaments in her right knee during training yesterday, the Austrian Ski Federation (OSV) announced.

Fenninger suffered a heavy crash during a training run in Sölden ahead of Saturday's season-opening giant slalom and was "airlifted to hospital by helicopter to Innsbruck," according to the OSV.

Tests subsequently revealed the 26-year-old had torn both her anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) and lateral collateral ligament (LCL) as well as her patellar tendon. She will undergo surgery late yesterday. "Season over for Anna Fenninger," announced the Austrian ski governing body, adding that the 26-year-old "will not participate in any races this season."

Fenninger had only returned to training last week after quitting a practice session at the end of September as a precautionary measure due to knee pain.

The three-time world champion and Olympic Super-G gold medalist won her second straight overall World Cup title last year after overhauling Slovenian rival Tina Maze, who announced she would miss the 2015/16 season to consider her future.

With Fenninger and Maze both missing, Lindsey Vonn will sense a real opportunity to earn a fifth World Cup overall title, but the American speed queen's participation in Saturday's curtain raiser is also in doubt.

Vonn, who celebrated her 31st birthday last Sunday, is still working her way back to full fitness from a broken ankle sustained during training in New Zealand on August 13.

"Excited to announce that I'm heading to Europe tomorrow and will be back on snow on Thursday," the four-time World Cup overall champion said Monday on Twitter.

"Just to be clear, I am still undecided on whether I will compete in the first race of the season in Sölden," she added. "Will make a decision Friday."

Eva-Maria Brem enjoyed a breakthrough 2014/15 campaign—the GS specialist recorded five podium finishes—and will hope to build on last year's

second-place finish in the discipline standings as she seeks to fill the void left behind by her compatriot Fenninger.

Mikaela Shiffrin, Lara Gut and Viktoria Rebensburg—all previous winners in Sölden—will also fancy their chances of starting the season on a winning note with the three leading names on the women's circuit all potentially absent.

Marcel Hirscher has long been the dominant force amongst the men with the Austrian bidding for a fifth consecutive overall crown that would see him draw level with current record holder Marc Girardelli. His quest begins with the men's giant slalom on Sunday with the 26-year-old again aiming to make the discipline his own, having won five of the eight races a year ago, including on home snow in Sölden. However, American Ted Ligety, who was slowed by a hand injury last season, leads a pack of challengers out to make life difficult for Hirscher.

"I think my set up is good. I made a lot of adjustments this year and I feel like I've made a good step forward, so we'll see," Ligety, the three-time giant slalom world champion, told media on the Rettenbach glacier.

"It's the same thing with your skiing - you don't really know until you test it in a World Cup, so it's still a little bit of a mystery," he added.

Aksel Lund Svindal, overall champion in 2007 and 2009, has also confirmed his presence this weekend after missing last season's event following a freak injury.

The Norwegian had been forced to pull out of racing when he tore his Achilles tendon while playing football with friends last October before making a remarkable recovery to return in time for February's world championships, placing sixth in both the downhill and Super-G.

Alexis Pinturault, Felix Neureuther and Henrik Kristoffersen will also be keen to remind Hirscher of their credentials at the weekend, while speed specialist Kjetil Jansrud, who finished as overall runner-up last season, will have his sights set on Lake Louise next month when the tour heads to Canada for downhill and Super-G events. —AFP



Anna Fenninger in action in this file photo.



TORONTO: Blue Jays' Josh Donaldson (left) steals second past Kansas City Royals second baseman Ben Zobrist during the first inning in Game 4 of baseball's American League Championship Series. —AP

METS BEAT CUBS, ROYALS ROUT BLUE JAYS

CHICAGO: The New York Mets snapped a 2-2 tie on a wild-pitch strike-out on the way to beating the Chicago Cubs 5-2 on Tuesday, putting them one win away from the World Series.

The victory, keyed by the strong pitching of Jacob deGrom and another home run by Daniel Murphy, gave New York a 3-0 lead in the best-of-seven National League Championship Series.

That margin has been overcome only once in Major League Baseball - by the Red Sox over the Yankees in 2004. The do-or-die Game Four for the Cubs will be played in Chicago on yesterday. One more loss and their quest to end a 70-year absence from the World Series will end.

"The Mets have just pitched exceptionally well," said Cubs manager Joe Maddon. "You've got to give them credit." DeGrom yielded four hits over seven innings with seven strikeouts and a walk, and retired his last 11 batters. Relievers Tyler Clippard and Jeurys Familia went the last two innings as rain began to fall in Chicago.

Home runs set the tone at Wrigley Field, with Murphy improving his remarkable stats sheet with a third-inning blast to center. It was his record-tying fifth postseason game in a row with a homer.

"I've watched a lot of baseball over the years and I don't think I've seen anybody put on this kind of a show on this stage like he has done so far," Mets manager Terry Collins said of Murphy, who hit a career-high 14 homers this season. "The question is, who is this guy? He's been unbelievable. Hopefully he just keeps it up for a few more games."

'BUSINESS AS USUAL'

Chicago rookies Jorge Soler and Kyle Schwarber also homered as the Cubs twice battled back from a run down to make it 2-2 through four innings. For Schwarber, it was his fifth homer of the playoffs.

After Soler's home run in the fourth, deGrom turned unhittable as he set down 11 Cubs in a row. Cubs starter Kyle Hendricks went four innings before manager Maddon went to his bullpen. Starting in the sixth, the Mets took advantage of some breaks. Mets slugger Yoenis Cespedes, who earlier had stolen third base, dashed home when Michael Conforto swung at and

missed a breaking ball in the dirt from reliever Trevor Cahill in the sixth inning with two out.

But the ball bounced past Cubs catcher Miguel Montero, leaving both New York players safe. "I went down to block it but unfortunately, I didn't," Montero said. "It really hurts. I blocked pitches like that many, many times and I didn't block that one."

The Mets added two more runs in the seventh off Travis Wood, aided by loose fielding that led to an infield hit

when Kris Bryant had trouble taking the ball from his mitt, and a single for Cespedes when his line shot glanced off leftfielder Schwarber's glove.

"From my perspective, business as usual tomorrow," said Cubs manager Maddon. "Come out ready to play and take it from there."

In Toronto, the Kansas City Royals pounced early then powered their way to a 14-2 demolition of the Toronto Blue Jays on Tuesday to move one win away from reaching the World Series

for a second consecutive year. The Royals, with the help of a two-run homer from Ben Zobrist, scored four runs in the first inning then sealed the victory with a four-run seventh to seize a commanding 3-1 lead in the best-of-seven American League Championship Series. Game Five is in Toronto late yesterday. "We feel good, we like the way we're playing right now," Royals manager Ned Yost told reporters. "Our offense has been really, really good."

"We have (Edison) Volquez coming back tomorrow. Our defense is always spectacular and our bullpen is primed to go tomorrow too. "We're in really good shape."

The Blue Jays, who won Monday's Game Three, sent 40-year-old knuckleballer R.A. Dickey to the mound with hopes of tying the series.

But the former Cy Young Award winner gave up five runs in 1-2/3 innings that left Toronto in a 5-0 hole they could not overcome despite scoring two runs in the third and Australian reliever Liam Hendriks providing 4-1/3 innings of spotless relief to keep their comeback hopes alive.

But the Royals ended any chance of a rally roughing up 42-year-old LaTroy Hawkins, who came on in the seventh but failed to record an out and gave up three runs on two hits and then roughed up reliever Ryan Tepera for four runs on five hits.

In a final act of desperation to save his pitchers for what a do-or-die Game Five, Blue Jays manager John Gibbons sent utility infielder Cliff Pennington to the hill to get the final out which he finally managed but not before Kansas City pushed across two more runs to complete the rout.

Pennington becomes the first positional player to pitch in a post-season game in the major leagues. Alcides Escobar, who sparked the offense with a leadoff single in the first, finished with four RBIs while Lorenzo Cain had three RBIs and Alex Rios chipped in with three hits.

"It was ugly today, no doubt about that. That's all I can say," summed up Toronto manager John Gibbons. "It's a do or die game for us. But they do it all year. I think these guys will let this one go and they'll show up to play tomorrow. Not a more important game this season, really. I know these guys will be ready." — Reuters



CHICAGO: New York Mets' Juan Lagares (12) celebrates with Daniel Murphy (28) after Game 3 of the National League baseball championship series. — AP

MCDOWELL LOOKS TO SALVAGE SEASON

HONG KONG: Former major winner Graeme McDowell heads to the final tournament of the regular European 2015 tour season looking to salvage some pride and points after what he admits has been a disappointing year. The Hong Kong Open, which runs from Thursday until Sunday, has also attracted a host of other household names including Justin Rose, Dustin Johnson and Patrick Reed as well as late entry Ian Poulter, who replaced Rich Beem at the last minute. The event will also showcase new talents such as 20-year-old Li Hao-tong from China, playing in what he considers his "second home".

McDowell, who won the 2010 US Open, admitted to journalists ahead of the start of the competition he had not had a vintage season,

but insisted his form had started to improve since the PGA Championship. "It's been a quiet year for me, but I feel like I've turned a corner. My game's been strong for the last few months," he said.

"I've got (a tournament in) Turkey next week and I'm looking to finish out strongly and get my confidence back. "It's been a hard year but I'm looking forward to good times ahead." The revitalised Hong Kong Open, for which the prize money has been almost doubled to US\$2million from US\$1.3million last year, has been reinstated as the final event of the regular European Tour season for the first time since 2012.

It means it is now a pivotal date immediately preceding the highly lucrative "Final Four"

playoff series of tournaments in the "Race to Dubai" for which only the top 60 on the money list will qualify. Many competitors in the venerable showpiece in the New Territories, which was first staged in 1959, will be looking anxiously ahead to potential places in the Ryder Cup and the Olympics next year.

The defending champion, Australia's Scott Hend, touched on the importance of clinching victory when he described the impact of winning in 2014.

"It was my first European Tour win," he said. "For me it feels like a bit of a privilege to get back out and play against these guys," he added, gesturing to players such as Rose, the world number seven and 2013 US Open champion, and Johnson, the world number eight, at

a pre-tournament press conference.

"It was great to win here especially with the history behind the tournament." The Australian arrives in Hong Kong in good form having won his seventh Asian Tour title in Macau last week and insists he is not feeling under pressure at the event, which is co-sanctioned by the Asian Tour and European Tour. "It's always nice to have another victory in the bag which sets you up nicely for a good title defence. I'm playing well and I'm feeling good," he said.

But it will be a tough challenge to replicate last year's triumph as he is faced with one of the best fields in recent years with no fewer than 30 Asian Tour champions, including seven merit winners, all preparing to do battle on the greens. One key challenger, big-hitting

American Johnson who agonisingly lost on the final green of the US Open this year, said he was ready for the traditional tree-lined tight Hong Kong course.

"More importantly you got to hit the fairways and avoid the rough to stand a good chance this week," he said. Johnson already has good memories of China, having won the WGC-HSBC Champions in Shanghai two years ago, and he regards Hong Kong as ideal preparation as he attempts to regain that crown in just a fortnight at Sheshan Golf Club. Past champions at the Hong Kong Open include Greg Norman, Ian Woosnam, Bernhard Langer, Tom Watson, Jose Maria Olazabal, Rory McIlroy, Ian Poulter, Miguel Angel Jimenez and Colin Montgomerie. — AFP

WINDIES BID TO DO SOBERS PROUD

COLOMBO: The West Indies will look to the legendary Garfield Sobers for inspiration as they bid for an unlikely series-saving victory when they take on fellow strugglers Sri Lanka in the second Test in Colombo beginning today.

The tourists have yet to win a Test in Sri Lanka after 10 attempts and they suffered an innings defeat last weekend in the first Test in Galle where veteran spinner Rangana Herath took 10 wickets in the match. The 79-year-old Sobers, widely regarded as the greatest allrounder ever to have played the game, is in Colombo to watch the second and final Test at the P Sara Oval alongside Sri Lanka's Michael Tissera. The two men were rival captains when the then Ceylon played the West Indies in an unofficial one-off Test at the same venue in 1967. Sobers was the star of the show, hitting a century in a rain-affected match.

Back then, the West Indies were on the cusp of a lengthy period of domination in international cricket while their hosts were still some years away from attaining Test status.

The West Indies however have not found Sri Lanka a happy hunting ground since they played their first official Test on the island in 1993.

Now the West Indies are only above Bangladesh in the league table of regular Test playing nations while Sri Lanka are one notch above them in seventh place. Sri Lanka are going through a rebuilding phase after the recent retirements of star batsmen Kumar Sangakkara and Mahela Jayawardene.

But they were still far too strong for the visitors in Galle who were let down by sloppy fielding as well as a failure by most of their batsmen to build a big innings despite making starts.

While the West Indies are expected to be unchanged, skipper Jason Holder has acknowledged that his batsmen need to show more application.

"At this present time, we need to knock it down, we need to take it slower and slow down the game as much as possible-simplify it as much as possible, and make it easy for us," said Holder, who

is in his first series as captain.

"I have full confidence in the guys. I just told them: 'Don't get dejected, it's not the end of the world. We have another Test match to make amends and come back stronger'. We will push for that one-all draw." Like Sobers, Holder hails from Barbados and is looking to put a smile on the face of a man whom he has described as "one of the greatest to play the game".

In contrast, Holder's opposite number Angelo Mathews is wary of dwelling on the past and has spent the build-up to the match speaking of his satisfaction at his team's response to the recent retirements.

He was particularly delighted with the performances of Dinesh Chandimal and Dimuth Karunaratne, who both scored big hundreds in Galle.

"We can't keep talking of the past all the time," he said. "After Sangakkara and Mahela left the team, we needed those guys to stand up and take the responsibility. I'm glad that they did it."

Despite their commanding victory, Sri Lanka have made two changes for the second Test with Tharindu Kaushal, who only took one wicket in Galle, making way for fellow off-spinner Dilruwan Perera.

Batsman Lahiru Thirimanne has also paid the price for a run of low scores, with the uncapped 20-year-old Kusal Mendis picked in his place.

Sri Lanka (from) - Angelo Mathews (capt), Lahiru Thirimanne, Dimuth Karunaratne, Kaushal Silva, Dinesh Chandimal, Rangana Herath, Dhammika Prasad, Kusal Perera, Dushmantha Chameera, Nuwan Pradeep, Tharindu Kaushal, Suranga Lakmal, Dilruwan Perera, Milinda Siriwardena, Kusal Mendis.

West Indies (from) - Jason Holder (capt), Kraig Brathwaite, Jermaine Blackwood, Carlos Brathwaite, Devendra Bishoo, Darren Bravo, Rajendra Chandrika, Shane Dowrich, Shannon Gabriel, Shai Hope, Denesh Ramdin, Kemar Roach, Marlon Samuels, Jerome Taylor, Jomel Warrican. — AFP



CANADA: Jaden Schwartz No. 17 of the St. Louis Blues skates with the puck against David Desharnais No. 51 of the Montreal Canadiens during the NHL game at the Bell Centre. —AFP

CANADIENS BLANK BLUES

MONTREAL: Carey Price made 38 saves for his second shutout in his last three starts and Alex Semin scored his first goal as the Montreal Canadiens beat the St. Louis Blues 3-0 on Tuesday night to win their team-record seventh in a row to begin the season.

Max Pacioretty and Torrey Mitchell also scored for the Canadiens, who broke the Blues' four-game winning streak. Price, the league's most valuable player and top goaltender last season, has allowed only six goals in six starts. It was the 36th shutout of his career. He posted a 25-save shutout against the New York Rangers on Oct. 15, and allowed one goal on 22 shots in a 4-1 win over Detroit on Saturday night to earn NHL first star of the week honors.

His save of the night was a spectacular glove effort early in the second frame on Vladimir Tarasenko, who was held off the scoresheet for the first time this season.

ISLANDERS 3, BLUE JACKETS 0

Jaroslav Halak stopped 37 shots for his 37th career shutout to lead the New York Islanders to their fourth straight win. Nikolay Kulemin gave the Islanders the lead late in the first period, and Thomas Hickey, Cal Clutterbuck and John Tavares all scored in the third period. Halak made a second straight start after returning from an upper-body injury sustained during the preseason. The Blue Jackets extended their franchise-worst winless start and became the third team in the NHL's modern history to open a season 0-7. Curtis McElhinney finished with 25 saves and was steady throughout, making several key saves to keep Columbus within striking distance for most of the game.

DEVILS 3, COYOTES 2

Travis Zajac had a goal, two assists and set up Adam Larrison's game-winner 43 seconds into overtime to lift New Jersey. Larrison slam dunked the game winner to cap a 3-on-1 break that started after he knocked Martin Hanzal off the puck in the Devils' zone.

Mike Cammalleri also scored for New Jersey and Cory Schneider made 18 saves as the Devils won their second straight overtime game under new coach John Hynes after opening the season 0-3-1. Anthony Duclair and Mikkel Boedker scored for Arizona, which has lost three in a row. Mike Smith made 22 saves in the opener of a five-game East Coast road trip for Arizona.

PENGUINS 3, PANTHERS 2

Evgeni Malkin scored on the power play in overtime and Sidney Crosby picked up his first goal of the season to lead Pittsburgh. Malkin's third goal in as many games with-

NHL Results/Standings

Pittsburgh 3, Florida 2 (OT); NY Islanders 4, Columbus 0; New Jersey 3, Arizona 2 (OT); Dallas 2, Philadelphia 1; Montreal 3, St. Louis 0; Nashville 5, Tampa Bay 4 (SO); Washington 6, Calgary 2.

Western Conference						Eastern Conference						
Central Division						Atlantic Division						
W	L	OTL	GF	GA	PTS	W	L	OTL	GF	GA	PTS	
Dallas	5	1	0	21	14	10	Montreal	7	0	0	23	7
Nashville	5	1	0	19	13	10	Tampa Bay	4	2	1	23	20
St. Louis	5	2	0	21	17	10	Florida	3	2	1	18	12
Winnipeg	4	2	0	20	13	8	Ottawa	3	2	1	19	17
Minnesota	3	1	1	14	15	7	Detroit	3	2	0	15	13
Chicago	3	3	0	14	14	6	Boston	2	3	0	18	21
Colorado	2	3	0	16	16	4	Toronto	1	3	1	12	17
							Buffalo	1	4	0	9	14
Pacific Division						Metropolitan Division						
San Jose	4	2	0	17	12	8	NY Islanders	4	1	1	21	15
Vancouver	3	1	2	16	11	8	NY Rangers	4	2	1	18	15
Arizona	3	2	1	18	14	7	Washington	4	1	0	19	12
Los Angeles	2	3	0	6	14	4	Pittsburgh	3	3	0	10	11
Edmonton	2	4	0	12	16	4	Philadelphia	2	2	1	8	12
Anaheim	1	3	1	5	12	3	New Jersey	2	3	1	11	16
Calgary	1	5	0	12	25	2	Carolina	1	4	0	11	17
							Columbus	0	7	0	13	34

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

stood a video review. He took a pass from Kris Letang at the top of the right circle and fired a slap shot past Roberto Luongo. Crosby netted his first three points of the season on the first-period goal and two assists.

Phil Kessel scored his second goal and Malkin has five points during a four-game point streak for the Penguins, who won their third straight. Marc-Andre Fleury stopped 31 shots. Quinton Howden and Derek MacKenzie scored goals for the Panthers and Luongo made 32 saves.

STARS 2, FLYERS 1

Tyler Seguin and Jamie Benn each had a goal and an assist as Dallas won its fourth straight. Sean Couturier scored for the Flyers, who were playing for the first time since beating Chicago last Wednesday. Antti Niemi made 34 saves to improve to 3-1 in four career starts against Philadelphia. Niemi was in because starting goalie Kari Lehtonen is 1-10-2 in 13 games against Philadelphia.

Steve Mason made 30 saves for the Flyers in his return for the Flyers after sitting out the last two games due to personal reasons.

PREDATORS 5, LIGHTNING 4

Filip Forsberg scored the only goal of the shootout to help Nashville beat Tampa Bay. James Neal scored twice and Mike Fisher and Shea Weber also scored for the Predators, win-

ners of five of six. Nashville's last two wins have come via a shootout.

Predators goalie Pekka Rinne allowed four goals on 29 shots through overtime, but he was sharp in the shootout, denying all three Lightning shooters. Steven Stamkos, Nikita Kucherov, Ryan Callahan and Erik Condra scored for the Lightning, who have dropped three of four. In the tiebreaker, Forsberg skated to the right and beat Lightning goalie Ben Bishop with a quick wrist shot.

CAPITALS 6, FLAMES 2

Nicklas Backstrom scored twice and Alex Ovechkin added a goal and an assist for Washington. Andre Burakovsky, TJ Oshie and Jason Chimera also scored, and Evgeny Kuznetsov added three assists. The Capitals, playing their first road game of the season, have opened with four wins in five games.

Sean Monahan and Mark Giordano scored for Calgary, which has lost five of their first six games while opening with four straight losses on home ice for the first time in franchise history. Ovechkin gave the Capitals the lead for good 30 seconds into the second period. His long shot was stopped by Flames goalie Karri Ramo but mishandled, allowing the Washington captain to poke in the rebound and put Washington ahead 2-1. It was Ovechkin's fourth goal of the season and 900th career point. — AP



COLOMBO: West Indies cricket great Garfield Sobers (right) and former Sri Lankan cricket captain Michael Tissera pose with the Sobers-Tissera trophy which will be awarded to the winners of the ongoing Sri Lanka West Indies test cricket series. — AP

PAKISTAN GET YASIR BOOST

DUBAI: Pakistan will be looking to fit-again leg-spinner Yasir Shah to lift their bowling in the second Test against England starting in Dubai on today.

Shah, regarded as a wicket-taking bowler who anchored Pakistan's wins over Australia and Sri Lanka in the last 12 months, missed the drawn first Test in Abu Dhabi with a back spasm.

But he is back to full fitness and was able to bowl without any pain in the nets, something which Pakistan captain Misbah-ul-Haq sees as a big positive.

"Shah looks good and is raring to go and that's a good sign for us," said Misbah. "We missed him a lot in the first Test and his return will give us that boost in the spin bowling."

Pakistan narrowly escaped defeat after an extraordinary collapse saw them slump to 173 all out on the last day to spice up a Test which was heading for a draw until the fifth morning.

England were denied the win as, chasing 99 in a possible 19 overs, they fell 25 runs short when bad light forced the umpires to call off the match.

Misbah said Pakistan need to improve. "We really need to pull up our socks and the kind of fight England put we need to match them, I have confidence in my players that they can do that."

Pakistan will be without key batsman Azhar Ali who returned home following the death of his mother-in-law and was unable to join the team yesterday because of visa problems.

Pakistan also recalled under-scrutiny off-spinner Bilal Asif as cover. He was reported for suspect bowling action in Zimbabwe on October 6 but can still play pending a report on his action which will come in two weeks' time.

Pakistan will likely bring in Shah in place of paceman Rahat Ali. They will also hope the Dubai stadium pitch helps the bowlers after a flat pitch in Abu

Dhabi saw both team piling up 500-plus totals in their first innings. England will also look to leg-spinner Adil Rashid, who took a five-wicket haul in the second innings after going wicketless for 163 runs in the first.

England captain Alastair Cook, fresh from his 263 in the first Test, said he hoped his team can keep the fight going. "Over the next 10 days of Test cricket we need to show the same resilience," said Cook, praising Adil. "He's obviously had a tough introduction, the first day-and-a-half - not getting a wicket, bowling on probably the worst wicket you'd ever want to make your debut on as a leg-spinner when you lose the toss."

Cook said his batsmen were ready for Shah. "I think Pakistan missed him in the last game and he has done well in his ten Test matches but we were ready to play him in the first Test and obviously he strengthens them."

Seamer Ben Stokes had an upset stomach but is fit to play. The third and final Test starts in Sharjah on November 1, followed by four one-day internationals and three Twenty20s.

Teams (from):

Pakistan: Misbah-ul-Haq (captain), Ahmed Shehzad, Shan Masood, Azhar Ali, Mohammad Hafeez, Fawad Alam, Asad Shafiq, Younis Khan, Shoaib Malik, Sarfraz Ahmed, Yasir Shah, Zulfiqar Babar, Wahab Riaz, Imran Khan, Rahat Ali, Junaid Khan, Bilal Asif.

England: Alastair Cook (capt), Moeen Ali, James Anderson, Samit Patel, Jonny Bairstow, Ian Bell, Stuart Broad, Jos Buttler, Alex Hales, Liam Plunkett, Adil Rashid, Joe Root, Ben Stokes, James Taylor, Mark Wood, Chris Jordan.

Umpires: Paul Reffel (AUS) and Bruce Oxenford (AUS), TV umpire: Chris Gaffaney (NZL), Match referee: Andy Pycroft (ZIM). — AFP

THIRD TITLE IS HAMILTON'S AMERICAN DREAM

AUSTIN: Lewis Hamilton can live his own American dream by becoming a triple Formula One world champion in Texas on Sunday.

If the Briton scores two points more than Mercedes team mate Nico Rosberg, and nine more than Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel, at the Circuit of the Americas then it is game over with three races to spare.

A Mercedes one-two, with Hamilton winning, would see to that. No British driver has ever won two Formula One titles in a row, despite the country providing more world champions than any other nation, but Hamilton looks set to make history in a country he considers home from home.

The 30-year-old would join Jackie Stewart, now 76, as Britain's only three times champions but it is another great-Brazil's late triple title winner Ayrton Senna-that he most wants to emulate.

"I didn't grow up watching Jackie, when I was a kid, I wanted to see Ayrton," Hamilton, who until recently raced with a similar yellow helmet to Senna's, told British reporters after victory in Russia 10 days ago put the title within reach.

"I don't have that connection with Jackie as I did with Ayrton. It has nothing to do with nationality, just that's the guy who caught my eye as a kid and that's the guy I aspired to be," he said. "I haven't aspired to be like any of the other drivers."

If Brazil, next month, might have been a more symbolic place to secure the title then the United States is perfect in other respects.

Hamilton has a holiday home in Colorado and is a frequent visitor, as celebrity websites and his social media accounts bear witness, to both the east and west coasts of a country that is also his employer's biggest market.

With Mercedes wrapping up the constructors' title in Russia for the second year in a row, Sunday



Lewis Hamilton in action in this file photo.

could see the 'double double' sealed in style.

The country's race has been good to Hamilton, who is chasing a literal hat-trick after winning two of the three grands prix held so far in Austin and three of the last four in the United States.

"If I can come away with a third (winner's) Stetson hat that would be unbelievable," he said. Rosberg, despite the mathematical odds against him, will be determined to keep his team mate waiting at least until Formula One makes its return to Mexico next week.

With only three wins to Hamilton's nine, and Vettel's three, he needs to regain momentum after retirement in Sochi pushed him down to third overall in the championship behind Ferrari's four times champion. "It's clear that the title is a long shot for me now. But it's not in me to give up or

back down, so I'll be pushing flat out to the end and hopefully having some fun out there in the final few rounds this year," said Rosberg.

"Austin is definitely somewhere that you can have fun too...I got pole there last year, and I'm coming off the back of a really strong weekend in Russia in terms of my performance, so if I can repeat all of that then I'll be in a good position." For local fans there will be the novelty of a US driver to cheer, the first since 2007, even if Californian Alexander Rossi is more likely to be lapped in the Manor Marussia than playing any part in the championship outcome. The starting grid will have two more cars than last year, a race that went ahead amid rumbles of a potential boycott after absent Marussia and now-defunct Caterham went into administration. — Reuters

CLIMBERS HOPE THE SPORT MAKES OLYMPIC GRADE

WASHINGTON: American rock-climbing wizard Alex Honnold insists he would not compete in the Olympics even if his sport gets the nod for inclusion in the 2020 Tokyo Games.

It is not that Honnold does not care for the Olympics or does not like to compete. The man widely considered the best free climber of his generation says he just is not good enough.

"The real reason I wouldn't compete in the Olympics is just because I wouldn't even be able to qualify," the 30-year-old Honnold told Reuters, the day before a climb in the Patagonia region of Chile. "Competitive climbing is basically a whole different sub-sport."

"I'm more of an adventurer: lots of travel, lots of new routes outdoors, not so much training inside. I can't climb at nearly the level required for competition." While Honnold enjoys scaling the famed El Capitan in California's Yosemite National Park or tackling Borneo's formidable Mount Kinabalu, he says a timed ascent of a manmade mountain does not interest him. Sport climbing is one of five sports recommended for inclusion in the Olympics by

organizers of the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, along with skateboarding, surfing, baseball/softball and karate. Under new rules, Olympic host cities can pick sports for possible inclusion at the Games in addition to the existing 28 core sports.

The International Olympic Committee must approve the addition of sport climbing and the other recommended sports. Competitive climbing, of which sport climbing is one of the disciplines, secured a foothold in Europe in the early 1980s and then gained traction in the United States a decade later. Now, it is gaining a following in other parts of the world.

"It makes sense to put the sport into the Olympics, where it's more on the world's stage and people can get a really good idea of what this thing is," said Tyson Schoene, head coach of the five-time US champion Vertical World climbing team, based in Washington state. "It's really popular right now, and not just with young kids. College-age kids also love it. And older. And here in the Seattle area, it's grown enormously in the last five years."

Schoene said the sport is appealing because it

combines fun with a full workout. "It has very little to do with hard training for climbing. It's something that gets your body active and uses all these muscle groups you've never really used before," he said.

"And it's different. It's not like putting on your running shoes and running around the lake, where you're bored to death. It's interesting, and that's why it's grabbing folks."

In a competition, participants are given just a few minutes to analyze a route up the mountain pre-determined by organizers. Climbing one at a time, whoever gets the highest in the time allotted captures the gold medal.

Unlike traditional climbing, sport climbing relies on permanent anchors like bolts fixed to the rock. Drew Ruana, a 16-year-old competitive climbing national champion for his age group, said putting his sport in the Olympics would boost its popularity.

"If it were in the Olympics, a lot of people would see that and say, 'That looks like fun,'" Ruana said. "Otherwise, they'd never really hear about it."

Schoene, the coach, said he hopes climbing follows the path of snowboarding, which made its first

Olympic appearance at the 1998 Games in Nagano, Japan. "From the minute it went into the Olympics, it just blew up in the media," Schoene said. "It exploded. It's all over TV, there's X Games footage everywhere. I'm hoping at some point that competition climbing moves into that area."

The IOC will vote next August on adding the new sports. If sport climbing does make the cut, Honnold, the star of traditional climbing, said he would likely spend the two weeks of the Olympic competition in 2020 on a solo ascent somewhere on a remote part of the planet.

"Last season in Patagonia we attempted a traverse of the Torres that wound up taking 53 hours to get back to camp," he said, referring to a particularly tricky climbing site. "That kind of fitness and experience does not help at all when a competition lasts a few minutes and takes place on one extremely hard route."

"It's like asking an ultra marathoner if he'd like to win a 100-meter sprint. Sure, it sounds cool to win the Olympics, but I've already gone down a different path." — Reuters

DUTCH RUNNER SHRUGS OFF 'BLADE BABE' TAG

DOHA: Sprint star Marlou van Rhijn said yesterday, ahead of the IPC 2015 World Championships, that she thought her nickname of 'Blade Babe' was a 'compliment' despite her many athletic achievements.

Van Rhijn, who turns 24 on October 22, the opening day of competition in Qatar, has been in superb form all year. The Netherlands sprinter has lowered her T43 (double below knee amputation) 100m record and created three personal bests at 200m throughout 2015.

She won gold at the T44 100m and 200m at the last world championships, held in France in 2013 and is set to defend her titles in Doha. Despite her on-track success, and being one of the biggest paralympic stars, van Rhijn has still earned a nickname based on her looks.

However, she told reporters that she was untroubled by her nickname. "I feel like

it is a compliment," she said. "I don't really feel like it is something you shouldn't like as a feminist."

"I think it is just a compliment. It's easier to remember than my very difficult name. Prior to her success as a runner, who was born without lower legs, she was a member of the Dutch team for swimmers with disabilities. She was speaking at a press conference ahead of the official opening ceremony yesterday night.

Also in attendance was Ireland's Jason Smyth. The T12 (visually impaired) sprinter is set to run for gold in the 100 metres before racing home for the birth of his first child. The final is set for October 23rd, while his baby is due to be born on the 25th. "I am in good form and think I have been going well," he said. "I am hopeful I can run well and make it home in time for the birth of my baby." Competition starts on October 22. —AFP



FRANCE: A file picture taken on July 25, 2013 shows French Marie Amelie Le Fur (right) and Dutch Marlou Van Rhijn competing in the Women's 100m T44 final at the IPC Athletics World Championships. Some 1,400 athletes from almost 100 countries are set to descend on Doha for the IPC 2015 World Championships. — AFP

STEENKAMP'S MOTHER WANTS NO REVENGE AGAINST PISTORIUS

JOHANNESBURG: The mother of slain model Reeva Steenkamp said yesterday she did not want retribution against South African Paralympian Oscar Pistorius, who was released into house arrest this week just under a year into his five-year jail term.

The disgraced track star, who was found guilty of culpable homicide for

killing Steenkamp by firing four shots through a locked bathroom door, will be confined to his uncle Arnold's home in a suburb of the capital, Pretoria.

"I've got no feelings of revenge. I don't want to hurt him. He's already a disabled person," June Steenkamp said in her first comments since Pistorius' release late on Monday. "I don't want him thrown in jail and be suffering ... that's not going to bring Reeva back. But in my heart I don't want revenge towards him, I'm past that," Steenkamp said on state broadcaster SABC at the launch of the Reeva Steenkamp Foundation at a school in the southern city of Port Elizabeth.

Steenkamp read a speech that Reeva had been due to deliver on the morning of Valentine's Day 2013, the day she was shot and killed by Pistorius, South Africa's double-amputee "Blade Runner".

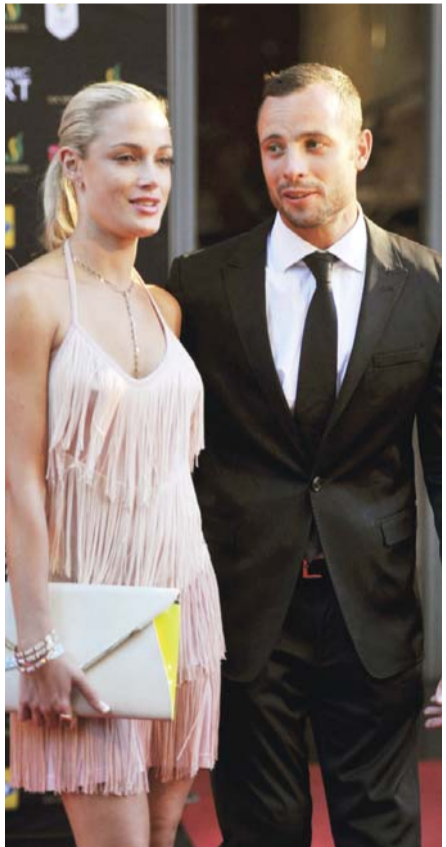
"It's been a hard journey and it's going to go on until the day I die," Steenkamp said when asked how she was coping.

Pistorius family spokeswoman Anneliese Burgess said on Tuesday they were glad to have the athlete home and that he would observe his parole conditions closely.

The athlete still faces an appeal on Nov. 3 by prosecutors who argue that he should have been convicted of murder, not culpable homicide. Prosecutors say Pistorius must have known that the person behind the door could be killed.

