

**Egyptian
arrested
for forging
stamps**



**Unrest worsens
fear, suspicion
among Jews &
Arab Israelis**



**Small-time
cricket game
proves big
draw in Qatar**



150 Fils

42, MAINLY PENSIONERS PERISH IN BUS COLLISION

FRANCE'S WORST ROAD ACCIDENT IN THREE DECADES



Min 20°

Max 36°



PUISSEGUIN: This video grab shows the wreckage of a coach carrying elderly day-trippers (left) that collided with a lorry, killing 42 people yesterday near the village of Puisseguin. (Inset) Emergency services personnel take away an injured person from the site of a collision. — AFP

PUISSEGUIN: At least 42 people were killed when a coach carrying elderly day-trippers collided with a lorry and burst into flames in southwest France yesterday, in the country's worst road accident for three decades. The coach was carrying a club of pensioners on an excursion when it collided with the lorry near the village of Puisseguin among the vineyards of the St Emilion region, east of Bordeaux. Many of the victims were thought to have died in the fire, according to emergency workers and local authorities.

Images shown on French television showed the coach had been completely burned, leaving only a charred shell. "The driver of the lorry appears to have lost control of his vehicle, leaving him stranded in the middle of the road. The bus driver was unable to avoid the accident," Puisseguin mayor Xavier Sublett told reporters. Locals saw a plume of smoke from several kilometers away. Many said that part of the road was known to be particularly dangerous.

The lorry driver was killed. The rest of the victims were passengers on the coach, officials said. "I am astonished at the force of the crash. It will take a lot of time to recover all the bodies," said a fireman at the scene. Eight people, including the coach driver, managed to escape the burning wreckage-four of whom were seriously injured, according to a local official. "The bus driver was lightly injured. He had the presence of mind to open the doors to allow as many passengers as possible to leave the bus," said Sublett.

The crash is the deadliest in France since August 1982, when 53 people including 44 children were killed in a motorway pile-up. "The French government has fully mobilized after this terrible tragedy," President Francois Hollande said from Athens, where he is on an official visit. "We are plunged into sadness due to this drama." Some 20 fire engines and 60 firefighters were dispatched to the scene yesterday, supported by helicopters. A trauma counseling unit and an information hotline were also set up. Prime Minister Manuel Valls, Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve and Transport Minister Alain Vidalies travelled to the site, and the National Assembly, or lower house of parliament, observed a minute's silence. "It's a terrible shock for France," said Valls.

'An incredible tragedy'

The coach, carrying 49 passengers and a driver, departed yesterday from Petit-Palais-Cornemps, a village of 650 residents near the scene of the accident. Pierre Henri-Brandet, spokesman for the interior ministry, told BFMTV that four people "were extremely severely injured"-two with burns and two with head injuries. "It's an incredible tragedy with an extremely heavy toll. It's a catastrophe," he said. "They were retired people, elderly people, who were going on a day out."

Henri-Brandet said the accident happened just a few minutes after the bus had set off. "We are very affected because all the people on the bus came from the villages in the area," said Jacques Deval, whose brother-in-law and sister-in-law were among the injured. "My mother and my father-in-law were on the bus. I have just arrived, I don't have any news for the moment, but I'm very scared that they will be on the list of victims," said Delphine Guerineau. The group had been heading south to the nearby region of Landes to visit a facility specialising in Bayonne ham, a local delicacy — AFP

OMAN IN LOW-KEY VOTE FOR A COUNCIL WITH LIMITED POWER

DUBAI: Omanis go to the polls tomorrow in a low-key vote for a consultative council with limited powers in a country where the longtime ruling sultan holds all major government posts. Sultan Qaboos slightly expanded the powers of the Majlis Al-Shura in 2011 after unprecedented social unrest when the normally-quiet nation became caught up in protests which swept the Arab world.

Yet, the number of candidates standing for election has almost halved from the last ballot four years ago, reflecting disappointment at the council's ability to capitalize on its added authority. "The outgoing majlis wasn't able to take advantage of its new powers because of the hegemony of the government on political life," said Omani analyst Ahmed Ali Al-Mukhaini. The council failed to question any minister or subject a government member to a vote of confidence, and it did not propose any laws in accordance with its new powers, Mukhaini said.

This "deceived the hopes of the population who, disenchanted, aren't interested in the vote", a Muscat-based diplomat said. Demonstrators in February 2011 demanded improved living conditions and more rights as well as the sacking of ministers they

accused of corruption. Two protesters were shot dead in clashes with security forces. The discontent was not directed at the sultan personally, who is head of state, prime minister, foreign, defense, interior and finance minister. When Qaboos took power, Oman was an isolated country with little or no infrastructure. He transformed it into a modern state over the course of his 45-year rule. As part of a series of measures responding to the unrest, Qaboos decreed that the majlis would be able to revise and propose legislation.

In late 2011, the majlis elected its speaker for the first time and assumed the power to grill ministers. The majlis was created in 1991 and has a four-year term. It has no role in defense, internal security or foreign affairs. A drab election campaign has failed to inspire potential voters in the country of 4.1 million, of which 44 percent are foreigners. Candidates plastered the streets with their portraits and focused on socio-economic issues in the stable nation bordering war-ravaged Yemen. The sultanate derives 79 percent of its revenues from petroleum, but with global prices down by roughly half since early 2014 it has projected a budget deficit this year of \$6.47 billion. — AFP

Crime

Report



Ambassador to Indonesia Nasser Al-Enezi pictured with Speaker of Indonesian Parliament Setya Novanto.

Top Indonesia MP lauds Kuwait ties

KUALA LUMPUR: Speaker of the Indonesian parliament Setya Novanto has expressed satisfaction at the solid status of the Kuwaiti-Indonesian relations in various sectors, the outgoing State of Kuwait's Ambassador to the Asian nation, Nasser Al-Enezi, said. Ambassador Al-Enezi told KUNA by telephone that the top Indonesian legislator voiced his pleasure at the strong bilateral ties during a meeting with him on occasion of ending his tenure in the country. The parliament speaker Novanto labeled these relations as historic, praising the Kuwaiti diplomatic mission's distinctive role for enhancing level of the ties namely at the parliamentary level. Speaker Novanto expressed, during the meeting, desire to enhance the mutual cooperation between the two countries at the educational, cultural, humanitarian and charitable levels, noting that skilled Indonesian cadres could play a key role in this regard. He also appreciated Kuwait's funding of many charities in the country.

Envoy praises Kuwait Disabled Sports Club

AMMAN: Kuwait's to Jordan Dr Hamad Al-Duaij said that Kuwait has always been keen on providing full care and attention to the handicapped, who, in return, interpreted that care into various achievements for their country in sports, social, and cultural arenas. The Kuwaiti diplomat made his remarks in a statement to KUNA after meeting the delegation of Kuwaiti national table tennis team for the handicapped, currently competing in two tournaments in the Jordanian capital. The Kuwaiti handicapped sport achievements were due to the political leadership's keenness in supporting this segment of society, Al-Duaij said. He also commended efforts exerted by the Kuwait Disabled Sports Club in building up generations that attained achievements for Kuwait. Meanwhile, Mansour Al-Sarhid, head of the delegation, expressed the team's appreciation to Ambassador Al-Duaij's support to the players, as well as his recent encouragement for further achievements and effective participation in the Asian table tennis championship for the disabled, set to kick off in Amman on Friday, which is part of qualifying to the Rio 2016 Paralympics in Brazil.

GCC countries discuss unified urban strategy

DOHA: Director General of Kuwait Municipality Engineer Ahmad Al-Subaih has revealed a joint plan to set up a unified urban strategy among the GCC states in order to achieve comprehensive urbanization. This remark was made during the 19th meeting of the GCC municipal ministers which was held today as a prelude to the 31st meeting of the GCC senior municipal officials. Al-Subaih, who is representing Kuwaiti Minister of Communication and Minister of State for Municipal Affairs Essa Al-Kandari, told KUNA that applying this strategy should be done through exchange of visits, holding workshops and lectures. He pointed out that the GCC municipal ministers had endorsed bylaw of a municipal work a prize for excellent achievements in the fields of architecture, waste management and environment in order to create a healthy competitive atmosphere.

KUWAIT-FRANCE EDUCATION ACCORD A 'QUANTUM LEAP'

PARIS: Director General of the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET) Dr Ahmad Al-Athari has affirmed that the agreement signed between the PAAET and the Paris Academy will make a "quantum leap" in systems and methods of education and training in the upcoming period. Al-Athari made the statement to KUNA following the signing ceremony of the deal during the official visit of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah to France.

By the virtue of the deal, an academic accreditation will be granted to the programs of PAAET, especially the training sector, he said, noting that the deal went through several phases. Al-Athari said that the PAAET got accredited for three programs, expressing hope that all programs of PAAET would be accredited by 2017 to achieve unprecedented progress in Kuwait's educational systems.

He also noted that accreditation aims to provide better education at PAAET's institutes, adding that graduates will

have Europass certificates to make post-graduate studies at French Sorbonne University or any university in a European country. Al-Athari revealed a plan to teach French language at all PAAET's institutes to help students study in France. Kuwait and France have signed a number of agreements, memorandums of understanding and declarations of intent in the presence of His Highness the Premier and French Prime Minister Manuel Valls in order to bolster bilateral cooperation in different domains. — KUNA



Kids participate in clean energy activity promotion activity.

KOC'S FACILITIES SAVED 25% OF ELECTRIC POWER

KUWAIT: Facilities, offices, and houses belonging to the Kuwait Oil Company (KOC) saved around 25 percent of electric power last summer through the usage of LED technology, said an official yesterday. On the sideline of an event aimed to promote clean energy with EnerTech Holding Company, Senior electrical engineer at KOC Adel Al-Enaizi said that KOC aimed at conserving the use of electrical power as part of its social responsibility towards the environment.

He revealed that KOC had launched a project in the new Ahmadi city to promote environment-friendly buildings in the area, revealing the desire to construct 180 new houses in this city which will all be "green". KOC's operations had also lessened carbon emission by around one percent, said the official. On her part, Business Development Manager at EnerTech Marwah Abul said that promoting clean energy was a crucial responsibility that will help protect future generations. She affirmed that EnerTech, owned by National Technology

Enterprises Company (NTEC), will work with the private and public sectors to encourage energy conserva-

tion and lessening of carbon emissions to better protect the environment. — KUNA



Senior electrical engineer at KOC Adel Al-Enaizi and Business Development Manager at EnerTech Marwah Abul seen with other participants. — KUNA

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Kuwait Times

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Photo

o f t h e d a y



Panorama photo shows Kuwait City after sunset.—KUNA

INTERIOR MINISTER DISCUSSES CHILD ONLINE PROTECTION WITH UAE, UK AMBASSADORS

KUWAIT: Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Sabah discussed with UAE's ambassador to Kuwait Rahma Hussein Al-Zaabi and British ambassador Matthew James Lodge the preparations for the second international summit on child online protection from abuse. The event will be hosted by UAE on November 16-17. The meeting dealt with a number of relevant points aiming to pro-

mote cooperation in this regard, said a statement by the Ministry's General Directorate for Public Relations, adding the topics included determining children who have been sexually abused and bringing the perpetrators to justice. The statement said that Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled paid much attention to provide all possible means to make this event successful as it has a key role in protecting family and society. The two

ambassadors thanked the State of Kuwait and Kuwaiti people as well as Minister of Interior and all State's institutions for efforts exerted in protecting children from sexual abuse and exploitation, it noted. They also lauded Kuwait's effective participation in all activities pertaining to the protection of children from any risks and exploitations that run counter to humanitarian criteria, it made clear. — KUNA

KUWAITI OFFICIAL URGES MORE PLANTING IN KUWAIT TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION

ANKARA: Desertification affecting Kuwait should be tackled through more planting of trees and shrubs and increasing natural reserves throughout the country, says a visiting Kuwaiti official. Azhar Al-Assad, the head of the marine and land environment at Kuwait Municipality, made the call for beautifying the Gulf country with more green land patches while acknowledging that the Kuwaiti authorities face a major natural hurdle in the efforts to fight desertification; sand dunes.

The State of Kuwait spends a lot of money for removing the sand dunes, said Al-Assad, in a statement to Kuwait News Agency (KUNA), on the fringes of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), hosted by the Turkish capital, Ankara, indicating that the sand dunes are the major obstacle obstructing the efforts to combat desertification in the Gulf country. Arid lands in Kuwait constitute up to 85 percent of the national territories. Agricultural projects contribute to boosting biological diversity and land reclamation, she said, also noting that the approach to care for the land serves the

overall sustainable development strategy.

Al-Assad, a member of the Kuwaiti National Committee on Combating Desertification, indicated at current efforts to work out an international treaty to combat desertification, alluding the phenomenon to excessive shepherding, population growth and mounting number of waste dumping sites in addition to drastic climatic changes. Kuwait is participating in this conference with delegations from Environment Public Authority (EPA), Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR), Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC), the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET), besides others.

Ecological challenges

Among the varied features of life in Kuwait as portrayed in the Kuwaiti pavilion at Expo Milano 2015 is a display delineating the achievements of Kuwait Petroleum Corp (KPC) in overcoming ecological challenges to contribute to the nation's growth and development, said a pavilion official yesterday. The display was launched last Wednesday and was planned to be ongoing



Azhar Al-Assad, the head of the Marine and Land Environment at Kuwait Municipality.

for three days, said pavilion director Mazen Al-Ansari, in a statement to KUNA.

Attending the launching of the display was Kuwait's minister of oil Ali Al-Omar and a bevy of KPC officials, said the director, noting that the minister and the officials expressed their delight with the display showing Kuwait's endeavors at meeting nature's challenges in a part of the world known for its aridity and paucity of natural resources, except thankfully for the black gold, oil. — Agencies

SORBONNE UNIVERSITY WOULD 'BOOST' EDUCATION IN KUWAIT

PARIS: Setting up a branch of the French Sorbonne University in Kuwait would bolster bilateral cultural and educational relations, a Kuwaiti executive said yesterday. Mohsen Aburgoba, Board Chairman of Orion Kuwait Holding Company, made his remarks in a statement to KUNA on the sidelines of signing the agreement to set up a branch of the French university in Kuwait. Crystallizing this idea into reality is a result of two years of significant efforts and continued work that were crowned by signing the agreement to open up the branch, said Aburgoba.

The agreement is part of several that have been signed between Kuwait and France on the sidelines of the recently concluded official visit of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah to France, which aimed at, among others, to boost cultural and educational ties between the two countries, he added. For his part, Dr Adel Al-Mayas, head of the project said that the university will include several majors such as law, engineering, administration, economy, literature, arts, medical sciences, mass communication, and public relations, commending the Kuwaiti-French convergence.

Dubai Academic Forum

Meanwhile a senior education official said Kuwait's participation in the 10th forum for best education practices recently held in Dubai is aimed at exchanging expertise, as well as promoting academic arbitrators' performance. Mansour Al-Daihani, director general of the Mubarak Al-Kabeer Educational Area, made the statement as the delegation returned home after attending the academic event. Al-Daihani is also Coordinator of Hamdan Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance. He said that the Kuwaiti effective attendance at the Award's forum helped get arbitration views and concepts closer, noting that the event focused on the importance of writing forms and the interviews held for students taking part in the various ranches of the Award. — Agencies



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'SHABAB OMAN 2' ARRIVES AT SHUWAIKH PORT

KUWAIT: Shabab Oman II (Oman Youth II), the Royal Navy of Oman's latest sailing ship to train young sailors yesterday arrived at Shuwaikh Port as part of a world tour themed "Cooperation sail 2015." This is the second version of Shabab Oman that first sailed in 1979 on a world tour to promote peace, friendship and love among the world peoples, Omani Ambassador to Kuwait Hamid bin Said bin Salim Al Ibrahim said. The second vessel was built in the Netherlands as per the world-class standards to carry on with the peace and cooperation mission, he added.

Kuwait is the first leg of a Gulf tour as the ship will sail to the rest of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states, and it is due in Muscat on 10 November, Al Ibrahim said. With 90 personnel from the Omani and GCC navies on board, the vessel seeks to shed light on "Sultan Qaboos Sailing Award" and Oman's maritime history. For his part, Shabab Oman II captain Saif bin Nasser Al-Rahbi, expressed pleasure that Kuwait is the first leg of the regional, and the world tour, hoping it will achieve its aim of bolstering ties with the GCC as well as other countries. The vessel is known for having its own unique characteristics in terms of length, 86 meters compared to 52 for the 1st Shabab Oman vessel, he said.—KUNA



The Royal Navy of Oman ship (Shabab Oman) arrives in Kuwait.

KUWAIT CRUDE OIL EXPORTS TO CHINA HIT RECORD HIGH

TOKYO: Kuwait's crude oil exports to China jumped 49.5 percent in September from a year earlier to record high of 1.75 million tons, equivalent to around 427,000 barrels per day (bpd), latest government data showed. Volume of Kuwaiti crude oil shipments to China marked the highest level since state-run Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) opened its Beijing office in 2005, virtually the highest on record, according to figures released from the General Administration of Customs. In the January-September period, Kuwait exported 1.08 million tons, or 290,000 bpd, to the world's second-largest oil consumer, up 55.2 percent on the year. KPC signed a 10-year landmark crude supply agreement with China's top energy trader Unipet in August 2014, which enables KPC to provide it with 300,000 bpd of crude oil, with a strong possibility of increasing the volume to 400,000 bpd. China's overall imports of crude oil last month grew 1.4 percent on the year to 27.95 million (6.83 million bpd). Russia overtook Saudi Arabia to secure the top spot for the second time this year, as its shipments grew 42.3 percent to a record 988,000 bpd, while those from Saudi Arabia declined 16.6 percent to 966,000 bpd.

Oman became third, increasing 17.6 percent to 774,000 bpd. Angola ranked fourth and Iraq fifth, respectively. According to the "Short-Term Energy and Winter Fuels Outlook" report issued earlier this month by the US Energy Information Administration (EIA), China continues to be the main driver of non-Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) oil consumption growth, despite the slowdown in the country's economic growth. China's consumption growth is expected to average 0.3 million bpd in 2015 and in 2016, the EIA, the statistical agency within the Department of Energy, projects.

Market edges up

In another development, the KSE Indices

closed in positive as the market witnessed quarterly earnings announcements. The KSE Index closed at 5,780.76 up 49.50 points as the index reported gains at the beginning of the week, the first three trading sessions recorded 73.66 points, an economic report said. However, towards the end of the week the market shed 24.16 points. The market blue chips remained mixed in anticipation of earning announcements which is evident from the KSX-15 up 5.52 points to close at 929.95, showed the report released by the KFH - Capital Company.

The weekly volumes stood at 750.16 million shares compared to 381.04 million shares in previous week an increase of 96.8 percent, the sharp increase was due to a shorter trading previous week. Among the major contributors like Real Estate Sector (contributing 33.8 percent) reported 253.83 million shares of trading while Financial Services Sector (contributing 30.94 percent) witnessed 232.07 million shares of trading, it added. Sectors with notable volumes include the Industrials sector (contributing 14.55 percent), the sector reported 109.17 million shares of trading.

Among the counters with notable volumes National Ranges Co (Mcap- KD7.0 million) was the key driver, as the counter reported 31.45 million shares of trading which constitutes 28.8 percent of the total sector volumes, the report indicated. The overall Market Cap was down marginally by 0.7 percent as it stood at KD 26.63 billion, as stated earlier the blue chips have been mixed in market cap gains as investors anticipate quarterly earnings announcements, it said. On the total market breadth, of the 57 Islamic Companies, 27 advanced while 16 declined during the week, it noted. The Islamic universe market cap was up by 1.55 percent as it stood at KD 6.92 billion, as universe banking sector gains resulted in growth in market cap, the report concluded.—Agencies



EGYPTIAN ARRESTED FOR FORGING POSTAL STAMPS

By Hanan Al-Saadoun and agencies

KUWAIT: An Egyptian has been arrested for forging postal stamps. Security officers found more than 1200 forged stamps when he was caught. Sources said that the stamps were made in Egypt and then smuggled into Kuwait.

Fires across Kuwait

A School in Rabiya area caught fire yesterday. Firemen rushed to the scene and battled the blaze. The fire started in one of the rooms. No injuries were reported. Also, a house in residential Ahmadi area caught fire after midnight. The house was evacuated, and the fire was prevented from spreading elsewhere. Meanwhile, fire broke a car following a car accident in Shaab area - prompting Hawally fire center to respond. The fire was put out and no injury was reported.

Police hunt for harasser

A citizen claimed that a harasser deliberately hit her car and damaged it after ignoring him on Blajat Road. She gave police the license plate number as she filed a complaint. Hawally detectives are looking for him.

Kuwaiti beats Indian

An Indian expat accused a citizen of assaulting

and beating him in his garage after repairing his car. The Indian filed a complaint at Taima police station. According to the Indian, the Kuwaiti refused to pay for the repairs - claiming they were not done properly. In another development, a bedoon lost consciousness when he received a blow in the head during a fight with a citizen in Fintas. He was taken to Adan Hospital. The citizen was charged with assault.

Kuwaiti swindled

A citizen was swindled by a Syrian who told him he will import winter clothes from an Asian country to sell in a popular market owned by one of his relatives. The Syrian took KD 4500 from the Kuwaiti. The Syrian confirmed the citizen's claims, but said he himself is a victim of another Asian - who were supposed to ship the clothes to Kuwait. Investigations are underway.

Wireless systems stolen

A thief stole wireless systems and electric equipment testing machine, after breaking in a company in Rawdatain area. The company lawyer told Jahra police that someone entered the company and threatened to kill the guard if he did not give the keys of the rooms. He then took five walky-talkies, a laptop and electric equipment tester before escaping. The license plate number was given to police.

International

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2015

Serbia, Croatia agree to speed up migrant flow

10

Disillusioned IS fighters can deter recruits

12

Democrats may quit GOP Benghazi panel

14



TEL ABYAD: In this file photo released on May 4, 2015, on a militant website, which has been verified and is consistent with other AP reporting, Islamic State militants pass by a convoy. — AP

IS STILL RAKING IN OIL EARNINGS

AIRSTRIKES FAILING TO SHUT EXTREMISTS DOWN

BAGHDAD: The Islamic State rakes in up to \$50 million a month from selling crude from oilfields under its control in Iraq and Syria, part of a well-run industry that US diplomacy and airstrikes have so far failed to shut down, according to Iraqi intelligence and US officials.

Oil sales - the extremists' largest single source of continual income - are a key reason they have been able to maintain their rule over their self-declared "caliphate" stretching across large parts of Syria and Iraq. With the funds to rebuild infrastructure and provide the largesse that shore up its fighters' loyalty, it has been able to withstand ground fighting against its opponents and more than a year of bombardment in the US-led air campaign.

The group has even been able to bring in equipment and technical experts from abroad to keep the industry running, and the United States has recently stepped up efforts to close off this support. Washington has been talking to regional governments, including Turkey, about its concerns over the importing of energy infrastructure into IS-run territory in Syria, including equipment for extraction, refinement, transport

and energy production, according to a senior US official with firsthand knowledge of the IS oil sector.

Speaking to The Associated Press in Washington, he said international actors in the region were intentionally or unintentionally aiding this effort and called IS' management of its oil fields "increasingly sophisticated," something that has helped the group slow down the degradation of its infrastructure from US bombing raids. He spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to the press.

30k barrels a day

IS sells the crude to smugglers for discounted prices, sometimes \$35 per barrel but as low as \$10 a barrel in some cases, compared to just under \$50 a barrel on international markets, four Iraqi intelligence officials told the AP in separate interviews. The smugglers in turn sell to middlemen in Turkey, they said. The oil used to be smuggled in fleets of giant tankers but, fearing airstrikes by the US-led coalition, smaller tankers are being used now.

The Islamic State group is believed to be extracting about 30,000 barrels per day from Syria, smuggled to middlemen in neighboring Turkey. In Iraq, they produce around 10,000-20,000 barrels per day, mostly from two oilfields outside Mosul, Ibrahim Bahr Al-Oldum, a member of Iraq's parliamentary energy committee and a former oil minister, told the AP. But he said much of the Iraqi production is not sold and instead sent to Syria to makeshift refineries the group has set up to produce fuel products.

In total, the group is believed to make \$40-\$50 million a month from sales, the Iraqi officials said. A report by the Islamic State's Diwan al-Rakaaez - its version of a Finance Ministry - seen by the AP in Baghdad shows that revenues from oil sales from Syria alone last April totaled \$46.7 million. The IS "finance ministry" report put at 253 the number of oil wells under IS control in Syria, saying 161 of them were operational. Running the wells were 275 engineers and 1,107 workers, it said.

Turkey's prime minister's office said in a statement to the AP that it has taken steps to tighten border security and "has effectively

stopped oil smuggling" across the border. It said that as of the end of September it had prevented 3,319 acts of smuggling from Syria and that since 2011 it seized more than 5.5 million liters of oil in anti-smuggling operations. It did not comment on US efforts to stop oil equipment and experts from entering Syria from Turkey.

Millions of dollars

Daniel Glaser, a US Treasury official, estimated IS oil revenues at around \$500 million a year, based on evidence they made around \$40 million in one month in early 2015. The group is also believed to rake in hundreds of millions of dollars a year from "taxes" on commercial activities in the areas it rules, said Glaser, who is assistant Treasury secretary for Terrorist Financing in the Office of Terrorism and Financial Intelligence. That income is on top of the money that the militants first looted from the Iraqi central bank branch in the city of Mosul when they seized it in the summer of 2014 and other bank branches, which "at the time was thought to be anywhere between \$500 million dollars to up to \$1 billion," Glaser said.— AP

DOZENS KILLED IN BATTLE FOR YEMENI CITY OF TAIZ

SANAA: Heavy fighting between Yemeni pro-government forces and the Shiite Houthi rebels besieging the western city of Taiz killed 71 people in the past two days, Yemeni security officials said yesterday. Of those killed, 11 were civilians and the rest were fighters from both sides. Another 100 people have been wounded in fighting in the city, where a Saudi-led coalition is carrying out airstrikes against the rebels.