The state will argue before five judges that the trial judge misinterpreted parts of the law. A murder conviction at the appeal hearing - which Pistorius is not obliged to attend - would result in a minimum sentence of 15 years in prison.

The judges could either reject the prosecution's appeal, order a retrial or convict Pistorius of murder themselves, legal experts say. — Reuters



JOHANNESBURG: In this Nov. 4, 2012 file photo, South African Olympic athlete Oscar Pistorius and Reeva Steenkamp arrive for an awards ceremony in Johannesburg. — AP

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS IN QATAR TO BE 'BEST EVER'

DOHA: Some 1,400 athletes from almost 100 countries are expected in Doha for the IPC 2015 World Championships, which organisers say they "fully expect to be the best ever".

The paralympics competition begins today and lasts for 10 days. All 70 hours of action will be streamed live on the IPC's website.

The biennial championships are the last major gathering of track and field paralympic stars before next year's Olympics, and as well as gold medals in Qatar there are also qualifying slots to be won for Rio 2016. In total, there are 214 medal events across 15 disciplines. Some 350 athletes will use a wheelchair. Philip Craven, the IPC president who claimed these could be the best world championships, said that he expected athletes in Qatar to compete "perhaps more fiercely than they ever have done before". It is the sixth time the event has been held and these are notably the first world championships to be hosted in the Middle East.

Among the most anticipated events is the 100 metres T44 final which could see world record holder Jaryd Wallace race against US compatriot, and

former record holder, Richard Browne.

The T44 event is for athletes with a single below the knee amputation or who have restricted function in one or both legs. Wallace and Browne are among an 84-strong team travelling to Qatar from the United States, which is looking to go one better in the medal table than at the last world championships, held in Lyon. In France, Russia topped the medal table with 26 golds to the USA's 17.

In the 1500m T54 event, a classification for athletes with spinal cord injuries, Swiss world record holder Marcel Hug, nicknamed the "Silver Bullet", will be up against six-time Olympic gold medal winner, David Weir. In the women's events, the main star is set to be the Netherlands' Marlou van Rhijn.

The sprint star will celebrate her 24th birthday on the opening day of competition and is in great form. Already this year she has lowered her T43 (double below knee amputation) 100m record and created three personal bests at 200m throughout 2015. Van Rhijn though will defend her T44 100m and 200m world titles in Doha which she won in Lyon. Born without lower legs, she is one of the

biggest names in the sport.

Her main competition could come from Marie-Amelie Le Fur, a former French junior running champion who lost her lower left leg following a scooter accident in 2004.

Local interest should come in the shape of Qatari shot-putter Abdelrahman Abdelqader, an Asian Games winner and world ranked number one. The event will be held at the 12,000-seater Qatar Sports Club Suhaim bin Hamam stadium in central Doha. The track was the same venue for an IAAF Diamond League meet earlier year, where runners included Justin Gatlin and Mo Farah.

Although temperatures are down from the country's fierce summer heat, the mercury could still reach up to 35 degrees Celsius, 94 Fahrenheit, over the first few days of competition. It is the latest big sports event to be hosted by the tiny but exceedingly rich Gulf state in 2015. Last week, Qatar hosted the AIBA World Boxing Championships, which drew Manny Pacquiao and the Klitschko brothers to watch. Qatar will also host the 2019 World Athletics Championships. — AFP



Fuhaid Al-Daihani (center) shoot during a training session



Shooters sharpen their skills during a training session.

KUWAIT SHOOTERS READY FOR TOURNEY

KUWAIT: HH The Crown Prince Championship and 13th Gulf Tournament continues at Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Olympic Shooting Complex, as all participating shooters compete in the shotgun, air pistol and rifle events.

Secretary General of Kuwait and Arab Shooting Federation Obaid Al-Osaimi lauded the support of HH The Crown Prince Sheikh

Nawaf Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and thanked him for patronizing an annual tournament which marks the start of the new season. Al-Osaimi welcomed Presidents and Secretary Generals of Gulf Shooting Federations, as well as the shooters. He said that the board of directors decided to increase the financial prizes of this dear tournament. Meanwhile, Kuwait Shooters

continue their preparations for this tournament as it will see strong competition between all participants, and is considered a preparation for Kuwait shooters who will participate in several international events. Delegations from Saudi Arabia, UAE, Bahrain, Oman and Qatar already involved in the formalities that precede the competitions. Kuwait's shooter Mohammad Al-

Bghaili said Kuwait shooters are ready for the championships for their importance to be ready for the Asian championship coming up soon.

Shotgun referee in the tournament Fawaz Al-Shatti said the officials committee is ready as 27 Kuwaiti referees will officiate besides other referees from participating countries. He said the referees went through refreshers courses, and

wished everyone success.

UAE shooter Aysha Alyasi said her team came here to compete fiercely in this tournament and prepared for it in camps in Italy. She said competitions here create opportunities to gain experience ahead of the Asian tournament as all shooters aim at qualifying for the Olympics in Brazil 2016.

GERMANY GRAFT CLAIMS CLOSE TO HOME FOR ADIDAS

BERLIN: Allegations that Germany bribed its way to secure the right to host the 2006 World Cup not only shook the football world, but also shone a spotlight on cosy ties between sportswear giant Adidas and FIFA. At the heart of the latest graft claims to rock world football is a 10.3 million Swiss francs payment made in 2000 by Adidas's former boss Robert Louis-Dreyfus to the German Football Federation (DFB).

News weekly Der Spiegel claimed in a report late last week that DFB borrowed the sum in order to buy the votes of four Asian members of FIFA's 24-strong executive committee.

The magazine claimed the DFB subsequently transferred 6.7 million euros—the equivalent of the borrowed Swiss francs at the time—to a FIFA account in 2005 to repay Louis-Dreyfus.

The DFB has denied the claims, while Adidas has sought to distance itself from the case. "We are not aware of such a payment by Robert Louis-Dreyfus," said the brand with the three-stripes logo. "We can rule out that it was a business operation of Adidas AG." In other words, Louis-Dreyfus could have used his own money, and not company funds, an Adidas spokesman told AFP.

Investment bank Berenberg's analyst Zuzanna Pusz warned that the German magazine's claims "could have some kind of impact on their reputation". No legal consequences have arisen from the case so far, as German prosecutors said Monday they were still examining whether there were grounds to launch a probe.

But the wealth of French businessman Louis-Dreyfus, who died in 2009, has been dogged by controversy. In 2001, he transferred millions to the former president of Bayern Munich, Uli Hoeness.

The recipient has claimed it was a private gift for him to gamble on the stock market. Critics have speculated the sum was the price to keep the prized Bundesliga side out of the reach of Adidas's US rival Nike, a claim Hoeness has denied.

This time, the charismatic businessman's dealings are being exposed at a time when FIFA is in its deepest crisis over far-reaching corruption scandals that have already left 14 football officials arrested, the governing body's chief Sepp Blatter suspended and the awarding of at least two World Cups under investigation. Switzerland's probe into the awarding of the 2018 World Cup to Russia and the 2022 tour-

namment to Qatar was already awkward for Adidas, the main sponsor of the games since 1970.

But with the World Cup hosted in Germany also being called into question by the Spiegel report, that is just getting too close to home for Adidas.

The German brand has a contract worth 30 million euros a year with FIFA that runs until 2030.

Until now, that investment has always paid off—in 2014, the year of the Brazilian World Cup, revenues from footballs, jerseys and other related products pushed sales of its football merchandise up by a fifth to reach 2.1 billion euros. In 2006, the brand took in 1.2 billion euros in such revenues, up 30 percent. Beyond any immediate damage to Adidas' reputation for its association with FIFA and the World Cup, the latest corruption scandals engulfing the football world also stir up memories of dark days for the family behind the brand.

Horst Dassler, the son of Adidas's founder, in 1982 founded International Sports and Leisure (ISL), a company that collapsed under a mountain of debt, but which had previously made a fortune after it obtained exclusive TV rights for the World Cup. In 2012, FIFA began investigating illegal payments

made by ISL and concluded that the company had paid bribes to FIFA top officials including former FIFA president Joao Havelange.

"There is an archaic system (at FIFA) with these archaic people. Television brought money and taught these people to love money," said European football boss Michel Platini, who himself has also been suspended over corruption claims.

These links, which have resurfaced amid the FIFA crisis, are a thorn in the side of Adidas. "Horst Dassler died in 1987," and "ISL is owned by the Dassler family, not Adidas," said the brand's spokesman, slapping down all association with the sportswear giant. Nevertheless, the company would not go all the way to making a clean break with the world football body. Unlike Coca-Cola, McDonald's, Visa and Budweiser, which have demanded that Blatter step down immediately from FIFA's top job, Adidas has so far shied away from making such calls. After all, "FIFA is much more important for Adidas than for Coca-Cola," said Pusz. "Given their position in football, they would obviously have quite a lot to lose if they were to dissociate themselves entirely from FIFA." — AFP

KLOPP SET FOR ANFIELD BOW AS SPURS REVISIT OLD FOES

PARIS: AFP Sports picks out five of the best of today's Europa League games, with Jurgen Klopp's Anfield bow as Liverpool manager, against Rubin Kazan, topping the billing:

* Liverpool (ENG) v Rubin Kazan (RUS)

Jurgen Klopp takes charge of Liverpool at Anfield for the first time today when the three-time UEFA Cup winners host Russian outfit Rubin Kazan.

A disappointing 1-1 draw at home to Sion on matchday two left the Reds with just two points from their first two Group B fixtures, but the Anfield faithful will hope the arrival of Klopp can spark an upturn in fortunes.

"There are good players here. I saw many good things in my team," Klopp told Liverpool's club website after making his bow in Saturday's 0-0 draw at Tottenham Hotspur.

"We don't have to sprinkle magic dust on them and now you can play football. They know how to play," added the German, insisting that his squad simply needed time to click into gear. Rubin, bottom of the group on one point, have also changed their coach since the group stage draw was made as Valeri Chaly took over as caretaker boss from Rinat Bilyaletdinov in September after the Kazan-based side lost six of their first seven league games.

* Anderlecht (BEL) v Tottenham Hotspur (ENG)

Anderlecht and Tottenham will roll back the years when the two sides meet at the Constant Vanden Stock Stadium in a rematch of the 1984 UEFA Cup final, won by Spurs 4-3 on penalties after a pair of 1-1 draws. The north Londoners have four Belgian players on their books but will be without Nacer Chadli for six weeks after he damaged ankle ligaments in Saturday's 0-0 draw with Liverpool.

Spurs are unbeaten in the Premier League since the opening weekend of the season and lead Group J with four points, three ahead of an Anderlecht side without a win in five European matches.

With two home matches to come Mauricio Pochettino's men know victory in Belgium would leave them well positioned to reach the knockout stages.

* Qabala (AZE) v Borussia Dortmund (GER)

Borussia Dortmund make a 3,300-kilometre trip east to Azerbaijan where Group C rivals Qabala will put their strong defensive home record on the line as they face German opposition for the first time.

Dortmund are unbeaten in Europe under

new boss Thomas Tuchel, who saw his side win 2-0 on his return to former club Mainz last Friday to end a three-game winless run in the Bundesliga.

"The match against Mainz was the first step in the right direction. Our game will come back to us gradually," said Marco Reus, who scored the opener in the victory at Mainz, in an interview posted on Dortmund's club website. The Germans top the group on four points, while Qabala are bottom on one but did record a fifth consecutive clean sheet at home in Europe after opening the campaign with a 0-0 draw against PAOK.

* Molde (NOR) v Celtic (SCO)

Ronny Deila takes the Scottish champions to his native Norway to face Molde, who are the surprise early frontrunners in Group A after stunning Fenerbahce in Turkey before drawing with Ajax.

Celtic let a two-goal lead slip against Fenerbahce in a 2-2 draw last time out but the Hoops returned to the top of the Scottish Premiership at the weekend for the first time in over a month.

Celtic, with two draws from their opening two matches, could move top should they beat Molde but Deila has warned his players not to underestimate today's opponents. "They are a good organised team and very hard-working. They are good at breaking when they have a chance," the Celtic boss said. "They have surprised a few people in this campaign and that's something we have to take very seriously, but with three points there we can put ourselves in a very good position."

* Fenerbahce (TUR) v Ajax (NED)

Fenerbahce and Ajax, two big-name casualties in this season's Champions League qualifying rounds, are both still searching for their first wins in Group A as the two sides meet in Istanbul.

Fenerbahce are still picking up the pieces after crashing to a 3-1 home defeat against Molde on matchday one and there's plenty of reason for concern in Turkey with Ajax having won all eight previous meetings with Turkish teams. "It's like we are two distinct teams," Fenerbahce coach Vitor Pereira, whose side are propping up the group with a solitary point, told UEFA.com. "One is enthusiastic, ambitious and plays entertaining football, creating lots of chances and keeping pressure on opponents; the other is nervous, loses composure after conceding and throws in the towel under pressure," he added, with marquee summer signings Nani and Robin van Persie still settling in. — AFP



OSAKA: Keisuke Iwashita (second right) of Japan's Gamba Osaka and Huang Bowen (right) of China's Guangzhou Evergrande fight for the ball in the second leg of the Asia Champions League semifinals. — AP

GOALLESS STALEMATE SEES EVERGRANDE REACH FINAL

OSAKA: Chinese champions Guangzhou Evergrande reached the AFC Champions League final for the second time in three seasons after they drew 0-0 against the home side at Gamba Osaka late yesterday. The win handed the Chinese side a 2-1 aggregate triumph over the Japanese treble winners, though Evergrande could have extended their advantage from the first leg as Brazilian forward Elkeson squandered a pair of good openings on either side of half-time at the Expo '70 Stadium. Evergrande's well-organised defence was, however, rarely troubled by the home side as they held on to their narrow lead to set up a meeting in the final against Al Ahli of the United Arab Emirates. Al Ahli, who reached the final on Tuesday after a dramatic 4-3 aggregate

victory over Al Hilal of Saudi Arabia 4-3, will host the first leg in Dubai on 7 November with the return game in southern China on 21 November.

Evergrande, winners in 2013 when they beat South Korean side FC Seoul on away goals in the final, led the semi-final 2-1 after a second-half header by captain Zheng Zhi from the first leg in Guangzhou three weeks ago. Elkeson tried to build on the advantage, but his right-footed effort in the 43rd minute forced a smart save from goalkeeper Masaaki Higashiguchi.

The Brazilian had another great opportunity to break the deadlock seven minutes into the second half when he was released in the left channel by Ricardo Goulart's excellent through ball but scooped his effort just over the crossbar.

Gamba had avoided elimination with three comeback wins during their run to the semi-finals but they struggled to find a way past the Evergrande defence during the opening hour.

They went close to a breakthrough in the 57th minute when Shu Kurata's cut-back from the right was punched away by goalkeeper Zeng Cheng before it could reach a lurking Patric.

Gamba displayed greater urgency after Japan striker Takashi Usami replaced Hiroaki Abe on the hour. Kurata saw his effort on a quick counter blocked by a defender while Usami fired a low shot narrowly wide of the right post with six minutes left. But the home team could not find the crucial goal as Luiz Filipe Scolari's side hung on to clinch their place in the final. — AFP



LIVERPOOL: Liverpool's German manager Jurgen Klopp (second right) attends a team training session in Liverpool on the eve of their UEFA Europa League Group B football match against Rubin Kazan. — AFP

NEW DATE SET FOR PALESTINE V SAUDI MATCH

LAUSANNE: The disputed 2018 World Cup qualifier between Palestine and Saudi Arabia is to be played in Palestine today, November 5, FIFA announced yesterday. A FIFA statement said that "in view of the agreement made between the two teams last June, the match would be rescheduled to take place in Palestine on Thursday, 5 November 2015."

The teams played each other in Jeddah in June in the first of their two scheduled Asia zone World Cup qualifiers with the Saudis winning 3-2.

That match was originally supposed to be played in Palestine, but Saudi Arabia had refused to travel to the Israeli-occupied West Bank, citing undefined "exceptional circumstances".

The return leg was then set for October 13, again in the West Bank, but Saudi Arabia on September 23 demanded that it be played on neutral ground.

That demand was accepted by the World Cup organising committee, but the Palestinian Federation refused to accept, saying it set a "dangerous precedent."

The matter was then postponed to allow further talks to take place between all the involved parties.

"The Palestinian Football Association has given full security guarantees for the rescheduled match and FIFA has agreed to appoint a security officer who will work hand in hand with the Palestine authorities to supervise the security plan and make sure that the match is played in very good conditions," the FIFA statement read. Many Arab national teams refuse to play in the West Bank, saying it "normalises" Israel's occupation of Palestinian territory. Israel controls all access to the Palestinian territories, and Saudi Arabia has no diplomatic relations with the Jewish state. — AFP

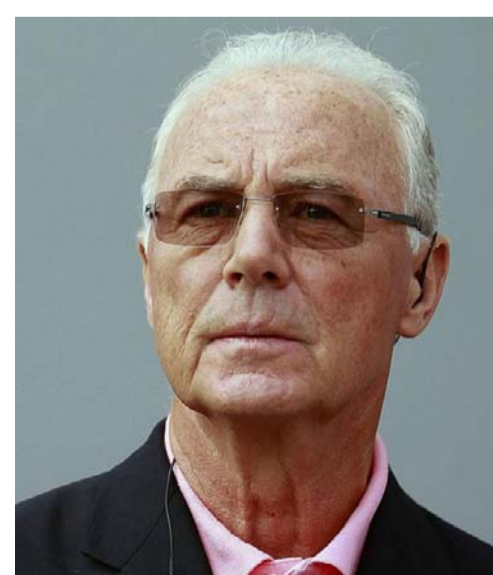
ZURICH: FIFA lifted a new corner of its veil of secrecy yesterday by revealing that German football great Franz Beckenbauer and the current most senior UEFA official Angel Maria Villar Llona have been investigated. It said inquiries for alleged misconduct by the two were now in the hands of the FIFA ethics committee's main court for a decision.

The ethics committee did not say why the two had been investigated. But Beckenbauer and Villar Llona were on the FIFA executive committee when Russia and Qatar were awarded the 2018 and 2022 World Cups.

Beckenbauer was briefly suspended by FIFA last year for refusing to cooperate with a corruption inquiry into World Cup votes by former US federal prosecutor Michael Garcia.

Beckenbauer, 70, and one of only two people to have won the World Cup as a player and coach, led Germany's successful bid for the 2006 World Cup. This week he denied a report that a 6.7 million euro fund was used to buy votes.

Villar Llona has been head of the Spanish football federation for 27 years and a FIFA executive member since 1998. He is also currently the most senior official in the European body UEFA after the 90-day suspension of its president Michel Platini. The world body's executive decided on Tuesday to ease restric-



Franz Beckenbauer

tions on details that ethics investigators could make public.

The committee released a long list of names under investigation, including for the first time confirming that suspended president Sepp Blatter and Platini face formal proceedings. "The investigatory chamber will do everything in its power to ensure that a deci-

sion" on Blatter and Platini can be made before the end of their current 90 day suspensions. Both have been banned over a two million dollar (1.8 million euros) payment made by FIFA to Platini in 2011. The suspension threatens to derail the Frenchman's bid to take over from Blatter when an election is held in February.

The committee also confirmed that suspended FIFA secretary general Jerome Valcke is being probed under "suspicion of misuse of expenses and other infringements of FIFA's rules and regulations." Among other names revealed for the first time are former Brazilian football federation chief Ricardo Teixeira, and tainted Nigerian official Amos Adamu.

Also on the list was Thai football baron Worawi Makudi, who was suspended for 90 days last week. Jeffrey Webb, Eugenio Figueredo and Nicolas Leoz were among seven FIFA officials detained in Zurich in May as part of a US investigation into more than \$150 million of bribes for soccer deals.

US authorities have named 14 people over the case and said that more charges are likely. The ethics committee said it was also "carrying out a moderate number of preliminary investigations against a number of football officials." These could be named later if there is "concrete suspicion of wrongdoing." — AFP

WOLFSBURG DOWN PSV

WOLFSBURG: Germany's Wolfsburg scored two second half goals to defeat PSV Eindhoven 2-0 to move top of Champions League Group B yesterday.

After a labored first half, Bas Dost struck immediately after the break to put the Germans ahead. Max Kruse then followed it up with a headed goal in the 57th minute. In an indication that it was not going to be PSV's night, they then had a late penalty saved by Wolfsburg's Swiss goalkeeper Diego Benaglio.

The win puts Wolfsburg two points clear of Manchester United at the top after United drew 1-1 with CSKA Moscow. PSV are now bottom, though only three points behind the leaders at the halfway stage.

For Wolfsburg, the victory was yet another success after their 3-0 win over Hoffenheim in the Bundesliga last weekend. Wolfsburg created the first major chances with five minutes gone, Daniel Caligiuri and Julian Draxler forcing two smart saves in quick succession from Jeroen Zoet.

PSV slowly settled into the game, but could create nothing before the half hour mark beyond a couple of long range efforts from Andres Guardado and Jorrit Hendrix.

With 35 minutes gone, Wolfsburg sprang into life. Luiz Gustavo, Kruse and Dost all had major chances from just inside the box

within the space of three minutes, but none were able to trouble Zoet. At the other end, PSV had a penalty appeal turned down after Naldo appeared to handle the ball. The visitors then wasted the best chance of the half, Adam Maher heading wide after Simon Busk Poulsen's cross found him unmarked in the box.

Wolfsburg took the lead immediately after half-time when Joshua Guilavogui's long range shot was parried by Zoet and Dost tapped in on the rebound.

Dost nearly made it two on 50 minutes, heading the ball over the bar after a cross from Christian Trasch. Kruse doubled Wolfsburg's lead in the 57th minute.

After a fantastic run, Draxler forced a good save from Zoet. However, Caligiuri picked up the rebound and crossed for Kruse to head the ball in. Guardado could have pulled one back for PSV on 66 minutes, but his shot flew high over the bar.

Wolfsburg continued to dominate, though, and looked perpetually dangerous on the counter attack. Kruse nearly made it 3-0 six minutes from time after Veiirinha broke away to whip in a cross.

PSV had a chance to get one back in stoppage time after Benaglio fouled Locadia, but the Swiss keeper saved the resulting penalty. — AFP



MOSCOW: Manchester United's Morgan Schneiderlin (centre) takes on CSKA's Roman Eremenko (left) and Ahmed Musa during their Champions League Group B soccer match. — AP

ATLETICO CRUISE TO VICTORY

MADRID: Atletico Madrid eased past Kazak champions Astana 4-0 yesterday to get their European campaign back on track after a shock defeat to Benfica last time out.

Saul Niguez opened the scoring with a clever backheel before Jackson Martinez scored his first goal at the Vicente Calderon for Atletico to put the hosts well on course for victory.

Substitute Oliver Torres added a third after the break before Denis Dedchenko's late own goal rounded off the scoring. Galatasaray's 2-1 win over Benfica in the other game in the group means Atletico draw level with Benfica at the top on six points, two points clear of the Turkish champions.

Astana had travelled over 5,000 kilometres west to the Spanish capital and were immediately under the cosh from the 2013/14 finalists.

Goalkeeper Nenad Eric denied Diego Godin twice from dangerous corners, but it was another well-worked set-piece that produced the opening goal midway through the first-half.

A short corner between Gabi and Yannick Ferreira Carrasco freed the Belgian and his cross was flicked home

by Saul. Martinez has failed to live up to his price tag since a 35 million euro move from Porto in the summer, but Diego Simeone's faith in the Colombian was rewarded when he finally found the net thanks to a deflection off a stray Astana leg to double Atletico's lead six minutes later.

Only a brilliant save from Eric denied Martinez a second from a thumping header just before half-time. However, the third goal did arrive for the hosts just after the hour mark as a lung-bursting run from captain Gabi teed up Oliver to chip home.

Atletico 'keeper Jan Oblak had been a mere spectator for much of the evening, but he produced a brilliant save from Foxi Kethevoama moments later to ensure Simeone's men kept an eighth clean sheet in their last nine home games in the Champions League.

Fernando Torres replaced Martinez for the final 25 minutes and passed up two great chances to register his 100th goal for the club.

Yet, Atletico did get a fourth a minute from time when Dedchenko could only turn Juanfran's driven cross into his own net. — AFP

MALMO STUN SHAKTAR

STOCKHOLM: Markus Rosenberg's majestic first-half goal was enough to give Malmo a nervy home victory over Shakhtar Donetsk in their Champions League Group A clash at the Swedbank Stadium.

It took until the 17th minute of their third game for Malmo's first goal of the group stage to arrive, but when it did the Swedbank Stadium erupted as Rosenberg confidently stabbed home Pa Konate's low cross from around the penalty spot.

Jo-Inge Berget almost doubled the home side's lead just before halftime but Andriy Pyatov pulled off a wonderful reflex save to push the ball away.

Shakhtar captain Darijo Srna conceded a penalty 10 minutes into the second half when he pulled down Jo-Inge Berget, but Nicola Djurdjic missed the spot-kick.

Shakhtar, who looked dangerous going forward but had few shots on target, managed to get the ball in the net in the 78th minute but the goal was ruled out for offside.

The win left Shakhtar firmly rooted to the bottom of Group A without a point, while Malmo are in third place with three. Paris Saint Germain and Real Madrid are level at the top on seven points after a 0-0 draw in the French capital. — Reuters

GALATASARAY DEFEAT BENFICA

ISTANBUL: Galatasaray rebounded from conceding an early goal to beat Benfica with two first-half strikes yesterday, reviving their Champions League hopes in Group C after a disappointing start to their campaign. They were shocked in the second minute when Nicolas Gaitan put the visitors ahead after he received the ball in the penalty area, stepped inside Aurelien Chedjou and fired past keeper Fernando Muslera.

But Galatasaray captain Selcuk Inan hit back in the 19th minute, scoring from the penalty spot after Andre Almeida handled in the area.

Lukas Podolski put the momentum firm-

ly with the home side in the 33rd minute when he ran on to a long ball from Chedjou along the right and drove a left-foot shot past keeper Julio Cesar.

The second half started with a flurry of goal efforts with both keepers making saves, Wesley Sneijder firing from long distance against the post and Benfica failing to hit the target after some attacking moves.

But the home side gradually fell back into firm defence and kept the Lisbon visitors at bay. The result still leaves Galatasaray third on four points behind Benfica on six, level on points with leaders Atletico Madrid who beat Astana 4-0. — Reuters



ISTANBUL: Galatasaray's Lukas Podolski (right) battles for the ball with Benfica's Nicolas Gaitan during the Champions League Group C soccer match. — AP

MARTIAL RESCUES UNITED

MOSCOW: French international Anthony Martial guided home a second-half header as Manchester United snatched an important 1-1 draw at CSKA Moscow in their Champions League Group B clash yesterday.

Bundesliga side Wolfsburg top the pool on six points, after defeating PSV Eindhoven 2-0, with United and CSKA on four and the Dutch champions bringing up the rear on three.

It was former Monaco striker Martial's first Champions League goal for his new club and fifth this season since a high-profile transfer from the Ligue 1 club on the brink of the transfer window closing at the end of August.

CSKA took the lead on 15 minutes when Martial was called for a deliberate handball that led to a penalty. Roman Eremenko attempted to beat United goalkeeper David de Gea to his

right with the spot-kick, but the Spaniard parried the shot.

However, Ivory Coast international Seydou Doumbia charged in to plant the rebound into the goal for a 1-0 lead. It was the 27-year-old striker's 25th goal in 33 Champions League matches as the on-loan marksman from AS Roma again delivered the goods on the continental stage.

United's Dutch manager Louis van Gaal would have been disappointed with the defending of his side in the opening 45 minutes and it took an inspired de Gea to keep the deficit down to one goal at the break. United found life difficult trying to break down the solid resistance from the Russian champions and Wayne Rooney had slim pickings in the way of scoring chances.

United's record of winning only one of their

last seven matches against Russian opposition prompted Van Gaal to bring on Belgian midfielder Marouane Fellaini at half-time for the ineffective Bastian Schweinsteiger and the Old Trafford giants upped the tempo.

However, the three-time European champions ran into stiff resistance from their hosts and a close-range header from Rooney on the hour was only their second attempt on target and comfortably saved by 'keeper Igor Akinfeev.

More chances followed for United as urgency crept into their play but Eremenko tested de Gea from inside the box to send out another warning. But United made sure of a point in the 65th minute. Antonio Valencia broke down the right before delivering the cross that 19-year-old Martial met with devastating effect to glance his header in off the post for a crucial point. — AFP



ITALY: Juventus' Paul Pogba (third from left) kicks the ball against the wall during the Champions League, Group D soccer match against Borussia Muenchengladbach. — AP

JUVENTUS STILL ON TRACK AS GLADBACH CLAIM FIRST POINT

TURIN: Juventus remained on track to qualify for the Champions League last 16 despite being held to a scoreless draw by Borussia Muenchengladbach in a one-sided Group D clash in Turin yesterday.

Last season's beaten finalists have defied their poor Serie A form with a sterling start to the group stages this season.

But after beating Manchester City away and dominating Sevilla in a 2-0 win last time out, Massimiliano Allegri's Italian champions just could not find a way past Gladbach goalkeeper Yann Sommer to clinch the win that would have given them an element of comfort ahead of their remaining three group games-two of which are away from home.

The result leaves Juventus top of the group on seven points, but just one ahead of City after the English side's last-gasp 2-1 win over Sevilla.

Sevilla drop to third, two points ahead of Gladbach after the Germans claimed their first point of the competition. Gladbach coach Andre Schubert had pledged his revived Bundesliga side would come to Turin determined to go for the win, but there was little evidence of his promise. Brazilian Rafael saw a speculative effort go wide in the opening minutes, but the visitors spent most of the remainder sitting back and stifling Juve's steady stream of attacks.

Allegri had used some of his pre-match conference on Tuesday to call on misfiring midfielder Paul Pogba to up his flagging game, and the Frenchman responded positively.

Pogba produced a number of chances, mostly from distance, in either half but failed to break down a stubborn visitors' backline.

Pogba turned provider, too, setting up Mario Mandzukic on 22 minutes but the striker's effort was blocked. Only a minute later Juan Cuadrado spurned his chance for a maiden Champions League goal when his effort beat Sommer only to go just over.

Another Pogba rocket was blocked by the head of Gladbach captain Granit Xhaka following a corner and after defender Giorgio Chiellini fired a header wide from a corner, Pogba saw his daisy-cutter inch wide of the post.

Juve looked to be in for a long night and Allegri spotted the signs early, replacing Cuadrado with Roberto Pereyra on the hour to give the Uruguayan

his first outing since being suspended for crashing his Ferrari in Turin while under the influence.

But Gladbach continued to dig in, taking risks in the process. Juve's Spanish striker Alvaro Morata had been bidding for his sixth consecutive goal in a Champions League game, having pulled level with the club record of Alessandro Del Piero last time out. But when he intercepted Alvaro Dominguez to send himself on path to goal, Morata was hauled down by the defender, who was issued a yellow card.

Morata then saw a shot blocked at the back post after running on to Pogba's chip and Pogba saw

another free kick effort stopped by Sommer.

Juve had late penalty claims waved away when Mandzukic fell as he tried to run past Dominguez and on to Sami Khedira's through ball. Allegri's frustration grew and minutes later Mandzukic was replaced by Simone Zaza, while Morata later made way for Paulo Dybala. Their arrivals injected some pace and vibrancy into Juve's attack, but were not sufficient to stop Gladbach from claiming a first point that could prove useful in the event they end up battling for a third place finish for which the reward is a place in the Europa League. — AFP

UEFA Champions League tables

PARIS: UEFA Champions League tables after yesterday's matches (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, goals against, points):

Group A	Group B	Group C	Group D	Group E	Group F	Group G	Group H
Real Madrid	Wolfsburg	Benfica	Juventus	Barcelona	Bayern Munich	FC Porto	Zenit
Paris SG	CSKA Moscow	Atletico	Man City	Leverkusen	Olympiakos	Dynamo Kiev	Valencia
Malm FF	Man United	Galatasaray	Sevilla	BATE Borisov	Dinamo Zagreb	Chelsea	Gent
Shakhtar	PSV Eindhoven	Astana	Migladbach	Roma	Arsenal	Maccabi	Lyon
3 2 1 0 6 0 7	3 2 0 1 4 2 6	3 2 0 1 5 3 6	3 2 1 0 4 1 7	3 2 1 0 5 2 7	3 2 0 1 8 2 6	3 2 1 0 6 3 7	3 3 0 0 8 4 9
3 2 1 0 5 0 7	3 1 1 1 4 4 4	3 2 0 1 7 2 6	3 2 0 1 5 4 6	3 1 1 1 9 7 4	3 2 0 1 4 5 6	3 1 2 0 4 2 5	3 2 0 1 5 4 6
3 1 0 2 1 4 3	3 1 1 1 4 4 4	3 1 1 1 4 5 4	3 1 0 2 4 4 3	3 1 0 2 4 8 3	3 1 0 2 2 7 3	3 1 1 1 5 2 4	3 0 1 2 3 5 1
3 0 0 3 0 8 0	3 1 0 2 4 6 3	3 0 1 2 2 8 1	3 0 1 2 1 5 1	3 0 2 1 7 8 2	3 1 0 2 5 5 3	3 0 0 3 0 8 0	3 0 1 2 2 5 1

Sports

Windies bid to do
Sobers proud

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World
championships
in Qatar to
be 'best ever'



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FRANCE: PSG goalkeeper Kevin Trapp (right) saves a goal next to Real Madrid's Cristiano Ronaldo during the Champions League Group A soccer match. — AP

PSG AND REAL PLAY OUT GOALLESS DRAW

PARIS: Paris Saint-Germain and Real Madrid played out an anti-climactic 0-0 draw in the Champions League yesterday despite both teams being able to call upon their all-time leading scorers.

Cristiano Ronaldo, who overtook Raul as Madrid's top scorer in history last weekend, came as close as anyone to breaking the deadlock in the French capital with a second-half volley that whistled wide.

Zlatan Ibrahimovic and PSG, meanwhile, were stifled by Real's defensive organisation and never seriously tested Keylor Navas in the visitors' goal.

But while the game failed to live up to expectations as a spectacle, the result is not a bad one for either team, particularly the visitors. Both sides remain unbeaten this season and are yet to concede after three games in Group A as they sit locked together on seven points at the top of the section.

Malmö won 1-0 at home to Shakhtar Donetsk in the night's other game but Paris and Madrid are each four points clear of the Swedes and will have an opportunity to clinch qualification for the last 16 when they meet again in Spain in a fortnight.

Perhaps that will be a more open contest, but under the Parisian drizzle it was Rafael Benitez's tactical nous that frustrated the hosts and enabled Real to secure a result that is not to be sniffed at given their current injury problems.

Deprived of Gareth Bale, Karim Benzema and James Rodriguez, Benitez handed starts to Jese and Lucas Vazquez on the flanks in a 4-4-2 formation but his main objective appeared to be to stifle a PSG side obsessed with dominating possession.

It was a tactic that proved very effective in the first half, with Paris unable to trouble Navas other than from a low Blaise Matuidi shot from the edge of the box in the 11th minute that was stopped comfortably

enough by the Costa Rican.

The French champions were too slow and predictable on the ball and Angel Di Maria, who had said ahead of the game that he would not celebrate if he scored against the club with whom he won the Champions League in 2014, looked like he would rather not be playing at all. It was Real who were the more likely side, and Toni Kroos slipped a pass through to Jese, who was denied by Kevin Trapp racing from his line. A brief spell of applied Madrid pressure followed after Di Maria lost the ball cheaply in the opposition half and Trapp tipped over a Ronaldo header following a Kroos corner.

Ronaldo tried his luck from two long-range free-kicks either side of half-time but they only served to show why, for all his immense talent, he has scored from just two of his last 89 direct free-kicks. But it was Ronaldo who might have won the game in the 72nd minute. When a Paris corner came to nothing, Real broke quickly and Marcelo teed up the Portuguese superstar for a volley from a tight angle to the left of the box that fizzed just past the far post.

He was also the target of the affection of a pitch invader who ran on to the field for a hug with the Ballon d'Or winner before being dragged away to the biggest cheer of the evening. — AFP

DE BRUYNE SHOOT'S DOWN SEVILLA

MANCHESTER: Kevin De Bruyne's injury-time strike illuminated Manchester City's path to the Champions League last 16 as they beat Sevilla 2-1 in dramatic fashion at the Etihad Stadium yesterday. An open, occasionally breathless game was heading for a draw after Adil Rami's own goal had cancelled out Yevhen Konoplyanka's 30th-minute opener for Sevilla, only for De Bruyne to gather a pass from Yaya Toure and slam home with his left foot seconds into stoppage time.

City had been second-best at times against the Europa League champions, but De Bruyne's goal enabled them to move three points clear of their Spanish rivals in Group D and close to within a point of leaders Juventus.

Manuel Pellegrini's side now face their two most difficult games of the group phase, away to Sevilla and then Juventus, who won 2-1 at the Etihad last month, but they will travel with hope fully intact after securing only a fourth win in 13 Champions League home games.

It was a special night for City winger Jesus Navas, who made 393 appearances for Sevilla over a 10-year spell, and he almost opened the scoring with a 25-yard shot that faded away from the left-hand post. The Spaniard's early sighter was in keeping with a positive start by the hosts, who also saw Wilfried Bony-deputising for the injured Sergio Aguero prod a

shot straight at Sergio Rico before De Bruyne dragged a shot wide.

But City's fans have learnt to be wary of Champions League home games and their anxieties resurfaced in the 17th minute when Konoplyanka wobbled the post with a cunning free-kick from wide on the right and Joe Hart had to turn Grzegorz Krychowiak's follow-up effort behind.

Suddenly City looked edgy, Timothee Kolodziejczak flicking a corner across the face of goal and Krychowiak heading wide from another dead-ball situation, and on the half hour Sevilla's pressure told.

Bacary Sagna, filling in again at left-back with Aleksandar Kolarov only fit enough for the bench, had been caught upfield once already and on the second occasion it proved fatal, with Vitolo stealing in behind him and teeing up Konoplyanka to sweep home.

Fortunately for the Frenchman, it took City just six minutes to equalise. Toure had hit out at a perceived lack of recognition in the English media prior to the game, but here he took matters into his own hands in a manner that recalled his displays in City's 2011-12 and 2013-14 title-winning campaigns. Faced up by Kolodziejczak on the right-hand side of the area, the Ivorian rolled his man brilliantly before crossing from the byline. — AFP



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Gulf should adjust to new oil price 'reality': IMF

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Turkish CB keeps rates steady but signals tighter policy ahead

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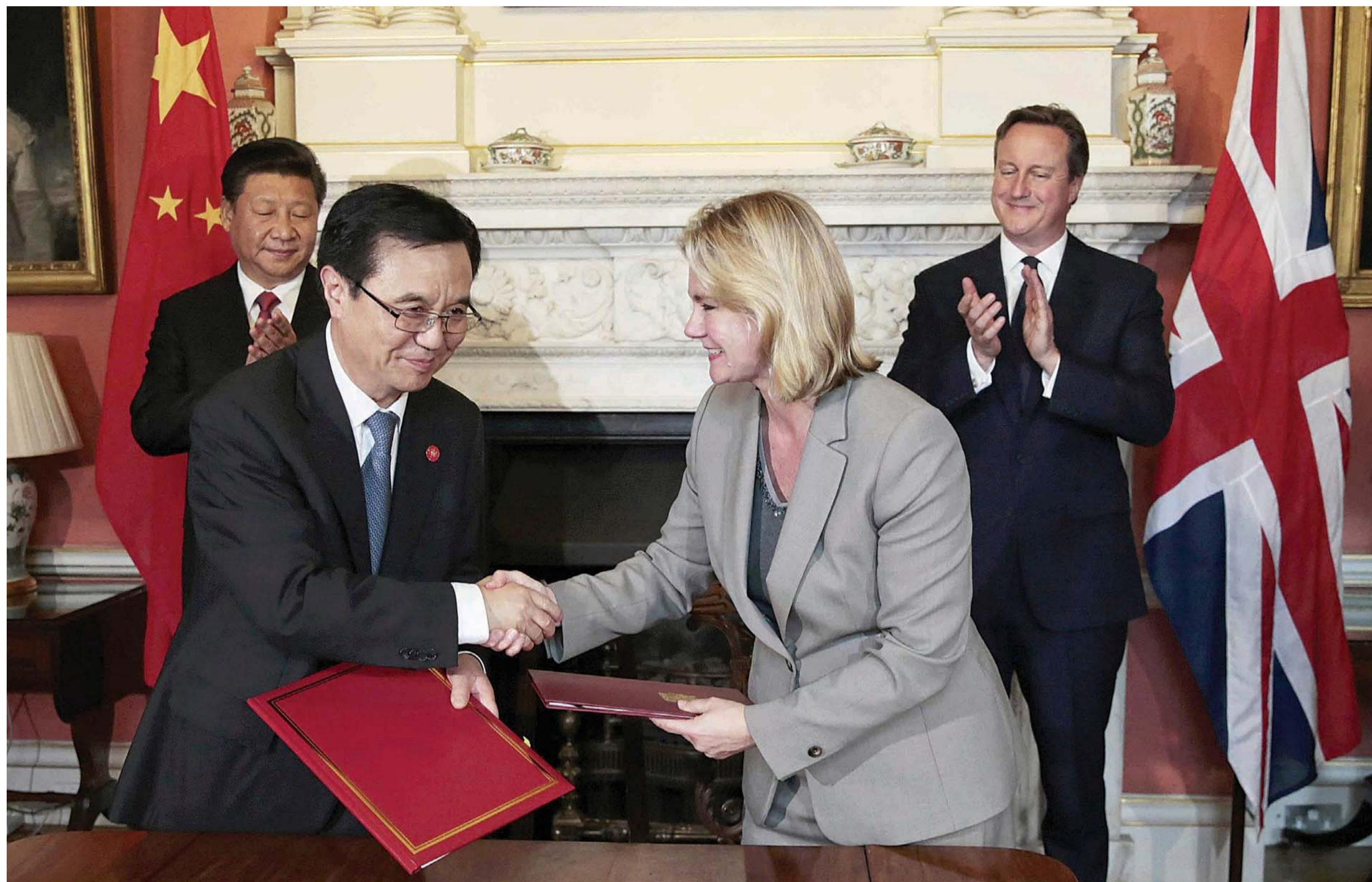


Ras Al-Khaimah tourism board, Air Arabia discuss tourism with Kuwait

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EU RULES STARBUCKS, FIAT TAX DEALS ARE ILLEGAL

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LONDON: Britain's International Development Secretary Justine Greening and China's Minister of Commerce Gao Hucheng shake hands after signing an agreement at Number 10 Downing Street in London. Britain's Chancellor of the Exchequer George Osborne (front R) and China's Minister Yu Guangzhou (front L) sign an agreement as Britain's Prime Minister David Cameron (R) and China's President Xi Jinping (rear L) watch at Number 10 Downing Street in London yesterday. —AFP

XI SEALS \$62BN IN DEALS DURING UK VISIT

CAMERON, XI ADDRESS STEEL CRISIS AFTER BRITAIN JOB CUTS

LONDON: Chinese President Xi Jinping has sealed a multi-billion dollar deal to finance nuclear power stations in Britain, crowning a visit that Prime Minister David Cameron hopes will unleash a wave of investment from the world's second largest economy.

After a day of pomp, Communist Party General Secretary Xi yesterday turned from pageantry to discussion of 40 billion pounds' (\$62 billion) worth of deals with Cameron in his Downing Street residence, where a landmark nuclear deal was signed.

In the first major Chinese investment in a Western nuclear facility, China's General Nuclear Corporation (CGN) will take a one-third stake in the planned 18 billion-pound (\$28 billion)

Hinkley Point nuclear plant, to be owned by France's EDF. State-owned CGN will also take a two-thirds stake in the Bradwell nuclear plant east of London, where it plans to build a Chinese-designed reactor, and a one-fifth stake in a project for Areva-designed reactors at the Sizewell plant.

"We will build a global, comprehensive strategic partnership between our countries in the 21st Century and jointly open up a golden era," Xi told reporters via a translator, adding that the nuclear deal was a flagship investment.

Cameron is pitching Britain as the pre-eminent Western gateway for investment from China, though the warmth of the reception for Xi has raised some eyebrows with allies and drawn criticism that London is ignoring China's human rights record.

GOLDEN ERA?

Protests on the street against the Communist leader have been small so far, despite activists accusing Cameron of court-ing Chinese money while brushing aside criticism of a crackdown in civil liberties since Xi came to power in 2012.

British officials and business leaders say the rise of China is impossible to ignore: China's economy is four times the size of Britain's.

When a BBC reporter asked Xi at a briefing whether Britain should be pleased to do business with an undemocratic country with a troubled relationship to human rights, Cameron said a strong commercial relationship was important.

"The stronger our relationship, the more able we are to have the necessary and frank discussions about other issues," Cameron said, adding he had raised the oversupply of Chinese steel after over 4,000 jobs were thrown into jeopardy at steel plants across Britain in recent weeks.

Xi said China had taken steps to reduce iron and steel capacity and that China attached "great importance" to the protection of human rights.

"Looking around the world, there is always room for improvement," Xi said of human rights. He later told a business audience that there would be no hard landing for China's economy. "The Chinese economy will maintain its strong momentum," Xi said. "There will be no hard landing."

NUCLEAR DEAL

China will take a 6-billion-pound stake in EDF's Hinkley Point project in the southwestern English county of Somerset, due to be the first new nuclear plant to be built in the European Union since Japan's Fukushima disaster in 2011.

The Chinese investment, agreed in principle in October 2013, breathes life into a British plan to replace around a quarter of its electricity generating capacity over the next decade. It offers China a way to showcase its nuclear technology as part of its pitch as a global exporter of quality infrastructure.

No overall figure was given for the Chinese nuclear investment. Britain said before the visit that a total of 30 billion pounds' worth of contracts would be clinched, though Cameron upped the figure to 40 billion today.

The deal brings Britain's first new nuclear plant since 1995 a step closer and is also a boost for EDF, which has been hit by billions of euros of cost overruns and years of delays with two of its other European nuclear projects in

Finland and France.

The prospect of China, which Western spymasters say sponsors hacking of global companies, helping to build a nuclear plant in Britain and being involved in running others has stoked security concerns.

Steve Hilton, a former policy adviser to David Cameron, told the BBC that Britain should impose sanctions on China for political oppression and cyber attacks instead of rolling out the red carpet.

"This is one of the worst national humiliations we've seen since we went cap-in-hand to the IMF in the 1970s," said Hilton, referring to the 1976 crisis during which Britain was forced to ask for a loan from the International Monetary Fund.

"The truth is that China is a rogue state just as bad as Russia or Iran, and I just don't understand why we're sucking up to them rather than standing up to them as we should be." China has strongly denied previous accusations of espionage, saying it is itself a victim of cyber attacks. —Reuters

FERRARI ROARS IN DEBUT ON WALL ST

NEW YORK: The legendary Italian racing car Ferrari brought its trademark roar to Wall Street yesterday and fans followed suit, its shares easily overtaking the IPO price.

The New York Stock Exchange was decked out in the Ferrari's trademark red and crest of a prancing horse, while eight of the iconic supercars, including driver Sebastian Vettel's F1 model, let loose earthshaking vrooms on the street outside.

The shares, which were sold at \$52 apiece in an initial public offering Tuesday by parent Fiat Chrysler, broke past \$60 as trade opened, before settling back around midday at \$56.25 under the brash ticker name "RACE." That represented a respectable 8 percent gain in a market which, in recent weeks, has greeted new issues tepidly.

For Ferrari, though, the reception gave the company, which sold just over 7,200 cars last year, a rich valuation of \$10.6 billion. That proved to be a financial boost for Fiat Chrysler, which sold off a nine percent stake in its racecar subsidiary as it seeks cash to pull down debt and to invest in expanded production.

Ferrari's debut was the top financial news of the day, and drew fans outside the exchange,

where, in addition to Vettel's F1 car, several other models—including a 1961 250 California SWB—were on display. "I love Ferrari. I've always followed them with the Formula One racing," said Abhishek Ahuja, a tourist visiting New York from Mumbai. Fiat Chrysler Chief Executive Sergio Marchionne, who also serves as Ferrari's chairman, found it hard to contain his happiness at the success of the IPO, especially given the doldrums of recent US stock trading. Sporting his trademark cashmere cardigan, he and other Ferrari executives had the honor of ringing the bell to open the New York exchange's trading session yesterday.

But it was not all good news. Fiat Chrysler's shares quoted on the New York exchange were down 3.9 percent, perhaps in reaction to Ferrari's shares not having risen even higher.

SUPERCAR COMPETITION

Fiat Chrysler owned 90 percent of Ferrari before Tuesday's flotation of a nine percent stake; Piero Ferrari, son of legendary founder Enzo Ferrari, has ten percent.

With a heavy debt level and a plan to invest \$48 billion to expand its total worldwide sales to

seven million vehicles per year, Fiat Chrysler hopes to strengthen its finances by eventually spinning off more of the sports car maker.

The challenge is for Ferrari to build on its strengths amid an increase in competition from an expanding choice of \$200,000 to \$2 million supercars, like those from McLaren, Bugatti, Lamborghini, Aston Martin, and others. Marchionne told CNBC TV that the company is planning to ramp up sales modestly from slightly over 7,000 units a year to 9,000 by 2019, not so much as to undermine the brand's air of exclusivity.

"What is at the heart of the brand is this intimate relationship between us and the customer. It would be almost suicidal to try to expand volumes to the detriment of that relationship," he said. As for the competition, they "are not at par with a Ferrari," he added without mentioning names.

Next to the queue of Ferraris outside the exchange, Doug Kendora, who works nearby, voiced his doubts. Ferrari's introduction to the stock market "will make it less of a boutique (car), more mass. That's the way the world goes, everybody's trying to cash out." —AFP



NEW YORK: Executives for Fiat Chrysler Automobiles and Ferrari Automotive company including Piero Ferrari and Sergio Marchionne ring the opening bell of the New York Stock Exchange before Ferrari has their IPO yesterday in New York City. Ferrari will trade under the symbol RACE. —AP

ABU DHABI'S TAX-FREE FINANCIAL ZONE OPEN FOR BUSINESS

ABU DHABI: The Middle East's newest financial centre opened for business yesterday as the Abu Dhabi Global Market (ADGM) said it was ready to receive applications from financial institutions for operating licenses. Aiming to diversify its economy beyond oil, Abu Dhabi is creating a financial free zone with its own administration, court system and zero tax incentives designed to lure banks and companies from around the world. It has hired prominent figures from other centres to execute the project, including Hector Sants, former head of Britain's financial services regulator, as an adviser and Richard Teng, former

chief regulatory officer at the Singapore Exchange, as chief executive of the ADGM's new regulator. "Over the next few weeks and months, we will continue to closely engage financial institutions to help them understand our regulations and assist them with the application process," Teng said in a statement. He did not specify when the first licenses might be awarded. The ADGM is in the process of consulting the public on draft regulations for its courts and is about to appoint judges, it said. Abu Dhabi will face tough competition from

other financial centres, particularly the fast-growing Dubai International Financial Centre, just 130 kilometres (80 miles) away along a highway through the desert. But its vast oil wealth - one of its sovereign wealth funds is estimated to have more than \$700 billion of assets - and its status as the capital of the United Arab Emirates mean it will be difficult for some financial firms to ignore. In the initial announcement of its plan in 2013, the Abu Dhabi government said the ADGM would host various types of bank, foreign exchange and commodity trading firms, brokerages, pension

and investment funds, Islamic financial firms and many others. It said the zone would fill a gap in the global trading day between Tokyo and London. Officials now say the centre's operations will at first be more modest, focusing on wealth management, asset management and private banking. "However, we have the flexibility to grow into a broad-based international financial centre, attracting a wide spectrum of financial institutions who will choose ADGM as their home," the centre's chairman Ahmed Ali al-Sayegh said yesterday. — Reuters

SAUDI ARABIA INDEX DROPS ON PROSPECT OF FISCAL REFORM

REFORMS COULD INCLUDE LOWER ENERGY SUBSIDIES

DUBAI: Saudi Arabia's share index made its largest decline in two months yesterday after an International Monetary Fund (IMF) official said the kingdom was considering a wide range of fiscal reforms in response to a record budget deficit. Other Gulf markets also fell, with renewed weakness in oil prices and mixed company results sapping investor confidence. Fiscal reforms in Saudi Arabia, which could include lower energy subsidies, could hurt corporate profits in some sectors, especially the petrochemical industry. Saudi Basic Industries Corp (SABIC), the Gulf's largest listed company, fell 3.7 percent as 19 of Saudi's 20 biggest stocks declined. The IMF estimated on Wednesday that the kingdom would post a record budget deficit of well over \$100 billion this year, amounting to 21.6 percent of gross domestic product, as low oil prices shrink state revenues. This was a marginally larger deficit than the IMF had previously forecast. "The IMF report doesn't bode well for 2016 either," said Asim Bukhtiar, head of research at Saudi Fransi Capital. "The market is looking for clarity. In coming weeks we will learn official thinking on the 2016 budget, and right now the market is trying to gauge how big the

spending cuts will be." Saudi Telecom Co plunged 7 percent after it reported a 31 percent drop in third-quarter profit that was bigger than analysts had forecast. This period included the annual Haj pilgrimage, which is usually a money maker for the Saudi mobile operator as foreign visitors use expensive international roaming or local mobile SIM cards while in country. The profit drop seemed to stun investors, who had lifted STC's shares to an 11-week closing high on Tuesday before its results were announced. Shares in Rabigh Refining And Petrochemical Co (PetroRabigh) tumbled 10.1 percent after the company swung to a third-quarter net loss. The Saudi stock index dropped 2.7 percent, its biggest decline since Aug. 24 and lowest close since Oct. 6. "The economy is having a significant wobble and that is affecting market sentiment," Bukhtiar added. In Egypt, Cairo's main index rose 0.1 percent after central bank governor Hisham Ramez's surprise decision not to renew his term when it expires in November. Ramez had devalued Egypt's currency and cracked down on black market currency trading, so investors will be pondering whether his exit will stall further devaluations.

- YESTERDAY'S HIGHLIGHTS SAUDI ARABIA**
The index dropped 2.7 percent to 7,479 points.
- DUBAI**
The index fell 1.6 percent to 3,625 points.
- ABU DHABI**
The index dropped 1.2 percent to 4,530 points.
- QATAR**
The index fell 0.7 percent to 11,670 points.
- EGYPT**
The index rose 0.1 percent to 7,669 points.
- KUWAIT**
The index fell 0.2 percent to 5,793 points.
- OMAN**
The index slipped 0.03 percent to 5,918 points.
- BAHRAIN**
The index was flat at 1,249 points. — Reuters



BERLIN: German Chancellor Angela Merkel, center, talks to Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier, left, and Vice Chancellor and Economy Minister Sigmar Gabriel prior to the weekly cabinet meeting at the chancellery in Berlin, Germany, yesterday. — AP

GULF SHOULD ADJUST TO NEW OIL PRICE 'REALITY': IMF

DUBAI: Gulf economies need to adjust to the "new reality" of oil prices expected to remain low for some time, the International Monetary Fund says, recommending spending cuts and income diversification. But the oil-rich monarchies remain in a strong position to make the necessary adjustments thanks to the large financial reserves they have built up during years of firmer prices, according to the IMF's regional outlook published yesterday. "Not only this year, but for the years to come, these countries will need to make an adjustment to better balance their spending to the new reality of the oil prices," said IMF Middle East and Central Asia chief Masood Ahmed. The budgets of Gulf Cooperation Council members Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates are facing an average deficit this year of 13 percent of gross domestic product (GDP), Ahmed told AFP in an interview. Their combined budget deficit over the next five years will exceed \$1 trillion, he said, as oil prices have plunged to about \$50 a barrel from about \$115 in June 2014, pressured

by oversupply and weak demand. The IMF report says oil exporters in the Middle East and North Africa - which besides GCC countries include Iran, Iraq, Libya, Algeria and Yemen - will lose around \$360 billion in oil revenues this year. Oil prices will average \$51.6 a barrel this year and \$50.4 a barrel in 2016, before rising to \$63 a barrel in 2020, the IMF predicted. "Most people today believe that oil prices may come up a little bit from where they are today... By 2020, we are expecting to see oil prices in the low and mid 60s rather than the numbers they were used to," said Ahmed. "That means that most of these countries will need to undertake a process of sizeable and sustained adjustment on the fiscal side." Those adjustments should include finding ways to cut public spending and diversify income away from oil, said Ahmed, pointing mainly at the need to cut subsidies and reduce the public sector wage bill. "Most nationals of the GCC countries work in the public sector, and that's a model that has to change over the next few years," he said. The IMF expects economic growth in the GCC to slow to 3.25

percent this year and to 2.75 percent in 2016, from 3.5 percent in 2014. Ahmed applauded a recent move by the UAE to lift subsidies on fuel as a "good example" for other GCC countries. Kuwait lifted subsidies on diesel and kerosene and other states are planning subsidy cuts. Capital spending on projects should also be moderated with the focus on efficiency, he said. "Difficult choices ahead" "Ahmed said GCC countries, known for their low taxes, could look at taxing consumption to raise revenues outside the oil sector. "There are difficult choices ahead. But it is important to set out for each country what they want to do in each of these areas and to lay out a medium-term plan," he said. Most GCC countries are in a strong position to adjust to the new reality of the oil market, thanks to their hefty financial reserves. "GCC countries have very wisely built up financial savings during the time when oil prices were high. That puts them in a very strong position today to face the shock of the magnitude of lower oil prices



Masood Ahmed

that we are seeing today," said Ahmed. The IMF said that the fiscal reserves of Saudi Arabia, Oman and Bahrain would run out in less than five years. For UAE, Kuwait and Qatar, they will last for more than 20 years. These countries should use some of those financial buffers "to make the process of adjusting to the new oil price more gradual," said Ahmed. China's economic slowdown and an expected US interest rate rise could inflict more pain on oil-exporting countries by crimping energy demand and raising borrowing costs, the IMF warned. — AFP

GM OVERCOMES HUGE RECALL COSTS TO POST 3Q PROFIT

DETROIT: General Motors' third-quarter profit fell slightly, but the company rode strong North American sales to overcome \$1.5 billion in costs from its deadly ignition switch recall. Its shares rose almost 4 percent in premarket trading yesterday. The Detroit automaker's net income slipped 1.4 percent from a year ago, but still was \$1.36 billion, or 84 cents per share. That compares with \$1.38 billion, or 81 cents per share, a year ago. Without the recall costs, GM would have made a \$1.50 per share, soundly beating Wall Street expectations. Analysts polled by FactSet expected \$1.18 per share. The company posted a record \$3.3 billion pretax profit in North America, more than offsetting a small decline in China and a loss in South America. The news pushed GM shares up 4.5 percent, or \$1.52, to \$35 in premarket trading about an hour before the markets opened yesterday. Chief Financial Officer Chuck Stevens said the GM's North American profit margin, the percent of revenue it gets to keep, hit a record 11.8 percent for the quarter. The company had set a goal of 10 percent North American margins by next year, but Stevens said GM will achieve the target a year early. Revenue from July through September fell 1 percent to \$38.8 billion, but still beat analysts' forecasts. Almost three quarters of GM's revenue came from North America.

GM right on track
In China, GM reported pretax income of \$463 million, down 4 percent from a year ago, but profit margins rose from 9.6 percent to 9.8 percent because the company sold more expensive Cadillacs and SUVs. "China has not fallen off the cliff as everyone had expected," Stevens said. South America, though, is still the big trouble spot for GM and other companies. The company lost \$217 million in the region, almost seven times the loss from a year ago, and Stevens said there isn't an end in sight to economic troubles there. In Europe, GM's loss narrowed to \$231 million and Stevens said GM is still on track to be profitable there next year. GM Financial, the company's auto loan arm, posted a 13 percent profit gain to \$231 million. The recall costs included \$900 million to fend off criminal prosecution over the ignition-switch scandal and about \$600 million to settle multiple wrongful death and shareholder lawsuits stemming from the problem. The switches in older model small cars such as the Chevy Cobalt can slip out of the "run" position and cut off the engine. They have been linked to at least 169 deaths. GM said in September that ignition-switch scandal cost it over \$5.3 billion. Even with the settlements, GM cannot close the books on the scandal. It still faces more than 400 death and injury cases that have yet to be settled. Six cases are scheduled for trial, including one in January. — Reuters

EXCHANGE RATES

AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

ASIAN COUNTRIES	
Japanese Yen	2.531
Indian Rupees	4.662
Pakistani Rupees	2.897
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.152
Nepali Rupees	2.922
Singapore Dollar	218.810
Hongkong Dollar	39.032
Bangladesh Taka	3.888
Philippine Peso	6.569
Thai Baht	8.551
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	155.290
Jordanian Dinar	426.900
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.017
Syrian Lira	2.157
Morocco Dirham	31.842
EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES	
US Dollar Transfer	302.500
Euro	344.250
Sterling Pound	469.780
Canadian dollar	232.870
Turkish lira	104.130
Swiss Franc	317.920
Australian dollar	221.130
US Dollar Buying	301.300

GOLD	
20 gram	236.79
10 gram	121.09
5 gram	61.23

UAE EXCHANGE CENTRE WLL

CURRENCIES	TELEX TRANSFER PER 1000
Australian Dollar	210.32
Canadian Dollar	235.65
Swiss Franc	320.95
Euro	345.92
US Dollar	302.70
Sterling Pound	470.95
Japanese Yen	2.57
Bangladesh Taka	3.886
Indian Rupee	4.659
Sri Lankan Rupee	2.159
Nepali Rupee	2.922
Pakistani Rupee	2.899
UAE Dirhams	0.08236
Bahraini Dinar	0.8044
Egyptian Pound	0.03855
Jordanian Dinar	0.4305
Omani Riyal	0.7860
Qatari Riyal	0.08346
Saudi Riyal	0.08074

DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

Rate for Transfer	Selling Rate
US Dollar	302.750
Canadian Dollar	234.300
Sterling Pound	469.260
Euro	344.035
Swiss Franc	290.555
Bahraini Dinar	803.530
UAE Dirhams	82.725
Qatari Riyals	90.700

Saudi Riyals	81.460
Jordanian Dinar	426.600
Egyptian Pound	37.593
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.153
Indian Rupees	4.659
Pakistani Rupees	2.897
Bangladesh Taka	3.883
Philippines Peso	6.548
Cyprus pound	576.640
Japanese Yen	3.530
Syrian Pound	2.600
Nepalese Rupees	3.905
Malaysian Ringgit	72.000
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	47.945
Thai Bhat	9.515
Turkish Lira	104.195

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
Europe		
British Pound	0.460221	0.469221
Czech Korune	0.004689	0.016689
Danish Krone	0.041987	0.046987
Euro	0.337845	0.345845
Norwegian Krone	0.033206	0.038406
Romanian Leu	0.086774	0.086774
Slovakia	0.009011	0.019011
Swedish Krona	0.032328	0.037378
Swiss Franc	0.309789	0.319989
Turkish Lira	0.098992	0.109292
Australasia		
Australian Dollar	0.211620	0.223120
New Zealand Dollar	0.197474	0.206974
America		
Canadian Dollar	0.227673	0.236173
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	0.036929	0.039679
Indian rupee	0.004378	0.004768
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000018	0.000024
Japanese Yen	0.002441	0.002621
Kenyan Shilling	0.003144	0.003144
Korean Won	0.000257	0.000272
Malaysian Ringgit	0.067517	0.073517
Nepalese Rupee	0.002898	0.003068
Pakistan Rupee	0.002833	0.003113
Philippine Peso	0.006455	0.006735
Sierra Leone	0.000067	0.000073
Singapore Dollar	0.214404	0.220404
South African Rand	0.016803	0.025303
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001858	0.002438
Taiwan	0.009244	0.009424
Thai Baht	0.008224	0.008774

Arab		
Bahraini Dinar	0.794970	0.802970
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	0.000151	0.000251
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	0.151576	0.159376
Turkish Lira	0.098992	0.109292
UAE Dirhams	0.081378	0.082527
Yemeni Riyal	0.001367	0.001447

UK PUBLIC FINANCES IMPROVE BUT OSBORNE FACES CHALLENGE TO HIT TARGETS

LONDON: British finance minister George Osborne still faces a challenge to hit his target for cutting the budget deficit this year, despite a stronger-than-expected improvement in September, according to data released yesterday.

A surge in tax receipts helped bring public borrowing down to 9.4 billion pounds (\$14.5 billion) in September from 11.0 billion pounds a year earlier and below economists' forecasts of 10.1 billion pounds.

For the first six months of the tax year, public sector net borrowing was 13.9 per-

cent lower at 46.3 billion pounds. The Office for National Statistics also revised down its borrowing estimates for August and July. But economists said Osborne will need to make further marked progress to hit his budget deficit target to cut the deficit by 22 percent in the 2015/16 tax year which ends in March.

Monthly borrowing in the second half of the year would need to be almost a third lower than the same period a year earlier, EY ITEM Club economist Martin Beck said.

"With recent signs of a cooling in eco-

nom activity likely to make its presence felt in the fiscal data over the next few months, such a fall in borrowing looks unlikely," Beck said.

Osborne aims to cut the budget deficit this year to 69.5 billion pounds, 3.7 percent of gross domestic product-down from 4.9 percent of GDP in the 2014/15 financial year but still one of the highest among advanced economies.

Income, VAT and corporation tax receipts were the strongest on record for the month of September, the ONS said. Osborne might overshoot his borrowing

goal slightly for this year but public finances were likely to be "broadly balanced by the end of the decade," Investec economist Chris Hale said.

Since his Conservative Party won a majority in an election in May, Osborne has intensified his focus on deficit reduction and wants a budget surplus by 2019/20.

Osborne will announce on Nov. 25 how government departments will make further deep spending cuts over the next four years. Yesterday figures showed total central government spending hit its highest

level for the month since records began in 1993.

Many economists say the easiest cuts have already been made. Osborne has faced calls within his own Conservative Party to soften the impact of cuts to tax credits on workers that critics say undermine Prime Minister David Cameron's promise to champion working families.

The plans for spending cuts that he will announce next month are certain to be opposed by the Labour Party's new leader Jeremy Corbyn, who wants to raise taxes on the wealthiest. — Reuters



KUWAIT: Representatives from Ras Al-Khaimah Tourism Development Authority and Air Arabia seen at a media roundtable yesterday at Crowne Plaza Hotel to discuss opportunities to strengthen travel, tourism and trade ties with Kuwait. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

RAS AL-KHAIMAH TOURISM BOARD, AIR ARABIA DISCUSS TOURISM, TRADE TIES WITH KUWAIT

By Nawara Fattahova

KUWAIT: Representatives from Ras Al-Khaimah Tourism Development Authority and Air Arabia held a media roundtable yesterday at Crowne Plaza Hotel to discuss opportunities to strengthen travel, tourism and trade ties with the emirate. During the visit, the delegation looked for opportunities to attract growing numbers of visitors from Kuwait to Ras Al-Khaimah. With increased flight connectivity through Air Arabia, the roadshow outlined the destination's offerings, ease of travel and opportunities for future collaboration in a series of workshops, trade dinners and high-level meetings with the local travel and tourism industry.

Ras Al-Khaimah is just a 45-minute drive from Dubai International Airport and about 30 minutes from Sharjah. "It's the perfect getaway for leisure, adventure and luxury travel. Visitors to Ras Al-Khaimah will enjoy idyllic sojourns on terracotta beaches and resorts, adventure activities including water sports, micro-lighting, mountain climbing, kayaking, as well as an eclectic selection of international gourmet experiences and world-class spas," said Haitham Mattar, CEO of Ras Al-Khaimah Tourism Development Authority.

Kuwait remains a core market for both tourism and investment as we begin to increasing awareness of Ras Al-Khaimah across the GCC. "With a focused new strategy targeting one million tourists by 2018, this roadshow is the first step on our journey to enhancing relationships, forging partnerships and building recognition for the destination," added Mattar.

According to him, Ras Al-Khaimah Tourism Development Authority witnessed a 20 percent rise in visitor numbers from Kuwait year-to-date compared to the same period in 2014. "This exclusive roadshow is the first step of an extensive marketing program to the country, with the aim of increasing awareness of the destination within the GCC through its partnership with Air Arabia and Ras Al-Khaimah International Airport," he added.

Air Arabia operations

Hosam Raydan, Head of Marketing and Corporate Communications, noted that the continued strengthening of their route network is clear evidence of the significance they attach to

servicing their customers in Kuwait. "Looking ahead, we believe there is an enormous opportunity to meet demand for leisure and business travel between Kuwait and the northern United Arab Emirates, and we hope to add more routes and frequencies over the coming months and years," he noted.

Kuwait is one of the first and most important destinations for Air Arabia. "Kuwait was one of the first five destinations when we commenced operations in October 2003. Currently we operate a total fleet of 43 new Airbus A320 aircraft, serving 115 routes from five hubs in the UAE, Egypt, Morocco, and Jordan. This year we launched 15 new destinations out of the 115. There are 30 direct flights a week to Kuwait by Air Arabia including 21 from Sharjah, four from Alexandria, and four from Amman. The fleet will reach 55 aircraft by the year 2017," explained Raydan.

Tourism in Ras Al-Khaimah

Matar also spoke about some of the touristic places in Ras Al-Khaimah. "The most popular is the Jais mountain, which is 1900 meters high and the temperature there is lower by about 10 degrees. During winter there is even snow on top of it. Also Ras Al-Khaimah is rich with historical locations that goes back to more than 7000 years. Furthermore it has a lot of beaches and has the longest tides that reaches 60 meters," he pointed out.

Ras Al-Khaimah witnessed 72 percent growth in family visits. "We have 5000 rooms in Ras Al-Khaimah spread in different hotels. Also the five stars hotels have provide their services for the price of the four stars hotels. We aim to reach 3 million visitors and 10 thousand rooms within 10 years. We also focus currently on opening new markets in all of Turkey, India and Scandinavia," stressed Marat. Members of the Ras Al-Khaimah Tourism Development Authority and Air Arabia met the Director of Government Affairs at the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry Khaled Yousef Al-Manna and the Chairman of the Kuwait Travel and Tourism Agencies Association Khaled Mohammad Al-Hamad. The delegation discussed opportunities for potential partnership and outlined plans for future investment in the emirate's tourism proposition and economic diversification through tourism by extending connectivity throughout the GCC.