Yemen's fighting pits the Houthis and allied army units against forces loyal to the internationally recognized government as well as southern separatists and other militants. The UN says at least

2,577 civilians were killed since the Saudi-led air campaign began in March, while 5,078 have been injured.

The UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights said in a statement that checkpoints run by fighters affiliated with the Houthis are exacerbating "the rapidly deteriorating humanitarian situation" in Taiz. They are limiting the movement of civilians and blocking supply routes from the capital Sanaa, the port city of Aden and other parts of Yemen, the UN said.

Civilians and traders are being stopped from transporting essential goods into Taiz, including water, fruit

and vegetables, the UN said, adding that the price of water has soared by 300 percent in the past week. The health system in Taiz is at "near collapse" and small private hospitals "have been overwhelmed with casualties by the fighting," the UN said.

Also yesterday, coalition airstrikes hit a Houthi-held security administration building in the central Ibb province, killing at least seven rebels and destroying weapon supplies, security officials there said. In Bayda province, six Houthis were killed in an airstrike by the Saudi-led coalition that hit a rebel camp, according to security officials

and witnesses who declined to be named.

The United Arab Emirates yesterday announced the death of a soldier wounded in fighting in September in Yemen's Marib province. The soldier died while receiving medical care at a hospital in Germany, the state-run WAM news agency reported. All officials that spoke to the AP remain neutral in the conflict that has splintered Yemen's armed forces. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they are not authorized to brief reporters while the witnesses feared reprisals. — AP



WEST BANK: Palestinians use a large handmade slingshot to hurl a stone during clashes with Israeli troops near Ramallah. — AP

UNREST WORSENS SUSPICIONS BETWEEN JEWS AND ISRAELIS

TWO COMMUNITIES LIVE PARALLEL EXISTENCES

TEL AVIV: A restaurant offering discounts to Jews and Arabs who share hummus and other such gestures have been portrayed as signs of hope—but in reality, fear and anger dominate amid weeks of Israeli-Palestinian unrest.

As violence grips Jerusalem and other cities, a climate of suspicion has threatened even the most basic interactions between Jews and Israeli Arabs, not to mention Palestinians. Israeli authorities have long sought to stress the diverse nature of their society, with Israeli Arabs and Jews living together. But while some cities are relatively integrated, on the whole the two communities live parallel existences.

Arab Israelis account for some 17.5 percent of Israel's population. They are descendants of Palestinians who remained after the creation of Israel in 1948 and are largely supportive of Palestinians in the occupied territories. A series of gun, knife and car-ramming attacks against Jews as well as ongoing clashes between security forces and Palestinian protesters has worsened mutual mistrust.

In the streets of Jerusalem and other cities, Israelis are frightened by random knife attacks, while Palestinians and Israeli Arabs fear being caught up in mob justice or shot by police.

Some Israeli politicians have begun encouraging civilians to carry guns, while offices have employed armed guards. The tense atmosphere has led to tragic mistakes.

In the grimmest example, an Eritrean died after he was shot and then attacked by a mob on Sunday when he was wrongly thought to be involved in a gun attack that killed a soldier and wounded about 10 others. Hossam, a Palestinian student in annexed east Jerusalem, lives only three tram stations away from his work in a restaurant west of the city, but he takes a taxi because his mother is worried, checking up on him with dozens of text messages per day. He said he feels constantly watched. "If I walk with my hands in my pockets, to (Israelis) that might mean I have a gun in that pocket," he said. Omar Jamjoon, a 20-year-old Arab employee at the Israeli bus company Egged, said he was recently assaulted by a group of Israelis after finishing work at 5:00 am.

'What does that make me?'

An upsurge in violence since the start of the month has seen eight Israelis killed in attacks. Some 49 Palestinians and one Arab Israeli have died, including alleged attackers

and those killed in clashes with Israeli security forces. Many of the attacks have seen young Palestinians stab and wound Israelis before being shot dead. Besides the attacks, violent protests have also erupted across the Palestinian territories. At least four Israeli cities, including commercial capital Tel Aviv, have banned laborers the vast majority of whom are Arabs from entering schools during classroom hours for fear of attacks. Dana, a 44-year-old Jewish mother, said she was afraid to go onto the streets to buy sandwiches.

"How can a 13-year-old stab another child the same age," she asked, referring to an attack earlier this month. "My husband is a building contractor and he has fired 18 (Arab) staff and has only two left because he was scared that any one of them could stab them. "He has replaced them with Jews and will pay double the price at least, but he will feel safe." Islil Reich, a 24-year-old Israeli cafe worker, said she considered herself open, but her attitudes were changing. "We don't know if being frightened is racism," she said. "I walk down the street and I see an Arab and I am a bit scared. I know I am not a racist and I don't hate Arabs, but I am scared. So what does that make me?" — AFP

ISRAEL LIFTS AL-AQSA MINIMUM AGE LIMITS

JERUSALEM: Israel lifted age restrictions for the main weekly prayers at Jerusalem's flashpoint Al-Aqsa mosque compound yesterday, in an apparent bid to ease tensions over the site that sparked a surge in Israel-Palestinian violence. The decision, which allows all Muslim worshippers to attend Friday prayers, comes as Israel faces growing international pressure to defuse a crisis which many fear heralds a new Palestinian intifada, or uprising.

The increasing diplomatic efforts came as Palestinian political parties called for a "day of rage" with protests to be held after Friday prayers in Gaza and the West Bank. Hamas, the Islamist movement which rules the Gaza Strip, called in a statement for "more protests and more clashes with soldiers in the West Bank".

Thousands of worshippers streamed into the Al-Aqsa mosque compound ahead of prayers, many of whom had not been allowed in on a Friday since mid-September when clashes broke out at the site between Palestinians and Israeli police. "Of course it is better but there are still checkpoints and searches. There is still no respect," said Wissam Abu Madi, 20, who said he believed a wave of attacks on Israelis would continue. "Everyone is scared that if you get searched and (they think) you make a wrong move, you will get shot. It is a terrible situation."

Lone-wolf attacks

The Al-Aqsa mosque compound is one of the key sources of tensions between Israelis and Palestinians, as it is both the third-holiest site for Muslims and the holiest site for Jews, who call it the Temple Mount. A visit by former prime minister Ariel Sharon - then opposition leader in 2000 sparked the second intifada which lasted until 2005 and left nearly 4,700 dead.

To avoid tensions Jews are allowed to visit but not pray at the site located in east Jerusalem, which was annexed by Israel in 1967. It is managed by an Islamic foundation under the auspices of Jordan but Israel controls access. Clashes erupted over the Jewish religious holidays last month as an increase in visits by Jews to the compound raised fears among Muslims that Israel was planning to change the long-standing rules governing the site. Israel then put in place age restrictions which meant only Muslim men over the age of 40, 45, or 50, depending on the decision taken on a particular week, were allowed to enter the esplanade for Friday prayers.

The protests at Al-Aqsa triggered a wave of lone-wolf knife attacks, shootings and car-rammings against Israelis. In the latest attack yesterday a Palestinian stabbed and lightly wounded a soldier in the occupied West Bank and was shot and wounded by Israeli forces.

The recent unrest is led by a new generation of young, frustrated Palestinians who no longer see their leaders as capable of improving their lot. Mohammed, 29, who was attending prayers at Al-Aqsa, laid the blame on the Israelis. "They are responsible because there is no work. If there was work, if people had money, they wouldn't do anything." The international community has launched a flurry of diplomatic activity in a bid to calm the latest round of violence in one of the oldest conflicts on earth.

SWORD MAN SCHOOL ATTACK WAS 'RACIST'

TROLLHATTAN: A sword-wielding man who killed two people at a Swedish school with many immigrant pupils was motivated by racism, police said yesterday, as hostility towards refugees mounts across Europe. Investigators in the southwestern Swedish town of Trollhattan confirmed that Thursday's school attack was a "racially motivated" hate crime, based on the 21-year-old assailant's "attire, his behavior at the scene of the crimes".

Police investigator Thor Haraldsson said the assailant targeted "those with dark complexions". The killer, identified in the media as Anton Lundin-Pettersson, went from classroom to classroom at the school for six to 15-year-olds. He killed one teacher and a student, and injured another teacher and student who both remained in hospital yesterday.

On his social media accounts, the attacker comes across as a loner fascinated by Hitler, Nazi Germany and Sweden's far-right Sweden Democrats party, which is critical of Islam and rising immigration to Sweden. A country of 9.8 million, Sweden expects to receive up to 190,000 asylum applications this year-putting it among the EU states with the highest proportion of refugees per capita as the continent struggles with a massive influx of migrants.

Support for the far-right has mounted as Sweden's ability to house and integrate the new arrivals comes under strain. An opinion poll yesterday showed the Sweden Democrats garnering 15.7 percent of voter sympathies, up from the 12.9 percent it won in the 2014 election when it became the country's third-largest party. Other polls have in recent months suggest it has become Sweden's biggest party.

The Sweden Democrats recently said they wanted a referendum to be held on the government's generous immigration policy, though they have little chance of obtaining such a vote. More than a dozen arson attacks this year have targeted refugee reception centres and apartments in Sweden, reducing some of them to cinders. Swedish anti-racism magazine Expo said a "rhetoric of hatred" was blowing across the Scandinavian country. "The risk is that we will see an escalation, legitimized by doomsday rhetoric and fomented in hatred's digital echo-chamber," editor-in-chief Daniel Poohl wrote.

Attacks on refugees

The rising anti-immigration trend can be seen across Europe, as more than 600,000 migrants and refugees-mainly fleeing violence in Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan-have made the dangerous journey this year, according to the UN.

In Germany, which is bracing for up to a million asylum requests this year, officials said Thursday they had foiled an extremist plot to torch two asylum centers, arresting 13 members of a far-right movement. Reports have also emerged of assaults on boats carrying migrants from Turkey to Greece in the Aegean Sea.

In Switzerland, the rightwing populist SVP registered a record score in recent elections, and Austria's far-right posted its best-ever election result in Vienna earlier this month. With at least 9,000 people landing on Europe's beaches every day, European Commission chief Jean-Claude Juncker has urged EU nations to share the burden for helping those in need. "Let's not write poems or make promises, let's act because there is urgency," he said. "We must be conscious of our responsibility," he added. Yesterday, some 5,000 people arrived overnight at the Berkasovo border crossing between Serbia and Croatia and had to wait in fog and freezing temperatures to enter Croatia, the UN refugee agency said.

People lit fires to warm themselves, while some slept on the ground under blankets. Children could be heard crying in their tents. "So many children, (this is) a catastrophe!" a police officer said. The EU is to hold a mini summit on Sunday with Balkan countries situated on the migrant route, as Slovenia, Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania and Croatia have demanded financial help to cope with the large influx. Buckling under the surge of refugees, Slovenia yesterday threatened to copy Hungary and erect a wall to keep migrants out. — AFP



TROLLHATTAN: People gather to demonstrate while shouting "No to racism" and "Protect our children" outside the primary and middle school Kronan. — AFP



VIENNA: (From left) Turkey's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Feridun Sinirlioglu, US Secretary of State John Kerry, Saudi Arabia's Minister of Foreign Affairs Arabia Adel Al-Jubeir and Russia's Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov pose for a photo, during a meeting. — AFP

RUSSIA HOLD SYRIA TALKS WITH US, SAUDI ARABIA AND TURKEY CHILLY ATMOSPHERE, SCANT HOPE FOR PROGRESS

VIENNA: Top diplomats from Russia, the US, Saudi Arabia and Turkey held talks in a frosty atmosphere yesterday on how to end the Syrian conflict, with the sides sharply at odds on the future of Bashar Al-Assad. The Vienna meeting took place three weeks after Moscow thrust itself into the heart of the crisis by launching a bombing campaign in support of the Syrian president that has drawn sharp condemnation from the west.

And Russia and Jordan said they had agreed to "coordinate" their military operations in Syria. The crunch talks at a Vienna hotel brought together Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and US Secretary of State John Kerry with their Saudi counterpart Adel Al-Jubeir and Turkey's Feridun Sinirlioglu.

Washington, Riyadh and Ankara-which all back groups battling against Assad-were sounding out Lavrov after the embattled Syrian strongman made a surprise visit to Moscow to meet President Vladimir Putin this week. But the atmosphere appeared chilly, and there was scant hope for progress on resolving almost five years of war with the sides at loggerheads over the future of Assad. At an impromptu press conference with Jordanian Foreign Minister Nasser Judeh before the four-way talks began, Lavrov reiterated the need to ramp up the fight against "terrorism" in Syria and the need for a political solution. He made no mention of his bilateral talks with Kerry earlier in the morning.

'Full-scale talks'

"Our common position is that we need to boost efforts for the political process in the Syrian settlement," Lavrov said. "This foresees the start of full-scale talks between representatives of the Syrian government and the full spectrum of the Syrian opposition, both domestic and external-with the support of outside players."

On September 30, Russia launched a bombing campaign in Syria, which has shifted

the dynamics of the brutal four-and-a-half year war-allowing Assad's battle-weary forces to go on the offensive and overshadowing a US-led coalition bombing the Islamic State (IS) group.

The US and its regional allies have decried Russia's strikes, insisting Moscow is not focusing on IS as it claims, but on other groups fighting the regime in Damascus, and that the Kremlin's intervention will only prolong the bloodshed. Russia has been frantically trying to get the US and its coalition partners to cooperate with its bombing campaign in Syria, and Putin on Thursday stressed the need for "joint work" to defeat "terrorism" in Syria.

In a potential step forward, Lavrov announced that Russia and Jordan-another member of the US-led coalition-had agreed to "coordinate" their military actions in Syria and set up a "mechanism" to facilitate that end. While the scope of the coordination was not clear, it appears to outstrip the limited understandings Russia has with Israel and the US to avoid accidental air collisions over Syria. "I hope this mechanism will be effective in fighting all terrorism in Syria and beyond," Jordanian Foreign Minister Nasser Judeh said.

Assad's fate

Assad's fate remains a major stumbling block for ending the conflict in Syria. His surprise visit to Moscow on Tuesday-his first known trip abroad since the start of the conflict in 2011 — has now made the Kremlin a key link to the strongman and placed it at the centre of the equation after 15 months of Western isolation over Ukraine. Washington and its regional allies have long insisted Assad has to go for there to be any chance of a political solution to fighting that has cost more than 250,000 lives, but Moscow says it must first help him defeat IS and other "terrorists" before talks can start on any reforms.

"The aim of the US is to get rid of Assad, probably that is so, our aim is to defeat terror-

ism, to battle terror, and to help President Assad claim victory over terror," Putin said Thursday in the Black Sea resort of Sochi. Speaking the same day, Kerry said that while all sides agreed on the need to find a political solution and battle IS, only "one thing stands in the way... Bashar Al-Assad".

While Syria is set to dominate the Vienna talks, Lavrov and Kerry will also discuss the latest Israeli-Palestinian violence with representatives from the European Union and United Nations. The talks are part of a flurry of diplomatic activity to end more than three weeks of bloodshed which has raised fears of a new Palestinian intifada, or uprising.

Strikes kill nearly 450

Meanwhile, Russian air strikes in Syria have killed at least 446 people, more than a third of them civilians, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights monitoring group said yesterday. Russia launched an air war on opponents of the Syrian regime of President Bashar Al-Assad on September 30 and says it is targeting the Islamic State jihadist group and other "terrorists". Of the total killed since then, 151 are civilians and include 38 children and 35 women, Observatory chief Rami Abdel Rahman said. The strikes have also killed 295 combatants, including 75 IS jihadists and 31 members of Al-Qaeda's Syrian affiliate, Al-Nusra Front, Abdel Rahman said.

The Britain-based Observatory says it relies on a network of activists, medical staff and fighters on the ground who identify Russian warplanes based on model, flight patterns and ammunition types. Russia has been criticized by rebel groups and their backers for targeting non-jihadist groups and inflicting civilian casualties. It has been also accused of hitting hospitals and field clinics. On Tuesday, the Observatory gave a toll of 370 killed in the Russian air strikes across Syria, a third of them civilians. Moscow has dismissed previous reports by the Observatory of civilian casualties from its bombings as "fake". — AFP

SOUTH AFRICA SCRAPS UNIVERSITY FEE HIKE

PRETORIA: South African President Jacob Zuma yesterday abandoned proposed hikes to university fees after student protests culminated in police firing stun grenades, rubber bullets and tear gas outside government headquarters. Some demonstrators tried to force their way towards the Union Buildings in the capital Pretoria, tearing down a security fence, setting fire to portable toilets and hurling bricks at police lines in chaotic scenes. Zuma had been due to address the volatile crowd after meeting with student leaders and university officials inside the buildings, but instead he read a short statement at a televised press briefing.

"We agreed that there will be a zero increase of university fees in 2016," he said. "Government understands the difficulty faced by students from poor households, and urges all affected to allow the process to unfold to

find long-term solutions in order to ensure access to education." Universities around the country have been closed over the last week as students protested against the proposed fee rises, which they say would mean poorer black youths were unable to study for degrees.

The issue of education fees has ignited widespread frustration in South Africa over a lack of opportunities for young people since the end of apartheid, worsened by a weakening economy and high unemployment. Many students said they would continue protesting even after Zuma's announcement. "The government thinks we are playing, they think it's because we want to run away from school," Kgotsi Genge, a 22-year-old student at the University of Pretoria, told AFP. "But we will keep fighting. South Africa needs to invest more in education. This movement is

because we are being oppressed."

'Born-frees' vent anger

Earlier this week, hundreds of students stormed through the gates outside parliament in Cape Town as police struggled to protect the national assembly. Protests have also erupted daily in Johannesburg, University of Fort Hare in Eastern Cape province and several other provincial cities. "This was supposed to be peaceful," Jessica Littlewood, a 20-year-old criminology student at the University of Pretoria, told AFP. "This movement is by the students, for the students."

The Union Buildings are the official seat of the South African government and where Nelson Mandela was inaugurated as president when white-minority apartheid rule fell in 1994. University fees were set to rise up to 10 percent next year, with a general Bachelor of

Arts degree at the University of Cape Town (UCT) currently costing 46,000 rand (\$3,400). Zuma's statement targeted "institutional autonomy" in a reference to universities' right to set their own fees, in an apparent attempt to steer criticism away from the African National Congress (ANC) government.

Campus activism has been increasing this year as students — many of them so-called "born frees" who did not experience the struggle against apartheid — vent their anger over continuing racial inequality. Protests over education have a strong resonance in South Africa, where the Soweto uprisings in 1976 against Afrikaans-language lessons were brutally suppressed by police. Earlier this year, students at UCT led a high-profile and successful campaign for the removal of a statue of British imperialist Cecil John Rhodes from the campus. —AFP

SUICIDE BOMB IN MOSQUE KILLS 28

MAIDUGURI: At least 28 people were killed in a suicide bombing at a mosque in Maiduguri, northeast Nigeria, yesterday, raising fresh security concerns after a wave of similar attacks. The attack happened shortly after 5:00 am in the Jidari area of the Borno state capital, which has previously been targeted by Boko Haram militants.

Maiduguri has now been hit six times this month, killing a total of 76 people, according to an AFP tally, underscoring an increased risk to civilians after similar strikes in neighboring states and near the capital, Abuja. Umar Sani, a civilian vigilante assisting the military in the counter-insurgency, and local resident Musa Sheriff both told AFP there were two blasts at the mosque.

"People from various mosques nearby rushed to the scene to assist the victims," said Sani. "I was involved in the evacuation. We counted 28 dead bodies apart from the two bombers, who were identifiable by the mutilation of their bodies. "Over 20 other people were injured."

Sheriff, who said he escaped with his life as he was late for prayers, gave a similar account. Both men also said two other people were arrested and handed over to the military for questioning after they were seen apparently celebrating following the blasts. The two men were "standing from afar, hugging each other like a celebration, chanting "Allahu Akbar" (God is greatest)", said Sani. "The rescuers apprehended them. They used ropes to tie them and they confirmed that two of their comrades carried out the attacks. They were unrepentant," he added. "To them it was a mission accomplished," said Sheriff.

Security concerns

Initial reports of the attack from Nigeria's National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) said only six people were killed and 17 others injured. Medical sources at the University of Maiduguri Teaching Hospital and Borno State Specialist Hospital later gave a lower toll of 19 dead. There are frequently conflicting death tolls in the insurgency and official statements often downplay the number of casualties.

Nigeria's military has claimed a series of successes against Boko Haram, recapturing territory seized by the militants last year, as well as the mass surrender of fighters. Senior officers have characterized the increase in suicide bombings against "soft" targets as a sign of the group's desperation. Nigeria's President Muhammadu Buhari has said the military is on track to meet a year-end deadline to bring the six-year insurgency to an end.

At least 17,000 people have been killed and more than 2.5 million made homeless by the violence, which has spread into neighboring Niger, Chad and Cameroon. But the latest bombings in Maiduguri will likely raise questions about how militants are able to carry out such attacks on a regular basis.

Yesterday's attack fits into a grim pattern of targeting places of worship and crowded spots such as markets and bus stations using multiple bombers to maximize casualties. On October 1, a wave of suicide and bomb attacks left 10 dead in the Ajilari Cross area of the city, which was hit again on October 13, killing four. —AFP



BUJANOVAC: A woman and her children wait for a train after crossing the Macedonian-Serbian border. — AFP

SERBIA, CROATIA AGREE TO SPEED UP MIGRANT FLOW

'WE HAVE AGREED TO STOP THIS TORTURE'

BAJAKOVO: Serbia and Croatia agreed yesterday to ease the flow of migrants over the border between the countries after thousands of people, including children, were forced to spend the night out in the open in near-freezing temperatures along a muddy border passage.

The interior ministers of Serbia and Croatia said they will start shipping migrants by train directly from Serbia to Croatia so that they won't have to cross on foot, often treading kilometers in rain and cold weather, as has been the case so far. Migrants will register when they enter Serbia and will be able to cross into Croatia without any delays, which should speed up the process significantly, the ministers said. "We have agreed to stop this torture," said Croatian Interior Minister Ranko Ostojic. "There will be no more rain and snow, they will go directly from camp to camp."

Further west, thousands of migrants

aiming to reach northern Europe walked out of refugee camps on the border between Slovenia and Austria on their own, frustrated after waiting long hours in overcrowded facilities.

Eager to move on, thousands spread around along railway tracks, highways and mountain roads. Confused and unaware which roads to take to go west, some migrants later turned back and returned to the refugee camps to wait for bus transport to other locations. Tensions have been building after the so-called Balkan route shifted. Migrants still cross first from Greece into Macedonia and then Serbia, but now go via Croatia and Slovenia instead of Hungary, which has erected fences along its borders with Serbia and Croatia.

Overwhelmed after nearly 50,000 migrants crossed in just a few days, tiny Slovenia said it has not ruled out erecting a fence of its own along parts of its 670-

kilometer border with Croatia. Prime Minister Miro Cerar was quoted yesterday by the state news agency STA as saying Slovenia will consider all options if left to cope on its own with the influx of thousands of people.

"Our sights are foremost on finding a European solution," said Cerar. "But should we lose hope for this ... all options are open within what is acceptable." The country of 2 million people already has deployed 650 army troops to help the police manage the flow and has asked the European Commission for an aid package, including 60 million Euros (\$68 million) in financial aid and police gear and personnel.

Several EU nations have promised to send police officers to help Slovenia's force, which is so overloaded that a soccer derby today had to be cancelled because there were no more officers available to guard the game. —AP

KABUL UNIVERSITY TO HOST WOMEN STUDIES PROGRAM

KABUL: A group of Afghan students gathered on the leafy campus of Kabul University this week to embark on an unlikely course - the country's first Master's degree in gender and women's studies. Advances made for women since US-led troops ousted the Islamist Taliban in 2001 are held up as one of the wins of the war, but women are still regularly sidelined from political life and subject to violence in public and at home. Many worry that things could get worse as security deteriorates around the country, a fear buttressed by reports of abuse against women in Kunduz after the Taliban briefly took control of the northern city last month.

"There's been a lot of change for women, but it's not enough," said Zheela Rafhat, a high school teacher and one of 28 students enrolled on the two-year course, which will tackle subjects like gender and violence. "It's better in the capital than in rural areas where there's been a lot of fighting." Photographs of Kabul from the 1960s

and 70s show a city where Afghan women strolled the streets in miniskirts and heels, a scene that had disappeared by the time the Taliban came to power in 1996.

Under the hardliner group's interpretation of Islam, women and girls were banned from public life, including going to school and working, and had to wear a full-body burqa when venturing outside. Millions of girls have gone back to school in the last 14 years, but access to higher education has been limited. Teaching women's studies at graduate level should help spread awareness and send people into the workforce who can promote equality, the faculty and students said. Eighteen women and ten men have enrolled in the program.

But the project is not without critics, some of whom think the course amounts to little more than another misguided foreign intervention. The course is funded by South Korea and run by the UN Development Program in coordination with the government. "Some people don't

take it seriously," said Nargis Nazer Hossain, a 21-year-old student from Kabul. "They think it's in the interest of foreigners." Other objections run deeper.

'There is no gender equality'

When the course was presented to the Ministry of Higher Education, it took two months to be approved, said Ghulam Farooq Abdullah, dean of the university's Faculty of Social Sciences. Abdul Bari Hamidi, an Islamic studies professor and a member of the ministerial committee that approves new graduate programs, said he objected to the course because it promoted gender equality.