CREDIT SUISSE BOSS UNVEILS SHAKEUP AS PROFITS FALL

WE ARE SOLVING OUR CAPITAL ISSUES: THIAM

GENEVA: After four months at the helm of Credit Suisse, chief executive Tidjane Thiam announced yesterday a sweeping Asia-focused overhaul of the bank that will axe thousands of jobs and raise billions in fresh capital.

Franco-Ivorian Thiam revealed the new strategy at an annual investors meeting, held as Switzerland's second-largest bank reported a 24-percent year-on-year net profit slump in the third quarter. The bank's stock took a beating on the results, plunging nearly five percent in the morning. By early afternoon the share price had recovered slightly and was down 2.4 percent at 24.29 Swiss francs. Giving details of Credit Suisse's new strategy, Thiam said the bank was "taking decisive action to strengthen our balance sheet and capital position to the point where it will not be any more a source of concern for our clients, our investors or our regulators."

In concrete terms, the bank aims to save 3.5 billion Swiss francs (\$3.7 billion, 3.2 billion euros) by the end of 2018 by, among other things, cutting loose a significant number of the some 60,000 people it employs globally. In all, some 5,000 jobs are likely to be cut worldwide, including 1,600 in Switzerland, Thiam said on a conference call.

Credit Suisse also aims to raise a total of 6.05 billion Swiss francs (\$6.3 billion, 5.6 billion euros) by selling stock to selected shareholders and existing investors. Shareholders will be asked to vote on the move on November 19.

"We are rebooting the company, we are solving our capital issues," Thiam told Bloomberg Television. "One of our objectives coming in was to take capital off the table, to raise enough capital so that this would not be again a topic of

conversation at quarterly results," said Thiam, who was brought in four months ago to restore investor confidence in the struggling bank.

As part of its new strategy, the bank, which last year was slapped with a whopping \$2.8-billion US fine after pleading guilty to having helped rich Americans evade taxes, also said it aimed to get out of wealth management in the United States.

To do so, Credit Suisse said it planned to transfer its US wealth management activities to the Wells Fargo bank, and instead concentrate on wealth management in Asia. The bank also said it planned to "right-size" its footprint in London by transferring some 1,800 positions from the British capital to less expensive regions such as India.

IPO on horizon

Credit Suisse, whose revenues have been hit by tougher capital requirements and record low interest rates, said it would restructure three regional divisions: the Swiss Universal Bank, Asia Pacific, and International Wealth Management. In what some analysts said was the most significant announcement of the day, the bank said it plans an initial public offering for between 20 and 30 percent of the Swiss unit by the end of 2017.

Credit Suisse said it would split its securities unit into an investment banking and a markets business unit. "I am confident we have the right structure and the right leadership to take our strategy forward," Thiam said in a statement. IG analyst Laurent Bakhtiari hailed Thiam, a former Ivory Coast government minister and former head of



ZURICH: CEO of Swiss bank Credit Suisse Tidjane Thiam speaks during a press conference in Zurich, Switzerland, yesterday. Thiam said that difficult market conditions led to low client activity in investment banking and private banking divisions. Credit Suisse said core profits fell 24 percent in the third quarter mostly due to "unfavorable market conditions" in investment banking. — AP

British insurer Prudential, for making the announcement so quickly after taking over from longtime chief Brady Dougan in June.

"It looks like a dramatic movement but Thiam is just doing what Dougan should have done years ago to improve the share price," Bakhtiari said lauding his "drastic, but necessary" announcements, particularly the aim to develop profitable activities in Asia and cut down leveraged businesses. The enthu-

siasm for Credit Suisse's new strategy was, nonetheless, tempered by its disappointing third-quarter results.

Net profits shrank 24 percent to 779 million Swiss francs (\$815 million, 718 million euros) from a year earlier, and revenues slipped eight percent to 5.98 billion Swiss francs, the bank said. Pre-tax earnings at Credit Suisse's private banking and wealth management unit plunged 31 percent to 647 Swiss million francs. — AFP



NISSAN PROVES ITS PASSION FOR PERFORMANCE WITH LAUNCH OF 'NISMO'

KUWAIT: Nissan Middle East is proud to announce the introduction of Nissan's world famous motorsport and road car performance brand, NISMO. NISMO made its Middle East debut at a spectacular launch event in Dubai, heralding the next step in 'Innovation that Excites' for driving enthusiasts across the region.

In addition to launching the performance marque, Nissan also confirmed the world premiere launch of the Patrol NISMO. Recognizing that off-roading and motorsports are the life-blood of local driving enthusiasts, Nissan believes the time is right to introduce the Patrol NISMO in the Middle East.

"NISMO is the ultimate essence of Nissan's promise to deliver 'Innovation that Excites'," said Samir Cherfan, Managing Director of Nissan Middle East. "We could not have launched NISMO in the region without including our most iconic model, the Nissan Patrol, in the range of NISMO vehicles. Bringing the high performance brand to the Middle East and launching the Patrol NISMO as a world premiere model is proof of our commitment to making thrilling driving experiences accessible to all our customers."

As part of its performance road car line-up, Nissan showcased three NISMO models—the 370Z NISMO, the GT-R NISMO, and the Patrol NISMO.

With the region's strong heritage in high performance vehicles and Nissan's success in earning a reputation as a trusted motorsport brand, the Japanese auto-maker believes NISMO will resonate strongly in the Middle East market.

"Since we came to the region, Nissan has been building a strong and mature automotive brand, well known for exceptional quality, performance, innovation and reliability. Combined with our long history of success in motorsports and off-roading, we believe that the Nissan brand is in a unique position to offer the ultimate, thrilling experience with our all-new NISMO line-up," continued Cherfan.

Exciting driving experiences

While NISMO is already established and well-known in the world of motorsport, it is now being expanded to other markets as Nissan's exclusive performance road car brand.

Firmly rooted in the spirit of pioneering Japanese maverick engineers, where innovative solutions are applied in bold and smart ways to challenge the norm, NISMO cars provide exciting driving experiences with motorsports-inspired aerodynamics and styling, enhanced handling characteristics and unmatched agility.

According to Samir Cherfan, NISMO is an important part of Nissan's long term product plan. "We view the addition of NISMO as a key element of our business expansion strategy based on our successful motorsports heritage in the region. The NISMO brand is a highly valuable, credible and desirable addition to our range and we are honored to bring the brand to the Middle East."

All three of the showcased NISMO models are designed with the NISMO DNA at its core, with motorsports-inspired aerodynamics and styling, enhanced handling characteristics and unmatched agility. Some of NISMO's signature design marks include body kit with red striping and red highlights on door mirrors, making head-turning NISMO versions immediately recognizable.

Nissan believes the thrill of driving a NISMO model comes from the complete package - its premium design, enhanced steering and suspension resulting in an exceptional improvement in performance.

NISMO models

NISMO models feature advanced technologies developed and pressure-tested within the demanding motorsport arena. Compared to their respective standard versions, NISMO vehicles add aerodynamic design born in motorsport, superb handling,

improved acceleration and sporty driving dynamics for an exciting drive.

NISMO was founded in September 1984 as a specialty company to support all motorsports activities of Nissan Motor Company (Nissan). Nismo is the performance brand for Nissan, and is one of the company's purveyors of innovation and excitement.

Patrol NISMO

- * Race-inspired version of Nissan's legendary SUV-Patrol
- * 428 HP for exhilarating performance
- * Torque improvement over 70% rev-range
- * NISMO(r) 22" RAYS(r) forged-alloy wheels
- * NISMO(r) tuned suspension using 'Bilstein' shock absorbers for improved handling and ride comfort
- * Takumi tuned Engine
- * Customized body reinforcements for precision steering & quick response
- * Segment first Zero-Lift aerodynamic body kit
- * NISMO(r) signature designed body kit
- * NISMO(r) Sport tuned Power Steering
- * NISMO(r) Bespoke designed interiors

GT-R NISMO (MY15 GT-R NISMO US spec as reference)

- * Race-inspired version of Nissan's legendary GT-R
- * 600hp (441kw) for blistering performance
- * Advanced aerodynamics generating additional 100kg of downforce at 300km/h (186mph) for exceptional road-holding
- 370Z NISMO (MY15 Z NISMO US spec as reference)
- * Refreshed 370Z NISMO features distinctive new exterior appearance, redesigned wheels and enhanced interior
- * Performance enhancements include retuned suspension and Recaro(r) co-developed seats exclusively designed for 370Z Nismo

FASTER PRODUCTION OF JETS PUSHES UP BOEING'S PROFITS

NEW YORK: Faster production of commercial jets continues to drive profits at the Boeing Co., which saw earnings jump 25 percent in the third quarter. It also raised its earnings outlook for the year.

The Chicago-based company yesterday posted a \$1.7 billion net profit, up from \$1.36 billion during the same period last year.

Boeing said it earned \$2.47 per share. Earnings excluding certain pension expenses came to \$2.52 per share. The results topped Wall Street expectations. The average estimate of nine analysts surveyed by Zacks Investment Research was for earnings of \$2.22 per share.

Commercial jet manufacturing is playing a larger and larger role at Boeing, also known for its military and space programs. Payments from the delivery of new jets to airlines accounted for 68 percent of Boeing's \$25.85 billion in revenue. That also beat Wall Street's estimates; analysts surveyed by Zacks expected \$24.74 billion.

In July, August and September, the aerospace company delivered 199 commercial jets, up from 186 during the same quarter last year. And more of those jets are expensive wide-bodies, such as the 787 Dreamliner. During this quarter last year, 31 Dreamliners were delivered to airlines; this year Boeing delivered 37.

The challenge now for Boeing is to bring down the production cost of the long-delayed Dreamliner so it can bring in more cash and maybe, someday, breakeven on the plane whose development costs ran over budget.

Record backlog

The company raised its outlook for the year by 5 cents a share. Boeing now expects full year earnings to be between \$7.65 and \$7.85 a share. Boeing still has a record backlog of new jet orders: nearly 5,700 valued at \$426 billion. However, lower fuel prices, a slowing global economy and the possible end of cheap interest rates has led some analysts to question how much longer this new plane buying spree will continue and if some of those orders won't eventually be delivered.

Just last week, Delta Air Lines CEO Richard Anderson said that a large number of wide-body jets coming off lease in the near future is creating an "aircraft bubble." He predicted that airlines like his would be able to buy up these used jets cheaply, which would drive down demand - and prices - for the newer and more fuel-efficient models that Boeing and European rival Airbus are selling.

Boeing shares rose \$2.97, or 2.1 percent, to \$141.85 in premarket trading shortly before the market open. — AP

TURKISH CB KEEPS RATES STEADY BUT SIGNALS TIGHTER POLICY AHEAD

ISTANBUL: Turkey's central bank left interest rates unchanged yesterday but signalled a tighter policy ahead, shying away from a hike ahead of a Nov. 1 election and waiting to take its cue from an expected tightening by the US Federal Reserve.

Economists expect Turkey to raise rates at some point to bolster the weak lira and fight high inflation. But the central bank has signalled it wants to wait to see the impact of an expected Fed move before adjusting its own policy. The bank left its main one-week repo rate unchanged at 7.5 percent for the eighth month in a row, as expected by all 15

economists in a Reuters poll.

It said that it would maintain tight monetary policy in line with inflation expectations and that exchange rate movements were delaying an improvement in core indicators. "Taking into account inflation expectations, pricing behaviour and the course of other factors affecting inflation, the tight monetary policy stance will be maintained," the bank said in a statement following its monetary policy meeting. In previous statements the bank (TCMB) had referred to maintaining a "cautious" policy until there was a "significant improvement in the inflation outlook", a

change in wording highlighted by economists. "We think the TCMB is preparing for a tighter monetary policy in the period ahead. The inflation outlook makes this necessary," said Garanti Invest economist Gizem Oztok Altinsac. Doubts over the outcome of next month's parliamentary election - the fourth national vote in less than two years - have taken a toll on the economy, with foreign investors staying on the sidelines and growth slowing. The ruling AK Party is hoping to regain the single-party majority it lost at a previous election in June, although polls indicate it will struggle to do so.

Political pressure

The lira, little changed at 2.9055 against the dollar after the rate decision, has weakened some 20 percent this year but has rebounded off record lows on prospects of the Fed pushing its expected rate hike back to next year. Once the US central bank does raise rates, emerging markets such as Turkey are expected to follow suit to defend their currencies against a surging dollar. Turkey's central bank has faced sustained political pressure in the past to keep monetary policy loose, with President Tayyip Erdogan repeatedly calling for rate

cuts and even equating high rates with treason.

But inflation remains stubbornly high, with the year-end headline figure seen at 8.25 percent, according to the central bank's latest survey. Consumer confidence has meanwhile slumped and the government this month cut its growth forecasts for the next three years.

The bank kept the overnight borrowing rate at 7.25 percent, the overnight lending rate at 10.75 percent and the primary dealers' overnight borrowing rate at 10.25 percent. —Reuters

Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report

Wednesday 21 October 2015

Index	Change	Closing	Last Closing	High	Low
Price index	▼ -11.51	5,793.41	5,804.92	5,810.01	5,791.66
Weighted Index	▼ -0.71	390.81	391.52	392.07	390.03
KSX 15	▼ -2.76	931.08	933.84	936.38	929.45

Security	Trades		Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	Change
	High	Low					
MARIN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	114	▲ 0.0
IKARUS	106	104	534,554	55,504	23	104	▲ 0.0
IPG	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	315	▲ 0.0
NAPESCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	620	▲ 0.0
ENERGYH	47.0	46.5	47,000	2,199	6	47.0	▲ 0.0
CPI	45.5	44.5	900,875	40,456	43	45.0	▲ 0.0
ARAR	81	77	4,400	339	2	81	▲ 4.0
Oil & Gas			1,406,029	99,590	74	799.40	▲ 1.01

Security	Trades		Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	Change
	High	Low					
KFOUC	248	248	3,000	744	1	248	▲ 6.0
DFCC	560	550	275,000	151,750	9	550	▲ 0.0
ALKOUT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	610	▲ 0.0
ALQURAIN	192	190	317,965	60,770	28	192	▲ 4.0
Basic Materials			595,985	213,264	38	1039.41	▲ 14.98

Security	Trades		Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	Change
	High	Low					
KCEM	375	370	27,653	10,257	2	370	▲ 5.0
REFRI	330	330	74,500	24,585	6	330	▲ 5.0
CABLE	420	420	26,076	10,952	7	420	▼ -5.0
SHIP	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	136	▲ 0.0
PCEM	1,140	1,140	1,250	1,425	1	1,140	▲ 0.0
PAPER	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	390	▲ 0.0
MRC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	80	▲ 0.0
ACICO	285	275	0,155	2,550	6	285	▼ -5.0
GGMC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	550	▲ 0.0
HCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	144	▲ 0.0
KPAK	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	395	▲ 0.0
KBMMC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	210	▲ 0.0
NICBM	210	208	30,000	6,280	2	208	▼ -2.0
EQUIPMENT	72	68	5,145,116	363,372	130	70	▲ 2.0
NCCI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	84	▲ 0.0
GYPSUM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	102	▲ 0.0
SALDOOKH	86	86	10	1	1	86	▲ 1.0
AGLTY	570	560	348,463	195,642	19	560	▼ -10.0
EDU	216	216	2,617	505	1	216	▲ 0.0
CLEANING	45.0	43.5	1,800,155	79,925	39	44.5	▲ 1.5
CITYGROUP	400	400	2	1	1	400	▲ 0.0
KGL	46.0	45.5	787,058	35,952	36	45.5	▲ 1.0
KPC	222	222	100	22	1	222	▲ 6.0
HUMANSOFT	1,120	1,000	2,000	2,100	3	1,000	▼ -100.0
NAFAIS	152	152	540	82	2	152	▲ 0.0
SAFWAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	330	▲ 0.0
GFC	95	91	33,288	3,060	8	95	▲ 4.0
MAYADEEN	26.0	25.0	6,434,053	163,809	68	25.0	▼ -1.0
CGC	780	750	11,970	9,050	7	780	▲ 30.0
MITCC	80	77	3,856,259	289,162	144	77	▲ 2.0
UPAC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	740	▲ 0.0
ALAFCC	222	220	22,020	4,887	5	222	▲ 0.0
MUBARRAD	85	83	2,653,800	240,032	46	84	▲ 0.0
LOGISTICS	56	53	4,016,530	219,542	105	54	▲ 1.0
SCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	90	▲ 0.0
GCEM	81	81	100,000	8,100	4	81	▼ -1.0
QCEM	82	82	7,000	574	1	82	▲ 0.0
FCEM	76	76	867,000	65,892	10	76	▲ 0.0
RKWC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	106	▲ 0.0
SPEC	87	82	10,200	837	3	82	▼ -5.0
Industrials			26,266,824	1,739,276	666	1089.17	▼ -6.72

Security	Trades		Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	Change
	High	Low					
KSH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	220	▲ 0.0
NSH	64	62	35,000	2,220	5	62	▼ -2.0
PAPCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	102	▲ 0.0
CATTL	142	136	398,824	55,110	29	140	▲ 4.0
DANAH	82	81	140,700	11,427	13	82	▼ -1.0
POULT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	178	▲ 0.0
FOOD	2,280	2,280	69,364	158,150	8	2,280	▲ 20.0
Consumer Goods			643,888	226,907	66	1091.16	▲ 1.68

Security	Trades		Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	Change
	High	Low					
MHC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	190	▲ 0.0
ATC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	920	▲ 0.0
YIACO	120	120	4,990	599	1	120	▲ 0.0
Health Care			4,990	599	1	947.11	▲ 0.00

Security	Trades		Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	Change
	High	Low					
KCIN	960	960	50	48	1	960	▲ 0.0
KHOT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	196	▲ 0.0
SULTAN	77	74	106,720	12,485	19	77	▲ 2.0
CABLETV	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	27.0	▲ 0.0
EYAS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	305	▲ 0.0
IFAHR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	186	▲ 0.0
QILAFUEL	112	110	69,313	7,654	19	112	▲ 4.0
MUNTAZAHAT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	99	▲ 0.0
JAZERA	495	470	18,503	8,978	9	490	▲ 0.0
SOOR	108	106	29,768	3,201	12	106	▼ -4.0
FUTUREKID	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	110	▲ 0.0
ALNAVADI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	83	▲ 0.0
ALRAI	182	172	490,945	86,846	54	180	▲ 0.0
ZIMAH	76	74	313,209	23,520	32	76	▲ 0.0
UFIG	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	190	▲ 0.0
KOUTFOOD	560	560	55,000	30,800	3	560	▲ 10.0
Mezzan	1,000	1,000	105,099	200,555	0	1,000	▲ 0.0
Consumer Services			1,329,207	374,087	157	1000.25	▲ 2.49

Security	Trades		Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	Change
	High	Low					
ZAIN	390	385	116,067	44,976	17	385	▼ -5.0
ODREDOO	1,060	1,040	4,001	4,167	7	1,060	▲ 0.0
HITSTELEG	30.0	29.5	1,822,562	53,951	31	29.5	▼ -1.0
VIVA	880	870	264,578	231,594	88	880	▼ -10.0
Telecommunications			2,207,206	334,687	143	571.04	▼ -5.96

Security	Trades		Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	Change
	High	Low					
NBK	820	810	1,905,071	1,545,095	54	810	▲ 0.0
GBK	270	270	125,582	33,907	5	270	▲ 0.0
CBK	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	530	▲ 0.0
ABK	380	305	112,036	41,907	8	380	▲ 5.0
ALMUTAHED	540	530	12,408	6,581	3	540	▲ 0.0
KIB	235	234	223,836	52,378	8	234	▲ 0.0
BURG	305	305	3,810	1,500	4	396	▲ 0.0
KFIN	570	560	637,374	357,095	26	560	▼ -10.0
DOUBYAN	450	440	2,488,146	1,101,015	61	450	▲ 15.0
AUB	210	208	477,354	99,824	14	208	▼ -2.0
ITMBR	49.0	47.5	3,434,722	165,061	79	48.0	▲ 1.0
WATHABANK	210	208	750,755	157,433	87	208	▲ 0.0
Banks			10,171,703	3,562,405	349	937.52	▲ 1.34

Security	Trades		Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	Change
	High	Low					
KINS	300	300	10,000	3,000	1	300	▲ 5.0
GINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	600	▲ 0.0
AINS	390	390	18,848	7,351	5	390	▲ 0.0
WINS	106	106	247	26	1	106	▼ -2.0
KUWAITRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	206	▲ 0.0
FTI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	65	▲ 0.0
WETHAQ	44.0	43.0	14,000	605	2	43.0	▼ -1.0
BKIKWT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	355	▲ 0.0
Insurance			43,095	10,983	9	1060.76	▼ -3.20



Volume	160,428,751
Value (KWD)	11,483,911
Number of Trades	3,533

AUB ACQUIRES FULL CONTROL OF LEGAL & GENERAL GULF



KUWAIT: The Legal and General Group Plc has decided to sell its 50% stake in Legal & General Gulf BSC (LGG), its Bahrain based joint venture with Ahli United Bank BSC (AUB) specializing in the extension of conventional and Sharia compliant life insurance services. This move comes in the context of other corporate divestitures undertaken by the L&G Group Plc in France, Germany and Egypt to focus its business on identified core markets.

Following completion of the sale, Ahli United Bank BSC (AUB) now holds 100% of LGG's shares.

Commenting on the transaction, Sanjeev Bajjal, AUB Deputy Group CEO - Finance & Strategic Development said "Securing full ownership of LGG demonstrates AUB's continued commitment towards providing life insurance and bank assurance services, which represent an integral part of the AUB Group's product offering. He further added that "the company will seek to expand its banc assurance distribution network and to further improve its product menu particularly on the Takaful side".

Peter Drummond, LGG's

Managing Director commented, "We are very encouraged by the closer association with the AUB Group which will facilitate the development of conventional and Sharia compliant business growth opportunities and the achievement of better cost synergies. He confirmed that "all existing client policies and their underlying investment arrangements remain unchanged and that the LGG management and staff will continue to service existing clients and work to develop new business and products."

KAMCO ORGANIZES '7 HABITS' TRAINING SESSION

KUWAIT: KAMCO Investment Company, a leading investment company with one of the largest AUMs in the region, and a winner of the prestigious Kuwait Asset Manager of the Year Award 2015, organized their second training session by the FranklinCovey Company about the key elements of highly effective employees that would strengthen an organization's culture.

The FranklinCovey team, once again, held their prominent training session titled "The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People - Organizational Culture Transformation" for select KAMCO and KIPCO Group employees held at the KIPCO Tower Chairman's Club. The Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS) supported FranklinCovey and KAMCO in organizing the event.

Mohammed Abdullah Al Hubail, Chief Operating Officer at KAMCO, said, "The FranklinCovey team have yet again delivered a successful and informative training session. Training sessions such as 'The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People - Organizational Culture Transformation' are in line with our human resource development strategy towards training and educating our employees to increase work efficiency and overall job satisfaction. We observed the positive outcomes from the previous training session and have therefore continued our collaboration with the FranklinCovey team in order to sustain our effort towards building employee competencies to enhance individual and organizational performance."

Al Hubail added, "We would like to recognize KFAS for supporting KAMCO's human resource development strategy and strategies of other firms within the private sector. Their continuous support has brought us closer to reaching our human



Mohammed Abdullah Al Hubail

resource development strategy and training goals. In addition to supporting KAMCO, KFAS has also helped other companies within the private sector reach their human resources development goals."

The FranklinCovey Team presented the training session focusing on the 7 key principles that help individuals and leaders become more effective. The training session covered topics on the lines of what can and cannot be controlled within the work environment, how to define a clear measure of success along with an achievable plan, prioritizing and meeting important set goals, developing innovative solutions that satisfy all stakeholders, and the process of building high-trust relationships that will lead to mutual benefits. Attendees participated in the training session and got to experience the 7 habits through the guidance of the talented and prestigious FranklinCovey team.

ASIA SHARES INCH AHEAD, EURO FIRM BEFORE ECB

COMMODITIES STAY UNDER PRESSURE ON CHINA GROWTH UNEASE

SYDNEY: Asian shares eked out cautious gains yesterday as concerns about corporate earnings hobbled Wall Street while investors counted down to the European Central Bank's policy meeting later in the week.

MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan was a fraction firmer. Japan's Nikkei added 0.8 percent, while South Korea's KOSPI rose 0.6 percent.

There was more evidence of the problems plaguing Asian trade flows with Japanese exports growing at the slowest pace since mid-2014, mainly due to weakness in China.

Wall Street offered little in the way of a lead with the Dow ending Tuesday 0.1 percent lower, while the S&P 500 eased 0.14 percent and the Nasdaq 0.5 percent.

The S&P healthcare sector shed 1.5 percent, dragged by Allergan and Pfizer, while a drop in IBM offset gains in companies that reported strong quarterly results such as Verizon and United Technologies.

Earnings for S&P 500 companies are expected to have fallen about 4 percent in the third quarter, while revenue is expected to have declined 3.8 percent, according to Thomson Reuters data.

Economic news from the United States was moderately upbeat as housing starts increased 6.5 percent in September to an annual pace of 1.21 million units, beating expectations for 1.15 million units.

There was also better news on bank lending in the euro zone as data from the ECB showed a further easing in credit conditions and improving demand for loans. That might lessen the need for the ECB to immediately ramp up its 1 trillion euro asset purchase program.

The ECB's governing council meets today and markets expect it to highlight a willingness to act to boost inflation, but not just yet.

"The general consensus is that the ECB has been trying to moderate expectations this week, suggesting it's too early for discussion around extending the current QE programme," said analysts at Citi. The euro was a whisker higher at \$1.1359, but still hemmed in by support at \$1.3300 and resistance around \$1.1386. The dollar index, which measures the greenback against a basket of six major currencies, was last

down 0.1 percent at 94.855. The New Zealand dollar hit a one-week low of \$0.6737 after a disappointing global dairy auction saw prices for the country's single largest export fall 3.1 percent.

Oil prices softened on speculation US inventory data would only underline the extent of oversupply in the world. The US Energy Information Administration (EIA) will report official inventory data yesterday. US crude slipped 32 cents to \$45.97 per barrel, while Brent lost 18 cents to \$48.53. — Reuters



SEOUL: A currency trader walks past the screen showing the Korea Composite Stock Price Index (KOSPI) at the foreign exchange dealing room in Seoul, South Korea, yesterday. Asian stock markets were mostly higher yesterday as Japan's weak export figures boosted hopes for more central bank stimulus. — AP

MERCEDES-AMG GT S IS THE 'BEST DRIVER'S CAR'

KUWAIT: "The Mercedes-AMG GT S has the sharpest, most precise steering we have ever felt on any Mercedes or AMG vehicle," said Motor Trend editor-in-chief Ed Loh. "It makes massive power from a compact, high-tech turbocharged V8 engine. What most impressed my team is how well the GT S was able to combine these elements. It put all of its horsepower to the ground like an all-wheel-drive supercar and gripped the road through high-speed corners like a winged racer."

With a lap time of 1:35.57 minutes, the Mercedes-AMG GT S not only kept all its competitors at bay at the legendary Laguna Seca race track, it also achieved one of the top three times ever recorded. At the end of the long and extensive series of test drives, the Motor Trend editors concluded: "The best sports car Mercedes has ever built."

Motor Trend launched the "Best Driver's Car" award in 2009, and has since become one of the most prestigious contests in the American auto media.



EU RULES STARBUCKS, FIAT TAX DEALS ARE ILLEGAL

BRUSSELS: The European Commission ruled yesterday that Starbucks and Fiat benefited from illegal tax deals with the Dutch and Luxembourg governments, in cases with major implications for the taxation of multinational companies.

Antitrust commissioner Margrethe Vestager said all firms must pay a "fair share" and ordered the Netherlands to recover 20-30 million euros (\$23-34 million) in back taxes from the US coffee shop chain. Luxembourg must recover a similar amount from Italian-US carmaker Fiat Chrysler Automobiles, she said.

Starbucks immediately said it would appeal, echoing the Dutch government in accusing the European Union executive of significant "errors" in its assessment. Luxembourg, where much of the economy has been built on attracting multinational firms, said it disagreed and reserved its right to appeal. Fiat denied receiving any aid from the Luxembourg state.

Vestager, a Dane who has denied accusations of anti-American bias in launching other tax probes into Apple and Amazon and competition inquiries into Google, took care to avoid intruding on EU governments' jealously guarded rights to set their own tax rates. The issue, she stressed, was firms being treated differently within the same national system.

"The decisions send a clear message," she told reporters in Brussels. "National tax authorities cannot give any company, however large or powerful, an unfair competitive advantage compared to others. For most companies, especially the small and medium-sized, I hope this is a reassuring message."

The Commission said Starbucks benefited from a tax ruling—an assurance of future tax levels—from Dutch authorities in 2008 and Fiat from a ruling in Luxembourg in 2012. It concluded that the taxable profits for Fiat's Luxembourg unit could have been 20 times higher under normal market conditions.

The precise amount of tax to be recovered must now be determined by Luxembourg and the Netherlands on the basis of the Commission's methodology. Marc Sanders of tax advisers Taxand said the ruling would "rock the corporate world to its very core". "Whilst multinationals were lured to EU states with offers of low tax rates as an incentive, little did they know that, despite having agreement at the highest national level, this would come back and bite a decade later," he said.

'WE DO NOT STOP HERE'

Warning that "we do not stop here", Vestager described the cases of Apple in Ireland and Amazon in Luxembourg, where the Commission also suspects the companies of benefiting from illegal state subsidies via the tax system, as "very different". She declined to say when she would rule on them.

Inquiries are also continuing into the Belgian government's treatment of dozens of unidentified companies.

"More cases may come if we have indications that EU state aid rules are not being complied with," she warned, while noting that there was a broader EU and global attempt, coordinated by the rich nations' club the OECD, to crack down on tax avoidance using artificial cash flows through ultra-low tax regimes.

"We cannot achieve fair tax competition in Europe with enforcement of EU state aid rules alone. We cannot do it alone," Vestager said. "The fight against tax evasion and tax avoidance can only be won with a combination with



BRUSSELS: European Commissioner for Competition Margrethe Vestager speaks during a media conference at EU headquarters in Brussels yesterday. The European Union is demanding that US coffee chain Starbucks and carmaker Fiat repay up to 30 million euros (\$34 million) each in tax breaks they received from EU nations, in a major ruling to cut down on sweet tax deals global multinationals often shop for. — AP

enforcement of state aid rules and legislative responses." Special deals that slash multinationals' tax bills to little more than zero in some cases have come under closer scrutiny as governments struggle with declining revenues.

Vestager said that Fiat's Luxembourg unit paid "not even" 0.4 million euros in corporate tax last year and Starbucks' Dutch subsidiary less than 0.6 million euros. Starbucks said it paid an average global effective tax rate of about 33 percent. "Starbucks shares the concerns expressed by the Netherlands government that there are significant errors in the decision, and we plan to appeal since we followed the Dutch and OECD rules available to anyone," a spokesman said. — Reuters

THREE KD 5,000 WINNERS IN NBK'S AL JAWHARA WEEKLY DRAWS

KUWAIT: National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) announced the four lucky winners in Al Jawhara weekly draws during the month of October. The draws were conducted under the supervision of Ministry of Commerce representative.

Lamyaa Habeeb Shaaban, Imad Zaki Mustafa, and Deena Jassim Al Dhubaib each won KD 5,000. The winners

expressed their gratitude and thanked NBK for its great services and promotions.

NBK has re-launched Al Jawhara account recently by doubling customers' chances to win in the weekly, monthly and quarterly draws when they do not withdraw or transfer from their accounts.

NBK customers have chances to win KD 5,000 weekly, KD 125,000 monthly and a grand prize of KD 250,000 quarterly. Each KD 50 in a customer's account entitles them to one entry in the draw, thus more money in an account means more chances in each draw. The new feature introduced to Al Jawhara Account enables customers to double

their chances when maintaining their balance without withdrawing or transferring from Al Jawhara account.

Al Jawhara is the most popular prize-giving account in Kuwait. Al Jawhara account entitles account holders to enter the weekly, monthly and quarterly Al Jawhara draws. All prizes are automatically credited to the winners'

accounts the day after the draw.

Al Jawhara accounts are available for both Kuwaitis and expats and can be opened at any of NBK's branches around Kuwait, or through NBK website for existing customers.

For more information please contact NBK Call Center at 1801801 or visit NBK official website www.nbk.com

FORD TO SEEK SOLUTIONS BY MIMICKING NATURE

LOOKING TO THE GECKO FOR ANSWERS

DEARBORN: Ford Motor Company will chart new territory as it seeks to create adhesive innovations inspired by the gecko. Ford will also work with Procter & Gamble, sharing research findings as both companies look to biomimicry for a host of business solutions.

For years, Ford researchers have considered ways to make auto manufacturing more sustainable. A key challenge is glue used to adhere

increase the recycling of more foam and plastics, and further reduce our environmental footprint."

Buoyed by the biomimetic method, Ford recently hosted a forum at its Dearborn campus with participation from Procter & Gamble and The Biomimicry Institute, a nonprofit committed to promoting the innovative approach of looking to nature for sustainable solutions to

burr. And improved medical needles were developed based on the mosquito. Interest in the approach has increased in the last decade as awareness of climate change and environmental challenges is heightened, said Gretchen Hooker, project manager for design challenges at The Biomimicry Institute.

Multiple design challenges

Founded in 2006, the group works to empower people to create sustainable products and services using biomimicry. In addition to mobilizing educators and regional practitioners through the Biomimicry Global Network, the organization provides a platform to learn and practice biomimicry through multiple design challenges. These include open innovation, academic-corporate partnerships and corporate-employee challenges where employees get hands-on training while developing new solutions to issues corporations face. AskNature.org, the organization's online database of biological solutions, offers inspiration to those looking to find answers in biomimicry.

"Ford and P&G are the first companies to take part in these new corporate-employee challenges," said Hooker.

Beyond recycling, the Ford design teams have worked for nearly a decade to find nature-inspired technologies, with recent successes in yarn production for seating materials and headliners.

Ford is the only automaker to use Unifi's high-performance REPVE fiber, made from 100 percent recycled materials including plastic bottles, in its vehicles. Ford employs REPVE in five of its vehicles - the new F-150, Explorer, Edge, Focus Electric and Fusion - making it a globally used material. The use of REPVE represents Ford's commitment to reduce, reuse and recycle, part of the automaker's global sustainability strategy to lessen its environmental footprint.

Ford designers are now looking to expand upon that commitment, turning to nature to further improve the sustainable materials in vehicle fabrics. The gecko may also inspire fabric technologies that could transform the cabin of Ford vehicles, researchers said.

"As we look to further our commitment to reducing our environmental footprint, taking a holistic, biomimetic approach makes sense because nature has efficiencies in design and uses minimal resources," said Carol Kordich, global sustainable fabric strategies and development, Ford. "Nature is the ultimate guide."



foams to plastics and metals can make disassembling parts for recycling nearly impossible.

Enter the gecko

The lizard's toe pads allow it to stick to most surfaces without liquids or surface tension. The reptile can then easily release itself, leaving no residue. Consider, too, that a typical mature gecko weighing 2.5 ounces is capable of supporting 293 pounds.

The gecko could inspire a host of adhesive innovations for global applications at Ford, said Debbie Mielewski, Ford senior technical leader for plastics and sustainability research.

"Solving this problem could provide cost savings and certainly an environmental savings," said Mielewski. "It means we could

modern-day challenges. Nearly 200 researchers and designers took part in the day-long session to learn about biomimicry and how to apply it to their work.

"We are excited for the opportunity to participate, together with Ford - with whom we have a history of collaboration - in The Biomimicry Institute workshop," said Lee Ellen Drechsler, director for corporate connect and development, The Procter and Gamble Company. "We have an interest within Procter & Gamble for using biomimicry as a way to broaden our approach to solving tough research challenges."

The biomimetic approach is not new. The Bullet Train in Shinkansen, Japan was inspired by the kingfisher. Velcro took its cues from a

BURGAN BANK HOSTS SECOND INTERNAL AUDIT CONFERENCE FOR BANKING INDUSTRY

KUWAIT: In an effort to present the latest trends in the internal audit field, Burgan Bank recently hosted the 'Second Internal Audit Conference for Banking Industry in Kuwait', which was held on 19th October 2015 at the Sheraton Kuwait Hotel. The conference was attended by the Chief

Internal Auditors from local and foreign banks and involved keynote speeches and discussions around the recent trends and emerging topics of internal audit.

The event gathered a number of experts and representatives from international audit firms,

namely; Protivity, Ernst & Young, KPMG, PWC and Deloitte, who took part in the discussion panels by presenting their perspective on the emerging internal audit trends and best practices.

Amr El Kasaby, Burgan Bank's Group Chief Internal Auditor said: "We are pleased to have hosted the Internal Audit Conference in Kuwait for the second time. Our commitment in playing a leading role in similar conferences emerges from our core belief that the internal audit function plays an important role in delivering success to all financial institutions and organizations alike."

In April 2013, Burgan Bank hosted the First Internal Audit Conference, inviting prominent financial experts, internal audit representatives from local and foreign banks as well as international audit firms to share their insights and address the recent changes in the internal audit divisions. Burgan Bank continues to demonstrate its leadership and its relation to best practice methods across its wide operations, with an aim of ensuring consistent high quality delivery of banking solutions in the region.



Amr El Kasaby, Burgan Bank's Group Chief Internal Auditor with attendees.



ETIHAD AIRWAYS AND FLYBUYS JOIN FORCES IN WORLD FIRST LOYALTY PARTNERSHIP

ABU DHABI: Global Loyalty Company, the loyalty division of Etihad Airways, and flybuys, one of Australia's most popular loyalty programs, today launched an innovative partnership which enables flybuys members to turn everyday shopping into international flights with the World's Leading Airline.

flybuys members will be able to collect flybuys points when booking Etihad Airways flights and enjoy exclusive access to airfare deals to more than 100 destinations worldwide.

In a world first, flybuys members who link their Etihad Guest membership to their flybuys account will also earn Etihad Guest Tier Miles when they spend at Coles and selected partners. Tier Miles count towards elite Etihad Guest status which affords top tier members benefits such as priority check-in and airport lounge access when flying with Etihad Airways and its partner airlines.

To earn Etihad Guest Tier Miles, flybuys members must link their Etihad Guest membership to their flybuys account. Members will earn one Etihad Guest Tier Mile (up to a maximum of 2,500 Tier Miles per month) for every AUD 1 spent at any Coles Supermarket, Coles Online, Coles Express, and selected stores nationwide and, at the same time, collect flybuys points.

flybuys members can also convert their flybuys points to Etihad Guest miles, giving them access to flight rewards and upgrades.

Darren Peisley, Managing Director of Global Loyalty Company, said: "The launch today of the partnership with flybuys is exciting news for millions of flybuys members."

"Now they will be able to turn their weekly shopping at Coles and other selected stores into travel to exciting destinations worldwide."

Earning Tier Miles

"Together, we are offering flybuys members the unique ability to earn Tier Miles in the Etihad Guest program and, as a result, to enjoy the exclusive benefits we offer our most valuable frequent flyers."

Peisley added: "As the entity responsible for the commercial growth of the airline frequent flyer programs in which it has a strategic interest - Etihad Guest (Etihad Airways, Air Serbia, Air Seychelles and Etihad Regional), JetPrivilege (Jet Airways), MilleMiglia (Alitalia) and topbonus (airberlin) - Global Loyalty Company is delighted to be celebrating this important milestone."

"The partnership with flybuys begins

an exciting new chapter for the organisation. It is a new style of partnership program offering members a suite of innovative benefits and rewards and the first of several such partnerships which Global Loyalty is developing in other key markets across the world."

Adam Story, Coles General Manager flybuys said: "flybuys is thrilled to be partnering with Etihad Airways."

"We are proud to be offering our members the opportunity to collect flybuys points quicker and redeem them on exciting rewards like international travel."

"flybuys members will also benefit with access to exclusive discounts on Etihad Airways and members will be able to accelerate their status within the Etihad Guest frequent flyer program by shopping at Coles Supermarkets, Coles Online, Coles Express, and selected stores nationwide."

Celebrating partnership launch

*Etihad Airways will offer flybuys members up to 25 per cent off all Etihad Airways Economy and Business Class fares (excluding Breaking Deals) to anywhere on the airline's global network. This applies to bookings made by 3 November for travel until 4 December 2015. At the same time, until 31 December, flybuys members will collect five flybuys points per AUD 1 spent on Etihad Airways flights, by booking through the flybuys 'My Offers' page. Etihad Guest members will also be able to earn Etihad Guest reward miles on the same flights.

* Linked program members will be able to earn three Etihad Guest Tier Miles for every AUD 1 they spend in Coles Supermarkets, Coles Online, Coles Express, and selected stores nationwide (capped at a maximum of 5,000 Tier Miles per month) until December 31, 2015. This will normally be one Etihad Guest Tier Mile for every AUD 1 they spend (capped at a maximum of 2,500 Tier Miles per month).

* Linked program members will have the chance to win one of 25 prizes of round trip Economy Class flights for two to an overseas destination of their choice on the Etihad Airways' network.

* Other prizes include 10 sets of two tickets to an A-League game at Melbourne's Etihad Stadium or AAMI Stadium during the 2015/16 season.

Throughout the year, flybuys and Etihad Airways will offer flybuys members other benefits including bonus flybuys points for flight purchases, discounts on air travel and stopover packages.

ACTION KUWAIT TAKES ONLINE SERVICES TO NEW HEIGHTS WITH ACTION DIGITAL OFFERING



KUWAIT: Action Global Communications is taking the company's award-winning, strategic approach to PR and communications into the digital realm through Action Digital. In this fast-changing online environment in Kuwait, Action Digital and Action Global Communications will offer wholly integrated and bespoke on and offline communications strategy to help clients widen their reach, engage their consumers helping them use digital communications to transform and influence.

Action Global Communications' new offering is of particular importance for rapidly developing markets such as Kuwait, where the company's local office, Action Kuwait, has been a market leader since its establishment in 2002. While it is no secret that mobile and internet penetration are accelerating at warp speed, the company is seeing that crucially, in markets such as Kuwait, social media and other online channels are quickly evolving into highly trusted, go-to sources for news and information; a supple-

ment, or in some cases a replacement, for news outlets themselves. This means online and social are not just 'other channels' to target, but extensions of existing media strategies which require a consolidated and integrated approach. This is a game changer for

brands looking to build stronger connections to their consumers and stakeholders in Kuwait, and the wider region.

"The online world provides endless opportunity for both domestic and cross-border engagement and interaction, but success depends on how online channels are

utilised," says Action Kuwait Country Manager, Amna Al Jarery. "Action Digital's approach is built on three essential pillars. It starts with our network and local team - an established, on-the-ground, local presence. This is supported by a hub team of specialised, digital communications experts. The third is the know-how and experience to fit all of the puzzle pieces together - digital, communications, cultural and marketing expertise - through our proven structure of having all elements centrally coordinated for a cohesive and integrated approach."

Digital marketing

With people not only consuming, but also being targeted with more content and information than ever before, a credible online voice must be at the centre of any campaign for businesses looking to gain significant ground in target markets. Nowadays it is important not only for that online voice to translate on a local level, but also to be balanced and integrated with existing commu-

nications channels - something which requires local insight and expertise in order to generate a meaningful connection.

Head of Marketing, Jaric Karepov stated, "We offer a new way to look at digital marketing by drawing on a tried and tested regional strategy and local expertise. We help our clients push the boundaries of their online voice to ensure that their stakeholders stand up, listen and are left with a lasting impression in their minds that will get, and keep, them talking about the brand in the long-term."

Action Digital hosts a diverse team of seasoned digital experts each specialised in different areas of digital and online communications and marketing - from designers to content developers. Collaborating closely with the Action Kuwait team, the company offers a wide range of services, from customised website development and design, powerful SEO, engaging social media strategy and marketing, and advanced mobile development and marketing.



WESTERN DIGITAL BUYING SANDISK IN DEAL WORTH ABOUT \$19BN

IRVINE: Western Digital, a maker of hard drives for businesses and personal computers, is buying SanDisk in a cash-and-stock deal worth about \$19 billion as it looks to extend its reach in the storage industry.

The buyout values SanDisk's stock at about \$86.50 per share, a 15 percent premium to Tuesday's closing price. Western Digital and flash-memory chip maker SanDisk said that they have complementary product lines, includ-

ing hard disk drives, solid-state drives, cloud datacenter storage solutions and flash storage solutions.

"The combined company will be ideally positioned to capture the growth opportunities created by the rapidly evolving storage industry," Western Digital CEO Steve Milligan said in a written statement. Sanjay Mehrotra, president and CEO of SanDisk, is expected to join Western Digital's board when the transaction closes.

If a previously announced investment in Western Digital from Unisplendour closes prior to the acquisition, Western Digital will pay \$85.10 per share in cash and 0.0176 shares of its stock for each SanDisk share. If not, the price will be \$67.50 in cash and 0.2387 shares for each share of Milpitas, California-based SanDisk Corp.

In September it was announced that Unisplendour, a division of China's Tsinghua Holdings, was becoming a

minority shareholder in Western Digital with a \$3.78 billion investment.

Milligan will serve as CEO of the combined business, which will keep its headquarters at Western Digital's Irvine, California location.

The boards of both companies have approved the deal, which is targeted to close in 2016's third quarter. It still needs approval from SanDisk shareholders.

The transaction is expected to add

to adjusted earnings per share within a year of the deal's closing. Pending the closing of the transaction, Western Digital expects to continue paying its quarterly dividend and plans to suspend its stock buyback program.

Shares of Western Digital Corp. dropped more than 1 percent in premarket trading Wednesday shortly before the market open. Shares of SanDisk gained more than 4 percent. — AP

STC, EMC SIGN CLOUD AGREEMENT

DUBAI: Saudi Telecom, represented by STC Business, Saudi Arabia's leading ICT services provider, signed an agreement with EMC Corporation on the sidelines of GITEX 2015 participation.

According to the terms of the agreement, STC Business and EMC Corporation will address the needs of customers in the Kingdom by cooperating in a number of vital cloud computing fields, among them data storage, information management, information security, data Protection and availability, virtualization, big data and analytics.

Tarig M. Enaya, Senior Vice President of STC Enterprise: "Our MoU with EMC Corporation means we can offer high quality elastic storage solutions in a reliable manner that allows our enterprise customers to reach high performance rates and achieve results that are measurable." Mohammed Amin, Senior Vice President and Regional Manager, Turkey, Eastern Europe, Africa and Middle East at EMC said, "This new cooperation with STC brings us closer to our global customer base, who have operations here in Saudi Arabia, and opens door for new customers in the Kingdom to increase their business operation effectiveness and efficiency by applying advanced EMC cloud solutions."

EMC is a global leader in enabling businesses and service providers to transform their operations and deliver information technology as a service (ITaaS), through its innovative products and services, accelerating the journey to cloud computing, helping IT departments to store, manage, protect and analyze their most valuable asset - information - in a more agile, trusted and cost-efficient way.

STC Business delivers on the needs and requirements of customers from the government, large corporation, small to medium enterprise, and small office and home office segments. Basing its operations on best practices and partnerships with the biggest global information communication and technology (ICT) industry players for a differentiated customer experience, STC Business is the first choice for customers when it comes to robust, secure and efficient solutions and services provided in an optimized, redundant and connected manner. As a leader in the ICT industry, STC Business provides IP-VPN, managed services, cloud computing and hosting solutions and services utilizing unmatched infrastructure, operated out of the largest data centers located in major cities, and interconnected all over the Kingdom through a fiber optic network.

BELGIAN URBAN VACUUM CLEANER TAKES ON WORLD'S LITTER

GLUTTON RESEMBLES A HUGE DOG ON A LEASH FOLLOWING HIS MASTER

WARSAW: It looks like the high-tech equipment used to capture ghosts in the "Ghostbusters" film, but this urban vacuum cleaner's targets are more down-to-earth. The Belgian appliance-which has just hit the market in Poland, its 65th country-sucks up empty cans and bottles, trash, dog droppings and whatever other sidewalk litter happens to be in its way.

"Even a full champagne bottle!" says inventor Christian Lange, who selected the moniker Glutton for the omnivore product that can also be seen sweeping the streets of Mecca and Paris's landmark Champs-Élysées. What began as a small start-up out of a lawnmower shed 20 years ago has turned into a veritable success story, with Gluttons now roaming the streets of five continents.

The company has experienced 30 percent annual growth over the last six years in the absence of any serious competition, landing Lange a spot in the Belgian king's business entourage on a recent trip to Poland. "It's a street sweeper's dream," says Slawomir Kaminski, the electric street cleaner's Polish distributor.

Following in the footsteps of his father, the owner of a garden equipment company, Lange founded his first firm in the sector at age 23. But he quickly realized that the industry only thrived between March and June and was dead the rest of the year.

A marketing man with a love for car-racing-go-karting at first, then Formula Ford racing-he was first inspired by the leaf vacuum in his own gardening equipment

sales catalogue to embark on his current adventure. The idea for the Glutton was born in October 1994, the prototype was developed in March 1995 and deliveries began in June that same year.

Big dog on a leash

Showcased at a Belgian environmental fair, the Glutton was an instant hit. By 2007, revenue was 1.5 million euros (\$1.7 million). This year it was 10 million euros.

The 20 or so showcases organized in Poland were well received, according to Kaminski, who said he'd already sold two appliances and hoped to sell up to 150 in the coming years. "No matter the country, talks with the municipality buyers always take long-of the order of three years," Lange told AFP.

The Glutton resembles a huge dog on a leash following his master—a large hound that smells good to boot. The air coming out of its filters is not only purer than the air entering, according to Lange, but it is also eucalyptus-scented. Its big advantage is its large hose. Made of carbon fibre, it is very light. "We had to keep in mind the street sweeper who would use it for six hours straight," Lange says.

The hose's flexible nozzle means that even hard-to-reach corners can be cleaned out quite easily. At first powered by a heat engine, the Glutton quickly became all-electric, a key turning point as it made the appliance as quiet as a mouse. "We're not talking here about the level of noise," says Lange.

"But the level of silence." — AFP



NAMUR: This handout picture released on October 15, 2015 by Belgian company Glutton shows an employee using a waste vacuum cleaner to clean a street in Namur, Belgium, in June 2014. The creator of the machine, Christian Lange, was among the businessmen accompanying Belgium King Philippe during his visit to Poland, where he hopes to start selling his cleaner. — AFP



NEW YORK: This Tuesday, Oct. 6, 2015, image provided by Microsoft shows the Surface Pro 4 at a Windows 10 Devices Event, in New York. With the new Surface Pro 4, typing on a Microsoft tablet finally feels like typing on a regular laptop. — AP

APPLE TELLS JUDGE 'IMPOSSIBLE' TO UNLOCK NEW IPHONES

NEW YORK: Apple Inc told a US judge that accessing data stored on a locked iPhone would be "impossible" with devices using its latest operating system, but the company has the "technical ability" to help law enforcement unlock older phones.

Apple's position was laid out in a brief filed late Monday, after a federal magistrate judge in Brooklyn, New York, sought its input as he weighed a US Justice Department request to force the company to help authorities access a seized iPhone during an investigation.

In court papers, Apple said that for the 90 percent of its devices running iOS 8 or higher, granting the Justice Department's request "would be impossible to perform" after it strengthened encryption methods.

Those devices include a feature that prevents anyone without the device's passcode from accessing its data, including Apple itself. The feature was adopted in 2014 amid heightened privacy concerns following leaks by former National Security Agency contractor Edward Snowden about NSA surveillance programs.

Apple told US Magistrate Judge James Orenstein it could access the 10 percent of its

devices that continue to use older systems, including the one at issue in the case. But it urged the judge to not require it to comply with the Justice Department's request.

"Forcing Apple to extract data in this case, absent clear legal authority to do so, could threaten the trust between Apple and its customers and substantially tarnish the Apple brand," Apple's lawyers wrote.

A spokeswoman for Brooklyn US Attorney Robert Capers, whose office is handling the case, declined comment. Earlier this month, Orenstein expressed skepticism about whether he could require Apple to disable security on the iPhone, citing Congress' failure to act on the issue of encryption despite the urging of the Justice Department and Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Orenstein deferred ruling until Apple had a chance to say if it was "technically feasible and, if so, whether compliance with the proposed order would be unduly burdensome."

Apple in its brief said it limited its views to those questions rather than the broader legal issue at hand, which it called "important." In an order Tuesday, Orenstein invited Apple to address that issue. A hearing is scheduled for today. — AP

YAHOO LOSES \$42M ON 'COMMUNITY' SERIES

LOS ANGELES: Reviving "Community" has been a costly adventure for Yahoo-and might spell the end of its foray into big-budget original series.

CFO Ken Goldman revealed during Yahoo's third-quarter earnings call Tuesday that the company took a \$42 million charge on "Community" and two other original series as it couldn't effectively monetize the programming.

Yahoo recorded a \$42 million impairment charge in Q3 on the value of its video assets, and Goldman specifically singled out "Community," as well as original shows "Sin City Saints" and "Other Space," when asked what went wrong. Writing off the cost of the shows — \$41.699 million to be precise, according to Yahoo's financial statements-removes them from the balance sheet so they won't be

amortized over time. "We thought long and hard about it, and what we concluded is (for) certain of our original video (series), we couldn't see a way to make money over time," he said.

Continued Goldman, "We're not saying we're not going to do these at all in the future. But what we are saying is, in three cases at least, it didn't work the way we had hoped it to work, and we've decided to move on."

Yahoo debuted season six of Dan Harmon's "Community" exclusively on its video platform Yahoo Screen in March following NBC's cancellation of the show after five seasons. Yahoo landed Honda as a launch sponsor for "Community," which is produced by Sony Pictures Television. But apparently it couldn't gather enough of an audi-

ence, or long-term commitments from advertisers, to make the investment into original content at that scale pay back.

Yahoo previously teased that it may be renewing "Community" for a seventh season, or even take part in a movie deal with the Greendale Community College gang. That may appear less likely with Tuesday's disclosure, but insiders tell Variety that a "Community" movie is still in play-with or without Yahoo.

The exec who had led Yahoo's charge into originals with TV-size production budgets was chief marketing officer Kathy Savitt, who in September joined independent studio STX Entertainment as president of its digital unit.

The revelation came as Yahoo turned in another quarter of finan-

cial results that failed to meet Wall Street expectations, leading CEO Marissa Mayer to promise that the company will focus on fewer products in 2016 to try to right the ship.

Yahoo posted third quarter 2015 revenue of \$1.23 billion and earnings per share of 15 cents; analysts had expected \$1.26 billion in sales and EPS of 17 cents.

"As we move into 2016, we will work to narrow our strategy, focusing on fewer products with higher quality to achieve improved growth and profitability," Mayer said in announcing the results.

Yahoo also announced a new pact with Google for search results and ads. That agreement will "complement" the search services provided by Microsoft and Yahoo's own search technologies and ad products, according to the company.

In addition trying to improve the metrics of its core businesses, Mayer called out as a top priority Yahoo's planned spinoff of Aabaco Holdings, representing 384 million shares it owns in Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba Group. That transaction is still pending regulatory approval. Yahoo had expected that to close in Q4 but Mayer said on the earnings call that the spinoff may not be completed until January.

Mayer noted that Yahoo's total Q3 revenue grew 7% year-over-year, while the strategic "Mavens" businesses-comprising mobile, video, native ads and Tumblr ad-rose 43% from a year earlier, to \$422 million. But audience acquisition costs in the latest period soared to \$223 million (up from \$54 million), and Yahoo remains heavily reliant on desktop PC users.

Yahoo cut guidance for the fourth quarter: It expects revenue to be between \$1.16 billion and \$1.2 billion, down from \$1.3 billion previously. Yahoo's stock fell as much as 2.8% in after-hours trading Tuesday, after closing regular trading down 2% to \$32.83 per share. — Reuters

TAIWAN'S HTC LAUNCHES NEW PHONE TO CHALLENGE APPLE

TAIPEI: Taiwan's smartphone maker HTC Corp unveiled a new flagship model yesterday-taking on Apple's latest iPhones-but analysts say it's unlikely to boost the struggling company's market share. The HTC One A9 has a 13-megapixel camera, and is the first non-Nexus phone to use Google's newest operating system.

The homegrown Taiwanese brand, once a star of the smartphone sector, is suffering losses as it grapples with intense competition from Samsung, Apple and rising Chinese brands.

The company is taking action to turn its business around, which involves job cuts and streamlining its product offerings to focus on high-end phones. The A9 — which will go on sale next month-will lift revenue in the fourth quarter as vendors start stocking the product, but consumers will not necessarily follow, said analyst Calvin Huang of Sinopac Financial Holdings Co. "It may attract those who can't afford the iPhone but there are a

lot of better phones as well on the market at cheaper prices," he told AFP. "The smartphone market is getting increasingly crowded. I don't see any hope for a turnaround."

Observers have taken to social media to note how similar A9's appearance is to Apple's iPhone 6s, some calling it a "clone."

"(We're) unveiling a phone that stands apart in a market increasingly dominated by a company which controls every aspect of your phone," HTC's CEO Cher Wang said in a statement.

HTC is directly challenging Apple's dominance, marketing the A9 as a bridge between the iPhone and other Android devices that are not user-friendly. HTC shares dropped 6.41 percent to close at Tw\$75.90 in Taipei yesterday. "The product and price is pretty good, but the market is crowded with tons of product," said Richard Ko, an analyst for KGI Securities.

"Are the phone's differences going to get people to choose it? That's uncertain." — AFP



WASHINGTON: In this August 5, 2015 file photo, a billboard for the technology company Yahoo is seen in Washington, DC. Yahoo said Tuesday its quarterly profit tumbled to \$76 million from \$6.8 billion a year ago, when it had a one-time gain linked to sale of shares in China's Alibaba. The results were weaker than expected, as revenues rose a modest seven percent from a year ago to \$1.226 billion, raising challenges for the rebound sought by chief executive Marissa Mayer. — AFP

LIBERAL WIN GIVES BOOST TO CANADA MARIJUANA MARKET

OTTAWA: Justin Trudeau's election win gave Canadian pot stocks a boost Tuesday with his promise to legalize recreational cannabis expected to give a boost to the nation's nascent medical marijuana industry. Share prices for cannabis producers jumped an average of five to 10 percent in relatively high volume trading early in the day.

The companies already produce marijuana for medical use in Canada, and investors are betting they could quickly scale up to serve recreational pot users too, once Trudeau makes good on his promise. Canopy Growth rose 11 percent to Can\$2.43, while Aphria Inc. rose 5.3 percent to Can\$1 and Metrum Health Corp. gained 6.0 percent to Can\$1.95.

"Trudeau's vow to legalize and regulate marijuana... has set in motion the single most important catalyst for the marijuana space," Dundee Capital Markets analyst Aaron Salz said in a Tuesday note to clients. At least one company is also looking beyond Canada's bor-

ders hoping that G20 nations will adopt Canada's regulatory framework for pot, creating new markets for their wares.

Bruce Linton, who co-founded the firm Tweed, said he was betting on "significant growth" in the sector, as legitimate firms move into a space now dominated by black market growers and sellers, and offer buyers a large variety of pesticide-free strains. Linton's company opened in a former chocolate factory an hour's drive from Ottawa last year under a new government scheme that banned home cultivation in favor of large commercial greenhouses.

It merged with Canopy and Bedrocan in the spring to form the largest commercial pot grower in Canada. The parent company changed its name to Canopy in September. Tweed was one of only six firms initially licensed by Health Canada to grow and sell fresh medical marijuana and cannabis oil to eligible persons. The number of licenses

issued has since grown to 26. An estimated one million out of Canada's 35 million people regularly smoke marijuana, according to 2014 surveys.

Trudeau has admitted he smoked the drug at a dinner party with friends after being elected to parliament in 2008. He said his late brother Michel was facing marijuana possession charges for a "tiny amount" of pot before his death in an avalanche in 1998. This influenced his decision to call for legalizing and regulating cannabis, Trudeau has said.

War on synthetic cannabis

In related news, New York declared war Tuesday on synthetic cannabis, otherwise known as K2, responsible for thousands of emergency-room visits this year alone and far more dangerous than ordinary marijuana. Mayor Bill de Blasio signed into law three new bills designed to curb the use of the drug, manufactured in the United States from

chemicals produced in China.

The new law would also impose tougher punishments on those who sell or manufacture the substance. Convicted sellers will now face up to one year in prison, a \$5,000 fine and civil penalties of up to \$50,000. Grocers who sell them can lose their licenses to sell cigarettes as well.

"K2 is a poison," de Blasio told reporters. "It was crucial, before this trend got any worse, to act decisively." The new laws will take effect in 60 days time, but will not punish users, many of whom suffer from mental health problems.

Synthetic cannabinoids are leaves sprayed with unpredictable and diverse chemical combinations that are either smoked or ingested. The drugs go by a litany of other names including Spice, Green Giant and Caution, and produce side-effects that include tremor seizures, hallucinations and violent behavior. New York Police Commissioner Bill Bratton said dozens of people have been arrested, and

millions of packets of K2, as well as numerous ingredients destined for production, have been seized.

Since January alone, there have been more than 4,500 synthetic cannabinoid-related emergency department visits in New York, including more than 1,200 in July, authorities said. To date there has been one death from the drug in the city. Men make up around 90 percent of the visits. Patients have a median age of 37 and are disproportionately residents of homeless shelters and sufferers of a psychiatric illness.

Bratton said China is the principal source of the chemicals used to create K2. They are mixed in different formulas, usually trying to stay one step ahead of existing laws, he said. "The manufacture of the K2 is usually done here in the United States where it's sprayed on leaves that look like marijuana... but the only source of the chemicals used in this is China," he told reporters. —AFP

FRUSTRATION RISES AS TIME RUNS OUT AT CLIMATE TALKS

'WE NEED TO AGREE ON COMPROMISE'

BONN: Frustration ran high yesterday at the snail's pace of talks for a climate rescue pact, with three days left for diplomats to craft a blueprint for a year-end UN summit. With an eye firmly on the clock, diplomats in Bonn despaired at the mountain of

warming. "I don't think this way of working is going to bring us where we need to be by the end of the week and to stand a chance of success in Paris."

The Bonn meeting is tasked with forging a workable blueprint

tries accused rich ones of "apartheid" tactics, and claimed their core demands had been excised from the blueprint. An overnight sprint to reintroduce omitted passages saw the text swell from 20 pages to 34.

told a stocktaking session.

Switzerland's Franz Perrez said time pressure was taking its toll. "Either parties are disappointed because we are not moving fast enough, or they are disappointed because they do not have the time to look in depth at all the proposals." Several delegates said parties must keep talking after hours, outside the meeting rooms, if progress is to be made.

"We need to agree on compromise," said Perrez. Algeria's Ahmed Djoghlaif, who co-chairs the forum with Daniel Reifsnnyder of the United States, urged diplomats to pull up their sleeves and "engage with your partner". And the G77 bloc of developing nations, representing the vast majority of the world population, cautioned against further padding of the document. "We need a text by the end of the week that we can take to Paris as the basis of negotiations, in which many issues are agreed," said climate envoy Nozipho Mxakato-Diseko of South Africa, which chairs the G77. "We cannot leave it up to our ministers to do the work of negotiators. It is negotiators that need to reach consensus on most issues, leaving only the highly-sensitive political issues for ministers to resolve."

The overarching goal is to limit global warming to two degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit) over pre-industrial Revolution levels. But countries still disagree on how to share out responsibility between rich and poor nations for curbing greenhouse gas emissions blamed for climate change. Scientists say pledges submitted by more than 150 nations so far add up to warming of about 3 C—a world of more dangerous sea-level rise, storms, drought and disease spread. "There is no Plan B. The only option is to achieve Plan A," said Tubiana. "There is no miracle." —AFP



NAGQU, China: In this photograph taken on August 10, 2002, a semi-nomadic Tibetan herdsman makes her way across grasslands as hovering clouds pass over the outskirts of Nagqu, some 4,500 meters above sea level, north of Lhasa on the immense Tibetan plateau. The Dalai Lama on October 20, 2015, has urged the world to protect Tibet from global warming, saying his Himalayan homeland was crucial to the health of the world. —AFP

work they face after an acrimonious start on Monday cost them more than a day of negotiating time.

"I am, to be honest, very concerned," said climate envoy Laurence Tubiana of France, which will host a November 30-December 11 UN summit tasked with inking a 195-nation pact to rein in global

for ministers and heads of state to grind down into a global agreement meant to crown years of climate negotiations. It would be the first accord committing all the world's nations, rich and poor, in the same arena for climate action. The talks got off to a false start Monday when developing coun-

'There is no miracle'

The huddle then broke up into smaller text-crafting groups, which reported back yesterday. If ministers were to see the product, "probably many delegates would lose half their salaries immediately," European Union delegate Artur Runge-Metzger

SHARP-TOOTHED CREATURE THAT BIT HAWAII SURFER WAS AN EEL

HONOLULU: An eel, not a shark, bit a surfer over the weekend off Hawaii's popular Waikiki Beach, officials said Tuesday. The state Department of Land and Natural Resources said it made the determination based on an interview with the victim and photos of his injuries.

The agency didn't specify what species of eel bit the man or why. It investigated after the initial reports said the bite was from a shark. Hawaii's coral reefs are home to a variety of eels, including some with large mouths,

long teeth and strong jaws that help in capturing prey. The snakelike fish normally aren't aggressive but have been known to defend their lairs, according to the Maui Ocean Center's website.

Officials don't keep track of eel bites in Hawaii waters but noted there is no record of any shark attacks off Waikiki. The surfer suffered injuries to his left foot Saturday, hours after a shark attacked a man off Oahu's Lanikai Beach.

Both men were hospitalized in serious

condition. No updates on their injuries were released Tuesday. In the attack off Lanikai Beach, a 44-year-old man was swimming about 50 to 100 yards from shore when a tiger shark bit him. Another man helped him to shore in an outrigger canoe. It was Hawaii's sixth confirmed shark encounter this year, state statistics show. Another man lost his leg when a tiger shark bit him on Oahu's North Shore less than two weeks ago.

Most shark bites this year have happened in murky water, and all have resulted in injuries. In April, a shark killed a woman who was snorkeling off Maui. Officials recorded an average of 4.2 shark encounters per year from 2005 to 2009. Since 2010, the average has risen to 8.6 per year.

Still, the number of attacks is low compared with the number of people in the ocean, said Dr Carl Meyer, a shark and reef researcher at the University of Hawaii's Institute of Marine Biology. "The number of people living in Hawaii and using the ocean for recreation has increased over time, and this is the single most likely reason for a higher number of shark bites in recent years," Meyer said.

Hawaii Tourism Authority president George Szigetzi said in a statement Monday that the weekend's bites were isolated but that people should be aware of the dangers in the ocean. "As an island state, we are surrounded by the ocean, so it is important that both our visitors and residents take precaution to understand ocean safety and take precaution when entering the water," he said. —AP



HAWAII: In this Aug 6, 2014 file photo, people lounge on Waikiki's beaches in Honolulu. An eel, not a shark, bit a surfer off the shore of Hawaii's Waikiki Beach over the weekend. —AP



AIN OUDA: Moroccan laborers recycle waste at the Attawafiq cooperative at Oum Azza industrial landfill. — AFP

MOROCCO'S TRASH MEN FIGHT CLIMATE CHANGE

RABAT: Pulling carts piled high with plastic bottles or rummaging through unofficial dumpsites, informal trash collectors abound on the streets of Morocco. Dubbed "Mikhala" in the local Arabic dialect, the thousands of rubbish pickers are often looked down on as they trudge through the capital Rabat and other Moroccan cities.

But a project to hire the Mikhala to work officially is starting to change that image, and even help as Morocco looks to reach an ambitious goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 13 percent by 2020. In their own modest way, the waste pickers could be a model for countries where, like in Morocco, consumers often do not sort through and recycle their own rubbish.

As the host of next year's UN climate conference—following the COP21 meeting in Paris from November 30 to December 11 that aims to conclude a universal climate-rescue pact—Morocco will be under scrutiny for its own efforts to reduce emissions. And tackling household waste—which the environment ministry says causes up to 18 percent of greenhouse gas emissions in Morocco—will be key.

'Respect' for pickers

Unlike in many Western countries where recycling is long established, in Morocco there is little legal framework for waste sorting. Morocco only recycles about eight percent of its municipal waste, but has targeted to increase the amount to 20 percent by 2020, according to a report presented at the European Union last year.

"Informal waste processing is generally done by poor social groups with a low level of education as a daily means of survival," says Mustapha Azaaitraoui, a researcher specialized in environmental issues. Set up in 2011 with support from the World Bank, the Attawafiq cooperative at the Oum Azza industrial landfill south of Rabat is a first attempt at changing that. It employs about 150 people—mainly ex-pickers—to sort trash for recycling on-site instead of on the streets.

Among them is Yassin Mazout, 31, a history graduate who heads the cooperative after becoming a trash picker to pay for his studies when his father died. "We are all equal, we all have the same monthly salary of 2,500 dirhams (about 230 Euros/\$260)," he says. "Before, at the old dumpsite, the strong would crush the weak."

After working outside for years, Mazout and his colleagues now work under a roof manually sorting through half of the average 2,000 tonnes of solid waste that arrive each day at the landfill. "We're much better off," agrees Najat, who before joining Attawafiq spent 18 of her 51 years as an informal trash picker. "We have social security and our earnings help us support our families."

This year for the first time the cooperative made a profit that will be divided up between members and used to increase its capital. Mazout wants trash pickers to finally receive the "respect" they deserve as "they play an important role in our lives—both environmentally and economically." "The workers are very well organized," says Gerard Prenant, director of the Pizzorno Environnement group that operates and has invested 650,000 Euros in the landfill. "They're very professional in sorting and we're delighted to have them working at our site," he says.

At the landfill outside the capital, Attawafiq's workers are giving back value to waste. The cooperative provides an important environmental service at zero cost to the community, Mazout says. Recycling not only reduces waste in landfills, but also helps to lower greenhouse gas emissions by saving energy from producing or importing products like cardboard and plastic.

Mazout says he hopes the project will inspire others around a country that still counts 220 unauthorized dumpsites. Morocco aims to close all these informal dumping grounds by 2020, environment ministry official Lubna Al-Abed says, and has already funded 16 waste sorting centers like Attawafiq in partnership with municipalities. —AFP

SUNSCREEN BLAMED FOR DAMAGE TO CORAL REEFS

MIAMI: Sunscreen contains a chemical that scientists believe is causing massive damage to coral reefs worldwide and threatens their very existence, researchers warn. Oxybenzone—also known as BP-3 or Benzophenone-3—is found in more than 3,500 sunscreen products worldwide, said the study in the latest edition of the Archives of Environmental Contamination and Toxicology. The chemical gets into the water via swimmers and wastewater from coastal septic systems. Global scientists announced earlier this month that a massive global coral bleaching event is already under way, made worse in some parts of the world by warming waters brought on by El Niño.