"There is no gender equality in Islam," Hamidi said. "In family affairs, the head of the family must be a man, and being an Imam (Islamic spiritual leader) is limited to men." Lecturers said the course work would address the topic, keeping Afghanistan's cultural context in mind. "This is teaching by Afghan colleagues, Afghan professors,

according with our reality and our society," said Nasrullah Stanekzai, a law professor who taught the first day of class on Monday.

Nevertheless, Kabul University is a somewhat unlikely host, having been the stage for heated protests against women's rights. In 2013, hundreds of students marched against the Elimination of Violence Against Women law, objecting to its secular foundations.

"There are students at Kabul University with radical ideas, but it's not rampant," said Ahmad Zia Rafhat, a journalism lecturer. "Some of the students come to the university from provinces where the Taliban have a bigger influence." None of the students to whom Reuters spoke expressed any apprehension about taking the course. Nor did a small group of students hanging around the classroom offer any objections. "I think it's a good thing," said Mushtaba Danish, a third-year undergraduate. "Men need the expertise for the future." — Reuters

INDIAN WOMAN STUCK IN PAKISTAN TO RETURN HOME

NEW DELHI: A mute and deaf Indian woman who has been stuck in Pakistan for more than a decade because she could not remember where she came from will return home on Monday after apparently identifying her family.

India's foreign ministry said yesterday that the young woman, known only as Geeta, would undergo DNA testing to establish whether she is related to the people claiming to be her family.

The prospect of a long-awaited reunion comes after Geeta indicated earlier this month that she recognized a photograph of a family from the eastern state of Bihar sent to her by Indian authorities. "Geeta has already identified one family as possibly being that of her parents," foreign ministry spokesman Vikas Swarup said at a media briefing in New Delhi. "We will be doing DNA tests to establish conclusive proof."

Geeta, who is believed to be in her twenties, will be accompanied by members of Edhi Foundation, the charity that has been looking after her in Pakistan. She was 11 or 12 when police found her, alone and disoriented with no identity papers, on a train that had crossed the border from India into the eastern city of Lahore.

She was believed to have strayed into Pakistani territory by mistake, but could not remember or explain exactly where she was from. Pakistani police handed her over to the Edhi Foundation, the largest charity in the country, and she now lives in one of their shelters in Karachi. Even the name "Geeta" was given to her by Edhi staff. If her DNA does not match that of the family, who have travelled to Delhi especially to greet her, authorities have said they will find a home for Geeta in a "suitable institution".

India's government pledged in August to bring her home, after a hit Bollywood film returned the case to the media spotlight.

"Bajrangi Bhaijaan", featuring Indian superstars Salman Khan and Kareena Kapoor, tells the mirror image of Geeta's story: a mute young Pakistani woman trapped in India.

Swarup rejected criticism in some media that Geeta's return was hasty given that her ties with the family were not yet established.

"Everything we have done so far has been with the full knowledge and concurrence of Geeta and Edhi Foundation," he said. — AFP

KOREAN REUNIONS: TOO MUCH POLITICS AND TOO LITTLE TIME

SITUATION UNDERLINES THE EMOTIONAL PRICE

SEOUL: In the end, Kim Kum-Sun and the North Korean brother she last saw in 1951 were given just 12 hours to try and soothe the accumulated pain of nearly 65 years of separation. As impossible for them as it was for the hundred or so other families who wrapped up a three-day inter-Korean reunion on Thursday, the situation underlines the emotional price exacted for the rare opportunity to participate in such events.

Given that there are more than 65,000 South Koreans currently on the waiting list for a reunion spot, those selected represent a very fortunate minority. But the reality of the highly-controlled, tightly time-restricted meetings means that many come away with their expectations shattered. "Of course it was wonderful just to see my elder brother again," said Kim, 78. "But it was so short; unbearably short really. And now I just feel enormous sorrow at the idea that I'll probably never see him again," she told AFP after returning home to Seoul. The "three-day" tag attached to the reunion is misleading. In reality, that boils down to six, two-hour sessions-only one of which allows the separated relatives to sit down face-to-face in private. "It's absurd" said Kim's daughter Nam Jeong-Bun, who accompanied her to the reunion held in a mountain resort in North Korea.

'Then it's all over'

"The families need much longer to even begin a meaningful conversation, and they should be allowed to share a room at night," she said. "The time limits make the final farewell very, very difficult. You barely have time to meet and then it's all over," she added.

The reunion program began in earnest after a historic North-South summit in 2000, and was initially an annual event. But strained cross-border relations meant that this week's gathering was only the second in five years. Pyongyang has long manipulated the reunion issue as a tool for extracting concessions from Seoul, and



In a photo taken on October 22, 2015 Sun Yong-Ju (center), 82, the North Korean cousin of South Korean brother and sister Sun Kum-Soon, 75, and Sun Kyeong-Soo, 71, waves from a bus departing a family reunion event at North Korea's Mount Kumgang resort. — AFP

sees its agreement to hold the meetings as an act of diplomatic largesse that merits reward.

From the very first reunion, South Korea has pushed for extended, more frequent gatherings. "The negotiations are always very tough and North Korea has been unbending about limiting the hours, as well as the actual number of reunions," said an official with the Unification Ministry in Seoul. "At least this time we managed to extend the final farewell session from one hour to two, but even that wasn't easy," the official said.

Observers say the North has little to gain from the actual reunions, and is focused solely on restricting the amount of time its citizens spend in the company of their clearly more affluent South Korean kin. In a reflection of the stark economic divide between the two Koreas, all the South Korean families bring gift packages, including clothes, watches, medicine, food and in most cases around \$1,500 in cash.

After the lack of time, the most common complaint of the South Korean participants is the politicization of the reunions. "The group meetings are very noisy," said Sun Kyeong-Soo, 71, who met her North Korean cousin for the first time. "So it's not easy to hear each other, and because it was public I think our cousin felt obligated to make a lot of loud political statements about the superiority of North Korea's system and its leadership," Sun said.

"I understand why he did it, but it was hard to bear and we tried to stop him several times," she added. While the one private session allows for more intimate conversation, many reported that their North Korean relatives still spent a substantial amount of that precious time either praising the North or disparaging the US military presence in South Korea. "I'm sure he must have gone through some ideological refresher course before coming to see us," Sun said. — AFP

WORSENING HAZE REACHES THE PHILIPPINES

MANILA: Haze from Indonesian forest fires has spread to the southern and central Philippines, disrupting air traffic and prompting warnings for residents to wear face masks, authorities said yesterday. The large southern Philippine island of Mindanao is more than 1,200 kilometers from the nearest fires but the haze has become a worsening problem across the island over the past week, aviation authorities said.

It spread to the country's central islands of Cebu and Negros yesterday, disrupting air traffic, Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines spokesman Eric Apolonio said. Eight domestic flights have been cancelled and dozens delayed since the problem began on October 16, affecting thousands of passengers, he added. On some occasions, pilots could

not see the airstrip as they were coming in to land. "If you cannot see the runway it is very dangerous. You cannot always depend on instruments," he told AFP. Dense haze hung over Davao, Mindanao's largest city of 1.5 million people, yesterday afternoon, plunging it under an early twilight. Its airport, one of those affected according to Apolonio, handles 48 flights a day.

With visibility down to 1.2 kilometers at some times during the day, far less than the usual 10 kilometers, aircraft are forced to circle and wait above the runways for up to an hour, according to Apolonio. Apolonio said the flight delays were also disrupting the busy airport of capital Manila, with some Mindanao-bound flights being held back. Because Manila airport is operating at its full

capacity of 40 landings and take-offs per hour, any delay involving Mindanao flights disrupts the aircraft queue for the rest of the day, he added.

Slash-and-burn

For nearly two months, dense haze produced by Indonesian slash-and-burn farmers have suffocated vast expanses of Southeast Asia. This has caused rates of respiratory illnesses to soar, schools to close, and scores of flights and some international events to be cancelled. Much of the burning is in peatlands being drained and cleared at a rapid rate to make way for agriculture.

The Philippines has not been badly impacted. It may have worsened recently due to Typhoon Koppu, which hit the northern Philippines on October 18,

drawing the haze towards it, state weather forecaster Manny Mendoza told AFP. While the seasonal northeast monsoons are expected to push back some of the haze from Indonesia over the coming weeks, any storms hitting the Philippines the rest of the year could aggravate the problem, he said.

"We can't say at this point that the smoke and haze will go away soon. This is expected to continue," Mendoza said. The haze was not so bad as to raise a medical alarm, but residents in affected areas are being advised to wear face masks, according to health department spokesman Lyndon Lee Suy. "The content (of the smoke) is not that much but even small amounts of ash could trigger an asthma attack, or cardio-pulmonary obstructive disease," he said. — AFP

MYANMAR'S ETHNIC CLASHES SPARK CALLS FOR RESTRAINT

YANGON: Fighting has flared in areas of Myanmar controlled by ethnic rebels who refused to sign a ceasefire, raising fears the army is pressuring groups that did not join in what was supposed to be a crowning achievement of President Thein Sein's five-year term.

The United Nations and the United States have called on the military to de-escalate the tension, stressing that the groups, such as the Kachin Independence Organization operating on Myanmar's northern border, should not be pressured but seen as partners essential to achieving a lasting peace. The army clashed with the Shan State Army-North, one of the ethnic armed groups that did not sign the deal, 37 times between October 6 and 19, military-run newspaper Myawady said this week.

Seven SSA-N members were killed and the army suffered an unspecified number of casualties, the paper said. "We made a point that it's important the government and military show some restraint in those areas where groups did not sign the ceasefire," Ben Rhodes, the US deputy national security adviser, told reporters in Yangon on Tuesday. Tense talks between the rebels and the government unraveled after two years of grueling negotiations, with only eight of more than a dozen major groups signing the peace accord last week.

All-encompassing ceasefire

This was a blow to Thein Sein, who has made an all-encompassing ceasefire his top priority, as well as the ruling Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) which is facing stiff competition from Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy (NLD) in the Nov. 8 election. "There's a danger that if that escalates, that can be interpreted as putting pressure," Vijay Nambiar, an adviser on Myanmar to the Secretary General of the United Nations, Ban Ki-moon, told Reuters. "The fact is that there are some groups who still have problems to resolve with regard to how to move forward and that has to be respected," said Nambiar.

A government spokesman was not available for comment. A senior official from the Shan State Army-North sent a letter to vice president Sai Maw Kham on Wednesday, requesting him to help stop the military's offensive. "We humbly request the immediate halting of the military operations near the SSP/SSA headquarters," said Sao Khur Tai, one of the leaders of the group, in the letter. The Arakan Army, an ally of the powerful Kachin Independence Army, which also did not sign, said on Tuesday the military had been purposely increasing its presence in the areas held by the groups that did not sign the ceasefire.

Nambiar said the UN recognized the concerns of the non-signatories and that they should be sorted out peacefully. He said he believed the ceasefire had a "historic potential" to bring lasting peace to the country. "There's an agreement on the steps forward and everyone has made huge endeavours to make it happen, including the non-signatories," said Nambiar. "We still see everyone as a part of this process." — Reuters

INDONESIA HOPES DISILLUSIONED IS FIGHTERS CAN DETER RECRUITS

'IT IS A VIOLATION OF WHAT RELIGION TEACHES US'

JAKARTA: Indonesian meatball seller Ahmad Junaedi was drawn to the Islamic State group in Syria by the promise of a high salary to pay off his debts and a desire to help children living in the jihadists' "caliphate". But the 32-year-old villager from Java Island quickly became disillusioned bored with his job making kebabs for Arab fighters, disappointed at the low pay and upset at tales of the group's brutal violence.

The father-of-four eventually persuaded his commanders to let him go home, joining a growing number of disenchanted people leaving the jihadists, a trend experts say could give governments a new weapon to deter potential recruits.

"I was deceived," Junaedi, who was also an imam at a mosque in his village, told AFP during a recent interview near Jakarta, under heavy guard by the country's counter-terror agency. "It was boring there and all the promises were lies." "Also, I know that in Islam we say 'an eye for an eye', but what they did there was much more than that-it is a violation of what religion teaches us," he added. Junaedi was arrested in March this year, several months after his return. He went on trial this week in Jakarta and is likely to be jailed.

Silver lining

Indonesia, the world's most populous Muslim-majority nation, has a long history of struggling with Islamic militancy and has suffered a string of attacks in the past 15 years, including the 2002 Bali bombings that killed 202 people, mostly foreign tourists. While a crackdown has been largely successful and there have been no major attacks since 2009, the emergence of IS has sparked alarm. Authorities say that over 250 Indonesians have headed to the Middle East to join the group, raising fears they could revive militant networks on their return.

However the country's counter-terror chiefs see a silver lining to the handful of former IS members returning disenchanted-they are hopeful that stories of misery and disappointment can deter potential recruits. This approach was put forward in a report last month by the International Centre for the Study of Radicalization and



JAKARTA: This picture taken on October 12, 2015 shows Indonesian meatball seller Ahmad Junaedi (center) sitting in a court room during his trial at the West Jakarta court. — AFP

Political Violence at King's College London, which found a growing number of "disillusioned" Islamic State fighters from a range of countries had defected.

Junaedi featured among 58 people listed in the report as having publicly spoken out about their defection since January 2014. Like him, some were disappointed that promises of generous financial rewards had failed to materialise, and were upset by the killing of fellow Muslims. Saud Usman Nasution, head of Indonesia's counter-terror agency, told AFP that at least five Indonesians have returned home disenchanted. The most recent returnees were a man from West Java province and his four-year-old son, according to Nasution. The man had been heading to work on an IS oil field after being promised a hefty salary but eventually turned himself in after failing to cross from Turkey to Syria.

'War of ideologies'

Junaedi's story echoes that of other low-income Indonesians drawn to IS. He was alarmed by pictures on social media of wounded children in IS-held areas of Syria and encouraged by sermons in

mosques supporting the jihadists. In March 2014, he was approached by a recruiter who promised he could pay off his nine million rupiah (\$670) debt with just a few days work.

Like others who joined the jihadists, who have taken over vast swathes of territory in Syria and Iraq and declared a "caliphate", he travelled overland from Turkey and ended up in a village near Syria's second city of Aleppo. His main work was preparing food for fighters, but he also stood guard at the village and sometimes helped with teaching children. But he was disappointed with the salary-the equivalent of just \$50 month and found the day-to-day life in the village, which was not the site of major fighting, monotonous.

He was also horrified at tales of the jihadists' brutality-IS has beheaded several foreign captives-but claims to have seen little first-hand. After three months, the regional IS commander agreed to let him leave, but with a warning that he would be killed if he returned. "To Indonesians who want to go but have only heard about the situation in Syria, think again, because you will be sorry," Junaedi said. — AP

TRUMP MOVES IN ON BUSH TURF IN FLORIDA

HOPES TO KEEP ADVANTAGE WITH HEAVY INVESTMENT

MIAMI: Floridians know two of the Republicans presidential candidates very well: Jeb Bush led the state as a two-term governor and Marco Rubio has been a senator since 2011. Nonetheless, Donald Trump is outpacing both of the state's resident sons as he continues to dominate early opinion polls. And he is hoping to maintain that advantage with a heavy investment in the state, when he arrives for a two-day swing - his first as a presidential candidate - with rallies planned in Miami and Jacksonville.

While Florida doesn't hold its winner-take-all primary until March 15, Trump recently brought on a Florida state campaign director and plans to open a Sarasota office in early November, Trump campaign manager Corey Lewandowski said. The campaign is also expected to announce the hiring of multiple state co-chairs shortly and expects to bring in additional staffers. Bush's campaign headquarters are in Miami and he's opened field offices in Miami and Tampa. Rubio's campaign headquarters are in Washington; he has field offices in early primary states but none so far in Florida. For Trump, the prize could be a chance to knock out two major rivals on their home turf. A University of North Florida poll of likely Republican primary voters out this week found Trump with the support of 22 percent. Ben Carson, who also lives in the state, had 19 percent. Marco Rubio was third with 15 percent and Jeb Bush fourth with 9 percent.

Michael Binder, a University of North Florida pollster and political science professor, said Trump's "shine is starting to wear off," noting his approval percentage was the lowest in recent statewide polls. Trump, appearing on Miami radio's "Paul & Young Ron Show," said it was "amazing" that he's leading "your two folks that are running."



IOWA: In this Oct 21, 2015, photo, Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump speaks during a campaign stop at the Burlington Memorial Auditorium. — AP

Looking for change

Longtime operatives and pollsters in the state say that like many potential voters nationwide, many Republicans in Florida are looking for a change. While Trump has never taken up residence in the state, he has a home in Palm Beach as well as several business ventures, and is well known in philanthropic circles.

Jamie Miller, former executive director of the state Republican party, said Florida has been receptive to outsider candidates. In 1992, he noted, Ross Perot won nearly 20 percent of the state's vote. Gov. Rick Scott is another former businessman who won as a rookie politician in

2010 after spending \$70 million of his own cash. State Rep Neil Combee, who represents a stretch of central Florida, said the buzz for Trump is unmistakable.

"People are dissatisfied with the direction the country's going in," said Combee, who is supporting Texas Sen. Ted Cruz. "It's a phenomenon for sure. And it's one that I don't think is going away." Kinsey Craichy, an Orlando business owner, donated \$250 to Trump's campaign even though he knows the GOP front-runner doesn't need the money. "When you put the same politicians into the same broken system, you get the same result," said Craichy, a Republican. Craichy said he

likes Bush but it's not time for "business-as-usual" politicians. Rubio is a future star but "right now is not the time for on-the-job training," Craichy said.

Polls don't matter

Emilio Garcia, 73, and Manuel Alvarez, 76, both Cuban exiles and longtime Republican voters, also dismissed Bush and Rubio because they represent the "old Republican guard." They prefer a non-politician and especially like Trump. "Trump needs to refine what he says, but he speaks the truth," said Garcia as he chomped on a cigar outside La Carreta, a popular Cuban restaurant chain in Miami not far from Bush's campaign headquarters.

Alex Conant, Rubio's campaign spokesman, played down the Florida numbers, saying "polls don't matter at this stage." Rubio has been "up and down in the polls, and he's currently rising," said Conant. He said the campaign will soon come out with leadership teams in each of the state's 67 counties and Rubio has made recent campaign stops in the state.

For his part, Bush said this week on CNN that Trump is "capturing people's deep anger and angst about Washington, DC." He predicted Trump's support will wane after voters consider "who has the judgment and the seriousness and the ideas to be president." Veteran political strategist Roger Stone, a close Trump friend who previously worked for his campaign and remains a supporter, said Floridians "want something entirely new. He's a breath of fresh air."

Not everyone is impressed. Sipping Cuban coffee on a recent afternoon, Enrique Pineiro, 50, said Trump is "un payaso," or a clown. "The sum of everything he says is ridiculous," said Pineiro, who was born and raised in Miami, the son of Cuban immigrants. He prefers Bush because he liked him when he was the state's governor for eight years. "I know his story," Pineiro said. — AP

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WOMAN MAY FACE HEFTY BILL FOR US PLANE BIRTH

TAIPEI: A Taiwanese woman who gave birth on a flight to the US in what may have been an attempt to give her baby American citizenship could face a hefty bill for forcing the plane to divert to Alaska. The insurance firm of China Airlines will decide whether to ask the unnamed passenger to cover the cost of the stopover to ensure the health of her baby, airline media affairs staffer Weni Lee said yesterday. The flight made an emergency landing en route from Taipei to Los Angeles on Oct 8.

Taiwanese media have estimated the bill at \$33,000, although the airline said its insurer is still calculating the cost. The

local media have widely reported that the woman evidently wanted to give the child American citizenship. Taiwan's China Times newspaper's website said that, before giving birth, she repeatedly asked the cabin crew, "Are we in US air space?" Those comments couldn't be verified, and Lee said she could not confirm whether the passenger had made them.

Alaska state officials say the baby is eligible for US citizenship. A baby born in flight has the right to be a US citizen if that is where the child first arrives, even if born in international air space, said Susan Morgan, spokeswoman for the

Alaska Department of Social Services. The incident has garnered widespread attention in Taiwan, even rising to the level of parliamentary debate earlier this week.

"This is a selfish act," ruling party legislator Luo Shu-lei shouted to the transportation minister during a session Monday. "It was clearly an act carried out to give the child US citizenship. She affected the travel of other passengers. Is there no punishment?" The China Times website said the woman was 36-weeks pregnant, but that she told the airline she was less than 32-weeks pregnant. Under Taiwanese law, passengers must

provide a medical certificate saying they are fit to fly if they have passed the 32nd week of pregnancy.

The woman, whose identity has been kept confidential, was sent back Saturday from Alaska to Taiwan without the baby. American authorities have not said why. Before the 1980s, when Taiwan was still developing economically, some mothers tried to give birth in the United States, but nowadays that is rare. A cottage industry has sprung up in recent years facilitating the travel of women from mainland China to the US to give birth and obtain automatic American citizenship for their babies. — AP

WITH CLINTON DONE, DEMOCRATS MAY QUIT GOP BENGHAZI PANEL

'WE HAVE LEARNED ABSOLUTELY NOTHING'

WASHINGTON: House Democrats are signaling they may quit a Republican-led committee investigating the 2012 Benghazi attacks after Hillary Rodham Clinton endured a grueling interrogation by GOP lawmakers at a marathon congressional hearing. "We have learned absolutely nothing," Rep Adam Smith, D-Wash, a member of the panel, said of Thursday's contentious 11-hour hearing and the 17-month investigation that preceded it.

Other Democrats, who had labeled the probe a partisan effort to undermine Clinton's presidential campaign, echoed Smith's complaint after the former secretary of state finished her testimony. More telling were comments by House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., who asked: "What's next? Is this thing forever? Are they ever going to make a decision about whether to continue this?"

Pelosi has insisted, as she reiterated Thursday, "You have to be in the room to defend the truth." With Clinton's testimony concluded, that decision is likely to be revisited. Senior Democratic aides would not rule out the possibility of Democrats boycotting the panel, whose work likely will stretch into the election year. Rep Elijah Cummings of Maryland, the committee's top Democrat, said no decision has been made on whether Democrats boycott investigation.

Clinton had confrontational exchanges with several GOP lawmakers, but also heard supportive statements from Democrats. The questioning was, by turns, harsh and sympathetic, depending on who was asking. Clinton firmly defended her record while steadfastly dodging any misstatement or display of anger that might damage her White House prospects. The most combative moments zeroed in on the Obama administration's shifting initial accounts of the September 2012 attack that cost the lives of

Lingering questions

Ambassador Chris Stevens and three other Americans. But there were few specific questions about what transpired on that fateful day, Sept 11, 2012, which Clinton said causes her to still lose sleep to this day. "I would imagine I've thought more about what happened than all of you put together," she told the committee. "I've lost more sleep than all of you put together."

The panel's chairman, Rep Trey Gowdy of South Carolina, said the committee was



WASHINGTON: Former Secretary of State and Democratic Presidential hopeful Hillary Clinton testifies before the House Select Committee on Benghazi on Capitol Hill. — AFP

focused on the facts, not the politics of the situation, in the wake of recent comments by fellow Republicans describing his investigation as an effort to lower Clinton's poll standings. Democrats noted that the probe has now cost taxpayers more than \$4.5 million and has lasted longer than the 1970s Watergate era investigation.

"The reality is that after 17 months, we have nothing new to tell the families. We have nothing new to tell the American people," said Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Calif., who has called for the committee to be disbanded. The American people are entitled to the truth about Benghazi, he said, but "they're also entitled to the truth about our committee." Gowdy said important questions remain unanswered: Why was the US in Libya? Why were security requests denied? Why was the military not ready to respond quickly on the 11th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks? And why did the administration change its story about the nature of the attacks in the weeks afterward?

"These questions linger," he argued, "because previous investigations were not thorough." He dismissed as ineffective the work of seven previous investigations, including several led by current and former Republican colleagues. Gowdy called

Thursday's marathon session - with just a single witness, Clinton - "a constructive interaction." But said he did not know whether the embattled panel gained credibility. Cummings, who frequently guided Clinton through friendly questions, said he thought she "did an outstanding job."

Few sparks fly

Clinton kept her cool throughout, but sparks flew briefly after Rep Jim Jordan, R-Ohio, accused her of deliberately misleading the public by linking the Benghazi violence at first to an Internet video insulting the Muslim prophet Muhammad. Clinton said that "some" people had wanted to use the video to justify the attack and said she rejected that justification.

The Jordan-Clinton exchange hit at the core of the protracted partisan feuding on Capitol Hill. Republicans said they were pressing hard to learn more about the manner in which President Barack Obama and his top aides characterized the attack. For Clinton, the hearing offered opportunity and a potential for gaffes, as well, while affording her a high-profile platform to display self-control and a command of foreign policy. But it also left her vulnerable to claims she helped politicize the Benghazi tragedy. — AP

CHAFEE QUILTS HIS CAMPAIGN

WASHINGTON: Former Rhode Island Gov Lincoln Chafee announced yesterday he would end his quixotic Democratic presidential campaign after failing to gain traction against Hillary Rodham Clinton and Bernie Sanders. "After much thought I have decided to end my campaign for president today," Chafee said at a women's forum held by the Democratic National Committee. "But I would like to take this opportunity one last time to advocate for a chance be given to peace."

Chafee delivered a widely panned debate performance earlier this month and has struggled to raise money and generate enthusiasm in a field that has been dominated by Clinton, a former secretary of state, and Sanders, the Vermont independent senator. The former Rhode Island senator surprised many when he formed a presidential exploratory committee last spring and raised eyebrows when he called for the US to switch to the metric system during a formal campaign kickoff in Virginia last June.

His poll numbers were so low that comedian Conan O'Brien came up with a song for Chafee's longshot bid and encouraged viewers to boost his poll numbers from 0 percent to 1 percent because "it seems like the nice thing to do." Often driving from his Rhode Island home, Chafee visited the first primary state of New Hampshire several times but failed to draw large crowds.