Coral reefs have been in decline for decades, and face multiple threats including pollution, climate change, storms and disease. Oxybenzone, which blocks ultraviolet rays, causes "gross deformities" in baby coral, "damages their DNA, and, most alarmingly, acts as an endocrine disruptor," said the study. The effect is forcing "the coral to encase itself in its own skeleton leading to death." Even more worrying, scientists observed the harmful effects of the chemical even when it was

highly diluted—as low as 62 parts per trillion, or the same as "a drop of water in six and a half Olympic-sized swimming pools," the study found. Far higher concentrations of oxybenzone were measured near coral reefs in Hawaii and the US Virgin Islands—ranging from 800 parts per trillion to 1.4 parts per million. "This is over 12 times higher than the concentrations necessary to impact on coral," the study said. Researchers estimate that between 6,000 and 14,000 tons of sunscreen lotion are emitted into coral reef areas each year. Oxybenzone makes up between one and 10 percent of those lotions. Since not all reefs are located near tourist areas, scientists believe that about 10 percent of global reefs are at high risk of exposure to sunscreen lotion damage.

The study was led by marine scientists from Virginia, Florida, Israel, the US National Aquarium and the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. "The use of oxybenzone-containing products needs to be seriously deliberated in islands and areas where coral reef conservation is a critical issue," said lead author Craig Downs of the Haereticus Environmental Laboratory in Virginia. —AFP

HARVESTING RAINWATER BRINGS BETTER HEALTH IN CAMEROON

DOUALA: When Cameroon's economic capital was hit by yet another devastating flood in June, health experts warned that the city would fall into a familiar pattern.

The flooding would leave behind contaminated groundwater and large areas of standing water that attract breeding mosquitoes, they said. As a result, the number of deaths from cholera and malaria would shoot up.

But this time, the Cameroon government took action to try to stop such epidemics before they start, and make sure Douala is prepared for the next time heavy rains hit. As part of a new project aimed at helping communities adapt to recurrent flooding, the government is installing rainwater harvesting systems in vulnerable Douala neighborhoods.

The idea is simple: catch and store clean water for people to use whenever flooding makes groundwater unsafe. "Natural disasters have gotten our authorities to think about saving water and saving the health of their citizens," said Jackson Abwe, a teacher in Makepe, one of the neighborhoods involved in the project.

Water harvesting for poor areas

After the floods in June, the government put \$185 million into Douala's Urban Development Programme for the Emergency Rehabilitation and Construction of Infrastructure fund. Along with improving drainage systems and rehabilitating road networks, the money is going into the first phase of the rainwater harvesting project, which is due to be completed at the end of October. According to Benoit Som, one of the deputy mayors of the Douala V council, 15 squatter settlements in Douala will get two rain harvesting systems each, at a cost of 1.3 million fca (\$2,500) per system.

Each system includes tanks installed outside houses with corrugated iron roofs. During the rainy season, rainwater flows down the roofs and into the tanks. In some cases, water is also stored in larger iron and concrete water storage tanks, which have a capacity of around 80,000 liters. The collected water is then treated and connected to a plumbing system to be used by the households near the tank. The council is also encouraging individual households to set up their own rainwater harvesting systems.

According to health experts, 60 percent of Douala's population of three million depends on water from wells, many built close to pit latrines. When the area floods, sewage can get washed into the

community's water supply.

"Both the urban poor who cannot afford portable water and the well-to-do who suffer from persistent (water supply) cuts rely on the groundwater supply, which is vulnerable to contamination," said Dr Ngide Isaac of Douala Laquintini Hospital. He said the number of cholera cases in the city jumps from less than 50 per week to over 400 during rainy seasons that involve flooding.

Council officials believe the rainwater harvesting project can help cut those numbers in the future. "The project will help strengthen the adaptive capacity of the beneficiary communities, reduce the risks faced from the effects of climate change like floods, and in turn influence the policy to promote sustainable management of water resources," said Augustine Njamshi, executive director of the Bio-Resource and Development Centre in Cameroon.

Requirement for new buildings

Council members say that even after the project is completed, they intend to propose that the government oblige city planners to include rainwater recycling systems in all new builds. "Ideally, each public and private building in Douala city should possess its own water harvesting system," Gustave Ebanda, second deputy mayor of the Douala V council, told journalists when the project was announced.

Environment experts say the project is important and will improve both health and sustainability efforts. "A big city like Douala needs alternative sources of potable water, and rainwater harvesting is one of those cost-effective and environmentally friendly sources," said Tchepnang Barthelemy, coordinator of the Centre for Assistance to Justice and Animation for Development, a non-governmental organization in Limbe.

Rainwater harvesting can cut the need to build other expensive water-supply systems, and create the ability to farm or build in areas with no other access to water, he said, as well as making floods less destructive by capturing more water. For the residents of Douala, however, what is most important is that they can have access to clean water when they need it.

"Women and children sometimes spend up to eight hours per day searching for portable water," said Marie Noel Ebang, a shop attendant in Makepe, which recently got two rain harvesting systems. "This rainwater storage device has improved access to safe drinking water and decreased the time needed for water collection." —Reuters



MALAYSIA: Malaysia's iconic Petronas twin towers and Kuala Lumpur's skyline are shrouded in thick haze. —AFP photos

SE ASIA FIRES 'PRODUCE MORE GREENHOUSE GAS THAN US' SUFFOCATING VAST EXPANSES OF REGION WITH SMOG

JAKARTA: Indonesian forest and agricultural fires cloaking Southeast Asia in acrid haze are spewing more greenhouse gases into the atmosphere each day than all US economic activity, according to an environmental watchdog. The shock assessment came as Jakarta said the number of blazes was increasing across the archipelago despite a multinational fire-fighting effort, and announced plans to deploy more water-bombing aircraft.

For nearly two months, thousands of fires caused by slash-and-burn farming have suffocated vast expanses of the region with smog, causing respiratory illnesses to soar, schools to close, and scores of flights and some international events to be cancelled.

Much of the burning is in tropical peatlands rich in carbon but which are being drained and cleared at a rapid rate to make way for agriculture, particularly fast-expanding palm oil plantations. The World Resources Institute said in a recent report that since early September carbon emissions from the fires had exceeded average US daily output on 26 out of 44 days. The United States is the world's second-largest greenhouse gas source after China. The WRI, a US-based research organization that focuses on environment and development issues, normally classifies Indonesia as the fifth-biggest emitter.

"The burning of tropical peatlands is so significant for greenhouse gas emissions because these areas store some of the highest quantities of carbon on Earth, accumulated over thousands of years," the

WRI, which used findings from the Global Fire Emissions Database for the report, said. "Draining and burning these lands for agricultural expansion, such as conversion to oil palm or pulpwood plantations, leads to huge spikes in greenhouse gas emissions." The smog crisis is escalating as world leaders gear up for talks beginning next month on a climate rescue pact, which will seek to limit global warming to two degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit) over pre-Industrial Revolution levels.

Fires spreading

The fires and resulting region-wide blanket of smoke occur to varying degrees each year during the dry season as land is illegally cleared by burning, regularly angering Indonesia's smog-hit neighbors Malaysia and Singapore. Malaysia, which in recent weeks has repeatedly ordered school closures across several states as a health precaution, did so again yesterday for the third straight day as pollution levels climbed.

Air quality was in the "very unhealthy" range near the capital Kuala Lumpur under the government's rating system, with much of the rest of the country experiencing "unhealthy" air. In Singapore, air quality was also in the "unhealthy" range. Popular Thai holiday islands have also been affected with the haze forcing several planes packed with beach-bound tourists to turn back earlier this month.

Experts warn the current outbreak is on track to become the worst ever, exacerbated by bone-dry conditions caused by the El

Nino weather phenomenon. The fires on the huge islands of Sumatra and Borneo are typically only brought under control by November with the onset of the rainy season. But Herry Purnomo, a scientist at the Indonesia-based Center for International Forestry Research, told AFP this week that climatology data indicated the rainy season may be delayed this year and that the fires could last until year-end.

Indonesia earlier this month agreed to accept international help after failing for weeks to douse the fires and last week launched its biggest fire-fighting push yet, with dozens of planes backing up thousands of personnel on the ground. But the national disaster agency said that the number of "hotspots"—areas detected by satellite which are already ablaze, or are extremely hot and ripe to go up in flames—had risen to more than 3,200 across the archipelago.

As well as on Sumatra and the Indonesian part of Borneo, a substantial number had been detected in the easternmost region of Papua, the agency said. Papua is not typically affected by widespread outbreaks of agricultural fires. At a cabinet meeting late Tuesday, the government decided it needs another 10 to 15 water-bombing planes, which it plans to rent from international allies, agency spokesman Sutopo Purwo Nugroho said. About 30 planes are currently involved in water-bombing and artificially inducing rain, with Singaporean and Malaysian aircraft having taken part. Two Russian planes were due to arrive later yesterday to provide assistance. —AFP

VULTURE'S GENES HELP IT THRIVE ON ROTTING FLESH

WASHINGTON: A diet of putrid rotting flesh may not be your cup of tea, but to the cinereous vulture, found across southern Europe and Asia, it is positively delightful. This tough bird, it turns out, is genetically wired to thrive on the stuff.

Researchers on Tuesday said they have sequenced the genome of this big scavenger, also called the Eurasian black vulture, identifying genetic traits that account for a stalwart stomach and powerful immune system that let it carry on eating carrion. They pinpointed genetic features related to gastric acid secretion that help explain this vulture's ability to digest carcasses and other features linked to its immune system defense against

microbial and viral infections from decomposing flesh.

"It is known that they are all but immune to botulism and that they can happily eat the flesh of an animal coated in *Bacillus anthracis* that causes anthrax," said geneticist Jong Bhak of South Korea's Ulsan National Institute of Science and Technology. "They also are known to take infected food with rabies, hog cholera and numerous other diseases that would be lethal to most other scavengers."

This vulture may have the strongest stomach in the world, Bhak said. "They have an extremely acidic stomach, enough to melt bones and perhaps metals," Bhak added. —Reuters

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Kuwait Times

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Dr. Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem
فهد علي المخيزيم

إستشاري أطفال
M.B. Bch. FRCPC. FAAP. PEM



Al-Jabriya - Block 1A - St. 1 - Mazaya Building - 15th Floor - Clinic B - Tel.: 22269369 - Fax: 22269368



KUWAIT: The campaign to educate women on breast cancer continued, as part of the campaign launched by 'Cancer Aware Nation'. Yesterday morning, a lecture was held at Durrah Bint Abi Sufian School in Saad Al-Abdallah area. Sebamed continued its support of the campaign by participating with information on skin care as well as handing out gifts of skin care products.



Greetings



Happy Birthday to Lulu Sambajon Edrozo! Many happy returns with best compliments coming from Shirley Connie, Maritess Brito Florin, Sheila Rechell, Valorie Voltaire, Ralph Vincent, Jacob, Ezra and Ezrael.

Greetings



Happy marriage anniversary to Deveneni Lakshminarayana Yadav and Deveneni Rajeswari. Greetings from Nuthayti Sasi Sankar Yadav, Ramakrishna Yadav family, Perugu Prabhakar Yadav, Punagani Prakash Yadav and Genni Subbaramanam Yadav.

PINK DAY AT BLU LOWE

This month, we at Blu Lowe opted for a slight color change to include pink as the main highlight, in order to spread breast cancer awareness via a united call for action thanks to our very own Pink Day. We've always looked for ways to support the pink cause, whether it be in our day to day operations, our partnerships with our valued clients, or through our communication to the mass public through our campaigns and events.

We celebrate our Pink day every year and we always make sure to jump right into the spirit of things with our signature elements of fun, fervor and innovation. Our work on awareness campaigns, proactive works and social media coverage, clearly contribute to making a change. In the end, we want to spread the idea that everybody can play a part in successfully combating this ailment. From simply spreading the message, to aiding in finding a cure, our main aim is to make a positive difference towards the cause in general and to give hope to those affected in person.



KUWAIT: Al-Hilal Alquds youth team arrived in Kuwait yesterday in order to participate the upcoming 3rd Friendship Tournament organized by PSA Everton Academy and sponsored by Welfare Association for Youth.

DR BOBY CHEMMANUR HONORED BY INDO-AMERICAN PRESS CLUB

The Indo-American Press Club (IAPC) honored Dr Bobby Chemmanur with Sathbhavana Award at the International Media Conference held in New York, for his outstanding achievement as an entrepreneur, tireless pursuit of excellence in life-saving awareness and charitable initiatives as a humanist with a mission. Dr Bobby Chemmanur received the award from Barry Grodenchick, Vice President of Queens Borough, Democratic party leader and former New York State Assemblyman, IAPC Chairman Ginsmon Zacharia, General Secretary Vineetha Nair and Exec Vice President Fr Johnson PUNCHAKONAM. At the high-profile event attended by eminent journalists from all over the world, Dr Bobby Chemmanur released IAPC Souvenir 2015 along with renowned social activist Daya Bai. Daya Bai was also honored with Satkarma Award for her social activities. 812 Km run Unique World Record holder, Dr Bobby Chemmanur announced that, he is going to spread his business and charity activities in the United States too. As the first step, he is opening a new jewelry showroom at Houston by this November.



WHAT'S ON - SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

All photos submitted for What's On should be minimum 200dpi. Articles must be in plain text and should include name and phone numbers. Articles and photos that fail to meet these requirements will not be published.

Please send them to news@kuwaittimes.net

X-CITE HOSTS THIRD PHOTO WORKSHOP

On October 10, X-cite by Alghanim Electronics strengthened its continuous engagement with the photography community by hosting its third free camera workshop at their store in The Avenues. The workshop offered customers a rare opportunity to sharpen their skills regarding different styles of portrait photography including the critical differences between fashion and model photography.

This "Art of Portrait Photography" workshop, sponsored by Nikon, was led and instructed by New York based photographer, Nizar Al Otaibi. Al Otaibi informed the audience of the different styles of portrait photography while developing their techniques and understanding of different lighting, backgrounds and photography equipment. During the workshop, over 30 attendees were given the opportunity to practice their learning with a hands-on live photography session.

This successful event followed X-cite's last workshop in which renowned Chef and Photographer Faisal Al Nashmi held a two-hour session informing workshop attendees of the different styles of food photography. These workshops are highly appreciated by the photography community in Kuwait, who regularly request X-cite to conduct similar workshops on a regular basis. The pictures of the event are available on the Facebook page Xcite by Alghanim and you can watch the full workshop video on the XciteAlghanim YouTube channel.



RELAX AND ENJOY AUTHENTIC BBQ NIGHTS AT MARINA HOTEL KUWAIT

The new barbeque season is back at the Marina Hotel Kuwait, as we welcome the eagerly awaited cooler months. Enjoy quality time with friends and family this season and savor freshly grilled dishes every Wednesday. The hotel launched its poolside BBQ Nights in the presence of media and senior management, promising them a personalized and entertaining experience. General Manager, Nabil Hammoud, along with the hotel's management team welcomed media representatives upon their arrival. They were treated to a warm and relaxing evening filled

with live oriental music, shisha and breathtaking views of the Arabian Gulf.

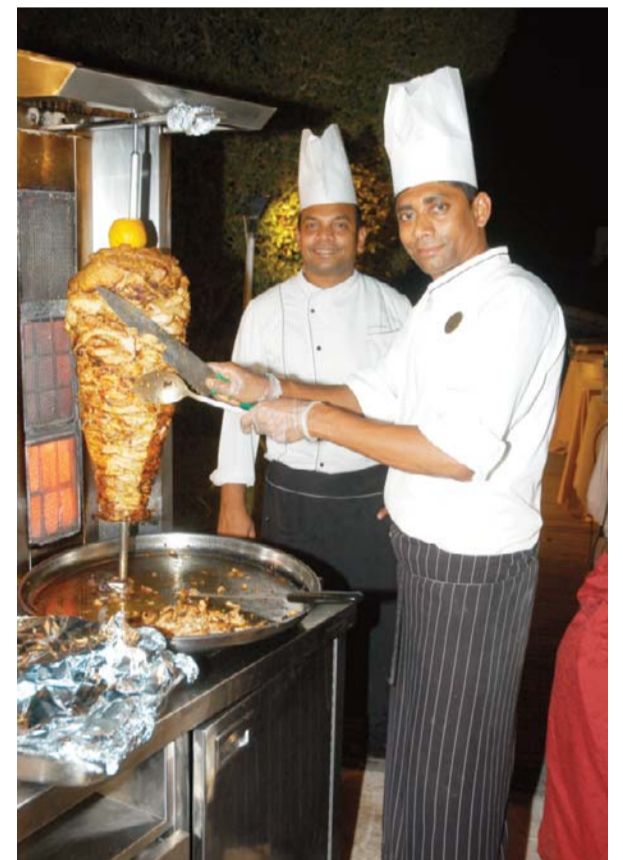
On this occasion, Hammoud said: "We launch the BBQ nights at a time when people crave for a soothing and uniquely elevating experience. There is no better way to celebrate the last season of the year than to dine under the stars and the moonlight, while enjoying the luxurious hospitality that Marina Hotel is famous for. The BBQ nights will offer barbequed fresh meats, seafood and a variety of delightful salads every Wednesday from 7:30pm onwards." The BBQ lasted till after mid-

night and Marina Hotel ensured that each and every guest had a truly memorable evening filled with fun and exceptional delight.

We invite our guests to experience a feast for the senses with the selection of dishes hot off the grill from chicken, seafood to lamb and the wide range of salads followed by tasty desserts. The BBQ station offers a range of mouthwatering dishes that had been specially prepared to cater to the guest's tastes. Mingle and enjoy the expertise by the hotel's chefs at the live cooking station whilst savoring the luxurious hospitality and stylish ambience of

the dinner buffet. To end your perfectly delightful evening, scrumptious assortments of desserts are served.

Guests can enjoy a delightful and very pleasant dining experience with their family and friends, surrounded by a warm and welcoming ambience. With live popular entertainment, tantalizing shisha and attentive associates, the unique poolside location has a capacity to accommodate up to 150 guests at a time and has a special area for groups and gatherings.



GUST'S PR CLUB AWARDED CLUB OF THE YEAR

Gulf University for Science and Technology's (GUST) Office of Student Life (OSL) awarded the student-run PR Club the Club of the Year award in a ceremony in the campus's Central Area. The award is presented annually to the club that demonstrates the most initiative, creativity, and actively inspires students by offering educational and engaging activities throughout the year. Dr Sabah Quaddoumi, VP of Academic Services and Dr Raghad Al Kazemi, Dean of Student Affairs at GUST were both present at the event to honor the winning club.

The PR Club was the clear winner of this year's award due to their exceptional presence on campus all year round and their diligent organization of 24 relevant and practical events including organizing the world's largest charity drive, earning them a spot in the Guinness Book of World Records, organizing a university-wide soccer tournament, and a trip to London whereby the travelers toured the Aston Martin Factory and attended a workshop at the London College of Communication. Professor Donald Bates, GUST President, said, "Life at GUST is competitive, and it is this atmosphere of healthy competition that brings out the best in people. I am sure it wasn't easy to choose this year's winner, as there are so many clubs who made tremendous endeavors throughout the year."

Dr Quaddoumi then added, "Our clubs play a vital role in our community. Without them, campus life would be bland, and it is their presence, efforts, and activities that make GUST special." The ceremony also gave out an additional award to show the clubs that their efforts do not go unnoticed by the university community. The Social Club Award, was presented to the Accounting Club, because of their professionalism and how well they interacted with other clubs, the student body, and the GUST community as a whole.

The club even managed to set up 20 events throughout the academic year which included setting up study sessions for Accounting students in collaboration with the teaching assistants, promoting prostate cancer awareness in cooperation with Al Salam Hospital, and hosting former POW Thamer Al Ayoub to talk about his experiences during the Iraqi invasion and Gulf War. Anwar Al Sabah, Head of OSL, said, "It is my honest belief that to get an extra dose of knowledge, you need to leave the classroom. Our clubs demonstrate that our students have a real hunger to apply what they learn in their lectures to real life situations, and create an atmosphere that is fun, educational, social, and applicable to the real world."

The purpose of the event is not only to recognize the efforts of a few clubs, but also motivate the other 15 student run clubs and acknowledge their hard work throughout the year academic year. This year, the number of clubs at GUST grew to 17, and now include: The Entrepreneurs Club, the Interns Club, the Volunteer Club, the Media Club, the Photography Club, the Anime Club, the Sports Club, the Talent Club, the Debate Club, the Islamic Finance Club, the Management Club, the Marketing Club, the Computer Science Club, the English Club, and the Public Relations Club.



BBC
lifestyle

- 00:15 Vacation Vacation Vacation
- 00:35 Vacation Vacation Vacation
- 01:00 Masterchef: The Professionals
- 01:50 The Roux Legacy
- 02:25 Come Dine With Me
- 02:50 Homes Under The Hammer
- 03:40 Beat My Build
- 04:25 The Roux Legacy
- 05:00 Come Dine With Me
- 05:25 Vacation Vacation Vacation
- 05:45 Vacation Vacation Vacation
- 06:05 A Taste Of Greenland
- 07:00 Masterchef: The Professionals
- 07:50 Come Dine With Me
- 08:15 Building Dream Homes
- 08:45 Building Dream Homes
- 09:15 Michela's Classic Italian
- 09:40 Vacation Vacation Vacation
- 10:05 Vacation Vacation Vacation
- 10:25 The Roux Legacy
- 11:00 Homes Under The Hammer
- 11:50 Beat My Build
- 12:40 Masterchef: The Professionals
- 13:30 Come Dine With Me
- 13:55 Building Dream Homes
- 14:25 Building Dream Homes
- 14:55 Michela's Classic Italian
- 15:20 Vacation Vacation Vacation
- 15:45 Vacation Vacation Vacation
- 16:00 The Roux Legacy
- 16:40 Homes Under The Hammer
- 17:30 Come Dine With Me
- 17:55 Building Dream Homes
- 18:25 Building Dream Homes
- 18:55 Rachel Khoo's Kitchen
- Notebook: Cosmo Cook
- 19:20 Vacation Vacation Vacation
- 19:45 Vacation Vacation Vacation
- 20:05 Masterchef: The Professionals
- 20:55 The Roux Legacy
- 21:30 Come Dine With Me
- 21:55 Homes Under The Hammer
- 22:45 Building Dream Homes

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 Lewis
- 04:20 Agatha Christie's Partners In Crime
- 05:15 Take On The Twisters
- 06:10 Who's Doing The Dishes?
- 07:05 Coronation Street
- 07:30 Lewis
- 08:25 Agatha Christie's Partners In Crime
- 09:20 Who's Doing The Dishes?
- 10:15 I'm A Celebrity Get Me Out Of Here
- 11:35 May The Best House Win
- 12:30 Take On The Twisters
- 13:25 Emmerdale
- 13:50 Emmerdale
- 14:20 Coronation Street
- 14:45 The Chase: Celebrity Specials
- 15:35 Who's Doing The Dishes?
- 16:30 Doc Martin
- 17:25 Keep It In The Family
- 18:20 Take On The Twisters
- 19:10 Coronation Street
- 19:35 Who's Doing The Dishes?
- 20:30 Doc Martin
- 21:25 Keep It In The Family
- 22:20 I'm A Celebrity Get Me Out Of Here
- 23:40 Eggheads

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CHANNEL HD

- 01:00 China From Above
- 02:00 China's Ghost Army
- 02:55 The 2000s: The Decade We Saw It All
- 04:45 Science Of Stupid
- 05:10 Science Of Stupid
- 05:40 Hard Time
- 06:35 Locked Up Abroad
- 07:30 World's Most Extreme
- 08:25 The Miracle Of The 9/11 Surfer
- 09:20 Science Of Stupid
- 09:45 Science Of Stupid
- 10:15 The Happenings
- 11:10 Paranatural
- 12:05 Hard Time
- 13:00 Dead Or Alive
- 14:00 World's Most Extreme
- 15:00 Locked Up Abroad
- 16:00 The Happenings
- 17:00 Paranatural
- 18:00 Taboo USA
- 19:00 Locked Up Abroad
- 20:00 The Happenings
- 20:50 Paranatural
- 21:40 Taboo USA
- 22:30 Locked Up Abroad
- 23:20 Hard Time

OSN FIRST HD
COMEDY

- 00:30 Last Man Standing
- 01:00 The Nightly Show With Larry Wilmore
- 03:30 Cristela
- 04:30 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
- 07:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
- 11:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
- 14:00 Cristela
- 15:30 Last Man Standing
- 16:00 The Nightly Show With Larry Wilmore
- 17:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
- 18:30 Cristela
- 20:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
- 21:30 Last Man Standing
- 21:30 The Nightly Show With Larry Wilmore
- 22:00 Big Time In Hollywood FI
- 22:30 Big Time In Hollywood FI
- 23:00 Curb Your Enthusiasm
- 23:30 Late Night With Seth Meyers

OSN FIRST HD
COMEDY

- 00:00 The Americans
- 01:00 Blindspot
- 02:00 Empire
- 03:00 Mistresses
- 04:00 Covert Affairs
- 05:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
- 06:00 The Astronaut Wives Club
- 08:00 Sleepy Hollow
- 09:00 Covert Affairs
- 10:00 The Astronaut Wives Club
- 12:00 Emmerdale
- 12:30 Coronation Street
- 13:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
- 14:00 Sleepy Hollow
- 15:00 The Astronaut Wives Club
- 16:00 Emmerdale
- 17:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
- 18:00 Sleepy Hollow
- 19:00 WAGs
- 20:00 Fashion Bloggers
- 21:00 Fashion Bloggers
- 22:00 El News
- 23:00 House Of DVF

OSN FIRST
MORE

- 00:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
- 01:00 Good Morning America
- 03:00 The Killing
- 04:00 Grimm
- 05:00 Good Morning America
- 07:00 Emmerdale
- 08:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
- 09:00 Suits
- 10:00 Emmerdale
- 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 C.S.I.
- 20:00 Switched At Birth
- 21:00 Supernatural
- 22:00 The Killing
- 23:00 Grimm

OSN MOVIES ACTION

- 00:00 Kiss The Girls
- 02:00 Bro'
- 04:00 Desperate Measures
- 06:00 A Stranger In Paradise
- 08:00 Left Behind
- 10:00 The Amazing Spider-Man 2
- 12:30 A Stranger In Paradise
- 14:00 Born To Race: Fast Track
- 15:45 Left Behind
- 17:45 Android Cop
- 19:30 The Amazing Spider-Man 2
- 22:00 Percy Jackson And The Lightning Thief

OSN MOVIES HD
ACTION

- 00:00 Bro'-18
- 02:00 Desperate Measures-PG15
- 04:00 A Stranger In Paradise-PG15
- 06:00 Left Behind-PG15
- 08:00 The Amazing Spider-Man 2-PG15
- 10:30 A Stranger In Paradise-PG15
- 12:00 Born To Race: Fast Track-PG15
- 13:45 Left Behind-PG15
- 15:45 Android Cop-PG15
- 17:30 The Amazing Spider-Man 2-PG15
- 20:00 Percy Jackson And The Lightning Thief-PG15
- 22:15 Guns, Girls And Gambling-18

OSN MOVIES HD
COMEDY

- 00:00 The Hot Chick
- 02:00 Zoolander
- 04:00 The Pretty One
- 06:00 The Love Guide
- 08:00 The Comebacks
- 10:00 The Pretty One
- 12:00 Zoolander
- 14:00 You Again
- 16:00 The Comebacks
- 18:00 HairBrained
- 20:00 That Awkward Moment
- 22:00 Multiplicity

OSN MOVIES
DRAMA

- 01:00 Kon-Tiki-PG15
- 19:30 Paranoia-PG15
- 05:00 Ashes-PG15
- 07:00 Little Red-PG15
- 09:00 Belle-PG15
- 11:00 Ashes-PG15
- 13:00 Yellow Rock-PG15
- 15:00 The Giver-PG15
- 17:00 Belle-PG15
- 19:00 Hours-PG15
- 21:00 Draft Day-PG15
- 23:00 The Mule-18

OSN MOVIES FESTIVAL

- 01:00 August: Osage County
- 03:00 Frank
- 05:00 Five Thirteen
- 07:00 1911
- 09:00 Temptation: Confessions Of A Marriage Counselor
- 11:00 Se Puder... Dirijat
- 12:45 Australia
- 15:30 The Secret Life Of Bees
- 17:30 Temptation: Confessions Of A Marriage Counselor
- 19:30 How I Live Now
- 21:30 We Gotta Get Out Of This Place
- 23:30 Her

OSN MOVIES HD

- 01:45 Penthouse North-PG15
- 03:30 Safe Haven-PG15
- 05:30 Still Mine-PG15
- 07:15 Upside Down-PG15
- 09:00 The Lego Movie-PG15
- 10:45 Drumlina: A New Beat-PG15
- 12:45 Won't Back Down-PG15
- 15:00 Tarzan (2013)-PG
- 17:00 The Lego Movie-PG
- 19:00 The Grand Budapest Hotel-PG15
- 21:00 Jersey Boys-PG15
- 23:15 Escape Plan-PG15

OSN MOVIES KIDS

- 01:00 Tom And Jerry: The Lost Dragon
- 02:30 Pim And Pom: The Big Adventure
- 04:15 Saving Santa
- 06:00 The Adventures Of Don Quixote
- 08:00 Unstable Fables: Goldilocks & The Three Bears
- 10:00 Mamma Moo And Crow
- 11:30 Hatching
- 13:00 Pim And Pom: The Big Adventure
- 14:30 JLA Adventures: Trapped In Time
- 16:00 Vampire Dog
- 18:00 Mamma Moo And Crow
- 20:00 The Adventurer: The Curse Of The Midas Box
- 22:00 JLA Adventures: Trapped In Time
- 23:30 Vampire Dog

OSN MOVIES
PREMIERE

- 00:00 The Skeleton Twins-18
- 02:00 When The Game Stands Tall-PG15
- 04:00 Bears-PG
- 06:00 The Good Witch's Wedding-PG15
- 08:00 Good Deeds-PG15
- 10:00 Horizon-PG15
- 12:00 Playing For Keeps-PG15
- 14:00 Planet 51-PG
- 15:45 Godzilla-PG15
- 18:00 Edge Of Tomorrow-PG15
- 20:00 St. Vincent-PG15
- 22:00 The Prince-PG15
- 23:45 Good Deeds-PG15

STAR MOVIES

- 01:30 Long Weekend
- 03:00 The Hurricane
- 05:30 Thorne: Scareycat
- 07:45 The Rock
- 10:00 Wild Hogs
- 11:45 Deep Rising
- 13:30 Derailed
- 15:30 Seabiscuit
- 18:00 Jack
- 20:00 I Am Number Four
- 22:00 Transporter 3
- 23:45 The Proposal

WORLD

- 00:00 Desperate Housewives
- 01:00 MasterChef Australia
- 02:00 The Listener
- 03:00 The Listener
- 04:00 Castle
- 05:00 Happy Endings
- 05:30 Happy Endings
- 06:00 The Simpsons
- 06:30 The Simpsons
- 07:00 Lost
- 08:00 Desperate Housewives
- 09:00 MasterChef Australia
- 10:00 The Listener
- 11:00 The Listener
- 12:00 Castle
- 13:00 Happy Endings
- 13:30 Happy Endings
- 14:00 The Simpsons
- 14:30 The Simpsons
- 15:00 Lost
- 16:00 MasterChef Australia
- 16:30 Cougar Town
- 17:30 Scrubs
- 18:00 Low Winter Sun
- 19:00 The Bridge
- 20:00 72 Hours
- 21:00 Cougar Town
- 21:30 Scrubs
- 22:00 MasterChef Australia
- 23:00 MasterChef Australia

HISTORY

- 00:00 Alaska Off-Road Warriors
- 01:00 Ice Road Truckers
- 02:00 Counting Cars
- 02:30 Counting Cars
- 03:00 Alaska Off-Road Warriors
- 04:00 Ultimate Wheels
- 05:00 American Pickers
- 06:00 Ax Men
- 07:00 Swamp People
- 08:00 Mountain Men
- 09:00 Storage Wars: New York
- 09:30 Storage Wars: New York
- 10:00 American Restoration
- 10:30 American Restoration
- 11:00 Counting Cars
- 11:30 Counting Cars
- 12:00 American Pickers
- 13:00 Storage Wars
- 13:30 Storage Wars
- 14:00 Pawn Stars
- 14:30 Pawn Stars
- 15:00 Shipping Wars
- 15:30 Shipping Wars
- 16:00 Ice Road Truckers
- 17:00 Counting Cars
- 17:30 Counting Cars
- 18:00 American Pickers

AMC

- 03:00 Hart's War
- 05:05 Thunderbirds Are Go
- 06:40 Alexander The Great
- 08:55 Hoosiers
- 10:50 Saved!
- 12:25 The Great Scout And Cathouse Thursday
- 14:15 Death Rides A Horse
- 16:10 Agent Cody Banks
- 17:50 Agent Cody Banks 2: Destination London
- 19:30 Dr. Goldfoot And The Bikini Machine
- 21:00 The Divide
- 22:00 The Believer
- 23:40 Pork Chop Hill
- 01:15 Hamburger Hill

ANIMAL PLANET HD

- 03:25 Gator Boys
- 04:15 Snake Sheila
- 04:38 Snake Sheila
- 05:02 Treehouse Masters
- 05:49 Echo And The Elephants Of Amboseli
- 06:12 Echo And The Elephants Of Amboseli
- 06:36 Call Of The Wildman

BBC
entertainment

- 03:20 New Tricks
- 04:15 The Weakest Link
- 05:00 The Green Balloon Club
- 05:25 Nuzzle & Scratch: Frock n Roll
- 05:45 Nuzzle & Scratch: Frock n Roll
- 06:05 Jollywobbles
- 06:10 The Green Balloon Club
- 06:35 Nuzzle & Scratch: Frock n Roll
- 06:55 Nuzzle & Scratch: Frock n Roll
- 07:15 The Weakest Link
- 08:00 Rev.
- 08:30 Doctors
- 09:00 Eastenders
- 09:30 Call The Midwife
- 10:25 Pride And Prejudice
- 11:20 The Weakest Link
- 12:05 The Office
- 12:35 Rev.
- 13:05 Call The Midwife
- 13:55 Pride And Prejudice
- 14:50 The Office
- 15:20 Rev.
- 15:50 Doctors
- 16:20 Eastenders
- 16:50 The Weakest Link
- 17:35 Rev.
- 18:05 Call The Midwife
- 19:00 Doctors
- 19:30 Eastenders
- 20:00 Last Tango In Halifax
- 20:50 Last Tango In Halifax
- 21:45 Watson & Oliver
- 22:15 Silent Witness
- 23:55 Ideal
- 00:25 Eastenders
- 00:55 Watson & Oliver
- 01:25 Call The Midwife
- 02:15 Last Tango In Halifax

GN
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
- 06:00 The Amazing World Of Gumball
- 06:25 New Uncle Grandpa
- 06:37 Uncle Grandpa
- 06:50 Adventure Time
- 07:10 Adventure Time
- 07:20 Adventure Time



multiplicity.

MULTIPLICITY ON OSN MOVIES HD COMEDY

- 19:00 Storage Wars
- 19:30 Storage Wars
- 20:00 Search For The Lost Giants
- 21:00 Pawn Stars
- 21:30 Pawn Stars
- 22:00 Duck Dynasty
- 22:30 Duck Dynasty
- 23:00 Storage Wars Texas
- 23:30 Pawn Stars

AMC

- 03:00 Hart's War
- 05:05 Thunderbirds Are Go
- 06:40 Alexander The Great
- 08:55 Hoosiers
- 10:50 Saved!
- 12:25 The Great Scout And Cathouse Thursday
- 14:15 Death Rides A Horse
- 16:10 Agent Cody Banks
- 17:50 Agent Cody Banks 2: Destination London
- 19:30 Dr. Goldfoot And The Bikini Machine
- 21:00 The Divide
- 22:00 The Believer
- 23:40 Pork Chop Hill
- 01:15 Hamburger Hill

ANIMAL PLANET HD

- 03:25 Gator Boys
- 04:15 Snake Sheila
- 04:38 Snake Sheila
- 05:02 Treehouse Masters
- 05:49 Echo And The Elephants Of Amboseli
- 06:12 Echo And The Elephants Of Amboseli
- 06:36 Call Of The Wildman

- 07:00 Call Of The Wildman
- 07:25 Dogs 101
- 08:15 Snake Sheila
- 08:40 Snake Sheila
- 09:10 Treehouse Masters
- 10:05 Tanked
- 11:00 Dogs 101
- 11:55 Bondi Vet
- 12:50 Megalodon: The New Evidence
- 13:45 Snake Sheila
- 14:10 Snake Sheila
- 14:40 Treehouse Masters
- 15:35 Tanked
- 16:30 Echo And The Elephants Of Amboseli
- 17:25 Echo And The Elephants Of Amboseli
- 18:20 Snake Sheila
- 18:45 Snake Sheila
- 19:15 Treehouse Masters
- 20:10 Tanked
- 21:05 Lion Battling
- 22:00 Man-Eating Super Wolves
- 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 Man-Eating Super Wolves
- 02:35 Tanked

BBC
entertainment

- 03:20 New Tricks
- 04:15 The Weakest Link
- 05:00 The Green Balloon Club
- 05:25 Nuzzle & Scratch: Frock n Roll
- 05:45 Nuzzle & Scratch: Frock n Roll
- 06:05 Jollywobbles
- 06:10 The Green Balloon Club
- 06:35 Nuzzle & Scratch: Frock n Roll
- 06:55 Nuzzle & Scratch: Frock n Roll
- 07:15 The Weakest Link
- 08:00 Rev.
- 08:30 Doctors
- 09:00 Eastenders
- 09:30 Call The Midwife
- 10:25 Pride And Prejudice
- 11:20 The Weakest Link
- 12:05 The Office
- 12:35 Rev.
- 13:05 Call The Midwife
- 13:55 Pride And Prejudice
- 14:50 The Office
- 15:20 Rev.
- 15:50 Doctors
- 16:20 Eastenders
- 16:50 The Weakest Link
- 17:35 Rev.
- 18:05 Call The Midwife
- 19:00 Doctors
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- 05:35 Grojband
- 06:00 The Amazing World Of Gumball
- 06:25 New Uncle Grandpa
- 06:37 Uncle Grandpa
- 06:50 Adventure Time
- 07:10 Adventure Time
- 07:20 Adventure Time

- 07:35 Clarence
- 07:46 Clarence
- 08:00 Teen Titans Go!
- 08:20 Ninjago: Masters Of Spinjitzu
- 08:45 New Ben 10 Omniverse
- 09:10 Ben 10 Omniverse
- 09:30 Regular Show
- 09:41 Regular Show
- 09:55 Dreamworks Dragons: Defenders Of Berk
- 10:20 Total Drama World Tour
- 10:40 Total Drama: Pahkitew Island
- 11:05 Johnny Test
- 11:50 Steven Universe
- 12:02 Steven Universe
- 12:15 Uncle Grandpa
- 12:40 Regular Show
- 12:51 Regular Show
- 13:02 Regular Show
- 13:13 Regular Show
- 13:25 Adventure Time
- 13:35 Adventure Time
- 13:50 Adventure Time
- 14:10 The Amazing World Of Gumball
- 15:00 New Ben 10 Omniverse
- 15:20 Ben 10 Omniverse
- 15:45 Ninjago: Masters Of Spinjitzu
- 16:10 Matt Hatters Chronicles
- 16:30 Teen Titans Go!
- 17:20 Clarence
- 17:31 Clarence
- 17:40 The Amazing World Of Gumball
- 18:30 Adventure Time
- 18:40 Adventure Time
- 18:50 Over The Garden Wall - New
- 19:15 New Uncle Grandpa
- 19:27 Uncle Grandpa
- 19:40 Steven Universe
- 20:00 Regular Show
- 20:50 New Ben 10 Omniverse
- 21:15 Ben 10 Omniverse
- 21:40 Adventure Time
- 22:25 Johnny Test
- 22:30 Regular Show
- 23:55 Total Drama: Pahkitew Island
- 00:20 Total Drama: Pahkitew Island
- 00:40 Grojband
- 01:05 Grojband
- 01:25 Transformers: Robots In Disguise
- 01:50 Regular Show
- 02:35 Johnny Test

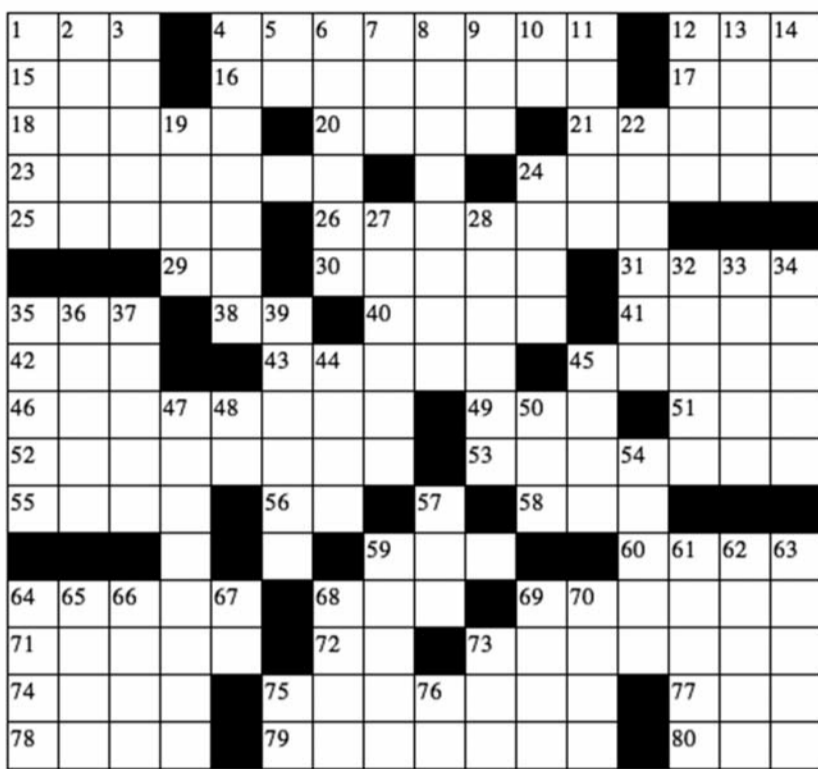
DISCOVERY SCIENCE

- 03:00 How It's Made
- 03:23 How It's Made
- 03:48 Moon Machines
- 04:36 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?
- 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 The Big Brain Theory
- 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 The Big Brain Theory
- 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 Race To Escape
- 19:30 Food Factory
- 19:55 Food Factory
- 20:20 How It's Made
- 20:45 How Do They Do It?
- 21:10 How Do They Do It?
- 21:35 Race To Escape
- 22:00 Race To Escape
- 22:50 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
- 23:40 Moon Machines
- 00:30 Mythbusters
- 01:20 Race To Escape
- 02:10 Food Factory
- 02:35 Food Factory

Disney Junior

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

CROSSWORD 1056



ACROSS

1. American prizefighter who won the world heavyweight championship three times (born in 1942).
4. A mountain in the Black Hills of South Dakota.
12. The quantity that can be held in a mug.
15. The second day of the week.
16. Not healed.
17. A flat wing-shaped process or winglike part of an organism.
18. A unit of dry measure used in Egypt.
20. An inactive volcano in Sicily.
21. Do without.
23. Argentinian carima.
25. A vicious angry growl.
26. Especially fine or decorative clothing.
29. A silvery ductile metallic element found primarily in bauxite.
30. A winder around which thread or tape or film or other flexible materials can be wound.
31. The dressed skin of an animal (especially a large animal).
35. The 13th letter of the Hebrew alphabet.
38. A very poisonous metallic element that has three allotropic forms.
40. A ballistic missile that is capable of traveling from one continent to another.
41. A town in north central Oklahoma.
42. A constellation in the southern hemisphere near Telescopium and Norma.
43. (Old Testament) The second patriarch.
46. An island in the Indian Ocean off the east coast of Africa.
49. A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
51. Resinlike substance secreted by certain lac insects.
52. Change into an ester.
53. A short introductory essay preceding the text of a book.
55. An administrator in charge of a division of a university or college.
56. A colorless odorless gaseous element that give a red glow in a vacuum tube.
58. The cry made by sheep.
60. The basic unit of money in Bangladesh.
64. An Italian poet famous for "The Divine Comedy"—a journey through hell and purgatory and paradise guided by Virgil and his idealized Beatrice (1265-1321).
71. A member of the Siouan people formerly living in the Missouri river valley in NE Nebraska.
72. The blood group whose red cells carry both the A and B antigens.
74. Capital and largest city and economic center of Peru.
77. A decree that prohibits something.
78. A unit of weight used in east Asia approximately equal to 1.3 ounces.
79. A state of Uganda and site of a former Bantu kingdom.
80. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.

DOWN

1. Collect or gather.
2. Italian film actress (born in 1934).
3. Chief god of the Rig-Veda.
4. A contagious viral disease that is a milder form of measles lasting three or four days.
5. An organization of independent states to promote international peace and security.
6. Large scissors with strong blades.
7. Made warm or hot.
8. Cassava with long tuberous edible roots and soft brittle stems.
9. Leaf or strip from a leaf of the talipot palm used in India for writing paper.
10. A rare heavy polyvalent metallic element that resembles manganese chemically and is used in some alloys.
11. King of Northumbria who was converted to Christianity (585-633).
12. Injure or wound seriously and leave permanent disfigurement or mutilation.
13. Type genus of the family Ulvaceae.
14. A Gaelic-speaking Celt in Ireland or Scotland or the Isle of Man.
19. A genus of Mustelidae.
22. Personification of the sky or upper air breathed by the Olympians.
24. Steering mechanism for a vessel.
27. A shed containing a number of beehives.
28. Large high frilly cap with a full crown.
32. Any plant of the genus Inula.
33. English theoretical physicist who applied relativity theory to quantum mechanics and predicted the existence of antimatter and the positron (1902-1984).
34. Deduce (a principle) or construe (a meaning).
36. Remove from memory or existence.
37. A blanket that is used as a cloak or shawl.
39. A Chadic language spoken in Chad.
44. Free from risk or danger.
45. A particular geographical region of indefinite boundary (usually serving some special purpose or distinguished by its people or culture or geography).
47. Relating to or located at or near the zenith.
48. A heavy brittle metallic element of the platinum group.
50. Someone who engages in arbitrage (who purchases securities in one market for immediate resale in another in the hope of profiting from the price differential).
54. Bringing death.
57. Someone who is morally reprehensible.
59. Locate and correct errors in a computer program code.
61. Jordan's port.
62. Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
63. A city in southern Turkey on the Seyhan River.
65. Type genus of the Amidae.
66. A language unit by which a person or thing is known.
67. (Akkadian) God of wisdom.
68. A Lolish language.
69. A circular segment of a curve.
70. English essayist (1775-1834).
73. The first month of the year.
75. A small pellet fired from an air rifle or BB gun.
76. A hard gray lustrous metallic element that is highly corrosion-resistant.

Yesterday's Solution

B	B	S	K	O	R	D	O	F	A	N	A	A	S	
R	E	S	O	P	E	N	N	E	S	S	R	N	A	
A	A	R	D	E	T	A	I	L	A	A	R	O	N	
G	R	I	M	A	C	E	S	L	U	I	C	I	N	G
			A	G			A	C	M	D	I	V		
P	A	B	L	U	M	B	U	L	B	D	A	B	A	
E	M	I	T	E	A	S	I	O	I	L	E	X		
K	E	B	A	B	G	M	F	E	C	D	S			
A	B	O	D	E	P	R	E	S	S	D	E			
N	A	S	A	E	M	E	E	R	R	A	G	E	E	
			C	A	B	R	E	C	K	I	D	D		
A	I	K	I	D	O	E	D	D	A	A	R			
S	C	A	D	N	A	M	I	N	I	B	I	K	E	
C	A	T	R	A	G	B	A	G	S	A	A	L	E	
O	C	A	B	I	R	A	C	I	A	L	M	A	R	
T	O	R	C	R	A	P	E	T	T	E	A	N	Y	

STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

Nothing is to be gained by letting your anger distract you from what you need to say today. Even if your discomfort seems to be approaching a flash point, you don't have to automatically throw a burning match into the emotional tinder. The current situation is crazy enough without you adding to the volatility. Bite your tongue, take a few deep breaths and put on a happy face. Then, state your case as gently as possible. Remaining calm, cool and collected enables you to deliver your message with the greatest impact.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

You're tempted to take risks today that you might normally never consider. It's nearly impossible to contain your energy while steady Saturn is at odds with unstable Uranus. You're uncharacteristically restless and may even be on the prowl for mischief. Acknowledging the intensity of your desires now empowers you to handle them with grace and maturity; denying your feelings only causes them to grow stronger. Strive to be unconventional without turning your life upside down in the process.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You could be in for quite a wonderful surprise today as something totally unexpected grabs your attention. However, don't move too fast if you feel a knot in the bottom of your stomach. What you see is not the whole story and trusting your intuition can save you from yourself. Ultimately, it's not a good idea to take the bait unless you are ready to go on a ride to points unknown. Stop moving for a minute, block out the noise and re-establish your center. The answer will be crystal clear once you listen to your heart.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

You're obsessed with your ambitions today and already have a serious plan in mind to reach your goals. However, expressing your needs up front may be out of character for you. Even if you tend to be shy, you currently have the potential to rattle everyone's cage by acting impulsively. Don't spend too much energy resisting if your emotions are carrying you into new territory. A wonderful experience might be just around the next bend if you have the courage to take a leap of faith and go there.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

Think twice before jumping into a new friendship or partnership today. Unfortunately, it may be tricky to see how deep the water actually is from your current vantage point on the shore. Even if you're an accomplished swimmer, the emotional currents can shift quickly now, making it challenging to predict which direction you're heading. Luckily, you could build a strong foundation for a relationship if you just remember to proceed with caution when sharing your heart. Dipping your toe in the shallow end to test the temperature is a good place to start.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

You long to express your ambitions creatively today, but it can be a scary proposition if you feel threatened by someone's harsh criticism. You might believe you're being unnecessarily singled out, yet your immediate reaction may be overstated. Fortunately, you're in a much stronger position now than you think and there's no need to defend your motives or fight back with your sharp tongue. Just follow your original plan and others will applaud when they see you in action. The proof is in the pudding.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

Although you may be feeling on edge today because everyone is busy pursuing their own interests, you have a natural ability to cope gracefully as the airy Aquarius Moon harmonizes with the Sun in peace-seeking Libra. Nevertheless, people might act irresponsibly when it comes to meeting their obligations; thankfully, you're repeatedly able to reestablish your balance with ease. Don't be afraid to make an important decision now, even if you wish you could keep your options open longer. Whether or not you can rely on anyone else, your instincts will lead you in the right direction.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

You wish you could fast-forward reality to get through this rocky part of your journey. However, your life is in better shape now than you realize, even if you're having trouble shaking off free-floating anxiety. It's just that you crave more emotional stability and the current uncertainty may trigger unusual feelings of helplessness or fear today. It's understandable to feel uneasy when your relationships or finances are in transition. Thankfully, focusing on the myriad of possibilities ahead enables you to be more positive in the present moment.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Your social life is in the midst of turmoil today, yet your inner voice continues to quietly sing, "Everything's going to be alright." Unfortunately, you may be strangely reluctant to listen to your optimistic instincts when it comes to your relationships. However, circumstances could spiral out of control if you allow yourself to lose hope. Maintain your spiritual equilibrium now; the strength of your convictions will gently lead you through the maze of confusion. Success is yours as long as you keep the faith.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

It's a good idea to slow down now to avoid a snag in your plans if you're working on a creative project. Luckily, you can see the potential trouble before it rears its ugly head and adopting a more deliberate approach gives you additional time to solve the problem in advance. But don't give up on your vision when your clarity is so sharp; just regroup and acclimate to the new dynamics before pushing forward. Keeping your current inspiration alive is the key to your soul's satisfaction.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

It seems as if lightning is striking all around you, yet you're not in any immediate danger now. Remain emotionally available in your relationships, even if you feel the impulse to isolate yourself from others. Ultimately, your security derives from facing your fears about being alone. All you need to do is accept the current ambiguity along with your independence. There's no reason to fix anything today; just enjoy the electricity in the air and do your best to stay out of trouble.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

You might try to shirk off the responsibility for your current situation, but it's not helpful to blame the crisis of the moment on external circumstances. There's a lot more going on than anyone realizes; it's just that you may not know which feelings to trust. Rather than looking to someone else for your answers, tap into your inner fountain of wisdom. Let your emotions come and go without attachment. When you can find your peace in the calm eye of the hurricane, the storm will quickly pass.

WORD SEARCH

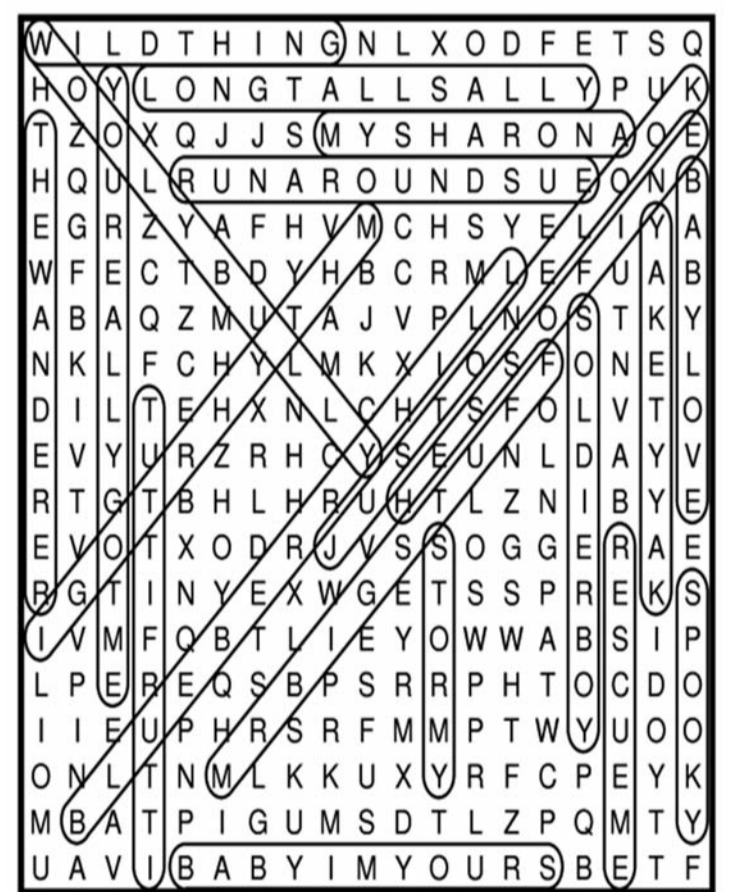
SCIENCE FICTION WORD SEARCH PUZZLE



- | | | | |
|-------------------|---------------|-------------|-------------------|
| BATTLEFIELD EARTH | FLATLAND | NEUROMANCER | STARSHIP TROOPERS |
| BRAVE NEW WORLD | GATEWAY | RED MARS | THE FOREVER WAR |
| CONTACT | HYPERION | RINGWORLD | THE TIME MACHINE |
| DUNE | I ROBOT | SNOW CRASH | WAY STATION |
| ENDER'S GAME | LORD OF LIGHT | SOLARIS | XENOCIDE |

Yesterday Solution

SOLUTION TO JUKEBOX HITS PUZZLE



Daily SuDoku

	5	8				2	9	
3								
9			5	3	4			7
				4		6		5
	6						8	
8		1		6				
7			4	1	6			8
								6
	4	9				3	1	

Yesterday's Solution

8	4	1	7	6	9	5	2	3
2	6	9	4	5	3	7	1	8
7	3	5	2	1	8	4	6	9
9	2	3	1	8	7	6	4	5
5	7	4	9	2	6	8	3	1
1	8	6	5	3	4	2	9	7
3	1	8	6	4	5	9	7	2
4	9	2	8	7	1	3	5	6
6	5	7	3	9	2	1	8	4

For labor-related inquiries and complaints:
Call MSAL hotline 128

Hospitals

Sabah Hospital	24812000
Amiri Hospital	22450005
Maternity Hospital	24843100
Mubarak Al-Kabir Hospital	25312700
Chest Hospital	24849400
Farwaniya Hospital	24892010
Adan Hospital	23940620
Ibn Sina Hospital	24840300
Al-Razi Hospital	24846000
Physiotherapy Hospital	24874330/9

Clinics

Kaizen center	25716707
Rawda	22517733
Adaliya	22517144
Khalidiya	24848075
Kaifan	24849807
Shamiya	24848913
Shuwaikh	24814507
Abdullah Salem	22549134
Nuzha	22526804
Industrial Shuwaikh	24814764
Qadsiya	22515088
Dasmah	22532265
Bneid Al-Gar	22531908
Shaab	22518752
Qibla	22459381
Ayoun Al-Qibla	22451082
Mirqab	22456536
Sharq	22465401
Salmiya	25746401
Jabriya	25316254
Maidan Hawally	25623444
Bayan	25388462
Mishref	25381200
W Hawally	22630786
Sabah	24810221
Jahra	24770319
New Jahra	24575755
West Jahra	24772608
South Jahra	24775066
North Jahra	24775992
North Jleeb	24311795
Ardhiya	24884079
Firdous	24892674
Omariya	24719048
N Khaitan	24710044
Fintas	23900322



PHARMACIES ON 24 HRS DUTY

GOVERNORATE	PHARMACY	ADDRESS	PHONE
Ahmadi	Sama Safwan Abu Halaifa Danat Al-Sultan	Fahaeel Makka St Abu Halaifa-Coastal Rd Mahboula Block 1, Coastal Rd	23915883 23715414 23726558
Jahra	Modern Jahra Madina Munawara	Jahra-Block 3 Lot 1 Jahra-Block 92	24575518 24566622
Capital	Ahlam Khaldiya Coop	Fahad Al-Salem St Khaldiya Coop	22436184 24833967
Farwaniya	New Shifa Ferdous Coop Modern Safwan	Farwaniya Block 40 Ferdous Coop Old Kheitan Block 11	24734000 24881201 24726638
Hawally	Tariq Hana Ikhlas Hawally & Rawdha Ghadeer Kindy Ibn Al-Nafis Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Salmiya-Amman St Hawally-Beirut St Hawally & Rawdha Coop Jabriya-Block 1A Jabriya-Block 3B Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	25726265 25647075 22625999 22564549 25340559 25326554 25721264 25380581 25628241

INTERNATIONAL CALLS



Afghanistan	0093	Luxembourg	00352
Albania	00355	Macau	00853
Algeria	00213	Macedonia	00389
Andorra	00376	Madagascar	00261
Angola	00244	Majorca	0034
Anguilla	001264	Malawi	00265
Antigua	001268	Malaysia	0060
Argentina	0054	Maldives	00960
Armenia	00374	Mali	00223
Australia	0061	Malta	00356
Austria	0043	Marshall Islands	00692
Bahamas	001242	Martinique	00596
Bahrain	00973	Mauritania	00222
Bangladesh	00880	Mauritius	00230
Barbados	001246	Mayotte	00269
Belarus	00375	Mexico	0052
Belgium	0032	Micronesia	00691
Belize	00501	Moldova	00373
Benin	00229	Monaco	00377
Bermuda	001441	Mongolia	00976
Bhutan	00975	Montserrat	001664
Bolivia	00591	Morocco	00212
Bosnia	00387	Mozambique	00258
Botswana	00267	Myanmar (Burma)	0095
Brazil	0055	Namibia	00264
Brunei	00673	Nepal	00977
Bulgaria	00359	Netherlands	0031
Burkina	00226	Netherlands Antilles	00599
Burundi	00257	New Caledonia	00687
Cambodia	00855	New Zealand	0064
Cameroon	00237	Nicaragua	00505
Canada	001	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		

STATE OF KUWAIT DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



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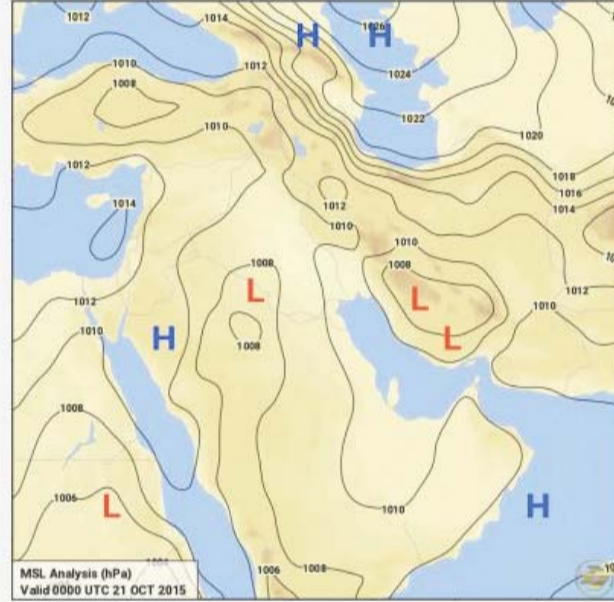
Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

Issued 21/10/2015-07:00 LT UTC +3hr

MAX Temperature 38 °C

By Day : Mostly sunny with light to moderate variable wind changing to light to moderate south easterly later on wind, with speed of 08 - 30 km/h
By Night : Partly cloudy with light to moderate south easterly changing to light variable wind, with speed of 08 - 28 km/h with a chance for scattered rain

SFC. CHART



Four-Day Forecast

	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Expected Weather	partly cloudy + scattered thunder rain	Relatively humid + scattered clouds	humid + high clouds	sunny
Min Temp °C	20	20	19	20
Max Temp °C	35	34	35	37
Wind Direction	north easterly to easterly	variable wind changing to light to moderate south easterly	variable	variable wind changing to light to moderate south easterly later on
Wind Speed km/h	12 - 35	08 - 30	06 - 22	06 - 28

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	38
KUWAIT AIRPORT	21	38
ABDALLY	22	39
BUBYAN	22	35
JAHRA	26	40
FAILAKA ISLAND	25	37
SALMIYAH	28	33
AHMADI	28	34
JAL ALIYAH	24	39
QAROH ISLAND	30	34
UMM AL-MARADEM	29	33
NUWAISIB	25	36
WAFRA	21	40
MANAGISH	24	39
SALMY	22	37
MUTRIBA	23	41

Recorded Yesterday at Kuwait Airport

Max Temp (°C)	39
Min Temp (°C)	21
Max Rel Hum (%)	97
Min Rel Hum (%)	13
Max Wind Speed (km/h) and Direction	28 S
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR	0 mm

Sunrise	05:54
Sunset	17:12

Prayer Times

Fajr	04:34
Sunrise	05:54
Zuhr	11:33
Asr	14:46
Sunset	17:12
Isha	18:29



PRIVATE CLINICS

Ophthalmologists	Plastic Surgeons
Dr. Abdallah Al-Mansoor	25622444
Dr. Samy Al-Rabea	25752222
Dr. Masoma Habeeb	25321171
Dr. Mubarak Al-Ajmy	25739999
Dr. Mohsen Abel	25757700
Dr. Adnan Hasan Alwayl	25732223
Dr. Abdallah Al-Baghly	25732223
Ear, Nose & Throat (ENT)	
Dr. Ahmed Fouad Mouner	24555050 Ext 510
Dr. Abdallah Al-Ali	25644660
Dr. Abd Al-Hameed Al-Taweel	25646478
Dr. Sanad Al-Fathalah	25311996
Dr. Mohammad Al-Daory	25731988
Dr. Ismail Al-Fodary	22620166
Dr. Mahmoud Al-Booz	25651426
General Practitioners	
Dr. Mohammed Y Majidi	24555050 Ext 123
Dr. Yousef Al-Omar	24719312
Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhaizeem	22636920
Dr. Kathem Maarafi	25730465
Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadah	25655528
Dr. Nabeel Al-Ayoobi	24577781
Dr. Dina Abdallah Al-Rafea	25333501
Urologists	
Dr. Ali Naser Al-Serfy	22641534
Dr. Fawzi Taher Abul	22639955
Dr. Khaleel Abdallah Al-Awadi	22616660
Dr. Adel Al-Hunayan FRCS (C)	25313120
Dr. Leons Joseph	66703427

Paediatricians	Endocrinologist
Dr. Khaled Hamadi	25665898
Dr. Abd Al-Aziz Al-Rashed	25340300
Dr. Zahra Qabazard	25710444
Dr. Sohail Qamar	22621099
Dr. Snaa Maarouf	25713514
Dr. Pradip Gujare	23713100
Dr. Zacharias Mathew	24334282
Dermatology	
Dr. Mohammed Salam Bern University	23845955
Dentists	
Dr. Anil Thomas	3729596/3729581
Dr. Shamah Al-Matar	22641071/2
Dr. Anesah Al-Rasheed	22562226
Dr. Abdallah Al-Amer	22561444
Dr. Faysal Al-Fozan	22619557
Dr. Abdalateef Al-Katrash	22525888
Dr. Abdallah Al-Duweisan	25653755
Dr. Bader Al-Ansari	25620111
Neurologists	
Dr. Sohal Najem Al-Shemeri	25633324
Dr. Jasem Mola Hassan	25345875
Gastrologists	
Dr. Sami Aman	22636464
Dr. Mohammad Al-Shamaly	25322030
Dr. Foad Abdallah Al-Ali	22633135

Family Doctor	Psychiatrists	Gynaecologists & Obstetricians
Dr Divya Damodar	23729596/23729581	
Dr. Esam Al-Ansari	22635047	
Dr. Eisa M. Al-Balhan	22613623/0	
Dr. Adrian arbe	23729596/23729581	
Dr. Verginia s. Marin	2572-6666 ext 8321	
Dr. Fozeya Ali Al-Qatan	22655539	
Dr. Majeda Khalefa Aliyami	25343406	
Dr. Ahmad Al-Khooly	25739272	
Dr. Salem soso	22618787	
General Surgeons		
Dr. Amer Zawaz Al-Amer	22610044	
Dr. Mohammad Yousef Basher	25327148	
Internists, Chest & Heart		
Dr. Adnan Ebil	22639939	
Dr. Mousa Khadada	22666300	
Dr. Latefa Al-Duweisan	25728004	
Dr. Nadem Al-Ghabra	25355515	
Dr. Mobarak Aldoub	24726446	
Dr. Nasser Behbehani	25654300/3	

Physiotherapists & VD	Rheumatologists:
Dr. Deyaa Shehab	25722291
Dr. Mused Faraj Khamees	22666288
Dr. Adel Al-Awadi	25330060
Dr. Khaled Al-Jarallah	25722290
Internist, Chest & Heart	
DR. Mohammed 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	



A "Back to the Future" style DeLorean, powered by methanol bio-fuel made from recycled clothing produced by a Japanese venture, is displayed before hundreds of movie fans on the rooftop of a shopping mall in Tokyo yesterday for the 30th anniversary of the Hollywood movie 'Back to the Future'.



This photo provided by Universal Pictures Home Entertainment shows Christopher Lloyd, left, as Dr. Emmett Brown, and Michael J. Fox as Marty McFly in the 1985 film, 'Back to the Future.' — AP photos

Hold on to your hoverboard: 'Back to the Future' is now

Welcome to the future. Yesterday was the date "Back to the Future" professor Doc Brown and Marty McFly journey to in their time-traveling DeLorean in the much-loved movie trilogy. The world as imagined by director Robert Zemeckis—with hoverboards, self-lacing sneakers and flying vehicles—seemed a long shot when "Back to the Future II" came out in December 1989. Fans of the series are marking Wednesday's landmark date by celebrating some of the predictions that came true in the futuristic saga—and some that didn't.

The films follow the time-travelling adventures of young Marty, a teenager living in small-town America in 1985 played by Michael J. Fox. He sets out in a DeLorean car converted to voyage the space-time continuum by his eccentric inventor friend Doc Brown. "I was a teenager when the film was released. I remember thinking it will be fun to watch it later when I have a family," said Brad Russell, founder and president of the Washington West Film Festival, which is organizing a retrospective on the series. "We watched it this year with my family. It was

rewarding." Russell is organizing a marathon projection of the three films, which came out in 1985, 1989 and 1990. Many other movie theaters are doing likewise. He even managed to get the town of Reston, Virginia outside Washington to change its name for the duration of the festival. A billboard that reads "Welcome to Hill Valley"—the fictitious town where the film takes place—is to greet hundreds of collectors of DeLorean cars expected for a parade on Sunday. A red carpet will be unfurled for Christopher Lloyd, who plays Doc Brown, and Bob Gale, who wrote the script for the trilogy.

In California, where the movies were filmed, fans dressed up as Marty will gather outside a fast food restaurant where the young hero grabs onto a pickup to speed his skateboard ride to school. And on Saturday, "Back to the Future" buffs will be able to party at the "Enchantment Under the Sea", the high school dance where Marty's parents fall in love in 1955 in the first film of the series. A documentary by Jason Aron entitled "Back in Time" also debuts yesterday in the United States, in which the

film's stars talk about its impact on popular culture. Auto manufacturer Toyota, a favorite of the hero of the film, has jumped into the fray, too. The website www.toyota.com/outatime features a discussion between Lloyd and Fox on the inventions imagined in the film and which became reality—from faxes to videoconferencing. Even the White House is jumping into the anniversary, organizing online debates with specialists on the question "What does 2045 look like?"

Victory of 'baseball losers'

"Predictions is a fun conversation we are having," Russell said. Some are still being worked on, such as increasingly sophisticated prototypes of the famed hoverboard and dog-walking drones, which also feature in the film. One joke that has long gone unnoticed outside the US resonates big-time for Americans: the success of the Chicago Cubs baseball team. In the second installment of the series, the team known affectionately as the "lovable losers" wins the 2015 World Series. And

now to the surprise of many the team is in this year's playoffs, one step away from the championship series—which they last won way back in 1908.