In the first Democratic debate, Chafee referred to himself as a "block of granite" when it came to issues and said he was most proud of his judgment, particularly his vote against the Iraq war. He frequently said US foreign policy should promote peace but his performance was widely panned, prompting questions about whether he would continue his campaign. Chafee raised just \$11,000 in the most recent fundraising quarter. Most of his money has come from more than \$360,000 that he has loaned his campaign. During his past campaigns, he relied on an old New England family fortune amassed over generations.

The presidential bid represented an unusual twist for the unconventional 62-year-old lawmaker and the son of late Sen John Chafee. In the Senate, the younger Chafee stood out as a liberal Republican in an increasingly conservative party. He was the lone Republican in 2002 to vote against going to war in Iraq, a moment that he tried to make a cornerstone of his campaign. He was elected governor in 2010 as an independent and twice backed President Barack Obama's White House campaigns. He joined the Democrats in 2013 and used his presidential campaign to urge the US to help reinvigorate the United Nations as a way to promote peace and stability. — AP



Governor Lincoln Chafee

Kuwait Times BUSINESS

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2015

Malaysia forecasts slower growth, spells out stimulus

BOJ to cut price forecast for next FY only slightly

Euro-zone business grows, but companies cut prices



Can Egypt's new CB chief calm currency crisis?



BEIJING: People walk in a shopping complex in Beijing yesterday. China's economy logged its worst performance since the global financial crisis in the third quarter with gross domestic product growing just 6.9 percent — its slowest rate in six years, the government said. — AFP

CHINA CUTS RATES AGAIN AS GROWTH STALLS

MOVE COMES AHEAD OF KEY ECONOMIC MEETING NEXT WEEK

BEIJING: China's central bank cut interest rates yesterday for the sixth time in less than a year, and it again lowered the amount of cash that banks must hold as reserves in a bid to jump start growth in its stuttering economy. Monetary policy easing in the world's second-largest economy is at its most aggressive since the 2008/09 financial crisis, as growth looks set to slip to a 25-year-low this year of under 7 percent.

Yet underscoring China's drive to deepen financial reforms, which many believe are necessary to invigorate the economy, the People's Bank of China (PBOC) said it was freeing the interest rate market by scrapping a ceiling on deposit rates. The change, which Beijing had promised to deliver for months, will in theory allow banks to price loans according to their risk, and remove a distortion to the price of credit that analysts say fuels wasteful investment in China.

China's policy loosening came a day after the European Central Bank said it could give a bigger policy jolt to the economy as soon as

December to fight falling prices.

"We've got half the world's central banks in easing mode," said Joe Rundle, the head of trading at ETX Capital in London. "And we'll probably see more easing from China to come."

The PBOC said on its website that it was lowering the one-year benchmark bank lending rate by 25 basis points to 4.35 percent, effective from Oct. 24. The one-year benchmark deposit rate was lowered by 25 basis points to 1.50 percent. The reserve requirement ratio (RRR) was also cut by 50 basis points for all banks, taking the ratio to 17.5 percent for the biggest lenders, while banks that lend to agricultural firms and small companies received another 50-basis-point reduction to their RRR.

The late-evening moves come just ahead of a high-level meeting in Beijing starting on Monday where senior Chinese leaders will thrash out the country's economic blue-print for the next five years.

Investors in Europe took cheer and shares soared, while the Chinese offshore yuan fell

against the US dollar. "In the next step, monetary policy ... will be kept not too loose or too tight to ensure stable economic growth," the PBOC said in a separate question-and-answer session. It added that China's current muted consumer inflation and falling market interest rates provided a window for the country to liberalize its deposit rates.

SOBERING DATA

It has been a tumultuous year for China's economy. A summer stock market plunge and shock devaluation of the yuan in August roiled global markets and fanned fears of a hard landing, prompting Chinese leaders to take drastic measures to assure investors they have the economy under control.

Yesterday's easing came minutes after Premier Li Keqiang was quoted on state radio as saying that China will make "reasonable use" of rate and RRR cuts to keep its economy growing at a reasonable pace.

Senior Chinese leaders do not usually com-

ment directly on the country's rate or RRR adjustments. The cuts came in the same week as sobering economic data for the third quarter that demonstrated the daunting challenges faced by the country's leaders, not least in achieving a growth target of around 7 percent set by the government.

Data released on Monday showed China's economy grew 6.9 percent between July and September from a year earlier, dipping below 7 percent for the first time since the global financial crisis. With Chinese imports tumbling for the 11th straight month in September and producer prices stuck in deflation for more than three years, some analysts say China's policymakers have their work cut out.

"We're still waiting for clear evidence of an economic turnaround," analysts at Capital Economics said in a note to clients. "We are retaining our forecast that benchmark rates and the reserve requirement ratio will both be cut once more before the end of the year, with a further move in both early in 2016." — Reuters

CAN EGYPT'S NEW CB CHIEF CALM CURRENCY CRISIS?

CHALLENGE TO BALANCE POUND PRESSURE, PRICES, BLACK MARKET

CAIRO: When Egyptian central bank governor Hesham Ramez quit, phones began ringing as bankers congratulated each other on the departure of a man they say refused to change course even as Egypt careered from currency crisis toward trade crisis. Fresh blood at the top has raised hopes of impending change to a monetary policy that has failed to stabilize the pound, has angered importers and become personally associated with Ramez, whose currency controls have starved some businesses of dollars.

His named successor, Tarek Amer, who begins his four-year term on Nov. 27, is seen as a dynamic and collaborative manager credited with transforming the fortunes of Egypt's largest bank.

Both bankers and importers have welcomed President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi's announcement; they are more comfortable with Amer's approachable style and say his arrival gives the central bank an opportunity to row back on existing policies without losing credibility. "We were not going in the right direction and we are in a critical situation that requires out-of-the-box thinking," a banker at the treasury desk of an Egyptian bank said.

"There is optimism in the market that Amer will reverse some of the controversial policies that Hesham Ramez took." Ramez took the helm at the central bank in February 2013, when the Muslim Brotherhood-led government was struggling to stabilise an economy hit by political turbulence in the wake of the 2011 uprising that swept Hosni Mubarak from power.

Foreign reserves at the time were \$13.6 billion, less than half their pre-uprising level and not enough to cover three months worth of Egypt's import needs. The military removed the Brotherhood from power three months after Ramez took office, quickly securing billions of dollars in aid from Gulf Arab states opposed to the Islamist movement.

The money came in the form of grants, loans, central bank deposits and even energy products which Egypt imports. Yet foreign reserves were only marginally higher at \$16.3 billion in September than they were when he took over.

That is because tourism and investment are down but also because the central bank has dedicated much money to maintaining the pound at what analysts say is an artificially strong band.

ROCKY PATH

The central bank faced increased pressure to devalue as the black market burgeoned, offering a lifeline to businesses unable to access enough dollars through official channels.

Ramez devalued the pound in January and February. He held the currency steady at 7.53 to the dollar until July when it was allowed to weaken again. The last round of devaluation came this month and the pound is now at 7.93 to the dollar.

But bankers have said the moves were too small, too late, too piecemeal and appeared to be made reluctantly, with one remarking that "no one knows what he's thinking. It's foggy".

Bankers say Ramez became fixated on crushing the black market even at the expense of an economy already trudging a rocky path back to economic growth.

Those who once supported his efforts to stabilise the pound began to reassess in February, when Ramez introduced banking controls including a \$50,000 a month cap on dollar deposits, which killed the black market as businesses no long had anywhere to deposit dollars obtained unofficially.

The restrictions also force banks to offer dollars for imports of strategic goods such as some food ahead of non-essentials, drawing the ire of importers of luxury goods.

Ramez has strongly defended an approach he says was aimed at putting what dollars there are in Egypt to the best use. "The businessmen refuse to admit that the country is facing a shortage of dollars and that it has to set priorities," he said in an interview published in *Ahram Hebdo* this month. "Foreign currency reserves are falling, and like every country that is going through a similar economic situation, Egypt has to set its priorities."

Egyptian exports fell 19 percent in the first nine months of 2015, with some manufacturers



Tarek Amer

saying currency restrictions made it difficult to open letters of credit to import some raw materials.

"Everybody has problems with the dollar and they personalize this problem with Hesham Ramez," said Tarek Abaza, executive director at Naeem Holding. "They keep saying Hesham Ramez is killing business, is trying to kill the black market so he killed the economy himself ... (The market) will have high hopes in Tarek Amer."

MANAGEMENT STYLE

Bankers say Amer, who worked at Citibank, Bank of America and was previously a deputy central bank governor, is a team player better suited to building strong ties with global institutions such as the International Monetary Fund.

Some say he is more liberal-minded than Ramez. At the very least, bankers expect a more collaborative relationship. "Amer always listened to the people he worked with, took in the opinions of experts. A very good listener who trusted his people, not the kind to just give orders," said a banker who worked with Amer at state-owned National Bank of Egypt (NBE).

NBE was in the doldrums when Amer took over in 2008, in the midst of the global financial crisis. Amer liquidated toxic assets, restructured the bank and raised the caliber of management, said a banker who worked there at the time. By the time he left in 2013, NBE was one of the most profitable banks in the region. Turning around

Egypt's monetary policy is a politically delicate balancing act that will not be so straightforward.

Amer has difficult choices to make. The central bank has faced pressure to devalue, especially since this year's rout in emerging markets currencies. But many oppose such a move, fearing it appeases business but stokes inflation in an import-reliant country where millions live hand to mouth.

That is a point Ramez has repeatedly made and for which he has support from the very top. When Sisi named Amer to take the job, he stressed the need to prioritise vulnerable Egyptians by controlling inflation and ensuring their access to food, medicine and fuel. Many people on the street would agree.

At the same time, calls by some businessmen to link the pound to a trade-weighted basket of currencies or to float the currency altogether carry their own considerable risks.

Bold changes may prove politically unpalatable in Egypt, where the government seeks stability and is loath to see a repeat of the street protests that helped unseat two presidents in three years. "The fact that he wants a more liberal economic system in Egypt, which is exactly what Egypt needs to push economic growth to higher levels," said Angus Blair, head of Signet Institute, a Cairo-based economic think-tank.

"His predecessor ... was too cautious for what Egypt needs and I think Mr Amer will take the more difficult decisions that Egypt needs to instil private sector and investor confidence to boost investment." What fuelled Ramez's unpopularity in the banking sector was his interference in minute details including product pricing.

Bankers say he gave orders and but did not welcome feedback, sometimes lambasting senior bankers in front of their peers and creating an environment where experts were afraid to speak up. But others said that regardless of Amer's credentials, few know how he plans to handle the crisis. Monetary policy, they said, was complicated and bigger than one man.

"Anyone who takes Hesham Ramez's place, in a while, will start receiving the same criticisms," one banker said. — Reuters

OIL HEADS FOR ANOTHER WEEKLY FALL OVER GLUT

LONDON: Oil prices headed for a second week of declines yesterday as an unabating supply glut weighed even as China's latest interest rate cut raised hopes for stronger demand from the world's top energy consumer. Benchmark Brent crude oil fell 38 cents to \$47.70 a barrel by 1330 GMT, and was on course for a weekly decline of more than 5.5 percent.

US crude for December was down 88 cents at \$44.50 a barrel, on course for a near 6 percent weekly decline. The People's Bank of China (PBOC) cut its benchmark one-year lending rate for the sixth time since November by 25 basis points to 4.35 percent in its latest effort to boost the country's economy whose rapid growth stalled.

But the positive tone was offset by persistent concerns over a glut in global crude oil and refined product supplies which have battered the energy market for over a year.

"The rate cut does give some support to demand expectations so oil's gone a bit higher and it's a little bit positive for the moment," said Hans van Cleef, senior energy economist at ABN Amro in Amsterdam. "However as soon as supply data comes out, and people see we are in an over-supplied market, sentiment will come off."

US oil inventories climbed by a larger-than-

expected 8 million barrels to 476.6 million last week. Investors also awaited rig data yesterday for guidance on how US oil production has responded to recent price falls. A signal from European Central Bank President Mario Draghi on Thursday that new euro-zone initiatives could be unveiled as soon as December to stoke the economy initially added further tailwind to the demand outlook.

But a sharp drop of the euro against the dollar also meant that oil and other commodities would be more expensive for buyers in other currencies, potentially dampening demand. Jonathan Barratt, chief investment officer at Ayers Alliance, said markets had decided governments would not allow economies to falter.

"These expectations suggest more active economic development will force consumption to go up," Barratt added. European stock markets joined a global share surge that buoyed overall sentiment.

Adding further support to an outlook shaken in recent months by weaker growth in emerging economies including China, Japanese manufacturing expanded in October at what could be its fastest pace in 19 months, according to Markit/Nikkei Japan Flash Manufacturing PMI data. — Reuters



ATHENS: Greek prime minister Alexis Tsipras (right) welcomes French President Francois Hollande prior to their talks at Tsipras' office in Athens yesterday. — AFP

WHY AFRICA SHOULD LOOK INCREASINGLY INWARDS TO RAISE CAPITAL FOR INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

THE SUEZ CANAL EXPANSION PROJECT

CAIRO: Egypt recently celebrated the opening of the newly expanded Suez Canal, a vital waterway for global trade and a symbol of national pride. The expansion project is one of the most significant engineering undertakings conducted on the Suez Canal since it opened in 1869. The expansion means that much larger ships will be able to traverse the canal both ways, eventually leading to a doubling in the number of ships transiting the waterway by 2023. The main beneficiary here is the Egyptian economy, which depends on the canal for almost 10 percent of all state revenues.

More remarkable than the actual engineering, however, is that almost all of the \$8.2 billion raised for the project was financed from private internal sources - and at a time when the country is only slowly getting back on its feet following an extended period of political instability.

There are lessons to be drawn from this and other major infrastructural projects on the African continent, such as the \$4.1 billion Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam, set to be the largest hydroelectric dam in Africa upon completion and the Addis Ababa light-rail project - two developments in Ethiopia that were completely self-financed.

Indeed, African countries have a much greater capacity to raise internal capital than what is generally perceived. This capacity is advantageous to the economic prosperity of the continent and thus, more countries must increasingly maximise this potential.

There are several reasons why internal borrowing must be the method of choice for future projects. First, it's significantly cheaper than external borrowing, as most of the borrowing takes place in the local currency. This significantly reduces the currency risk as the loans aren't fully exposed to changes in the exchange rates of international hard currencies, which can make borrowing expensive despite low hard-currency interest rates. Take the case of Uganda, for example. Since the beginning of the year, the Uganda shilling has lost about 27 percent of its value against the US dollar. If the government had taken out a loan at the beginning of the year, not only would Uganda have to pay back the interest,

but it would also have to take into account the value loss of the shilling versus the dollar because the country would have to purchase dollars to pay back the loan.

TRADING PARTNERS

In addition, the past few months have been a real eye opener into the issues that occur when there is an unexpected loss of appetite from the continent's biggest trading partners. If we look solely at currencies, a shocking combination of a spike in US interest rates along with China's surprise yuan devaluation has sent shock waves through African economies. China also rocked the boat when oil prices fell, resulting in a noticeably slacked level of demand. Together, these events have really brought home the fact that Africans need to evermore look for and leverage inward funding.

If Africa strives to put itself first through greater self-funding, it should also increase the number of megaprojects that make sense for Africa. Inter-regional projects that connect African countries such as the long-awaited Lagos-Abidjan highway should be high on the priority list. In this way, improving African infrastructure will not overly concentrate on developing areas to get goods to and from Africa, but it will also highly value connecting Africa internally.

Second, internal borrowing is a much faster and easier way to raise and collect cash. For example, it took just 10 days to raise the \$8.2 billion financing needed for the Suez Canal expansion project, a noteworthy achievement in itself. Most large international loans are packaged as complex financial products that require the participation of multiple lending organisations. They also contain pay-back guarantees as well as a host of legal requirements, all of which can take years to put together and lead to project delays or - even worse - the failure to complete the project altogether.

TRANSPARENCY

Third, internal borrowing promotes efficiency and transparency. The Suez expansion project was originally scheduled to be executed over three years, but in the end it was

delivered in just one year. This suggests that when funds are raised internally, all the stakeholders involved - especially the project implementers - feel a lot more accountable because the money comes from the country's citizens and not a foreign source like an international lending institution, whose interests in such a project can often be purely economic rather than developmental. Furthermore, internal funding also forces the local government to proceed faster with the project: after all, local investors are also voters who expect government officials to deliver on their promises. In addition, once successfully completed, such projects can be used as proof of concept, generating the much-needed confidence to fund similar undertakings or complimentary infrastructure. This is the case with the Suez expansion, where the next phase of the plan, which involves development of a 76,000 square kilometer industrial zone and logistics hub, is almost ready to commence. Mashreq, one of Qalaa Holdings' companies in the energy sector, will be participating in the construction of the hub by building the first tank terminal and integrated logistics facility of its kind in the region, which will provide much-needed fuel-bunkering services for ships transiting the Suez Canal, thereby helping to facilitate global trade and maximise usage of the waterway.

Of course, internally raised funds for infrastructural development in Africa will never replace the need for external financing, and not all internal financing can be raised as quickly and easily as the Suez Canal project. The canal is a fundamental symbol of Egypt's national identity. Thus, it carries a deep resonance with the population which translated into the size of the fund and the speed in which it was raised. However, not all projects are cut from the same cloth, and it is imperative that governments and project developers maintain good relationships with international donors, for the instances in which a multi-national funding approach is best suited.

When it comes to megaprojects, the available financing has to be sustainable and affordable for the whole project lifecycle, and there are a vast number of large-scale projects which require levels of funding that cannot



Ghada Hamouda

currently be found on the continent. For example, Egypt's second-largest national project, the Egyptian Refinery Company, is a \$3.7 billion project with financing from a number of sources across different geographies.

What Africa can do, however, is to reduce the burden of heavy external debt and protect itself from exchange rate fluctuations, which are having a negative effect on the continent's economies due to them being far too import oriented.

But in order for this to become a reality, governments across the continent need to change their policies regarding the use of bonds as a short-term finance tool and instead begin floating specific, long-term, infrastructure-related bonds which they can market to citizens at home and abroad as well as those of other African countries. Egypt and Ethiopia have shown the way in this regard. Now it is time for the rest of the continent to follow suit.

AIRLINES TRY TO WIN PASSENGERS' HEARTS BY KEEPING THEM INFORMED

HAMBURG: Airlines want to keep their passengers better informed from the moment they leave home, going beyond simple flight delay information to try to ease travel stresses and ensure customer loyalty. The industry must offer a more seamless journey for travellers, especially with the number of people flying expected to double from an annual level of 3.5 billion in 20 years, delegates at this week's World Passenger Symposium in Hamburg said.

While travelling can never be entirely stress-free, improving the

flow of information and providing automatic rebooking could help ease frustrations when delays do occur.

Giving passengers information on everything from security and immigration waiting times to public transport delays or traffic jams could also help airlines to retain customers in a highly competitive market. Philippe Der Arslanian, vice president digital and merchandising at travel technology company Amadeus IT, said happier passengers would be more open to making additional purchases while travelling.

"Upsell, don't upset," he told the conference. Airlines should also communicate more information on delays or route changes so that services such as car hire and hotels can be rebooked automatically, without the passenger having to fret, said Tony Tyler, director general of the International Air Transport Association (IATA).

In an example of an effort to make journeys easier, Lufthansa yesterday said it was teaming up with Postbus to sell tickets for bus routes to Munich airport as part of the flight booking.

If the bus is delayed, then passengers who booked with Lufthansa will be automatically booked on to the next flight. Delegates also expressed hope that technology will facilitate smoother, faster journeys through airports. For example, if bags could be scanned more efficiently, that would avoid the need for people to unpack and then repack their hand luggage during security checks.

"It's about things happening smoothly without interrupting the flow... where everything gets out of the way of the customer," Tyler told journalists. — Reuters

S KOREA ECONOMY REBOUNDS AFTER MERS OUTBREAK

SEOUL: A rebound in consumer spending following the end of a national health scare over an outbreak of the MERS virus saw South Korea's economic growth accelerate to a five-year high in the third quarter. According to preliminary data provided by the central Bank of Korea (BOK) yesterday, Asia's fourth-largest economy expanded by 1.2 percent in the July-September period. It was the fastest on-quarter growth since the second quarter of 2010, and up from just 0.3 percent in the April-June period. The central bank said consumers had ventured back into shopping malls as the threat posed by a serious outbreak of Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) had receded.

Thirty-six people died in the outbreak, during which local businesses including shopping malls, restaurants and cinemas reported a sharp drop in sales as people shunned public venues with large

crowds. The tourism industry was hit particularly hard, with the number of foreign visitors plunging by up to 60 percent.

Private-sector consumption rose 1.1 percent in the third quarter from a contraction in the previous period, Friday's statement showed, while construction investment gained 4.5 percent as the property market boomed. Despite the uptick in growth, the economy remains vulnerable to a lengthening slump in exports, which account for about half of South Korea's gross domestic product. Earlier this month, the BOK cut its annual economic growth forecast for the fourth time this year and left interest rates at a record low, with bank governor Lee Ju-Yeol warning that "uncertainties surrounding the path to recovery remain high". The bank shaved its economic growth forecast for this year to 2.7 percent, from the 2.8 percent it had predicted back in July. — AFP



SEOUL: Tourists visit the Gyeongbok Palace, one of South Korea's well-known landmarks, in Seoul yesterday. South Korea's economy expanded 2.6 percent in the July-September quarter from a year ago, the fastest clip in three quarters, the Bank of Korea said yesterday. — AP



KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysian Prime Minister and Finance Minister Najib Razak, right, stands with Deputy Prime Minister Ahmad Zahid Hamidi before he unveils the Malaysia's 2016 budget at Parliament House in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. — AP

MALAYSIA FORECASTS SLOWER GROWTH, SPELLS OUT STIMULUS

RAZAK OFFERS ENHANCES HANDOUTS TO THE POOR

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia's government yesterday forecast slower growth in 2016 and announced measures to spur demand in an economy bedeviled by slumping oil prices and corruption allegations aimed at the prime minister. Prime Minister Najib Razak offered increased handouts to the poor, tax breaks, stepped-up investment, and accelerated public infrastructure projects to help stimulate the economy and ease living costs.

Hitting back at critics of his leadership, Najib declared that Malaysia was "not a failed state or bankrupt nation", as he presented the country's 2016 budget in parliament yesterday.

He forecast economic growth of 4.0 to 5.0 percent in 2016, down from an expected 4.5-5.5 percent this year. Although growth remains relatively strong — 4.9 percent in the second quarter-global economic uncertainty and depressed oil prices have clouded the future. The uncertainty has caused the ringgit to plummet, making it the worst-performing

Asian currency this year. "In reality, Malaysia is not a failed or bankrupt nation, but one which is stable with strong economic fundamentals and remains competitive," Najib said. Najib also defended an unpopular consumption tax introduced earlier this year, which he said had helped cushion a reduction in government revenue caused by slower oil-related earnings.

"Overall, this is a budget that is designed to show that the government is keen to be seen to be helping the poor and the neglected, perhaps driven at least in part by political considerations," said OCBC Bank economist Wellian Wiranto. The economy has also been hit by the uncertainty posed by a huge financial scandal implicating Najib, which has rocked his long-ruling party.

Critics have for months demanded he explain allegations of massive sums missing from state-owned company 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB), and the revelation that nearly \$700 million in mysterious

deposits were made to his personal bank accounts.

Najib and 1MDB have fiercely denied any wrongdoing. After Najib's budget speech, opposition MPs held up small placards in parliament with the words, "Where is the 2.6 billion ringgit?" in Malay, referring to the alleged amount involved in the scandal.

Rafizi Ramli, vice president of the opposition People's Justice Party criticised Najib for not addressing the scandal. "The biggest question of the economy is the confidence in the leadership of the country," he was quoted as saying by The Malaysian Insider news website.

"You can work out whatever numbers you want for next year... but, without credible leadership, the economy is going to tumble." Malaysia's opposition leader on Thursday had submitted a motion for a parliamentary vote of no confidence in Najib, but it is unexpected to make headway due to the sway that Najib's powerful ruling coalition holds over parliament. — AFP

GOLD RALLIES ON CHINA RATE CUT, FED DOUBTS WEIGH

LONDON: Gold rallied yesterday after China eased monetary policy for the sixth time in a year to shore up economic growth but renewed expectations of a US rate rise this year kept a lid on the market. Spot gold rose 1.1 percent to \$1,178.01 an ounce by 1225 GMT, regaining some of the losses of the previous session when it fell as low as \$1,162.50, its weakest since Oct. 13.

"It's positive for global growth, for inflation and, thereby, for the gold price," said Jens Pedersen, metals analyst at Danske Bank. The Chinese rate cut put gold on course for a third straight week of gains. But China's move also raised doubts about when the United States will tighten its own monetary policy. Gold has fallen to 5-1/2-year lows in recent months on expectations the US central bank will raise rates this year, potentially lifting the opportunity cost of holding non-yielding bullion.

Concerns over the health of the global economy have recently pushed back expectations into 2016, helping lift gold off its lows. But further stimulus in China, coupled with upbeat US data, could increase the likelihood of a December rate rise. "The China cut removes some of the pressure on major central banks to deliver further easing or postpone rate hikes," Pedersen said. "Focus is on the Fed next week. If they keep their more hawkish tone ... we could see the move go in reverse." Investors were also watching the dollar on Friday ahead of US manufacturing PMI numbers for October. The data is expected to show a slight dip from the previous month. "That's the first manufacturing PMI for any major economy that we're going to see for October," said Tom Kendall, precious metals strategist at ICBC Standard Bank. "So it certainly has the potential to affect the dollar and the gold market if the number misses expectations." — Reuters

TATA STEEL, BRITAIN OFFER MORE AID TO STEEL TOWN

LONDON: Tata Steel will offer 3 million pounds (\$4.62 million), to be matched by government, for job creation in Britain's Scunthorpe where its steel plant is to restructure, the two said in a joint statement. Tata Steel, Britain's biggest steelmaker, may cut about 1,200 jobs as part of plans to restructure there. "Tata Steel's regeneration arm UK Steel Enterprise has pledged 3 million pounds to support job creation in Scunthorpe, on top of 10 million pounds it has already earmarked to help regenerate UK steel communities over the next five years," the government and Tata Steel said.