Several companies are cashing in on the "Back to the Future" anniversary. Nike is releasing a version of the self-lacing Nike Mag shoes that Marty wore in the movie and Pepsi will sell limited-edition "Pepsi Perfect"—Marty's soda of choice in the blockbuster series. "We are excited to be part of this moment and to bring fans something only Pepsi could deliver—and there's no need to wait—the future is now," said Lou Arbetter, PepsiCo senior director of marketing. The bottled drink, complete with collectible case, will sell at \$20.15. Just 6,500 Pepsi Perfect bottles were available, and only online. — AP



Tunisian rapper Ahmed Ben Ahmed, aka Klay BBJ, reacts following his release from custody yesterday in Tunis. — AFP

Tunisia frees rapper Klay BBJ

Tunisian rapper Klay BBJ was released from custody yesterday after being detained over the weekend on suspicion of the "possession and use" of cannabis, his lawyer said. "He has just been released, along with two others arrested with him, and the case is closed. He's very happy," Ghazi Mrabet told AFP. Mrabet said his client had left Bouchoucha prison on the outskirts of Tunis, according to relatives. He said the rapper had refused to take a drug test while in detention. "The prosecutor finally consulted the file and ordered his release," Mrabet said.

Although he denies drug use, Klay BBJ—whose real name is Ahmed Ben Ahmed—is no stranger to controversy. In 2013, he was sentenced to 21 months in prison along with fellow rapper Weld El 15 for insulting a public servant, in a case that sparked controversy in Tunisia and calls by human rights groups for their release. Their sentence was later reduced to six months but the pair appealed the ruling and were eventually acquitted. Klay BBJ is known for writing lyrics that criticize authorities, particularly the security forces. — AFP

Jay-Z, Beyonce, others perform at Tidal concert in NYC

Jay-Z and Beyonce were joined by a slew of artists including Nicki Minaj and Usher at Barclays Center in Brooklyn Tuesday night for a charity concert put on by the streaming service Tidal that covered rap, R&B, reggae and even a little country. The concert, "TIDAL X: 1020 Amplified by HTC," was a little like streaming a musical hit parade, as most of the artists only sang one song, and even major stars like Jay-Z and Beyonce kept to short sets. The goal of the event was to raise funds that would be given to the New World Foundation, an organization that funds social movements.

Concert organizers said all money from ticket prices was going to the charity, estimated to be about \$1 million. Jay-Z and other artists announced in March that they were the co-owners of Tidal, which was presented as the first artist-owned music and video platform. It's a membership-based service that offers subscribers two levels - \$10 for standard sound quality and \$20 for high fidelity sound quality. Jay-Z said last month that the service had gotten to one million subscribers. But the service has struggled against competitors like Spotify and Pandora, which offer free subscriptions.

At Tuesday's concert, there were just a few passing references to Tidal. There also were some videos with people talk-

ing about making the world a better place, but nothing about the organization that is getting the money from the show. Jay-Z told the crowd the event wasn't a one-off. "This is our first annual event," he told the cheering crowd. Most of the artists performed well-known hits that received rousing responses from the packed arena. Usher was an exception to the slew of old favorites, performing his new single, "Chains," which focuses on racial injustice. He put the song out last week through Tidal.

Other artists who performed at the concert included rappers TI, Rick Ross, Lil Wayne and Meek Mill, reggae performer Damian Marley, country singer Thomas Rhett, French band Indochine, and singers Nick Jonas, Alessia Cara and Justine Skye. At the concert, it was announced that Marley had become one of Tidal's artist-owners. Tidal's list of co-owners also includes Madonna, Rihanna, Kanye West and Alicia Keys. — AP



Singer Beyonce arrives at TIDAL X: 1020 Amplified by HTC at the Barclays Center in New York. — AP



File photo shows Luke Hemmings, from left, Ashton Irwin, Michael Clifford and Calum Hood, of 5 Seconds of Summer, arrive at the Teen Choice Awards at the Galen Center, in Los Angeles.

Gomez, Underwood to perform at American Music Awards

Selena Gomez, Carrie Underwood and 5 Seconds of Summer will be performing at the American Music Awards. Dick Clark Productions announced yesterday that the pop acts will each take the stage at the Nov 22 show at the Microsoft Theater in Los Angeles.

All three have new albums out this

month. Show host Jennifer Lopez is also set to perform at the ceremony, which will be broadcast live on ABC. Taylor Swift leads nominees with six bids, followed by Ed Sheeran and The Weeknd with five each. Nominations are based on sales, airplay and social media activity. Fans select the winners by voting online. — AP



File photo shows Selena Gomez performs on NBC's 'Today' show at Rockefeller Plaza in New York. — AP



File photo shows Carrie Underwood performs at the CMT Music Awards at Bridgestone Arena in Nashville, Tenn.

S Korean pianist wins Poland's Chopin competition

South Korean pianist Seong-Jin Cho won Poland's prestigious Chopin competition on Tuesday, a prize that opens the doors to some of the world's top concert halls. Cho, 21, beat 77 other young pianists from 20 countries to take home the gold medal and 30,000-euro (\$33,500) prize at the event, held every five years in the Polish capital Warsaw and named after the 19th century pianist and composer.

"First of all I couldn't believe it," said Seoul-born Cho, who studies at the Paris Conservatoire, after winning. "Of course being famous is good but I just want to make good music," he added. Second prize went to 26-year-old Canadian Charles Richard-Hamelin, and third place was awarded to Chinese-American Kate Liu, from a group of 10 finalists. This year's Chopin competition notably featured 14 contestants from Poland, 13 from China, 12 from Japan and eight from South Korea.

The contest began in 1927. Winning is seen as a ticket to playing the greatest

venues in the world and has helped to launch the careers of pianists such as Maurizio Pollini (1960) and Martha Argerich (1965). The juried performances are open to the public and always sell out. Born in 1810 in Zelazowa Wola, near the Polish capital, Frederic Chopin fled his homeland just before the 1830 uprising against the occupying forces of Tsarist Russia.

The composer later lived in the Austrian capital Vienna before moving to Paris, where he died aged 39 after years of poor health. Described by 19th century German composer Robert Schumann as "cannons hidden among blossoms", Chopin's music remains a symbol of Poland's long struggle for freedom. — AFP

Japan Film Festival Kuwait at Laila Tower

By Aakash Bakaya

Laila Tower on Salmiya's Sheikh Mubarak Street was host to a special event with a distinct Japanese flavor. The 'Japan Film Festival' hosted by The Embassy of Japan Kuwait in association with the Japan Foundation was a perfect evening for film buffs and cultural enthusiasts alike.

The festival, which had free admission, screened four films in two nights on Tuesday and Wednesday evening. The films were small independent Japanese movies, which can only be watched at such events. The films included 'My Pretend Girlfriend' by Saiji

Yakumo, 'Be Sure To Share' by Sion Sono, 'The Place Promised In Our Early Days' by Shinkai Makoto and 'Wanko: The Story of Me, My Family and My Dog' by Isamu Nakae. The films were from a variety of genres ranging from animation to romance comedy to serious family drama.

In his opening speech, the outgoing Ambassador of Japan Toshihoro Tsujihara said that he was tremendously grateful for the time he spent in Kuwait and hoped that the audience would acquire a fresh look at Japanese culture through these films. He explained that the theme of this year's festival alluded to the relationships of Japanese people between parents,

children and their loved ones and how memories have a unique effect on our actions.

After the screenings, a short questionnaire was given out to the attendees, asking them what they thought of the festival, the films and what they would like to see in the future. The well-sized crowd seemed delighted with the films and was grateful to have a rarely seen and closer look at Japan. Be sure to check out Friday Times this week for a more in-depth look at the Japan Film Festival and the movies that were screened at the event.



OCTOBER 20th & 21st JAPAN FILM FESTIVAL

Ex-wrestler Bautista joins pantheon of Bond villains

Former pro wrestler and rising Hollywood star Dave Bautista is joining one of cinema's most exclusive families in his new role as a James Bond villain. As Mr Hinx in 'Spectre', the latest adventure of the unflappable 007 due out in Britain next week and most everywhere else in early November, Bautista joins a pantheon of bad guys that are at least as interesting as the British spy himself. Fans are especially fond of Jaws—the towering Richard Kiel, who bit through power cables with his metal teeth as he faced off against Roger Moore in "The Spy Who Loved Me" and "Moonraker" in the 1970s.

There is also Spain's Javier Bardem as a twisted cyberterrorist in "Skyfall" (2012) and Denmark's Mads Mikkelsen as crime lord Le Chiffre in "Casino Royale" (2006). Bautista, 46, hopes to add his Mr Hinx to the list. He says the experience of filming a Bond movie "on top of a mountain in Austria" was a dramatic turnaround from his rough-and-tumble childhood in "the worst streets of Washington," where he had become a car thief by age 13. It "feels like you're in a dream," Bautista told AFP in an interview, adding that Bond is "like the ultimate superhero, but real."

Bautista's Mr Hinx works for the shadowy criminal group SPECTRE—the acronym for Special Executive for Counter-Intelligence, Terrorism, Revenge and Extortion. The other lead bad guy-Franz Oberhauser, portrayed by Austrian Oscar winner Christoph Waltz—is also a SPECTRE member. The network is not new to Bond faithful. It was first introduced on the silver screen in the very first film starring the super-spy, the classic "Dr. No" from 1962 starring Sean Connery as 007. In the film, Dr No (Joseph Wiseman), who had metal prostheses in place of his lost hands, reveals to Bond that he belongs to the criminal network.

'Bumps and bruises'

Bautista, who stands at 6'4" (1.93 meters) and whose enormous biceps are liberally tattooed, certainly looks the part of a formidable Bond nemesis. But he said the choreographed on-screen fighting with the spy in the form of Daniel Craig did not always go smoothly, despite his time as a wrestler and mixed martial artist. "There were lots of bumps and bruises," Bautista said. "Daniel hurt his knee." Did he emerge unscathed? "Dan punched me in the nose," he said. Bautista had more tender remembrances of his interaction with his female co-stars.

He admitted to going weak in the knees around Italian actress Monica Bellucci, calling her "breathtakingly beautiful but extremely sexy." As for French actress Lea Seydoux, who also appears in the movie, Bautista was impressed by her soft beauty. "There's something almost angelic about her," he said. "When she smiles, she lights up a room."

Youth of hard knocks

Bautista, an American of Filipino descent, grew up in a neighborhood where violence and crime were common. As a teenager, Bautista discovered bodybuilding, which he credits as ending his stint as an underage car thief. He worked as a bouncer, and in the 2000s launched a career as a professional wrestler. He won the World Wrestling Entertainment heavyweight championship six times, garnering along the way an enthusiastic following among wrestling fans. Bautista gets nostalgic when remembering his days as star of the ring. "Sometimes I miss the entertainment aspect of it," he said. A key influence in his move to acting was another wrestler-The Rock, now better known as Dwayne Johnson, star of action films including several in the "Fast and Furious" series. Bautista's Hollywood adventure began in 2006 in minor television roles, which led to big-screen parts in "The Man with the Iron Fists" (2012) with Russell Crowe and Lucy Liu, and "Riddick" (2013) with Vin Diesel. His biggest hit came as Drax the Destroyer, one of a crew of misfits led by Chris Pratt in last year's "Guardians of the Galaxy." The Disney/Marvel studio film, a global megahit, turbo-charged his career. In upcoming movies, Bautista will star in "Heist" along with Robert De Niro, "Marauders" with Bruce Willis, and as the main villain in a remake of the Jean-Claude Van Damme 1980s action film "Kickboxer." Of course, Bautista will also return as Drax in a "Guardians" sequel. He is however modest about his success. "I don't want to be a movie star," he said. "I want to play great characters." — AFP



This December 4, 2014 file photo shows Filipino-American actor Dave Bautista during an event to launch the 24th James Bond film 'Spectre' at Pinewood Studios in Iver Heath, Buckinghamshire, west of London. — AFP

Brand Bond thriving on cocktail of edgy and classical

In his five decades seducing cinemagoers, James Bond has foreshadowed social revolutions and the rise of multinational terrorist organizations, turning into a popular culture icon along the way. And with his 24th silver-screen assignment "Spectre" due to premiere on October 26, the British spy seems more popular than ever. His last outing in "Skyfall" took over \$1 billion (880 million euros) at the box office. Despite the flurry of speculation about whether a female Bond or a black Bond could spruce up the brand, it seems to be working well just as it is.

Experts put Bond's longevity down to an age-old fascination with glamour, but also to the imagination of author Ian Fleming, who foresaw great upheavals in social attitudes and geopolitics when he created the character in 1953. "Bond was a counter-cultural figure, a figure... of the sexual revolution," said Stephen Watt, a professor of English at Indiana University and author of "Ian Fleming and James Bond: The Cultural Politics of 007." "At the same time, he is both a loyal subject and a sophisticate who likes expensive cars, gold-ringed cigarettes especially made for him, excellent champagne, and much more."

'Emotional fragility'

As the sexual revolution ran its course and feminism became a strong force in western politics, the spy was accused of being out of touch and has even been called "sexist and misogynistic" by current big-screen Bond, Daniel Craig. But old-fashioned machismo will always remain part of his appeal, said Watt. "In a 1964 interview in Playboy... Fleming observed that 'seduction has, to a marked extent, replaced courtship,'" he said. "This was only one of the many prescient ideas Fleming voiced, and seduction-along with style, sophistication, and excitement-will always be a part of the Bond franchise."

Craig has been credited with improving the brand's

image by exploring the complexities of Fleming's character. "There's no doubt that the nature of the Bond films has changed with Daniel Craig," said James Chapman, professor of film studies at the University of Leicester and author of "Licence to Thrill: A Cultural History of the James Bond Films." "The Bond they have today is more contemporary, and slightly more rough-edged." Fleming had described Bond as a "believable man," Watt said. "I think he might have meant emotionally vulnerable." "Skyfall" hints at this by returning Bond to his childhood home, an old caretaker, and a simple rural church and by his reaction to M's death," he said of the character who plays Bond's boss. "No matter how escapist the action gets, these human dimensions of affection and emotional fragility remain." The franchise falls when Bond evokes comparison with mere action heroes," he added.

Fleming 'uncannily prescient'

In the new film, which will receive its star-studded Royal Premiere in London, Bond will once again do battle with global criminal agency SPECTRE, which made its first appearance in 1971 classic "Diamonds Are Forever". Although a homage to the traditional super-enemy of Bond's past, the SPECTRE group plays on very modern fears, helping the franchise remain relevant, said Watt. "Fleming was uncannily prescient about... a world where bad actors typically don't represent states, but multinational terrorist networks like SPECTRE," he said.

"Bond thus gets to have both an old-fashioned 'show-down' with the evil gunslinger at high noon and continue after the fight because the network and its cells extend well beyond a villain or a nation." Sneak previews of the new film hint at a treat for devotees and nostalgists, with references to iconic moments from previous films set to further strengthen the Bond myth. Despite its current success, Craig's recent comment that he would rather "slit my wrists" than sign up for the role again suggests a



In this file photo, Chris Rock hosts the 77th Academy Awards telecast in Los Angeles. — AP

Chris Rock confirmed to host the Oscars

Chris Rock has been confirmed as host of the 88th Academy Awards, producers David Hill and Reginald Hudlin announced yesterday. Variety reported on Tuesday that the comedian was in serious talks to return to the awards show. He previously hosted the Oscars in 2005. "Chris Rock is truly the MVP of the entertainment industry," said Hill and Hudlin. "Comedian, actor, writer, producer, director, documentarian - he's done it all. He's going to be a phenomenal Oscar host!"

The veteran comedian takes over for as MC after Neil Patrick Harris hosted last year's telecast, which drew the show's lowest ratings in six years. In an interview last month, Hill and Hudlin told Variety they were eager to give the show a fresh look. "The challenge is to make it entertaining, so it doesn't seem like a lesson, so the audience cares for people when they get onstage," Hill said.

Hill, a 25-year veteran from Fox Sports, also helped launch mega-hit "American Idol." Hudlin and Rock worked together on the recently defunct TV series "Everybody Hates Chris." "We share David and Reggie's excitement in welcoming Chris, whose comedic voice has really defined a generation," said Academy President Cheryl Boone Isaacs. "He is certain to bring his amazing array of talents to this year's show." Rock added: "I'm so glad to be hosting the Oscars. It's great to be back." The 2016 Oscars will be held Feb 28, 2016. — Reuters

Zemeckis high-wire thriller not for the faint-hearted

Oscar-winning director Robert Zemeckis takes movie-goers on a white-knuckle ride to the top of the World Trade Center and to the edge of sanity in his new film "The Walk". Thirty years after striking gold with "Back to the Future", the American's latest offering, which opens the Tokyo International Film Festival on Thursday, is based on the true story of French high-wire artist Philippe Petit's death-defying walk between the Twin Towers in 1974.

"From a technical standpoint, every film that I've done in my entire career has prepared me to do this movie," Zemeckis told AFP in an interview yesterday, the exact date (October 21, 2015) in the future that Michael J. Fox's Marty McFly travelled to in a souped-up DeLorean fitted with a flux capacitor in the second part of the blockbuster trilogy. "I wanted the audience to completely believe that (Joseph Gordon-Levitt's) character was on that wire. That was the challenge for me: that there would be not a single frame where the audience didn't doubt that they were really up there on that wire with that character."

Filed in 3D, the climax to "The Walk" takes place 110 stories up and is not for the faint-hearted. As Gordon-Levitt's Petit steps out onto a wire hanging over 1,300 feet (400 meters) above the ground, the dizzying bird's eye view afforded by the camera will have vertigo sufferers breaking into a cold sweat. "If you have vertigo this is a great place to go and get some therapy," smiled Zemeckis, in a hotel room overlooking the Tokyo skyline. "This is the type of story that is best done through the art of cinema. And with 3D you can make the audience flinch, you can make them squirm." Zemeckis has dedicated his new movie to the victims of the September 11 terror attacks and the filmmaker treats the Twin Towers with a touching tenderness.

'Living, breathing entities'

"What Philippe did is probably the second-most significant thing that happened in the history of those towers," said Zemeckis. "Philippe fascinated me. He's a character who has this unbelievable passion, this need to express himself creatively, although it was obviously extreme." Philippe always considered

Jon Hamm joins Edgar Wright's 'Baby Driver'

"Mad Men" star Jon Hamm is set to join Ansel Elgort and Lily James in TriStar Pictures' "Baby Driver", sources tell Variety. Jamie Foxx has also joined the film. Edgar Wright is writing and directing, with Working Title principals Eric Fellner and Tim Bevan producing along with Nira Park through her Big Talk Productions. "Baby Driver" will see a 50/50 financing split between MRC and TriStar, with TriStar handling worldwide distribution. The story concerns a young, talented getaway driver who relies on the beat of his personal soundtrack to be the best. After being coerced into working for a crime boss, he must face the music when a doomed heist threatens his life, love and freedom. Details on Hamm's role are being kept under wraps. Production is expected to start later this year for a March 17, 2017, release date. In September, Hamm won an Emmy for his lead role as Don Draper in AMC's "Mad Men," and was also nominated in the guest actor in a comedy category for Netflix's "Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt." He can next be seen opposite Zach Galifianakis in Fox's "Keeping Up With the Joneses." He is repped by CAA and Forward Entertainment. — Reuters



Jon Hamm



A file picture taken on February 18, 2015 shows Italian actress Monica Bellucci and British actor Daniel Craig posing during a photocall to promote the 24th James Bond film 'Spectre' at Rome's city hall. — AFP

cloud on the horizon.

The possible identity of his successor has already caused controversy, with Anthony Horowitz-author of the latest Bond novel-saying that "The Wire" actor Idris Elba was "too street" to play 007, sparking accusations of racism. But Chapman dismissed speculation about a black or female Bond as "a media storm in a teacup" and refused to rule out another outing for Craig. "One assumes this is simply round one in the negotiations around his fee for Bond 25!" he joked. — AFP



US movie director Robert Zemeckis poses for photographers on the roof of a 47-storey building during a press conference to promote his latest film 'The Walk' in Tokyo yesterday. — AFP

the towers characters, he always thought they were living, breathing entities and always spoke of them as if they were his partners," added Zemeckis. "He understood that he could not have done this feat without them."

"The thing that I did was just not editorialize. I understood that everyone would bring their own history of the tragedy, their own experience of the tragedy to the film. "But I also thought it was important that we have to remember things that were beautiful and things that were human and things that were magnificent, and not just the tragedy." The film's co-producer Jack Rapke said: "Walking across those two towers without a safety line is obviously bordering on madness. The towers were an iconic symbol of America. Bob (Zemeckis) treated them with a great deal of respect, a great deal of honor and a great deal of love." However, there was bad news for diehard fans hoping Zemeckis might bring back Marty and Doc for more capers that risk unraveling the space-time continuum. — AFP

Bellucci never goes to the gym

Monica Bellucci never goes to the gym. The 51-year-old actress - who has become the oldest woman to ever play a Bond girl in the upcoming film 'Spectre' - has insisted she doesn't pay much attention to her good looks. She said: "I'm just too lazy. I never go to the gym. And I love to eat chocolate and pasta. I'm not obsessed with being skinny."

Although Monica has become famous for her natural beauty and sex appeal, she originally studied to become a lawyer as she "wanted to pursue a serious occupation because there is a lot of pressure being considered an attractive woman in Italy." And despite ditching that career to become a model and actress,

the brunette beauty has claimed she still doesn't obsess over her appearance. She told the Daily Mirror newspaper: "I don't stress myself about my looks. I love to laugh. I like being able to lead an interesting life." Meanwhile, the 'Malena' star has confessed she's thrilled she was chosen to play Bond's older love interest, even if actor Daniel Craig is only four years younger than her in real life. She added: "It's important to show that a woman at 50 can be just as interesting and attractive as a woman who is 30." — Bang Showbiz



Monica Bellucci

Mercedes-Benz Fashion Week Russia



Russian designers Slava Zaitsev (center) and Yegor Zaitsev (right) walk on the catwalk after their show during the Mercedes-Benz Fashion Week Russia in Moscow yesterday. — AFP photos



Amy Schumer

Schumer dazzles at ELLE's Women in Hollywood Awards



Amy Schumer was honored at ELLE's Women in Hollywood Awards on Monday night. The 'Trainwreck' star dazzled in a floating red dress at the 22nd annual event held at the Four Seasons Hotel in Beverly Hills at which she was recognized for her contribution to comedy and film. During her acceptance speech she referenced Taylor Swift's famous "girl squad" of friends - which includes Selena Gomez, Lily Aldridge, Lena Dunham, Karlie Kloss and Gigi Hadid among others - and urged women to support each other in all walks of life.

Amy, 34, said: "I would like to join any squad that would have me as a member. I think it's really interest-

ing that this phrasing has popped up. Like all of a sudden, it's not just your friends any more. You're a squad. It kind of makes it sound more powerful. I'm all for it." In total eight ladies were honoured at the event and Amy will grace the cover of ELLE's November issue along with Carey Mulligan, 30, Kate Winslet, 40, Dakota Johnson, 26, Salma Hayek, 49, Gena Rowlands, 85, Alicia Vikander, 27 and director Ava DuVernay, 43.

The magazine's Editor-in-Chief Robbie Myers explained in her letter why she specifically chose these women. She revealed: "Eight extraordinary women deserve this moment of praise and reflection for illuminating the many realities of what it means to be a

woman right now." Meryl Streep was on hand to present Carey with her award and couldn't resist taking the opportunity to take a swipe at sexism in Hollywood.

She told the assembled guests: "Can you imagine if they had this great big meeting once a year and called it 'Men in Hollywood'? Oh, wait. They have those meetings every day, in every country and every city in the world. Oh, I can't do stand-up!" — Bang Showbiz

Fashion

The relation between confidence and inner peace



Confidence plays a huge role in finding inner peace. It also allows you to think and make decisions in a more clearer state of mind. Have you ever found yourself in a situation where you tried to achieve something and it just wouldn't work? Merely due to the fact that you didn't believe enough in yourself, you just didn't have the confidence. Ask yourself this, what is confidence? To each person confidence is something different. To me confidence is the ability to rise to the challenge, to know that you are capable of taking on whatever obstacle that may be standing in your way. Confidence is not something that we are born with, but rather something we require, and each and every one of us is capable of acquiring that very characteristic. Confidence is one of the most important traits a person can have. In my opinion, it really differentiates one person to another. With that, I believe that it is confidence which leads to many positive outcomes that may happen in one's life, though many believe it is luck, it isn't. That leads me to my opening statement which says that confidence brings inner peace once

acquired. It works in one way or another like a domino effect, once confidence is present, positive affirmations begin to arise, which in turn leads to your happiness which finally brings you to inner peace. It is all connected; it is the way I find our wonderful world to work.

Learn and grow

For example, when applying for a job, you will find that you have countless candidates applying for the same position as you. However, you may not have as much experience nor qualifications in the field to fill that position as the best candidate, but ask yourself this, what would give you the advantage over the other applicants. The answer is simple, it is confidence, you see confidence doesn't just show capability of doing the job in this case, but it also shows the willingness to learn and grow. This goes back to my relation of the topic at hand to inner peace. Once you get the job, this brings the factor of happiness and self-fulfillment. In conclusion you have inner peace. It is in us all, we just need to find it.

Find yourself by finding confidence within you, everything will work out if you truly believe in yourself and your capability to turn any dream into a reality. Be positive to attract positivity and success and never underestimate yourself because that will always restrict you to doing more and achieving more. Always do what will make you grow and succeed, you never know who you're inspiring, whether it was a colleague, family member or a stranger, spreading positive vibes will always allow the people around you to feel encouraged to do as good or better. Confidence will always be that one factor that attracts any human being, regardless of what characteristic you feel you lack, whether it was beauty, brains, a great physique and so on.

Love yourself in order to be capable of loving the people around you. You deserve nothing less than love, respect, and care as a human being, anything else you need will be a bonus for you.



Olivier Rousteing, from left, Kendall Jenner and Gigi Hadid attend the Balmain x H&M Collection launch event at 23 Wall Street in New York. — AP photos

Balmain H&M collaboration draws Jenner, Hadid

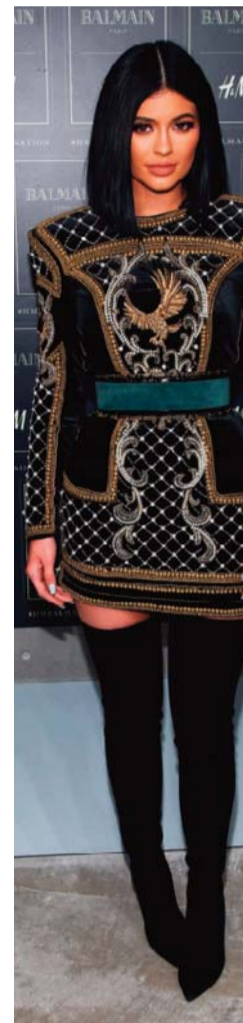
An event Tuesday in New York to launch the new Balmain x H&M collection turned the typical runway show up about 10 notches to a full-on party. A video intro featuring Kendall Jenner riding a futuristic subway with dancers voguing kicked off the runway show. Models showing the collection featured Jenner again along with Gigi and Bella Hadid, Karlie Kloss and Jourdan Dunn. "I think the models I chose are my friends," said Balmain creative director Olivier Rousteing. "All the girls that I love that can grab my hand and just say, 'Don't worry, it's

gonna be fun.' It's a night of love and of friendship and of fun."

The collection included beaded jackets, draped trousers and genie pants. At the end of the runway portion of the presentation, the Backstreet Boys performed a medley of some of their hits. The Balmain x H&M line is intended to be more affordable but that's depending on whom you ask, with some pieces priced at more than \$500. The collection goes on sale Nov 5. — AP



Gigi Hadid participates in the Balmain x H&M Collection launch event at 23 Wall Street.



Kylie Jenner attends the Balmain x H&M Collection launch event.



Diane Kruger attends the Balmain x H&M Collection launch event.

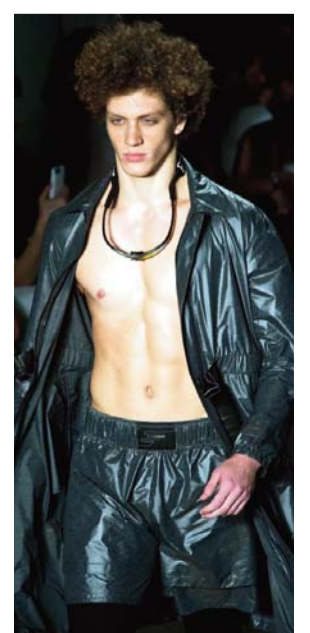


Ne-Yo attends the Balmain x H&M Collection launch event.

Sao Paulo Fashion Week



Models present creations by PatBo.



Models present creations by Ellus during the 2016 Winter collection of the Sao Paulo Fashion Week in Sao Paulo, Brazil. — AP/AFP photos



An art installation titled Les Voyageurs by French artist Cedric Le Borgnie shows a human figure sculpted from wire mesh displayed against the Victoria hall clock tower at the river promenade during a media preview for the River Nights 2015 festival in Singapore yesterday. The installation is part of the display for the River Nights 2015 festival which runs from October 23 to 30. — AFP

Ideas for a fun, Hollywood-themed party

Need some bright ideas for a Halloween party? Look no further than the klieg lights of Hollywood. The history of fun and frightening movies is long, from early horror films like "Phantom of the Opera" and "Bride of Frankenstein" to the current "Goosebumps." Television, too, is full of scary fare, from "The Walking Dead" to "American Horror Story." So why not use this trove of screen images and characters to create a monstrously fun Halloween party?

The ambiance

Decorate your party space with a mix of swank and scare. Drape your faux cobwebs and mossy swags with glitter and metallic stars. Better Homes & Gardens suggests spray-painting a few Ken dolls Oscar gold. You could use the statuettes as holders for dramatic flower arrangements like black and red roses, or go a little darker by "burying" them in black loaf pans lined with dirt or satin to resemble graves or caskets.

Put silent horror flicks or YouTube clips on a big screen, set on a loop that runs throughout the party.

Check out www.shindigz.com for movie-premiere velvet ropes, gold-lame curtains, realistic-looking klieg lights and other Hollywood-themed props. A red carpet kicks the Hollywood vibe into high gear as your guests arrive; look for an inexpensive remnant at hardware or flooring stores.

The Jack-O'-lantern

Give your pumpkins personality by priming them up as film characters. Swath one in cheesecloth to be The Mummy; paint one green and hot-glue a bolt to the neck to create Frankenstein. A hockey mask will evoke Jason from the "Halloween" franchise; a black felt hat and a striped scarf bring Freddy Krueger of "Nightmare on Elm Street" to mind. For Hollywood glamour, you can spray craft pumpkins with gold, silver and black paint, and add some star-studded glitter.

The nosh table

Name your nibbles after horror-genre personalities - think Dracula; Norman Bates; Hitchcock; Stephen King; Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde; Cujo or Wes Craven. Make zombie chicken fingers to reference "The Walking Dead." S'mores or other marshmallow-based treats reference that creepy Stay Puft Marshmallow Man from "Ghostbusters." Rent a popcorn machine, or set up a microwave or stovetop team to have fresh, hot kernels always at the ready. Create a punch or a few mixed beverages named after scary movies or characters. Better Homes & Gardens suggests serving canapés and other finger foods using faux-vintage film reels as serving trays; pop small dishes in the holes.

The dress code

A costume contest can bring a little friendly competition to the party, whether you make it a general horror-film theme, or select one particular character, movie or TV show. Have an all-vampire party (from "Nosferatu" to "Twilight"), or draw inspiration from varied characters in titles like "The Exorcist," "Alien," "The X-Files" or "Buffy the Vampire Slayer."

The music

That portentous drumbeat in "Jaws." The white-knuckle theme from "The Twilight Zone." That catchy, finger-snapping lead-in to "The Addams Family." Evocative background music really kicks up the spooky vibe. Greg Cwik of Indiewire.com puts a few more obscure but scary scores on his list, including John Carpenter's "The Fog," Ennio Morricone's "The Thing" and Philip Glass' soundtrack for "Candyman."

Time Out New York suggests fan favorites like Warren Zevon's "Werewolves of London," which was used for the movie "American Psycho"; Ray Parker Jr's "Ghostbusters" theme song; and Mike Oldfield's "Tubular Bells," from "The Exorcist." — AP

Recipe for pumpkin Bundt cake with apple-date streusel and sticky toffee glaze

We're not saying you should ditch the classic pumpkin pie this Thanksgiving. After all, in some homes that would be tantamount to a declaration of war. And frankly the holidays are stressful enough. But we are suggesting that perhaps the pie is feeling lonely. That perhaps a second - and in our opinion even more delicious - pumpkin dessert would be a wonderful addition to the Thanksgiving bounty. So we created this pumpkin Bundt cake that is studded through the centre with an apple-date-pumpkin seed streusel.

And to tie it all together? A sticky toffee-coffee glaze. And because that sticky, drippy sauce is so delicious, our recipe makes extra so your guests can dunk bites of the cake into a little on the side.

Start to finish: 1 hour 30 minutes
Servings: 16

Ingredients

For the cake:

- 1 1/2 cups granulated sugar
- 1/2 cup vegetable oil
- 2 eggs
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 15-ounce can pumpkin puree (not pie filling)
- 1 cup whole-fat plain Greek yogurt
- 2 cups plus 1 tablespoon all-purpose flour, divided
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt
- 3 teaspoons cinnamon, divided
- 1 teaspoon ground dry ginger
- 1/2 teaspoon nutmeg
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cloves
- 1/2 cup packed brown sugar
- 2 large apples, peeled, cored and diced
- 1 cup chopped dried dates
- 2/3 cup toasted pumpkin seeds or toasted chopped pecans

For the glaze:

- 1/2 cup (1 stick) unsalted butter
- 1 1/2 cups packed brown sugar
- 1/2 cup heavy cream
- 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt
- 2 tablespoons instant coffee granules
- 1 tablespoon bourbon (or vanilla extract)

Preparation:

Heat the oven to 350 F. Coat a 10-inch fluted tube pan or Bundt pan with cooking spray, then dust with flour.

In a medium bowl, whisk together the sugar, oil, eggs, vanilla, pumpkin and yogurt until smooth. In another bowl, whisk together 2 cups of the flour, the baking powder, baking soda, salt, 1 teaspoon of the cinnamon, the ginger, nutmeg and cloves. Stir the flour mixture into the pumpkin mixture just until well combined.

In the bowl that previously held the flour, stir together the remaining 1 tablespoon of flour, 2 teaspoons of cinnamon, the brown sugar, apples, dates and pumpkin seeds.

Pour half of the pumpkin batter into the prepared pan, spoon the streusel mixture around the pan in the centre of the batter, not allowing the streusel to touch the edges of the pan. Top with remaining batter. The streusel mixture should be entirely covered by batter. Bake for 50 to 60 minutes, or until a wooden skewer inserted at the centre comes out clean. Allow to cool in the pan for 30 minutes before turning out onto a cooling rack to finish cooling.

To make the glaze, in a medium saucepan over medium heat, combine the butter, brown sugar and cream. Bring to a simmer and, stirring constantly, cook for 3 minutes. Remove from the heat and stir in the salt. In a small glass, dissolve the instant coffee in the bourbon, then still into the glaze. Allow to cool slightly, then drizzle about half over the cake. Serve the remaining glaze, warm, alongside the cake. — AP



This photo shows an invitation to a Hollywood Halloween party.



This photo provided by Better Homes and Gardens shows a detail of the food table display at a Hollywood Halloween party. — AP photos



This photo provided by Better Homes and Gardens shows an invitation to a Hollywood Halloween party.



Photo shows pumpkin bundt cake with apple date streusel and sticky toffee coffee glaze in Concord, NH.



Photo shows pumpkin bundt cake with apple date streusel and sticky toffee coffee glaze.— AP photos