Britain's largest trade union Unite said in a statement: "This is a woefully inadequate response from the government to support a town and industry which is being rocked by job losses".

The steel industry's largest union, Community, said the action was premature. "There is still a consultation process to go through," it said in a statement. The crisis in Britain's steel sector escalated further this week as Tata Steel blamed its decision to cut British jobs on a flood of cheap imports, particularly from China.

Workers yesterday held a protest in Oldbury in the West Midlands where steelmaker Caparo Industries, which employs about 250 people, this week went into administration.

They called for government action to save Britain's steel industry. This month alone, over 4,000 UK steel jobs have been lost or are now at risk, with the country's steelmakers and unions pinning much of the blame on China. China makes nearly half the world's 1.6 billion tons of steel. With growth slowing, it is expected to export a record 100 million tons of steel to world markets this year to help address its spare steelmaking capacity. — Reuters

THOMSON REUTERS PROFIT UP, REVENUES DOWN

NEW YORK: Financial information giant Thomson Reuters yesterday reported a jump in profits, helped by cost-cutting even as revenues slumped due to a strong dollar.

The company, which is known for its financial markets data, saw net profit rise 17 percent in the third quarter to \$293 million.

Revenues, however, dipped 4.1 percent to \$2.98 billion, a figure weaker than expected. On a constant-currency basis however, revenues were up one percent. The New York-based company, which has cut a number of jobs since 2013, said its bottom line was helped by "efficiency initiatives, which were partially offset by the impact of foreign currency."

"I am pleased to report another quarter of steady progress," said James Smith, president and chief executive. "I am encouraged by the way we continue to execute against our key priorities, by the progress towards our financial targets and especially by the underlying performance of our subscription revenues."

The financial division, which provides terminals used by market professionals, saw a 6.8 percent drop in revenue to \$1.5 billion, with the drop mainly due to currency fluctuations. The unit is facing new competition since September from Symphony Communications, backed by major banks including Goldman Sachs, JPMorgan Chase, Societe Generale, Natixis and Google.

Reuters news agency, a competitor of AFP, saw revenues which dropped 6.3 percent to \$74 million, but which rose on a constant-currency basis. — AFP

P&G STRUGGLES TO LIFT SALES AS IT REFOCUS ON CORE

CINCINNATI: Procter & Gamble, which is attempting to refocus on core brands and regain its standing as a top competitor, struggled to boost sales in its first quarter. Even stripping out the effects of the strong dollar, which is weighing on all multinationals, organic sales declined 1 percent. Quarterly revenue for the company that makes products such as Tide, Pampers and Charmin declined to \$16.53 billion from \$18.77 billion. That's short of the \$17 billion that analyst had projected, according to a poll by Zacks Investment Research.

Procter & Gamble Co. has been cutting costs and slimming down the number of items it sells, focusing instead on 10 categories of goods and about 65 brands where it is strongest.

But that is proving to be a painful process. Organic sales, which are closely watched by investors, declined in three of the company's five segments, and they were flat in the remaining two.

"Top-line results were soft, as expected, given significant foreign exchange impacts, our deliberate choices to exit unprofitable businesses and the early stage of the improvement plans we're implementing in our largest categories and markets," said CEO A.G. Lafley. "We continue to make strong progress on productivity savings, which will fuel smart investments in top-line growth. We expect second quarter organic sales growth to be positive and to further strengthen in the back half as we invest to build awareness and trial of our consumer-preferred products and brands."

For the three months ended Sept. 30, the company earned \$2.6 billion, or 91 cents per share. A year earlier it earned \$1.99 billion, or 69 cents per share. Excluding one-time gains and costs, earnings were 98 cents per share, 4 cents better analyst projections. Procter & Gamble now expects fiscal 2015 earnings of \$3.76 per share. Its previous outlook was for earnings of \$4.02 per share. The Cincinnati company said that its planned exit from several beauty categories impacted the guidance. The company said increased volatility in market growth and foreign exchange rates has made earnings harder to forecast. Procter & Gamble's stock, however, rose \$1.26 to \$74.85 in early trading.

This story has been corrected to remove reference to the company's outlook for the year. The figure published by Procter & Gamble was a revised 2015 fiscal year figure for purposes of comparison as it exits some operations. — AP



CINCINNATI: Signage outside Procter & Gamble corporate headquarters in downtown Cincinnati. Procter & Gamble reported quarterly financial results yesterday. — AP



TOKYO: A businessman passes before a share prices board in Tokyo yesterday. Japan's share prices rose 389.43 points to close at 18,825.30 points at the Tokyo Stock Exchange, closing at their highest level in almost two months on dovish comments from the European Central Bank and upbeat US corporate earnings. —AFP

BOJ TO CUT PRICE FORECAST FOR NEXT FY ONLY SLIGHTLY

GROWTH OUTLOOK REMAINS INTACT: REPORT

TOKYO: The Bank of Japan will cut its growth and inflation outlook for this fiscal year at a rate review next week but only slightly tweak its projections for next year, sources said, possibly tempering expectations that the central bank will soon ease monetary policy further.

By not straying far from its current projections for next year, the BOJ can maintain that it is still broadly on course to meet its inflation goal of 2 percent next year without needing to step up its massive asset purchase program, people with direct knowledge of the matter told Reuters.

Critics say the program has been only marginally effective and distorts the bond market, and the BOJ board itself has not been unreservedly behind it.

Finance Minister Taro Aso also expressed doubt yesterday further monetary stimulus would help achieve the inflation target. As Japan flirts with recession, hit by weak exports, the BOJ is preparing to cut its core consumer inflation forecast for the fiscal year that began in April to below 0.5 percent in a semi-annual report due out on Oct. 30, the sources said. It forecast inflation of 0.7 percent three months ago. But the bank, which is trying to bring an end to decades of deflationary pressure, will only cut by 0.1-0.2 point its forecast that price rises will accelerate to 1.9 percent next fiscal year, keeping it near its target, they said.

"Overseas headwinds are largely behind the current economic slowdown," one source said. "That means the downward pressure on inflation will be milder than last

year," he said, when firms were reluctant to raise prices as household spending was restrained by a sales tax hike.

The sources said the forecasts had not been finalised and changes could be made ahead of the announcement. The projections are compiled by the central bank's nine policy board members.

ROSY OUTLOOK INTACT

Under Governor Haruhiko Kuroda, the BOJ buys the bulk of the government's bond issuance and other assets to boost base money by 80 trillion yen (\$663 billion) a year. He led the bank to expand stimulus last October.

But oil price declines have brought inflation to a halt, and weak global demand is heightening chances of another recession, keeping alive market expectations that the BOJ will ease again next week. Economists in a Reuters poll forecast inflation of just 1 percent next fiscal year, with six of the 13 predicting the BOJ will add to its stimulus next week.

The BOJ meeting comes after European Central Bank chief Mario Draghi signalled on Thursday his readiness to deploy new stimulus measures to fend off the risk of deflation from falling commodity prices and weak emerging market demand.

BOJ officials have taken a more sanguine approach, arguing that resilience in private consumption and capital expenditure would offset some of the pain from weak demand for exports.

Many of them expect Japan to emerge

from the doldrums next year as the hit from China's slowdown ebbs. Inflation will also accelerate next year as the effect of energy price falls dissipate, they say, pointing to a growing number of companies that are raising prices of goods.

The BOJ is preparing to slash this fiscal year's forecast for economic growth to around 1 percent from the present 1.7 percent. But it will likely not substantially alter its forecast for 1.5 percent growth next fiscal year, the sources said. The final BOJ forecasts, which represent the median of the board members' projections, could be worse if some members offer bleaker assessments than expected now.

Kuroda has said he sees no immediate need to ease further, stressing that a tightening job market will lead to wage gains and boost consumption, helping Japan generate modest inflation.

Not all board members share Kuroda's optimism, with pessimists fretting that the global slowdown may drag on Japan's growth longer than expected. Some also worry about the strength of consumption. But many are wary of expanding the already massive stimulus programme, preferring to stand pat unless weak global demand hits corporate profits enough to discourage them from raising wages.

The BOJ releases a semi-annual report with long-term economic and price forecasts in April and October that serve as a basis of monetary policy decisions. It reviews these forecasts in January and July. — Reuters

US STOCKS RISE ON CHINA RATE CUT, TECH EARNINGS

NEW YORK: US stocks rose early yesterday after China cut benchmark interest rates and Microsoft and other technology giants reported strong earnings. About 45 minutes into trade, the Dow Jones Industrial Average stood at 17,612.23, up 123.07 points (0.70 percent). The broad-based S&P 500 rose 18.51 (0.90 percent) to 2,071.02, while the tech-rich Nasdaq Composite Index jumped 94.07 (1.91 percent) to 5,014.12.

The People's Bank of China announced it was reducing lending and deposit interest rates by 0.25 percentage point each and its reserve requirement ratio by 0.50 percentage point in a bid to boost economic growth. Microsoft surged 11.2 percent after reporting earnings for the quarter ending September 30 of \$4.6 billion, up two percent and above expectations.

Google parent Alphabet soared 8.8 percent after it reported a 45 percent jump in profit to \$3.98 billion on revenue that was up 13 percent to \$18.67 billion in the third quarter as it capitalizes on hot trends in mobile search and streaming video.

Amazon gained 6.5 percent following a surprise third-quarter profit of \$79 million on a 23 percent year-on-year gain in total sales to \$25.4 billion. Analysts had forecast a quarterly loss. The tech earnings were "really good," adding to the momentum from the China rate hike, said Briefing.com analyst Patrick O'Hare.

"Frankly, there is a perfect mix today for risk-on behavior," O'Hare said. Tech shares were broadly stronger, including Apple (+2.1 percent), Facebook (+0.9 percent), Netflix (+1.3 percent) and Yahoo (+3.6 per-



NEW YORK: Specialist Mark Fitzgerald (right) works at the post on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange that trades Pandora yesterday. — AP

cent). Dow member Procter & Gamble rose 3.0 percent after it reported earnings from continuing operations that translated into 98 cents per share, three cents better than analyst expectations. Pandora Media plummeted 33.9 percent as it reported a third-quarter net loss of \$85.9 million. RBC Capital Markets downgraded the Internet radio company, citing increased competition from Apple and Spotify.

Bond prices fell. The yield on the 10-year US Treasury rose to 2.08 percent from 2.02 percent Thursday, while the 30-year advanced to 2.91 percent from 2.86

percent. Bond prices and yields move inversely.

European stocks rally

European stock markets rallied yesterday on expectations of further economic stimulus for the euro-zone and China's decision to slash interest rates in the world's second-biggest economy. The euro-zone's main stock markets in Frankfurt and Paris rose briefly by three percent in early afternoon trades before dipping back slightly by mid-afternoon amid hints of new economic stimulus from

the European Central Bank.

The blue-chip DAX 30 index was up 2.76 percent at 10,781.1 points while the CAC 40 adding 2.55 percent to 4,924.59 points, also buoyed by a key business survey showing eurozone economic activity accelerated in October, in one of the best performances in four years.

London's benchmark FTSE 100 index meanwhile won 1.29 percent to stand at 6,458.72 points. Market sentiment was also boosted by news that the People's Bank of China was trimming interest rates by 0.25 percentage points and its reserve requirement ratio by 0.50 percentage points.

The PBoC also abolished its official cap on interest rates for savers as Beijing seeks to address slowing growth. FXTM Research Analyst Lukman Otunuga described the Chinese move as a shock that "not only further fuels the mounting concerns about the economic deceleration in the world's second largest economy but raises questions about its Q3 GDP of 6.9 percent, and shows how the PBoC is willing to do all it can to ensure that the 7 percent end of year growth target is reached."

On the European stimulus front, ECB chief Mario Draghi had Thursday hinted at further stimulus measures, saying the central bank would reassess its monetary policy at its next meeting in December. US stocks were solidly higher on opening Friday as Microsoft and other technology giants reported strong earnings. Five minutes into trade, the Dow Jones Industrial Average stood at 17,614.00, up 0.71 percent. — Agencies

EURO-ZONE BUSINESS GROWS, BUT COMPANIES CUT PRICES

PMI POINTS TO Q4 GDP GROWTH OF 0.4%: MARKIT

LONDON: Business activity picked up more than expected in the euro-zone in October, buoyed by Germany and France, but with no sign of healthy price increases. Survey data released yesterday should be welcomed by the European Central Bank, coming more than six months after it embarked on a trillion-euro quantitative easing program to try to boost growth in the bloc.

What will disappoint policymakers, whoever, was the way companies cut prices again, after holding them steady in September and increasing them for the first time in more than three years during August. The money-printing program is also designed to lift inflation.

"The survey suggests that the euro-zone recovery's modest pace continued into (the current quarter). But growth is still too slow to generate inflation and adds further support to our view that the ECB will increase the pace of its monthly asset purchases," said Jessica Hinds at Capital Economics.

Consumer prices fell in the euro-zone in September, coming in at minus 0.1 percent.

The ECB, which wants to see inflation just below 2 percent, left monetary policy unchanged at its meeting on

Thursday but said in December it would review what more it could do to tackle the threat of weak prices and growth. Inflation is seen staying barely above zero this year and still missing the bank's target for the next two years, an ECB survey showed yesterday.

The prospect of another big hit of stimulus pushed world stocks to a two-month high and the euro to a two-month low yesterday.

FLASH'S ROCKET

Markit's euro-zone Composite Flash Purchasing Managers' Index, based on surveys of thousands of companies and a good guide to growth, came in at 54.0 this month, up from September's 53.6 and above even the most optimistic forecast in a Reuters poll, which predicted a dip to 53.4.

The index has been above the 50 mark that separates growth from contraction since July 2013 and Markit said the survey pointed to fourth quarter economic growth of 0.4 percent, in line with a Reuters poll last week. Germany's private sector grew for a 30th month running in October, suggesting Europe's largest economy got a solid start to the fourth quarter despite concerns about the Volkswagen scan-

dal and a slowdown in China.

Activity among French firms accelerated, signifying weakness over the summer may have been a blip and that a recovery could be taking hold.

But some of that boost came from firms cutting prices again, with the euro zone composite output price index dipping back below break-even.

Still, the discounting helped the overall services PMI jump to 54.2 from 53.7, confounding expectations in a Reuters poll for a fall to 53.5. A sister survey covering manufacturers held steady at September's 52.0, also beating the median forecast. A factory output index, which feeds into the composite PMI, dipped to 53.3 from 53.4 but manufacturers appeared to benefit from a weaker euro - it has weakened by 7 percent this year - as the new export orders index rose to a four-month high of 52.6.

"Since the survey indicates that private sector prices declined in October, the upbeat nature of this PMI will unlikely make Mario Draghi change his mind about possible December action," said Bert Colijn at ING. "Within the new ECB strategy of 'work and assess', this will unlikely be assessed as a game changer." — Reuters



BERLIN: German Chancellor Angela Merkel (left) and Ukrainian Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk shake hands after a news conference at the chancellery in Berlin yesterday. — AP

MERKEL URGES KIEV TO PRESS ON WITH PAINFUL REFORMS

BERLIN: German Chancellor Angela Merkel yesterday urged Ukraine to press on with painful reforms, as Kiev battles to haul the economy out of recession. "An essential condition to enlarging the economic relations (between Germany and Ukraine) is that the Ukrainian government must remain on its road of reforms," she said at an economic conference in Berlin also attended by Ukraine's Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk.

Merkel said Kiev was already on "this courageous road", and that she was aware of "how difficult it is".

Battered by a separatist war in its eastern industrial heartland since April last year, Ukraine's economy is expected to contract a huge 12 percent in 2015, according to the World Bank.

The country has secured a bailout worth \$17.5 billion over four years from the International Monetary Fund, but only in exchange for drastic measures by the government to restore public finances.

Harsh austerity by the government, including sharp hikes in utility bills and caps on pensions, coupled with the unresolved conflict in the east, have sent public morale and the government's popularity to a low. Opinion poll ratings for Yatsenyuk's party were as low as just two percent yesterday, two days before the country is due to hold regional elections in areas under its control. — AFP

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2015

Kuwait Times
THE FIRST DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF

Weekender

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*Promoting James Bond
from 'Dr No' to 'Spectre'*

SEE PAGE 25



In this file photo, Rachell Salazar, left, stands with her mother Leticia at a relative's grave site during the Day of the Dead celebration at the Hollywood Forever Cemetery in Los Angeles. —AP

Keith Richards joins all-star gathering at Apollo Theater

From Keith Richards saluting vocalist Merry Clayton of "Gimme Shelter" fame to an all-star gathering of jazz musicians paying tribute to saxophonist Sonny Rollins, the stage of the Apollo Theater was a showcase for friends stepping up on behalf of honored and absent guests. The 85-year-old Rollins spoke, but did not play, Thursday night as he received a lifetime achievement prize from the Jazz Foundation of America, which held its 14th annual benefit gala "A Great Night in Harlem."

Clayton, one of the top backup singers of the 1960s and '70s, appeared only by video as she recovers from a 2014 auto accident that cost her both her legs. She was the first recipient of the Clark & Gwen Terry Courage Award and in her taped remarks showed that she had lost none of her range and power, singing a few lines of the old Joe Cocker hit "You Are So Beautiful" and hitting high notes in easy and rising succession. The foundation provides a wide range of support for jazz musicians, from rent money to medical care.

The event began with actor-activist Danny Glover leading a tribute to civil rights leader Julian Bond, who died earlier this year.



File photo shows saxophonist Sonny Rollins plays in a concert in Tokyo. — AP photos

Glover called Bond a "freedom fighter" and inspiration for the "young black adults who give life" to the Black Lives Matter movement. For much of the night, the stage was filled to capacity with jazz, rock and rhythm and blues artists. Ravi Coltrane, Donald Fagen and Jack DeJohnette were among the many performers playing some of Rollins' best known work, including a relaxed and joyous run-through of "Paul's Pal," a fierce update of the Rollins-John Coltrane duet "Tenor Madness" and the

Rollins standard "St. Thomas."

Rollins was praised by the son of his old friend, pianist and composer Thelonious Monk. TS Monk remembered the saxophonist as one of many famous musicians he knew as a child and called Rollins "one of the absolute kings of melody." Rollins appeared briefly on stage, walking uneasily and with a cane, but full of spirit as audience members shouted "Sonny!" and he chanted a litany of heroes from Coltrane to Charlie Parker and praised them as "the people that



File photo shows Keith Richards of the Rolling Stones performs at Le Festival d'été de Québec in Québec City.

set our world in motion with the music." Rollins and Clayton each have a history with Richards, Thursday's final act. Rollins' wistful solo was featured on the Rolling Stones ballad "Waiting On a Friend" while Clayton's ringing, ominous shouts of "Rape! Murder!" on "Gimme Shelter" remain one of rock n' roll's all-time guest shots.

Richards' two-song set of "Gimme Shelter" and his personal anthem "Happy" was a mini-version of some of his solo concerts, featuring singer Sarah Dash, Steve Jordan

on drums and Waddy Wachtel on guitar. With neither Clayton nor Mick Jagger in house, Richards took turns on vocals for "Gimme Shelter" with Dash and longtime Stones backup singers Bernard Fowler and Lisa Fischer.

"Great room," Richards, who was light on his feet in dark pants and sneakers, said with a grin between songs. "And (with) all the other cats that are under this roof at the moment you probably have just about the creme de la creme." A raspy cackle. "And all that jazz." —AP



Paul McCartney performs at First Niagara Center, Thursday, Oct 22, 2015 in Buffalo, NY. — AP

Paul McCartney delivers private show to Philly trucking gala

"Baby you can drive my truck." Yeah, you heard right. Paul McCartney gave a private performance in Philadelphia last weekend during the American Trucking Association's Management Conference and Exhibition. McCartney changed the lyrics to the Beatles song "Drive My Car" to play to the crowd of about 1,000, according to the industry newspaper, Transport Topics. The paper says McCartney played the two-hour show at a customer appreciation dinner given by Freightliner Trucks on Sunday.

McCartney's wife, Nancy Shevell, is an executive at Elizabeth, New Jersey-based New England Motor Freight, a trucking firm owned by her father. McCartney made other trucking references throughout the show, but his song list was based mostly on his more than 50-year career with the Beatles and solo career. — AP

Music Review: Retro rock at its best from the Dead Weather

It's easy to identify '70s antecedents with the Dead Weather, and we're not talking about the Grateful Dead or Weather Report. "Dodge and Burn" is full of Led Zeppelin guitar work by Dean Fertita, but the riff references also range from Television ("Buzzkill(er)") to ELP ("Lose the Right"). And on its third album, the supergroup reaches back even farther for inspiration. Alison Mosshart's vocals marinate in more reverb than early Elvis, and Jack White's murder tale "Three Dollar Hat" sounds like an 80-year-old track from Harry Smith's folk anthology,

minus the gramophone crackle.

In this case, retro rocks. White produced, and his typically sparse arrangements give each note that much more punch, while his drumming provides plenty of propulsion. Mosshart sings about negative feedback, grinding her teeth and going back to bed. She dials down her delivery with lovely singing on the closing ballad "Impossible Winner," a testament to staying power. It's potential sports arena fodder, an odd prospect for a band that does best when it has the blues. — AP



This CD cover image released by Third Man Records shows "Dodge and Burn," the latest release by The Dead Weather. — AP

Australian pop-punksters 5 Seconds of Summer go global

Pop fluff or bona fide rockers? Australian pop-punk sensation 5 Seconds of Summer have gone from YouTube fame to a world tour, with a follow-up to their hit debut album out yesterday. The four young men from Sydney, who reject any comparison to the British boy band One Direction, say they are going for a darker, deeper sound in their new album "Sounds Good Feels Good." "There's a lot of people that have influenced us. Anyone from Queen, INXS, endless rock bands and classic rock," 21-year-old drummer Ashton Irwin, the oldest of the group, told AFP in an interview.

"That was something we really struggled with when we went into the studio because we want to sound like a lot of things," he said. Sporting skinny black jeans, black boots and messy hair, the band spoke about their dizzy-

ing rise, the mixed reviews they have received and the determination needed for a music career. "If you think you have something special and different that no one else can offer, which is what we thought we had, stick to it, and don't let anyone touch your baby," said 19-year-old guitarist and singer Luke Hemmings, explaining the group's success.

With their shiny, radio-friendly guitar-laden pop comparable to US punk acts Green Day and Blink-182, the band has sold 3.2 million copies of their eponymous debut album since they formed in 2011.

Their rise has been accompanied by critical acclaim—they were named "Best International Newcomer" by rock magazine Kerrang!, "New Artist of the Year" by the American Music Awards and have earned a number of MTV accolades. —AFP



The CD cover image released by Capitol Records shows "Sounds Good Feels Good," by 5 Seconds of Summer. — AP



Actor Morgan Freeman, center, is surrounded by his film crew and bodyguards as he visits the historical site of the Giza Pyramids, just outside Cairo, Egypt, yesterday. Freeman is in Egypt to work on a National Geographic documentary titled, 'The Story of God.' — AP

Ukrainians transform famed Lenin statue into Darth Vader

Just in time for the release of the latest "Star Wars" blockbuster, Ukrainians have transformed a statue of Lenin into one of Darth Vader, an oddly prominent figure in local politics. Soviet founder Lenin-long despised by most in non-separatist parts of Ukraine-fell victim to a law adopted in April that ordered the removal of all symbols and insignia reminding the country of its communist past. Darth Vader is also cast as the embodiment of evil in the George Lucas movies-a black-masked light sabre-wielding villain who is in permanent battle with the good Force.

But the Dark Lord of the Sith is a rather more popular figure in Ukraine, where Western culture is being embraced and the Soviet past erased from history a transition that outrages Russia. One masked villain tried joining last year's presidential race, being denied registration only after he refused to disclose his real name and identity papers. Later that year, Darth Vaders ran as candidates for mayors of Kiev and Odessa, the historic Black Sea port where the new statue was formally unveiled yesterday.

"Star Wars" characters such as the grunting hairy giant Chewbacca, the Jedi Master Yoda and the courageous Princess Amidala also tried their luck in November's parliamentary poll in full costume, all without success. Most of

these offbeat candidates represent the tiny Pirate Party of Ukraine one of more than 40 groups that have sprung up worldwide in defence of Internet freedoms and limits on copyright laws.

This Sunday, another Darth Vader will run for Odessa mayor again as the crisis-torn east European country holds local elections across Kiev-controlled lands. —AFP



People dressed as characters from 'Star Wars' film take part in an inauguration ceremony of a Darth Vader monument, formerly a statue of Soviet founder Lenin, in the southern Ukrainian city of Odessa. — AFP

Dylan does Sinatra his way on hallowed London stage

Had you seen Bob Dylan reinventing popular music on the stage of London's Royal Albert Hall in 1966, you would never have believed that nearly 50 years later he would be treading the same boards and crooning the songs of Frank Sinatra. But there he was on Wednesday night, skipping over his own formidable songbook in favour of lovelorn 1950's ballads made famous by the Chairman of the Board.

It could have been excruciating. But it was wonderful. Backed by his crack band, Dylan stood in the spotlight to sing "What'll I Do," "The Night we Called it a Day," "I'm a Fool to

Want You" and other standards featured on his latest album, "Shadows in the Night". A year ago, fans had greeted the news that Dylan was planning an album of songs made famous by Sinatra with some trepidation. Dylan himself explained when it was released in May that he was not recording a Sinatra tribute.

"I don't see myself as covering these songs in any way. They've been covered enough. Buried, as a matter of fact. What me and my band are basically doing is uncovering them. Lifting them out of the grave and bringing them into the light of day," he said at the time. "Shadows in the

Night" has been a critical and commercial success, only adding to Dylan's enigma at the age of 74. The Western Swing style of the band, anchored by bassist Tony Garnier and featuring ace guitarist Charlie Sexton, helped the ballads, shorn of elaborate string arrangements, to flow easily into Dylan's own songs such as "Duquesne Whistle" and "Spirit on the Water".

It had the feel of a Mid-Western country dance somewhere in time rather than a Manhattan night club. Sinatra recorded most of the songs while he was pining for Ava Gardner, who had dumped him for a Spanish bullfighter.

Dylan of course does not have the voice of Frank Sinatra. But then Sinatra never wrote a song like "Tangled Up in Blue", a Great American novel in verse. Dylan treated the audience to a free-wheeling version before heading off for the intermission.

As it happened, Dylan's voice, often derided as a croaky rasp, was strong and even tender on the ballads. Dressed in a gambler's suit, wide-brimmed hat and cowboy boots, he did not play guitar at all but stood at the microphone, like an old song and dance man, occasionally breaking into a little jig. —Reuters



Bob Dylan

Ifans, Skrein to star in Sci-Fi thriller 'Gateway 6'

Rhys Ifans and Ed Skrein are to star in science-fiction thriller "Gateway 6." Altitude Film Sales will handle worldwide sales and introduce the project to buyers at the American Film Market, which runs Nov 4-11 in Santa Monica. Malachi Smyth's screenplay topped the most recent Brit List, which is a compendium of stellar unproduced scripts by non-US writers, set up to complement the US Black List. Scripts that have made the Brit List in previous years include "The King's Speech," "My Week with Marilyn" and "The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel."



Rhys Ifans

The project is the feature debut of director Tanel Toom, whose short "The Confession" was nominated for an Academy Award in 2011. The movie "combines the solitary abandonment of 'Moon' with the claustrophobic atmosphere of 'Das Boot,' and the fight to survive instincts of 'Alien,'" according to Altitude. Set in the future, on a war-ravaged Earth, four soldiers man the last bastion Gateway 6 — an outpost in a sea-covered continent-awaiting a relief crew or the enemy, whichever comes first. But as the empty weeks turn to months, paranoia descends that tests relationships to breaking point. Especially with the arrival of a deserted boat-was it the help they'd been so anxiously waiting for, or something far more sinister?

Ifans, whose credits include "The Amazing Spider-Man" and "Notting Hill," is soon to be seen in Oliver Stone's "Snowden" and James Bobin's "Alice Through the Looking Glass." Skrein has been in "The Transporter Refueled" and "Kill Your Friends," and has just completed a major role as lead villain Ajax in "Deadpool," opposite Ryan Reynolds. "Gateway 6" is due to shoot in Estonia in spring 2016 and is produced by Ben Pullen of Sentinel Entertainment and Matthew James Wilkinson ("The Call Up") for Stigma Films, with Pippa Cross serving as executive producer. Ivo Felt, producer of the Oscar-nominated foreign language title, "Tangerines," will be co-producing.

Pullen said Toom and Smyth have "created a unique and scarily authentic glimpse into the future which allows for an intensely claustrophobic sci-fi thrill ride set against a vast sweeping canvas."

Mike Runagall, managing director of Altitude Film Sales, said, "Recalling classic 70s sci-fi, 'Gateway 6' is a smart and ambitious contained thriller set in a unique and fully realized world that is by turns, thrilling, surprising and emotional with a palpable sense of humanity at its core." Ifans is represented by 42 and UTA, and Ed Skrein is represented by 42 and CAA. Further casting will be announced before the AFM. — Reuters



"Back To The Future" Bartos Gryś, of Poland, photographs son Marty, named after the film's central character, Marty McFly, as he rides a mock hoverboard during Fillmore's movie celebration in Fillmore, Calif. — AP photos



"Back To The Future" fan, Gray Bright, of Santa Monica, Calif, rides down Fillmore's train tracks to experience a scene from the movie franchise during Fillmore's movie celebration.

'Back to the Future'

fans transform town into Hill Valley

For one day only, a picturesque town about 60 miles north of Los Angeles was transformed into Hill Valley, the fictional hometown of Marty McFly from the "Back to the Future" franchise. As part of the five-day "We're Going Back" fan event celebrating "Back to the Future" Day, the downtown streets of Fillmore, California, were blocked off from traffic as fans dressed as characters from the beloved sci-fi film series participated in hoverboard and DeLorean rides.

"Back to the Future" Day marks the date - Oct 21, 2015 - that the characters Marty McFly, Emmett "Doc" Brown and Jennifer Parker famously journeyed from 1985 to 2015 in the trilogy's second installment in 1989. "Back to the Future" to some people may just be a movie, but to me and everyone that's come here, it's a religious experience," said Brandon Hillock, who arrived dressed as a futuristic McFly. "When things are going really crappy, I can turn the movie on and instantly feel better."

Oliver and Terry Holler, owners of a DeLorean resembling the time-traveling vehicle from the trilogy, provided rides to fans who made a donation to the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research. However, they weren't transporting passengers to the past or future. Their DeLorean was retrofitted to ride back and forth on the train rails in the middle of town, similar to the vehicle's Wild West journey in "Back to the Future Part III."

Largest crowd

"This car has flown in airplanes, been shipped in boats and driven over 600,000 miles - and now she's a train car," said Terry. "It took the work of wonderful volunteers, craftsmen and mechanics who under-



stand what it takes to put train wheels on a car." Across the tracks, a sign welcoming visitors to Hill Valley was erected in the town's Central Park, while a beauty salon was made up to look like Roy's Record Store from the original film. An antique shop's window was filled with 1980s memorabilia, resembling Cafe '80s from the second installment. The band the Flux Capacitors performed on stage in front of city hall, which was festooned with a giant clock for the occasion. The original stunt team that coordinated the hoverboard chase sequence from "Back to the Future Part II" drew the largest crowd, allowing attendees who paid \$200 a ticket an opportunity to make like McFly and glide across the town's park on a hoverboard suspended from a crane. The actors who played nefarious Griff Tannen's gang members - Ricky Dean Logan, Jason Scott Lee and Darlene Vogel - were also on hand to pose for photographs, sign autographs and provide fans tips on riding a hoverboard for the first time. Vogel's advice was simple.

Film's mythology

"Don't fall off," said Vogel, who played Spike in "Part II." The actual Hill Valley town square set where the "Back to the Future" trilogy was filmed still exists on the Universal Studios lot. Several fans spent Wednesday touring that filming location as part of the "We're Going Back" event. The organizers selected Fillmore for Thursday's festivities because of its resemblance to the exterior town square set and proximity to Los Angeles. Other activities planned as part of the "We're Going Back" fan event include an "Enchantment Under the Sea" dance at the Hollywood United Methodist Church today and a

tomorrow screening of the original film in the parking lot of the Puente Hills Mall, where McFly famously blasted off in a DeLorean.

For many in attendance, their passion for "Back to the Future" won't waver just because the future is now the present, according to the film's mythology, anyway. "It's iconic," said Logan, who played Data in "Part II." "I have a 17-year-old daughter and a 9-year-old son now. They're fans and their friends are fans like it came out yesterday. I think it'll just keep going. I don't think it'll ever stop. We might be here in another 30 years, but I might be on a wheelchair hover board by that point." — AP

Coral Tinson, playing the part of Jennifer from "Back To The Future," pretends to be passed out in the famed DeLorean time machine.



In this image released by Starpix, Huey Lewis, from left, Michael J. Fox, Christopher Lloyd and Lea Thompson arrive at the "Back To The Future" 30th Anniversary celebration in New York.



"Back To The Future" fans, from right, Shannon Burckhard, Kathy Degoutrie and Markus Geiberger pose in front of posters during Fillmore's celebration of the movie franchise.



"Back To The Future" fans line up in front of downtown Fillmore's movie theater to watch a screening of the documentary film "Back In Time".



In this Apr 25, 1963 file photo, Sean Connery and Italian actress Daniela Bianchi are seen in Istanbul, Turkey. — AP



In this 1963 file photo, Scottish actor Sean Connery, left, actress Phyllis Newman and conductor Leonard Bernstein are shown at the US premiere of the James Bond movie "Dr No" in New York.

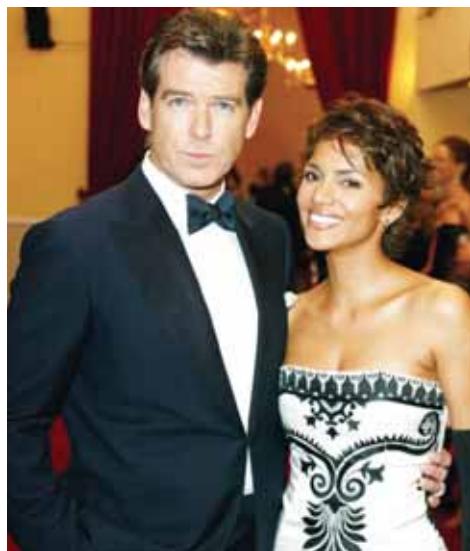
Promoting James Bond from 'Dr No' to 'Spectre'

A glitzy premiere is an inherent part of the whole Bond experience. And no doubt Monday's World Premiere of "Spectre," the 25th official James Bond film, at the Royal Albert Hall in London will deliver the expected goods: royalty, celebrities, adoring fans and a photographer or two. Just like many elements of the films themselves, the marketing of the Bond series follows a successful template. As one Bond film ends, the quest for details about the next one begins.

And those involved with the lucrative - and hugely expensive - franchise have no qualms in

walking the well-trodden path so "Spectre" can more than recoup its hefty outlays. The media blitz ahead of the premiere started in earnest Thursday with photo shoots and TV appearances involving the cast.

The buzz over Daniel Craig's fourth and potentially last outing as the British secret agent with the 007 moniker started almost as soon as the well-received "Skyfall" hit the screens back in 2012. Now, there's almost as much anticipation about who will eventually replace Craig than for "Spectre" itself, which has already garnered largely positive reviews following Wednesday's first showing to the press. First came the announcement of the name of the new Bond film, followed by various photo opportu-



In this Monday, Nov 18, 2002 file photo Pierce Brosnan poses for photograph with co-star Halle Berry at the World Premiere of the James Bond film "Die Another Day" at the Royal Albert Hall in London.



In this Monday, June 29, 1987 file photo, Princess Diana meets Timothy Dalton, who succeeded Roger Moore as James Bond at the charity premiere of "The Living Daylights" at London's Odeon Cinema.



In this Aug 1, 1972 file photo, Roger Moore poses for a photograph at the Dorchester Hotel in London, after the announcement that he would play James Bond in "Live and Let Die."



In this January 10, 1969 file photo, Sean Connery's replacement as James Bond, George Lazenby is pictured with British actress Diana Rigg.

In this Sunday, Nov 17, 1996 file photo, three of the actors who played James Bond, Timothy Dalton left, Roger Moore, center, and Pierce Brosnan, at a London cinema to celebrate the life of Albert R "Cubby" Broccoli, the American film producer behind seventeen Bond movies.

nities, carefully crafted trailers, as well as slick promotional activity from the film's partners such as Heineken, Omega and Sony.

The process ends with official premieres around the world. This is the third time that the Royal Albert Hall will host the World Premiere, following "Die Another Day" in 2002 and "Skyfall." Prince William, his wife Kate and brother Prince Harry are all expected to be in attendance. —AP



In this May 20, 1977 file photo, Roger Moore, alias British secret agent James Bond, is accompanied by co-star Barbara Bach as they arrive for the screening of "The Spy Who Loved Me" at the Cannes Film Festival on the French Riviera.



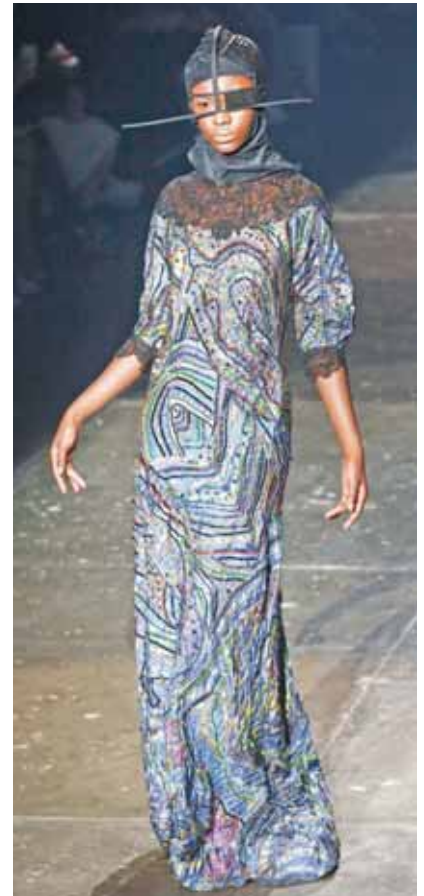
Christoph Waltz, from left to right, Monica Bellucci, Daniel Craig, Lea Seydoux and Naomie Harris, pose for photographers during the photo call for the latest Bond film, "Spectre," at an hotel in central London, Thursday, Oct 22, 2015.

Sao Paulo

Fashion Week



Models present creations by Lino Villaventura during the 2016 winter collection of the Sao Paulo Fashion Week in Sao Paulo, Brazil. — AP/AFP photos



Kendall Jenner sells clothes on eBay

Kendall Jenner is selling her old clothes on eBay to raise money for charity. The 19-year-old model opened the bidding last night on 30 glitzy pieces from her wardrobe and set the starting price on some pieces at just \$0.99. A portion of the money raised will be donated to the Children's Hospital Los Angeles and the brunette beauty took to Twitter to announce the start of sale, writing: "My new @ebay @auctioncause auctions supporting @ChildrensLA are live!"

Bidding ends on October 31 and Kendall's old Louboutins and a jacket from Brazilian brand Le Lis Blanc - which bidding starts from \$700 for - feature in her eBay collection as well as a custom made Edie Parker red box clutch emblazoned with her name.

Meanwhile, the 'Keeping Up With The Kardashians' star could be forgiven for making more room in her ever-expanding wardrobe. She opened the show for the launch of the highly anticipated affordable range from Balmain x HM collection in New York earlier this week and was joined on the runway by pals Gigi Hadid and Joan Smalls. —Bang Showbiz





Models present creations by Lino Villaventura during the 2016 winter collection of the Sao Paulo Fashion Week in Sao Paulo, Brazil. — AP/AFP photos



Models present creations by Lolitta.



Miss International contestants pose for group photos in the Shibuya fashion district of Tokyo yesterday. The Miss International beauty pageant 2015, with representatives from 70 countries and regions will be held in Tokyo on November 5. —AFP

Raf Simons quits Dior

Raf Simons is leaving Christian Dior. The designer - who has been at the French fashion house for three and a half years - revealed he is stepping down from his role in order to focus on 'other interests'. He said in a statement: 'It is after careful and long consideration that I have decided to leave my position as creative director of Christian Dior's women's collection. It is a decision based entirely and equally on my desire to focus on other interests in my life, including my own brand, and the passions that drive me outside my work.'

'Christian Dior is an extraordinary company, and it has been an immense privilege to write a few pages of this magnificent book. I want to thank Mr. Bernard Arnault for the trust he has put in me, giving me the incredible opportunity to work at this beautiful house surrounded by the most amazing team one could ever dream of. 'I have also had the chance over the last few years to benefit from the leadership of Sidney Toledano. His thoughtful, heartfelt and inspired management will also remain as one of the most important experiences of my professional career.'

WWD reports the departure is 'amicable' and chairman and CEO of LVMH Mo't Hennessy Louis Vuitton and Christian Dior SA Arnault, and Toledano, CEO of Christian Dior Couture, said they 'acknowledge Raf Simons' decision and very warmly thank him for his exceptional contribution to the house'. Simons, artistic director of women's haute couture, ready-to-wear and accessory collections, was previously creative director at Jil Sander from 2005-2011. — Bang Showbiz

13 museums named recipients of art conservation grants

Thirteen museums in seven countries have been named recipients of Bank of America grants for the conservation of artworks ranging from an Edouard Manet painting to a colossal ancient Chinese Buddha. The 2015 Art Conservation Project grants totaling more than \$1 million were announced Friday. The recipients include the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum in New York, the British Museum, the OCA Museum in Sao Paulo, Brazil, and the Museum of Islamic Art in Doha, Qatar.

The selected works are of cultural or historic significance of the particular country, important in the history of art, or an important holding at the institution, said Rena DeSisto, the bank's global arts and culture executive. The restoration process is a collaborative and interdisciplinary endeavor that involves curators, art historians, scholars and scientists.

In all, 105 artworks will be restored under the 2015 grants. Among them are Manet's "Woman in Evening Dress," a painting that's been on permanent view at the

Guggenheim since the 1960s. "We hope to remove a discolored varnish that is obscuring the brushwork and flattening the painting and really not presenting Manet in his best light," said Carol Stringari, the museum's deputy director and chief conservator. The varnish was applied by a previous restorer "in order to homogenize the whole work," she said, adding that there also appeared to be some other reworking "by another hand" of the garden and trellis background.

Stringari said it was hoped that the project also would help to more accurately date the painting, now ranging from 1877-1880, and identify the woman depicted in it. Those are "the scholarly pursuits we're doing in parallel to the research into the material and the potential treatment," she added. With the 2015 recipients, the 5-year-old Art Conservation Project has provided \$7 million in grants to museums in 28 countries for 85 projects.

Another expense

DeSisto called that "the tip of the iceberg." "There's so much conservation that needs to be done. ...

Conservation tends to be one of the things that get the least attention. We're hopeful that people begin to realize this is yet another expense that art organizations have and if they're not able to take care of the works they could be irrevocably lost."

On average, 70 nonprofit cultural institutions apply annually for the Art Conservation Project grants. Works conserved last year included the Magna Carta at the Royal Society of Antiquities in London and Henri Matisse's "The Swimming Pool" at the Museum of Modern Art in New York.

The other 2015 recipients are San Ildefonso College in Mexico City; Brooklyn Museum in New York; Heard Museum in Phoenix; Gibbs Museum of Art in Charleston, South Carolina; Harriet Beecher Stowe Center in Hartford, Connecticut; Museum of Fine Arts in Boston; Sakip Sabanci Museum in Istanbul; The University Art Museum at Tokyo University of the Arts; Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond.—AP



This undated photo provided by the Bank of America Art Conservation Project shows Edouard Manet's 'Woman in Evening Dress.'—AP photos



This undated photo provided by the Bank of America Art Conservation Project shows a colossal ancient marble, wood and iron Chinese Buddha in London's British Museum.

Artists bring 'outdoor living room' to New York

They set up chairs, tables and beds on the sidewalk and engage New Yorkers in chat: French performance artists have spent three weeks living and sleeping on Broadway. Laurent Boijeot, 34 and Sebastien Renaud, 33 — accompanied by photographer Clement Martin-started in Harlem and each day, pack up their encampment, move south, and set up home again. They live in the open air and chat with hundreds of New Yorkers, normally rushing by with heads buried in phones, but suddenly curious and glad to stop for an impromptu conversation. After spending a month on the street, the threesome will finish their New York adventure in Battery Park on Sunday.

They have been bowled over by the welcome. New Yorkers "quickly understand it's performance art, and some come down to thank us," says Boijeot. "'Welcome', 'thank you'-it's the first time I've heard that so much," says Renaud, drinking a cup of coffee out of a coconut at their simple, pine table. Police let them be, despite complaints from doormen who do not appreciate these nomads of art, each day hulking furniture on their backs and luggage in cardboard suitcases. New Yorkers have bombarded them with offers of showers, helped set out their tables and chairs and brought them pastries.

They spent several days in the rain-not a happy experience says Martin enjoyed an Indian summer and braved a cold snap. They have a bank of great

memories: an opera singer who came to sing them Carmen, an impromptu duet with a passing violinist, and what Renaud calls "artistic-philosophical discussions at three in the morning with police on what is art."

Next stop: Tokyo

New Yorkers "are not scared of others," says Boijeot. But they can be over-sharers. Conversations quickly turn personal-sometimes too personal. He tells of one man who confided the soap opera details of his life. So what's the point? "Art, to produce collective emotions," says Renaud, an architect by training. He says the table and modest pine chair mock social hierarchies, putting everyone on an equal footing.

"I think it's great," says yoga teacher Jennifer Landesman. "I think that humanity needs more connection and relationship, that there's so much digital media that takes us out of connecting in a human way." Boijeot and Renaud have done similar but shorter stays in European cities such as Venice, Dresden, Brussels and Zurich. Next month they head to Tokyo for a similar traversing of the city from November 20 to December 21. Beyond that, they hope to take the experience to Dakar and Latin America "where people use the street differently," said Renaud. "Some people ask us, 'Is it a reality show?' And I just answer them, 'It's not a show, it's better-it's just reality,'" said Boijeot.—AFP

FRENCH ARTIST BALTHUS



A woman visits the exhibition dedicated to the work of late French artist Balthus (1908-2001) at the Villa Medici in Rome yesterday. With a major monographic exhibition split between two exhibitions at Scuderie del Quirinale and French Academy Villa Medici Rome mark the fifteenth anniversary of the death of Balthasar Klossowski de Role, known as Balthus (1908-2001). —AFP photos



A man looks at a painting by late French artist Balthus (1908-2001).



A woman looks at a painting by late French artist Balthus (1908-2001).



In this 1985 photo provided by the Honolulu Museum of Art, part of a totem pole is on display at the museum in Honolulu.—AP photos



Totem pole carved by the Alaskan Tlingit Tribe is boxed up.

A stolen totem pole that went from the garden decor of two golden-age Hollywood actors to the basement of a Hawaii museum has been returned to Alaska tribal members. Screen legend John Barrymore was traveling along the Alaska coast by yacht and directed crew members to take the totem pole from an unoccupied village in 1931, said University of Alaska Anchorage professor Steve Langdon, who has long researched the object. They sawed it in three pieces.

Barrymore, star of "Grand Hotel" and grandfather of actress Drew Barrymore, displayed the pole in the garden of his California estate. After Barrymore's death, actor Vincent Price, known for horror flicks such as "House of Wax," and his wife bought the item and also used it as a yard decoration. The couple donated it to the Honolulu Museum of Art in 1981.

Langdon's interest in the piece came from a visit to an Alaska museum where he saw a photo of Price standing next to the approximately 40-foot-tall pole. "It was totally out of place," he recalled. "Here's this recognizable Hollywood figure in a backyard estate with a totem pole ... that was surrounded by cactus."

Alaska

tribal members get back totem pole taken by actor



Tlingit Tribal members from Klawock, Alaska Eva Rowan, center, and Jonathan Rowan, right, watch Okolani Tallett perform a hula dance at the Honolulu Museum of Art.



Hula dancer Okolani Tallett, left, dances for members of the Alaskan Tlingit tribe.



Tlingit Tribe members from Klawock, Alaska Jonathan Rowan, left, and Eva Rowan perform a dance at the Honolulu Museum of Art.



Tlingit Tribe members from Klawock, Alaska Jonathan Rowan, left, and Lawrence Armour unveil a carved Alaskan storage box.

Langdon learned the pole was used for burials, and that there were remains of a man inside before Barrymore had it erected at his home. Langdon does not know what happened to the remains after they were removed from the pole.

Museum officials didn't know the pole was stolen. With permission from tribal leaders, Langdon came to Honolulu in 2013 to examine the pole, setting into motion a repatriation process funded by the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act.

On Thursday, seven Tlingit tribal members who traveled to Honolulu from the southeast village of Klawock wore lei, sang somber songs, handed out gifts and thanked Hawaii for taking good care of the pole. "We too also are ocean people," said Jonathan Rowan, master carver and cultural educator. "We live on an island also."

With the scent of cedar wafting in the air, his daughter Eva Rowan brushed three feathers along the pole pieces bearing carved images of a killer whale, a raven, an eagle and a wolf. "It gives my heart great peace that my ancestors can go home," she said. "I feel my father's people here. I feel my grandfather's people here, giving us strength right now." Only the top section of the pole was displayed briefly in the museum, and the pole spent most of its years in Honolulu in a climate-controlled basement.

"I take some comfort in the fact that we've taken good care of it," said Stephan Jost, the museum's director. It was among more than 100 totem poles that once stood in the old village of Tuxecan on Prince of Wales Island, Alaska, which was inhabited by the Tlingit people, the museum said. Of the original Tuxecan poles, only two remain, both in Klawock, the village

of 800 people where the tribe moved, according to the museum. The pieces were cradled in packing foam in wooden crates that museum workers sealed after the ceremony. The pole left the museum yesterday, and set sail for Alaska on Tuesday.—AP



While standing in front of his tribe's totem pole, Tlingit Tribe member from Klawock, Alaska Jonathan Rowan speaks about the significance of the totem pole to his Tribe.

MICROSOFT'S NEW BUSINESSES SHINE, BUT PC SOFTWARE SAGS

SAN FRANCISCO: Microsoft may still be suffering from lagging sales of personal computers, but the tech giant has taken some cues from rivals like Apple and Google - and it's now seeing substantial growth in more promising lines of business ranging from Internet apps and advertising to online games and cloud computing. In the company's latest earnings report, issued Thursday, key segments of Microsoft's business continued to decline in the quarter ended September. Licensing payments from PC-makers were down 6 percent, a fifth straight quarter of declines, after the July

launch of Microsoft's Windows 10 operating system failed to spark an immediate revival in sales.

In addition, Microsoft's decision last summer to pare back its struggling Nokia division meant the company made less money from selling mobile phones. But Microsoft reported strong performance in cloud computing, online advertising and subscriptions to online services - areas CEO Satya Nadella considers key to the company's future.

All told, the company said it had \$20.4 billion in revenue for the quarter ending Sept. 30,

down 12 percent from a year earlier. Net income rose 1.7 percent to \$4.6 billion. The results drove Microsoft shares up more than 6 percent in late trading after the earnings announcement. The stock closed earlier at \$48.03, up 1.76 percent for the day.

PC makers like Hewlett-Packard and Lenovo are still hoping Windows 10 will boost PC sales this fall, when they'll be offering more new models for sale. But Thursday's report showed Nadella's increasing emphasis on other segments that promise more potential for growth.

"I think he is realistic about the role of

Windows," said Gartner tech analyst David Smith. Instead of counting heavily on Windows licensing fees, Smith said, Nadella "is much more focused on cloud computing and other services. That's where the future of the company will be."

Rather than charge individual PC owners to upgrade their older versions of Windows, for example, Microsoft has been offering free upgrades to Windows 10 - much the way Apple and Google provide free updates to their operating systems for Macs, iPhones and Android devices.—AP

APPLE CLEANING UP ACT IN CHINA WITH MORE RENEWABLE ENERGY

SAN FRANCISCO: Apple is cleaning up its manufacturing operations in China to reduce the air pollution caused by the factories that have assembled hundreds of millions of iPhones and iPads during the past eight years.

The world's most valuable company is working with its Chinese suppliers to produce 2.2 gigawatts of solar power and other renewable energy by 2020.

The commitment announced Wednesday represents Apple's latest attempt to prevent the popularity of its devices and digital services from increasing the carbon emissions that are widely believed to be changing the Earth's climate.

Apple Inc. estimates 20 million metric tons of greenhouse gas pollution will be avoided in China between now and the time all the projects are completed. That's like having four million fewer cars on the road for a year. Panels capable of generating about 200 megawatts of solar power will be financed by Apple in the northern, southern and eastern regions of China, where many of its suppliers are located. The Cupertino, California, company is teaming up with its Chinese suppliers to build the capacity for the remaining 2 gigawatts of renewable energy, which will be a mix of solar, wind and hydroelectric power.

Foxconn, which runs the factory where the most iPhones are assembled, is pledging to contribute 400 megawatts of solar power as part of the 2-gigawatt commitment. The solar panels to be built by 2018 in China's Henan Province are supposed to produce as much renewable energy as Foxconn's Zhengzhou factory consumes while making iPhones.

Apple has made protecting the environment a higher priority since Tim Cook replaced the late Steve Jobs as the company's CEO four years ago.

"Climate change is one of the great challenges of our time, and the time for action is now," Cook said in a statement. "The transition to a new green economy requires innovation, ambition and purpose."

Apple just completed projects in China that generate 40 megawatts of solar energy to offset the power required by its 24 stores and 19 offices in the country. All of Apple's data centers, offices and

stores in the US already have been running on renewable energy.

"When you look at all the air pollution in China, all the manufacturing that is done there has a lot to do with it, so this is a significant step in the right direction," said Gary Cook, a senior analyst for Greenpeace, a group devoted to protecting the environment.

Apple also has a financial incentive to help make China a better place to live. The greater China region is Apple's second biggest market behind the US and its CEO has made it clear that he wants Apple to make even more inroads as rising incomes enable more of China's population to buy smartphones and other gadgets. Google, Facebook and other technology companies also have been investing heavily in renewable energy in an effort to cut the pollution caused by power needed to run the data centers that process and store information for the users of the digital services.

By some estimates, technology products and services account for as much of the world's carbon emissions as the airline industry. Apple can easily afford to go green. The company had \$203 billion in cash at the end of June. —AP



NEW YORK: Microsoft vice president for Surface Computing Panos Panay holds a Surface Book laptop during a presentation, in New York in this file photo. — AP

MICROSOFT SURFACE PRO FINALLY HAS LAPTOP FEEL

TORONTO: With the new Surface Pro 4, typing on a Microsoft tablet finally feels like typing on a regular laptop. Although Microsoft has tried hard to sell the Surface as a laptop replacement, its keyboard has felt flimsy - something to tolerate when a real laptop isn't available. The keyboard attaches magnetically and has to be thin enough to fold over like a book cover. Consequently, it has felt like typing on cardboard over my lap.

Microsoft says the Pro 4 keyboard cover is 20 percent stiffer, so it no longer feels like cardboard. Each key is slightly taller, too, giving a more natural feel. More room on the cover is devoted to the keys and the touchpad rather than dead space. Microsoft keeps the cover's weight and thickness about the same as before by turning to different materials.

All this translates to a keyboard that's enjoyable rather than tolerable. I made it my primary computer for two weeks, including travels through upstate New York and Ontario, Canada. The Pro 4 felt comfortable whether I was in a hotel bed, a friend's living room or the tasting

room of a winery.

BEYOND THE KEYBOARD

Now that Windows 10 is available, the Pro 4 is the first Surface I can wholeheartedly recommend. The cardboard-like keyboard wasn't my only gripe. Windows 8 felt like using two machines at once, with the system constantly kicking you to the one you didn't want. Microsoft's free Windows 10 update in July addresses the bulk of my frustrations.

I also like the addition of a magnet on the left side to attach an included stylus. The stylus still came off a few times during my travels, so I stowed it in my backpack after a few days and didn't have it handy when needed. Samsung's Note devices have built-in holes for their stylus, although in avoiding that approach, Microsoft was able to make the stylus larger and more like a regular pen.

The stylus might be useful for note-taking, though I prefer just typing notes and reminders. Artists might appreciate having it for drawing and sketching. The Surface is pressure-sensitive and

responds differently whether you press hard or lightly. But it won't let you shade from an angle like a pencil, which the Apple Pencil stylus for the upcoming iPad Pro will let you do.

Meanwhile, you can enable facial recognition on the Pro 4 to bypass a sign-in password. The feature wasn't available for testing yet, however. A premium keyboard cover offers a fingerprint reader.

PRICES AND COMPARISONS

The Pro 4 starts shipping Monday in the US and Canada. It starts at \$899 and comes with the

stylus, though it's unrealistic to have without the \$130 keyboard cover. The base model comes with just 128 gigabytes of storage, which is barely enough for moderate and heavy users. Configurations with

double that storage start at \$1,299, or \$1,429 with the keyboard. The high-end model with 512 gigabytes costs \$2,329 with the cover. The premium, fingerprint keyboard cover is \$30 more.—AP

TECH FIRMS FACE ROCKY ROAD ON THE WAY TO MAKING CARS

GOOGLE, APPLE LOOK TO AUTOS AS NEXT FRONTIER FOR INNOVATION

NEW YORK: Silicon Valley may think it can build a better car. But should it? As tech giants like Google and Apple look to automobiles as the next frontier for innovation, they face a looming reality: Cars are a lot harder to manufacture and sell than smartphones.

Industry veterans and critics warn that the auto business is a different animal. It's fraught with massive costs to erect auto plants, complexities in developing new sales and service systems, and daunting liabilities involved when human lives are at stake.

Automakers recalled a record 64 million vehicles in 2014, shattering the old record of 30.8 million set in 2004. General Motors Co. has had to pay \$5.3 billion to cover fines, victim compensation and the recall of millions of vehicles for faulty ignition switches. Toyota Motor Corp. paid a \$1.2 billion fine for failing to report safety defects, and Volkswagen Group has set aside \$7.3 billion for the potential costs of its emissions scandal.

"I think, like so many Silicon Valley techies, that they believe they are smarter than the world's automobile business, and that they will do it better," said Bob Lutz, a retired General Motors vice chairman. "No way."

He added that tech companies would pay the same high prices for expensive components such as electric car batteries, likely pushing retail prices of their vehicles out of reach for the average driver.

"It will be a huge money loser," Lutz predicted. To be sure, Google and Apple have plenty of cash to burn, with about \$270 billion in the bank combined. But the challenges of the car industry may be steering them to find ways to revolutionize automotive technology without becoming actual automakers.

GOOGLE

Mountain View, California-based Alphabet, the new holding company for

Google and its affiliated businesses, has spent six years working on cars that can drive without human assistance. But the company says it doesn't want the responsibility of building the robotic vehicles.

Instead, it plans to make the self-driving system available to automakers that already have factories, dealerships and experience.

"We have enormous respect for the expertise of the automotive industry and how big and complex a job it is to manufacture a vehicle," company spokeswoman Courtney Hohné said. "We'll partner with many different companies to bring this technology into the world safely."

The strategy is consistent with how Google currently operates. It relies on other companies to produce the devices powered by its software. Most smartphones, for example, operate on its Android software. But the company doesn't make any of the devices.

If its self-driving system makes it to market, the company could license the software for a fee or, perhaps, making it free to use like Android. That's because it makes most of its money from ads within their popular online services. If they no longer need to drive, people might spend time in their cars watching videos on Google-owned YouTube or seeking information on Google's search engine - both of which show ads.

But licensing their technology won't insulate it from safety issues. The company potentially could be held liable if one of its self-driving cars goes awry and injures or kills people in an accident.

APPLE

Apple CEO Tim Cook told an audience this week that the automotive industry is ripe for "massive change," with new software, electric motors and self-driving capability becoming "much more important, in a huge way."

But Cook avoided commenting on



TORRANCE: Chris Martin from Honda North America demonstrates Apple CarPlay, which lets drivers use an iPhone and its voice-activated assistant, Siri, to operate some of their vehicle's electronic controls and entertainment systems, in Torrance, California. CarPlay is also part of a strategy to get people using Apple's products and services in more aspects of their daily lives. —AP

reports that Apple may be building its own car, according to a video recording of his remarks Monday at a technology conference sponsored by The Wall Street Journal.

"What we really want, hopefully in the short term, is we'd like people as they enter their car to be able to have an iPhone experience in their car," he said.

Apple has developed software for automakers called CarPlay, which lets drivers use an iPhone and its voice-activated assistant Siri to operate some electronic controls and entertainment systems.

In a research note, UBS analyst Steven Milunovich cites the \$2 trillion auto industry as a potential new opportunity at a time when sales of smartphones, tablets and PCs are seeing slower growth globally.

Milunovich noted, however, that cars have significantly lower profit margins than iPhones. Apple, which makes most of its money from iPhones, reported \$39.5 billion in net income for its last fiscal year, on total sales of \$182.8 billion. GM reported only about \$4 billion in profit for its last fiscal year, on sales of \$151.1 billion. Apple outsources manufacturing to contractors in Asia. That may be more difficult to do with cars, said Jack Nerad, an analyst at Kelley Blue Book's KBB.com.

While an iPhone is complex, with about 1,700 components in an iPhone 6 Plus, it pales in comparison to a vehicle, which has some 10,000 parts.

Sergio Marchionne, CEO of Fiat Chrysler Automobiles, sees a car in Apple's future, though he doubts they'll attempt to manufacture it themselves. He welcomes the competition.

"I think that this industry in general needs to open up to disrupters," Marchionne said in an interview on CNBC Wednesday. "Whether it's the Google car or the Apple car... it's going to change the traditional nature of car-making."

UBER

Self-driving technology has also piqued the interest of Uber, the fast-growing

Silicon Valley startup that operates a ride-hailing service in cities around the world. Uber said earlier this year that it was partnering with Carnegie Mellon University to research and develop new technologies for mapping, vehicle safety and autonomous driving.

The company hasn't said whether it hopes to use autonomous technology to replace its thousands of drivers, who work as contractors driving their own cars.

But CEO Travis Kalanick has suggested Uber could someday expand with the help of self-driving vehicles, and touted the technology's promise for improving safety and easing traffic congestion.

TESLA

Electric car maker Tesla Motors, also based in Silicon Valley, serves as both role model and cautionary tale for companies thinking of getting into the car business.

Tesla is admired for its elegant, emissions-free vehicles packed with technology. It does no advertising but has built a global fan base.

It also illustrates the challenges of the industry. The 12-year-old company has never made an annual profit. It has produced only three vehicles, all of which cost more than \$70,000. This year, it expects to make between 50,000 and 55,000 cars. That's two days' worth of production at GM.

Tesla has also felt the pain of safety issues. In 2013, it faced questions after several Model S sedans caught fire after road debris damaged their batteries. Tesla wound up strengthening the battery shield on new and existing cars.

Tesla CEO Elon Musk made it clear recently that he's watching Apple's moves. "For Apple, the car is the next logical thing to finally offer a significant innovation," he told German newspaper Handelsblatt in an interview earlier this month. AP Technology Writers Brandon Bailey and Michael Liedtke in San Francisco, and AP Automotive Writers Tom Krisher and Dee-Ann Durbin in Detroit contributed to this report. —AP



NEW YORK: Apple CEO Tim Cook responds to a question during a news conference at IBM Watson headquarters, in New York. Cook avoided commenting on reports that Apple may be building its own car, according to a video recording of his remarks Monday. —AP

BBC lifestyle

00:10 Vacation Vacation Vacation
00:55 Masterchef: The Professionals
02:40 The Roux Legacy
03:10 Come Dine With Me
03:35 Homes Under The Hammer
04:30 Beat My Build
05:15 The Roux Legacy
05:50 Come Dine With Me
06:15 Vacation Vacation Vacation
07:00 Phil Spencer: Secret Agent -
Specials
08:40 Rachel Khoo's Kitchen
Notebook: Cosmo Cook
09:05 Rachel Khoo's Kitchen
Notebook: Cosmo Cook
09:30 Marbella Mansions
11:00 The Planners
12:40 Antiques Roadshow
14:20 Come Dine With Me
16:25 Homes Under The Hammer
18:10 Beat My Build
19:45 Fat & Fatter
20:35 Hairy Bikers' Bake-ation
21:25 Hairy Dieters
22:15 Phil Spencer: Secret Agent -
Specials
23:55 Rachel Khoo's Kitchen
Notebook: Cosmo Cook

Discovery CHANNEL HD

01:10 Fast N' Loud
02:00 Wheeler Dealers
02:50 Cuban Chrome
03:40 How Do They Do It?
06:00 Marooned With Ed Stafford
06:50 Kings Of The Wild
07:40 Deadliest Catch
08:30 Outback Truckers
09:20 Manhunt With Joel Lambert
10:10 Fast N' Loud
11:00 Wheeler Dealers
11:50 Cuban Chrome
12:40 Idris Elba: No Limits
13:30 Dallas Car Sharks
15:10 Baggage Battles
16:50 Yukon Men
17:40 Ice Lake Rebels
18:30 Dynamo: Magician Impossible
19:20 What Happened Next?
20:10 The Pop Illusionist
21:00 Yukon Men
21:50 Ice Lake Rebels
22:40 Alaska: The Last Frontier
23:30 Wheels That Fail

E!

00:00 Dash Dolls
00:55 We Have Issues
01:25 Hollywood Cycle
02:20 E! News
03:15 Keeping Up With The
Kardashians
04:10 E!ES
05:05 THS
06:00 Keeping Up With The
Kardashians
07:50 Style Star
08:20 E! News
09:15 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills
11:10 We Have Issues
11:35 New Money
12:05 E! News
13:05 Stewarts And Hamiltons
14:05 Hollywood Cycle
16:00 WAGs
18:00 E! News
19:00 Keeping Up With The
Kardashians
20:00 Dash Dolls
21:00 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills
22:00 E! News
23:00 The Soup
23:30 Sex With Brody

itv CHOICE

00:10 The Chase: Celebrity Specials
01:05 May The Best House Win
02:00 Shetland
02:55 Emmerdale
05:15 Coronation Street
07:30 Agatha Christie's Partners In
Crime
08:25 Doc Martin
09:20 Who's Doing The Dishes?
11:50 Keep It In The Family
12:45 Lewis

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CHANNEL HD

13:45 Agatha Christie's Partners In
Crime
14:40 Doc Martin
15:35 Agatha Christie's Poirot
17:10 Keep It In The Family
18:05 The Chase
19:00 Doc Martin
19:45 Agatha Christie's Partners In
Crime
20:45 Lewis
21:35 The Chase
22:30 Eggheads
23:00 Coronation Street

OSN FIRST HD

00:10 The Happenings
01:00 Paranatural
02:00 Seconds From Disaster
02:55 China From Above
03:50 Megastructures
04:45 Yukon River Run
05:40 World's Most Extreme
06:35 Engineering Connections
07:30 Science Of Stupid
08:25 Dog Whisperer
10:15 China From Above
11:10 Wicked Tuna
12:05 The 2000s: The Decade We
Saw It All
14:00 The Happenings
15:00 Explorer
16:00 Science Of Stupid
17:00 The Border
18:00 Airport Security: Colombia
19:00 Explorer
20:00 Science Of Stupid
20:50 The Border
21:40 Airport Security: Colombia
22:30 Building Wild
23:20 Engineering Connections

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

OSN FIRST HD

Wilmore
17:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
18:30 Cristela
20:00 The Tonight Show Starring
Jimmy Fallon
21:00 Last Man Standing
21:30 The Nightly Show Global
Edition
22:00 Saturday Night Live
23:00 Curb Your Enthusiasm
23:30 Late Night With Seth Meyers

OSN FIRST MORE

00:00 The Americans
01:00 Grey's Anatomy
02:00 Survivor: Second Chance
03:00 Devious Maids
04:00 Survivor: Second Chance
05:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
06:00 The Astronaut Wives Club
08:00 Sleepy Hollow
10:00 The Astronaut Wives Club
13:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
14:00 Sleepy Hollow
15:00 The Astronaut Wives Club
18:00 Sleepy Hollow
19:00 Grey's Anatomy
20:00 The Amazing Race
21:00 Heroes Reborn
22:00 The Blacklist

OSN FIRST HD COMEDY

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

OSN MOVIES ACTION

00:15 Guns, Girls And Gambling
02:00 The Town That Dreaded

OSN MOVIES ACTION

Sundown
03:30 The Amazing Spider-Man 2
06:00 Android Cop
08:00 Born To Race: Fast Track
09:45 G.I. Joe: The Rise Of Cobra
11:45 Android Cop
13:30 47 Ronin
15:30 Percy Jackson And The
Lightning Thief
17:45 Star Trek

OSN MOVIES ACTION

00:00 The Town That Dreaded
Sundown-18
01:30 The Amazing Spider-Man 2
04:00 Android Cop-PG15
06:00 Born To Race: Fast Track
07:45 G.I. Joe: The Rise Of Cobra
09:45 Android Cop-PG15
11:30 47 Ronin-PG15
13:30 Percy Jackson And The
Lightning Thief-PG15
15:45 Star Trek-PG15
18:00 G.I. Joe: The Rise Of Cobra
20:00 Man Of Tai Chi-PG15
22:00 The Dogs Of War-PG15

OSN MOVIES COMEDY

00:15 Welcome To The Jungle
02:00 HairBrained
04:00 How To Lose A Guy In 10 Days
06:00 You Again
08:00 Muppets Most Wanted
10:00 HairBrained
11:45 How To Lose A Guy In 10 Days
13:45 Renaissance Man
16:00 Muppets Most Wanted
18:00 The Waterboy
20:00 The Art Of The Steal
22:00 Jackass Presents: Bad
Grandpa

OSN MOVIES DRAMA

01:00 Belle-PG15
03:00 Hours-PG15
05:00 The Giver-PG15
07:00 Yellow Rock-PG15
09:00 Miss Julie-PG15
11:15 The Giver-PG15
13:00 Middle Of Nowhere-PG15
14:45 Draft Day-PG15

OSN MOVIES HD

16:45 Miss Julie-PG15
19:00 Inside Llewyn Davis-PG15
21:00 Barefoot-PG15
23:00 Love Is All You Need-18

OSN MOVIES HD FESTIVAL

02:00 Temptation: Confessions Of A
Marriage Counselor
04:00 How I Live Now
06:00 Australia
09:00 Nebraska
11:00 The Secret Life Of Bees
13:00 The Nightmare Before
Christmas
14:30 Awakenings
17:00 Nebraska
19:00 Tar
20:30 Eternal Sunshine Of The
Spotless Mind
22:30 Dallas Buyers Club

OSN MOVIES HD

01:00 RoboCop-PG15
03:00 Won't Back Down-PG15
05:15 Drumline: A New Beat-PG15
07:15 Tarzan (2013)-PG
09:00 Vehicle 19-PG15
10:30 Jersey Boys-PG15
12:45 Get On Up-PG15
15:15 A Promise-PG15
17:15 Vehicle 19-PG15
19:00 Ride Along-PG15
21:00 Revenge For Jolly!-PG15
23:00 Deliver Us From Evil-18

OSN MOVIES HD KIDS

01:15 Marvel's Ultimate Avengers I
02:45 The Adventurer: The Curse
Of The Midas Box
04:30 JLA Adventures: Trapped In
Time
06:00 Mamma Moo And Crow
08:00 Unstable Fables: Tortoise vs.
Hare
09:45 Dinosaur Island
11:15 Vampire Dog
12:45 The Adventurer: The Curse
Of The Midas Box
14:30 Luke And Lucy: The Texas
Rangers

OSN MOVIES HD PREMIERE

01:45 Godzilla-PG15
04:00 Good Deeds-PG15
06:00 Planet 51-PG
08:00 A Common Man-PG15
10:00 Heaven's Door-PG
12:00 Edge Of Tomorrow-PG15
14:00 Tinker Bell And The Pirate
Fairy-FAM
16:00 A Common Man-PG15
17:45 Need For Speed-PG15
20:00 Welcome To The Punch-PG15
22:00 The Interview-18

STAR MOVIES

01:30 Struck By Lightning
03:00 Last Orders
04:45 I Am Number Four
06:30 Tomorrow When The War
Began
08:15 Thorne: Scaredycat
10:30 The Hurricane
13:00 Planes
14:30 Jack
16:30 Derailed
18:15 Transporter 3
20:00 Saw 4
21:30 Amphibious 3D
23:00 Ironclad

STAR WORLD

00:00 The Listener
01:00 Castle
02:00 Low Winter Sun
03:00 The Bridge
04:00 72 Hours
05:00 Cougar Town
06:00 Scrubs
07:00 Switched At Birth



G.I. JOE- THE RISE OF COBRA ON OSN MOVIES ACTION HD

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2015

- 08:00 Private Practice
- 10:00 Low Winter Sun
- 11:00 The Bridge
- 12:00 72 Hours
- 13:00 Cougar Town
- 13:30 Scrubs
- 14:00 Transporter: The Series
- 16:00 MasterChef Australia
- 17:00 Melissa & Joey
- 17:30 Happy Endings
- 18:00 The Walking Dead
- 21:00 Melissa & Joey
- 21:30 Happy Endings
- 22:00 The Listener
- 23:00 The Listener



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



- 03:30 Dr. Heckyl And Mr. Hype
- 05:05 The Tender
- 06:35 True Heart
- 08:05 Apache
- 09:35 Molly
- 11:05 If It's Tuesday, This Must Be Belgium
- 12:45 The Tender
- 14:15 Robinson Crusoe
- 15:45 One More Kiss
- 17:25 Adventures Of Hercules
- 18:55 Music Of The Heart
- 21:00 Witchboard
- 22:35 The Divide
- 23:35 Final Combination
- 01:10 Capote



- 03:25 Gator Boys
- 04:15 Snake Sheila
- 04:38 Snake Sheila
- 05:02 Treehouse Masters
- 05:49 Queens Of The Savannah
- 06:36 Call Of The Wildman
- 07:00 Call Of The Wildman
- 07:25 Tanked
- 08:15 Tanked
- 09:10 Tanked
- 10:05 Tanked
- 11:00 Tanked
- 11:55 Megalodon: The Monster Shark Lives
- 13:45 Killer Iq: Lion vs Hyena
- 14:40 Shamwari: A Wild Life
- 15:05 Shamwari: A Wild Life
- 15:35 Echo And The Elephants Of Amboseli
- 16:00 Echo And The Elephants Of Amboseli
- 16:30 Lion Battlefield
- 17:25 Queens Of The Savannah
- 18:20 Killer Iq: Lion vs Hyena
- 19:15 Shamwari: A Wild Life
- 19:40 Shamwari: A Wild Life
- 20:10 Echo And The Elephants Of Amboseli
- 20:35 Echo And The Elephants Of Amboseli
- 21:05 Lion Battlefield
- 22:00 Mermaids: The Body Found
- 23:50 Serial Killer Tiger At Large
- 00:45 Monster Island
- 01:40 Tigerfish: Africa's Piranha
- 02:35 Night



THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN 2 OSN MOVIES ACTION HD



- 03:15 Getting On
- 03:45 Watson & Oliver
- 04:15 The Weakest Link
- 05:00 The Green Balloon Club
- 05:25 Nuzzle & Scratch: Frock n Roll
- 06:05 Gigglebiz
- 06:20 The Green Balloon Club
- 06:40 Nuzzle & Scratch: Frock n Roll
- 07:20 The Weakest Link
- 08:05 Doctors
- 10:35 Doctor Who
- 11:20 The Cafe
- 11:45 A Farmer's Life For Me
- 12:40 Hotel Secrets With Richard E Grant
- 13:25 Casualty
- 14:20 Eastenders
- 16:20 The Weakest Link
- 17:05 The Cafe
- 17:30 A Farmer's Life For Me
- 18:25 Hotel Secrets With Richard E Grant
- 19:10 Doctor Who
- 20:00 Alan Carr: Chatty Man
- 20:45 Live At The Apollo
- 21:30 Inside No. 9
- 22:00 Alan Carr: Chatty Man
- 22:45 Live At The Apollo
- 23:30 Inside No. 9
- 00:00 The Office
- 00:30 Rev.
- 01:00 Getting On
- 01:30 Watson & Oliver
- 02:00 Inside No. 9
- 02:30 A Farmer's Life For Me



- 03:20 Grojband
- 03:42 Grojband
- 04:05 Total Drama: Revenge Of The Island
- 04:50 Teen Titans Go!
- 05:10 Grojband
- 05:35 Grojband
- 06:00 Dreamworks Dragons: Riders Of Berk
- 06:25 Ninjago: Masters Of Spinjitzu
- 07:10 New Ben 10 Omniverse
- 07:35 Ben 10: Omniverse
- 08:00 Matt Hatter New
- 08:20 Teen Titans Go!

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



- 03:00 Blood Relatives
- 03:45 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
- 04:30 The Haunted
- 05:20 Forensic Detectives
- 06:10 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones
- 07:00 Fatal Encounters
- 07:50 Disappeared
- 09:30 On The Case With Paula Zahn
- 11:10 The Will
- 12:00 The Will
- 12:50 California Investigator
- 13:40 Nightmare Next Door
- 14:30 On The Case With Paula Zahn
- 16:10 Disappeared
- 17:50 California Investigator
- 18:40 Forensic Detectives
- 22:00 Scorned: Crimes Of Passion

- 22:50 Deadly Sins
- 23:40 Devil In The Details
- 00:30 Deadly Affairs
- 01:20 Blood Relatives
- 02:10 Scorned: Crimes Of Passion



- 03:00 How It's Made
- 03:48 Moon Machines
- 04:36 Deadly Dilemmas
- 05:24 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
- 06:12 How Do They Do It?
- 10:20 How It's Made
- 12:50 Food Factory
- 15:20 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
- 16:10 Moon Machines
- 20:20 The Big Brain Theory
- 21:10 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?
- 22:00 Race To Escape
- 22:50 Deadly Dilemmas
- 23:40 Home Factory
- 00:30 Mythbusters



- 03:10 Henry Hugglemonster
- 03:20 Calimero
- 03:35 Zou
- 03:45 Loopdidoo
- 04:00 Art Attack
- 04:25 Henry Hugglemonster
- 04:35 Calimero
- 04:50 Zou
- 05:00 Loopdidoo
- 05:15 Art Attack
- 05:35 Henry Hugglemonster
- 05:50 Calimero
- 06:00 Zou
- 06:20 Loopdidoo
- 06:35 Art Attack
- 07:00 Calimero
- 07:10 Zou
- 07:25 Limon And Oli
- 07:35 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 07:50 Sofia The First
- 08:20 Doc McStuffins
- 08:45 Loopdidoo
- 09:00 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
- 09:30 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
- 10:00 Sofia The First
- 10:30 Doc McStuffins

- 10:55 Miles From Tomorrow
- 11:25 Jake And The Neverland Pirates
- 12:20 Loopdidoo
- 12:35 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
- 13:00 Sofia The First
- 15:45 Doc McStuffins
- 16:10 Aladdin
- 16:40 Adventures Of The Gummi Bears
- 17:10 Chip n Dale Rescue Rangers
- 17:35 Jake And The Neverland Pirates
- 18:30 Sofia The First
- 18:55 Doc McStuffins
- 19:15 Jake And The Neverland Pirates
- 19:45 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
- 20:05 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
- 20:35 Sofia The First
- 21:00 Aladdin
- 21:30 Adventures Of The Gummi Bears
- 22:00 Chip n Dale Rescue Rangers
- 22:30 Lilo & Stitch
- 23:00 Nina Needs To Go
- 23:05 Henry Hugglemonster
- 23:20 Calimero
- 23:35 Zou
- 23:50 Loopdidoo
- 00:05 Art Attack
- 00:30 Henry Hugglemonster
- 00:45 Calimero
- 01:00 Zou
- 01:15 Loopdidoo
- 01:30 Art Attack
- 01:50 Henry Hugglemonster
- 02:00 Zou
- 02:15 Loopdidoo
- 02:30 Art Attack



- 06:00 The 7D
- 06:10 Boyster
- 06:35 Phineas And Ferb
- 07:00 Penn Zero: Part Time Hero
- 07:25 Supa Strikas
- 07:50 Supa Strikas
- 08:15 K.C Undercover
- 08:40 Lab Rats
- 09:10 Star vs The Forces Of Evil
- 09:35 Kirby Buckets
- 10:00 Annedroids
- 10:30 Supa Strikas
- 10:55 Mighty Med
- 11:20 K.C Undercover
- 11:45 Lab Rats
- 12:10 Kirby Buckets
- 12:35 Star vs The Forces Of Evil
- 13:00 Life Is Ruff

- 14:20 Disney Mickey Mouse Shorts
- 14:30 Penn Zero: Part Time Hero
- 14:50 Phineas And Ferb
- 15:15 Phineas And Ferb
- 15:40 Phineas And Ferb
- 16:10 Star vs The Forces Of Evil
- 16:35 Star Wars Rebels
- 17:00 Mighty Med
- 17:25 Wendy Wu: Homecoming Warrior
- 18:55 Penn Zero: Part Time Hero
- 19:20 Phineas And Ferb
- 19:40 Annedroids
- 20:05 K.C Undercover
- 20:30 Supa Strikas
- 20:55 Lab Rats
- 21:25 Kirby Buckets
- 21:50 Star Wars Rebels
- 22:15 Mighty Med
- 23:00 Programmes Start At 6:00am KSA



- 03:05 Dream Cruises
- 03:55 The Great Food Revolution
- 04:45 World's Best Chefs
- 05:10 Food School
- 05:35 American Food Battle
- 06:00 The Food Files
- 06:25 Wineroads
- 06:50 My Sri Lanka With Peter Kuruvita
- 07:15 My Sri Lanka With Peter Kuruvita
- 07:40 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces
- 08:30 Sara's New Nordic Kitchen
- 08:55 Wineroads
- 09:20 Poh & Co.
- 09:45 Poh & Co.
- 10:10 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet
- 10:35 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet
- 11:00 A Marriage Of Flavours
- 11:25 Tales From The Bush Larder
- 11:50 Cruise Ship Diaries
- 12:15 Top Tables, Top Cities
- 12:40 Food School
- 13:05 Eat: The Story Of Food
- 14:00 The Wine Quest: Spain
- 14:30 Great Escapes
- 14:55 Dream Cruises
- 15:50 The Great Food Revolution
- 16:45 World's Best Chefs
- 17:15 Eat Street
- 17:40 American Food Battle
- 18:10 The Food Files
- 18:35 Wineroads



PROGRESSIVE PROFESSIONAL FORUM (PPF) SEMINAR

A Seminar on Quality Management system titled as "ISO 9001, the ultimate Standards of Management that changed the world, can change our lives" was conducted by Progressive Professional Forum (PPF) Kuwait, a secular unity of Indian Professionals in Kuwait urged the community to stick on to standards and enhance the quality consciousness. Engr Madhusudan Ray, Managing Director, TCB Cert. Worldwide LLC, while presenting the subject, compared the global situation in quality management system with current status of it in India.

The number of ISO certified companies range around 342800 in China where as in India it is awfully low, with certified company's stands at 41016 as on 2014. Other major western and Far East countries range in between. It shows the hard work and dedication put forward by these countries to achieve the quality goals. Around 1.14 million companies are so far certified to ISO 9001 all over the

world, with at least a bare minimum of 2 quality auditors in each company show the potential of the job requirement in this sector. Mr Ray also hinted the annual potential of job opportunity for auditors may grow by 20 to 30% as new standard ISO 9001:2015 was launched in September 2015. Italy Stands at second place with 168960 certificates. To reach second place India needs to move four times faster!

Mr Ray pointed out that on the other hand, 750,000 engineers get graduated in core engineering sector every year in India and wondered on the low quality turnouts in the Industrial & service sector. Adhering to standards will ensure sustained growth and India should willfully channelize its rich, vibrant resources to confirm the perfection in the related sectors. This could improve our country eradicating the current hectic unemployment problems faced in various sectors.

He further described various aspects and



procedures of implementing Quality Management System affectively, including the latest revision ISO 9001: 2015. The Changes introduced in the 2015 revision are intended to ensure ISO 9001 continue to adapt the changing environments in which organizations operate. Some of the key

updates in ISO 9001:2015 include reduced reliance on documented procedures, greater emphasis on risk-based thinking, enhance the application of the process approach, improved applicability for services, and increased leadership requirements and focus on results. He concluded his presentation with the hope that India will prioritize implementing true quality improvements and requested the professional fraternity to confirm their integrity with topmost commitment.

The interactive seminar was conducted in KALA-Kuwait Auditorium at Mangaf, PPF President Mr Vinod AP Nair welcomed while executive Member G Santosh Kumar introduced Mr Ray to the audience. Mr. Rajagopal, Treasurer, PPF presented the memento to Mr MS Ray and Anil Kumar, General Secretary, PPF rendered vote of thanks. Executive members of PPF Kuwait took lead roles for successfully conducting the program.



NAFO 'MANNAM AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE' REMINISCENCE

In order to salute, reiterate and commemorate Mannathu Padmanabhan's magnanimous social principles and unbiased global visions, National Forum (NAFO-Kuwait) is planning to establish 'Mannam Award for Excellence' - a proprietary award of NAFO-Kuwait, and is envisioned for the most innovative, passionate and vibrant students of Indian Schools in Kuwait. By the inception of this award, it is aimed to propagate beyond the borders of regions or religions of our motherland, India, the greatness of one of the iconic architects of the modern fraternal and dynamic civil society.

Awardees will be chosen on the basis

of passing one of the most challenging and grueling selection processes to churn out the best of the bests, and they in the future will serve as propellers of the student community and deliver their maximum to the society. This is an initiative in cognizance with the Indian Schools in Kuwait to up-bring and expose the hidden talents in the students from the Ninth (IX) to the Twelfth (XII) grade who are the upfront tomorrows of our nation.

In this process, a slew of rewards and recognitions will be bestowed on the identified gems of the community. This will roll itself to instigate the entire stu-

dent fraternity to push themselves to the unknown and excel in giving to their society and be a Change Agent in the future!

Award Mission Statement: 1) To serve Mother Earth with a generation of innovative, passionate and vibrant youth who will make the world a better place to live and love, 2) To calibrate and honor the Change Agents of tomorrow, 3) To create an awareness in the student community that they are the major stakeholder in the society in terms of positive change, 4) To create a platform for the youth to exhibit their hidden and inner potential to the world, 5) To enhance the caliber of the

Change Agents to promote and empower their fellow members to equally perform and contribute, 6) To reflect on the impending social issues and societal taboos that pull back the world from its development to the leaders of tomorrow and, 7) To show the world that change needs to be churned at the grass root level.

The award contest will be held on Friday, November, 20th, 2015, from 9:00am, at the Indian Community School (Senior), Salmiya. Those who are Interested may register their names through National Forum (NAFO) website -www.nafoglobal.org before November 10th, 2015.



Kuwait Science Club held its third orientation gathering, where executive Director of Kuwait Science and Engineering Competition, member of board of KSC Dr Mohammad Al-Saffar met with students and supervisors.

IISM APPRECIATES YOUNG PROGRAMMER



Master Aran Antony, a XII standard student of India International School was appreciated by the school management for his achievement as a young computer programmer. He has developed a software for conducting school council election online, which the school is planning to implement from the next academic year.

The demonstration of the software was done in the presence of the school Director Malayil Moosa Koya, Principal FM Basheer Ahmed, Senior VP Narinder Kaur and the vice principals.

His tireless effort and expertise were commented on by the director. The remarkable features of this software are that no malpractice is possible and the

result can be known within minutes. Aran had already proved to be an artist and an innovative fashion designer, during an exhibition of his artistic works last year.

NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR CULTURE, ARTS AND LETTERS

Embassy of India in coordination with NCCAL requests the pleasure of your company with family, relatives and friends at the function of Indian cultural evening at Bhangra Group led by Mr Daljit Singh on Sunday the 8th November 2015 at 19:00hrs at Shamiya Theatre which is opposite Shamiya Cooperative.



BISHOP MOORE COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION CONDUCTED ONAM- EID SANGAMOM

Bishop Moore College Alumni Association of Kuwait Chapter conducted Onam- Eid Sangamom at United Indian School Abbasiya with a public function followed by cultural programs. Public function was presided by Sam Pynumood (Patron). Inauguration of the Onam- Eid celebrations was performed by) Adv P John Thomas (Administration Manager, United Indian School) by lighting the traditional lamp.

Felicitation addresses were given by Rev. Santhosh Philip (Vicar-St. Peters Mar Thoma Church & Alumni Mem.), Vinod Kumar CS (Sree Narayana Gurudeva Pracharakan), Hasanul Banna (Youth India Executive Member), Al Kurein (Patron) and Babuji

Bethery (Patron). Parimanam Manoj (General Secretary) welcomed the gatherings and Shyam Sivan (Treasurer) delivered vote of thanks. Ms Binitha Maria Thomas anchored the program.

The second part of the function was cultural programs, which began with 'Rangapooja' by alumni members. It was followed by Maveli, Ragatharangam (Violin Solo) by Manoj Mavelikara & Team, cinematic dance and Ganamela included the attraction of the day. The members of BMC family presented various cultural programs includes chendamalam, group dances, songs and many more which added color to the event. A sumptuous "OnaSadhya" with 23 items was served to all attendees in traditional way and style.

RIO REINTRODUCES HOWLER MONKEYS AFTER CENTURY'S ABSENCE

RIO DE JANEIRO: Scientists have given Rio de Janeiro something to shout about with the reintroduction of howler monkeys to the city's famed Tijuca forest after a century's absence. Tijuca, a thick forest rising up to the towering Corcovado and statue of Christ the Redeemer, is one of the world's largest urban woodlands. But environmental degradation has stripped the area of its fauna. Now, Brazilian scientists are working to bring those riches back, including by releasing native howler monkeys, properly known as Alouattas.

"The howlers disappeared more than 100 years ago. We decided to reintroduce them because it is a resistant species. They essentially eat leaves and fruits, so they are relatively easy to reintroduce," said Fernando Fernandez, a scientist with the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro. The first five monkeys were released in early September, a key moment in the program which has been in the works since 2010. And the creatures are more than just a pretty-or-furry-face.

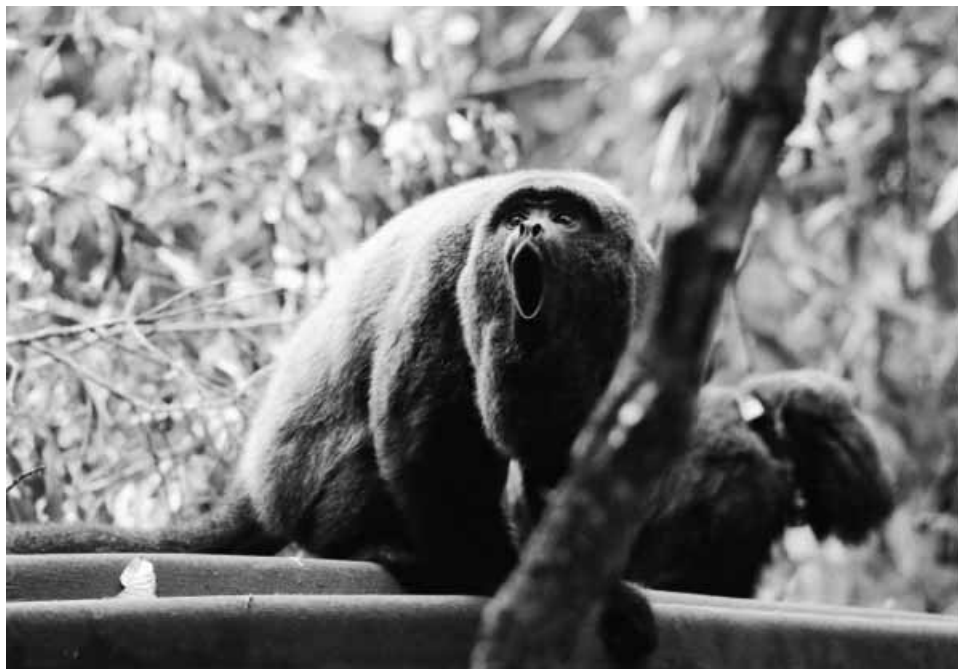
In addition to filling the silent forest with their trademark cries, the monkeys' excrement, pushed around by dung beetles, helps fertilize soil and trees. That's important because the authorities also want to save the endangered Atlantic forest, which once covered the Brazilian coast but today is reduced to about seven percent of what European explorers would have found 500 years ago. In Rio, the Tijuca forest covers 39.5 square

kilometers and has been preserved despite being just minutes from neighborhoods of the teeming city which will host next year's Olympics. Tijuca administrator Ernesto Vivero de Castro says the area can become "a laboratory for the rebuilding of the fauna that could work for other parts of the world."

Delicate relationships

The first monkeys let loose in Tijuca were all rescued from animal traffickers. The modest speed of the project reflects the care needed to avoid any monkey business between potentially conflicting groups of the primates. "The howler is the biggest monkey of the Atlantic Forest after the spider monkey. We got five individuals—three males and two females—and before releasing them we let them interact for five months in our research center," Fernandez said.

"It's very important because the Alouattas form social groups and stay together in the forest." The pioneering animals are already one down from their original number. The dominant male Chico expelled a young male named Cesar, so researchers pulled him from the project. However, Cesar should get a second chance with another group down the road. Scientists monitoring the four identify the males by a bracelet and the females by a collar. Early reports are that things are going well. "A month and a half later they are doing fine and are pretty close to where we released them," Fernandez said.



RIO DE JANEIRO: A howler monkey is seen at Tijuca National Park in Rio de Janeiro.—AFP

"There was some concern when the group met some capuchin monkeys, which are more aggressive. But in the end there wasn't a problem." The more familiar danger to wildlife-humanity will also have to play its part. "We hope visitors won't feed them because that can be fatal. Dogs are a danger

too," Fernandez said. The plan now is to release new groups of howler monkeys over the next four years to create a self-sustaining population. A similar program reintroduced rodents called cutias and also seeks to repopulate Tijuca with sloths, endangered golden lion tamarins and other native animals.—AFP

WHO EXPERT PANEL URGES PILOT ROLL-OUT OF FIRST MALARIA VACCINE

GENEVA: A World Health Organization expert panel yesterday recommended pilot roll-outs of the world's most advanced malaria vaccine to young children in several areas of sub-Saharan Africa, before considering wider use. The panel said the Mosquirix or RTS,S vaccine, should be given in three to five different areas with moderate-to-high malaria transmission, reaching up to a million children. The first dose would be given to children between the ages of five and 17 months and the aim would be to assess its protective effect and whether it will be practical to administer four doses in routine vaccination programs.

"In these areas of Africa ... the number one killer now of children is malaria," said professor Jon Abramson, chair of the WHO Strategic Advisory Group of Experts (SAGE), which advises the UN health agency on immunization policies. Mosquirix is the most clinically-advanced vaccine against the mosquito-borne disease that infects some 200 million people and kills about 600,000 every year, more than 75 percent of them children under five.

In sub-Saharan Africa alone, the plasmodium parasite kills about 1,200 children on average per day, according to the WHO. Developed by GlaxoSmithKline with funding from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Mosquirix is the first malaria vaccine to reach Phase III clinical testing—the final stage before market approval—and the first to be assessed by regulators. It received a nod from European regulators in July.

GSK hailed the SAGE recommendations as "an important step" towards making the vaccine available and Abramson said the pilot could pave the way for wide-scale deployment within the next five years. WHO still need to make its final policy recommendations about the vaccine, but is expected to follow the SAGE recommendations. Mosquirix could thus become the first licenced vaccine against a parasitic disease. But that decision still lies a way off. In April, the results of a years-long trial with 15,500 children in seven African countries were published in The Lancet medical journal—announcing mixed success. Only around a third of the children who received the vaccine were protected for the full duration of the trial, researchers found.

But even so, the vaccine has the potential to prevent millions of cases and could save "well over 100,000" lives, Abramson said. —AFP

DEVIL IN THE DIESEL? LONDON STRUGGLES ON AIR QUALITY

LONDON: Eddie Connor, a 41-year-old actor who has lived in London all his life and who suffers from a severe form of asthma, recognizes the signs all too well. "I start coughing or I feel my breathing getting shallower. It's like putting a piece of cling-film over my face," said Connor, who blames air pollution and particularly diesel fumes in the British capital for triggering his symptoms. Pockets of central London rank among the most polluted in Europe and the city's emissions exceed European Union norms, although on average it ranks relatively well compared to other EU capitals such as Amsterdam and Paris.

Up to 9,416 people are estimated to have died in London as a result of long-term exposure to pollution in 2010, according to a study by King's College London (KCL) published in July, a fifth of all deaths that year. The research showed for the first time the health impacts of two pollutants found in exhaust fumes from diesel vehicles—nitrogen dioxide (NO2) and fine particulate matter (or PM2.5) — and showed that the problem was far greater than previously thought.

"You could take very dramatic steps immediately," James Thornton, a former environmental lawyer and chief executive of ClientEarth, which brought and won a case against the UK government this year over failure to comply with EU limits, told AFP. "This is not rocket science—you need to have Ultra Low Emission Zones, you need to ban the worst diesels, you need to take steps on traffic management."

Billions in costs

Diesels now account for a majority of UK new car sales, a result of their reputation for being cheaper and more environmentally-friendly than petrol alternatives along with years of favorable government

policy aimed at cutting carbon emissions. But recent evidence shows that the particulates in diesel emissions can cause a variety of health problems due to their ability to penetrate deep into the lungs and cross into the bloodstream. The cost to London's economy of these health impacts ranges up to £3.7 billion (5.0 billion euros, \$5.7 billion) yearly, the KCL study showed.

According to World Bank data, London ranked 2,516th out of 3,226 world cities with a population of more than 100,000 in a ranking that put the most polluted cities at the top. Amsterdam and Paris scored slightly worse than London, although parts of the city centre such as Oxford Street—often clogged with buses and taxis—have recorded alarmingly high spikes in pollutants that are among the highest in Europe.

Gary Fuller, an air pollution scientist at KCL, said the problem of inadequate vehicle emissions testing exposed by the recent Volkswagen cheating scandal may be a factor in the high levels of NO2 in

London. "For a long time now—we've been pointing this out since 2003 — air pollution in London hasn't been going down as fast as it should be," Fuller told AFP.

'Jump in awareness'

A draft government air quality plan last month admitted that the combined impact of NO2 and particulates "represents a significant public health challenge" but said EU limits for NO2 in London would not be reached until 2025 at the earliest. It blamed the "the size and complexity" of the capital's transport networks and suggested the introduction of more electric cars and the use of more low-emission technologies as the way forward. The proposals follow a ruling by Britain's Supreme Court in April which declared NO2 levels in the UK illegal and ordered the government to act.

London's City Hall says that the mayor's plans to tackle air pollution "will ensure that 80 percent of central London meets EU legal limits for NO2 by 2020". But some people cannot wait that long. —AFP



LONDON: A file picture taken on April 9, 2015 shows air pollution obscuring the view of the London eye.—AFP

STRUGGLING AT MATHS, SPANISH SCHOOLS TURN TO CHESS

MADRID: Eleven-year-old Alvaro Pineda has played chess at home since he was five. Now he plays it in the classroom too. In an effort to boost their pupils' low maths and reading marks, more and more Spanish schools are holding chess clubs and some could even make it a compulsory class. "It really increases your mental capacity. I have improved a lot," said Alvaro, at a chess group in his school north of Madrid. "You have to really focus on the board and on where all the pieces are, and think lots of moves ahead," which helps strengthen the memory, he added.

Spain's parliament this year unanimously adopted a law allowing regional governments to introduce chess as a compulsory or optional subject in schools. The law won the rare unanimous backing of lawmakers from rival parties. The opposition Socialist Party deputy who drafted it, Pablo Martin Pere, cited studies showing that an hour of chess a week could boost pupils' performance in maths by 30 percent. Education studies by the OECD economic grouping have regularly shown that Spanish pupils lag behind their peers in

other developed countries in maths and reading.

School masters

The class Alvaro goes to, in the Aldebaran School in the Madrid suburb of Tres Cantos, is run by masters from the local chess club. Some say however that regular teachers can be trained for the task. One of the instructors, Javier Martinez de Navascues, 24, divides the lesson time between chess games, theory and showing the pupils "cool things that they really like, moves like 'the nail' and the 'x-ray attack'". He says two or three weeks' training is enough to prepare a normal school teacher to give chess classes.

The local chess club's president Daniel Gil disagrees. "It is just as well that the instructors be chess masters," he said. "They have a certain experience of teaching," he said, but chess classes also require special knowledge. "There's a lot to chess."

Chess 'not boring'

The southern Russian region of Kalmykia is

seen as the pioneer in using chess as an official educational tool, having introduced it as a school subject in 1996. Armenia became the first country to apply the policy nationwide in 2011. Mexico followed in 2014, as well as parts of China, India and Germany. In Spain, one of the game's leading figures is Adriana Salazar, an international chess master and nine-time national champion in her native Colombia. She introduces the game to kids as early as pre-school by putting a giant chessboard on the floor.

"They learn the squares, the rows and columns, the diagonals, and we jump around on the board. I tell the smallest kids it is a land

of vanilla and chocolate." Her method is used in 143 schools in Spain, 50 in Colombia and 12 in Miami. She says it can help develop children's thinking and their "social skills and values".

"The aim is to make the kids love it and to charm the teachers," to show them "it isn't boring or hard," said Salazar. "That is my quest." In Tres Cantos, Rodrigo Gomez, 11, turns to his teacher in triumph. Javi had two defences and I still got him in checkmate!" he calls out. "This should be compulsory," he adds. Nine-year-old Adam Maltoni is more circumspect. "I wouldn't like it to be compulsory. It's each person's choice whether they want to play chess."—AFP



MADRID, Spain: Students play chess at a public school in Tres Cantos, near Madrid, on May 27, 2015.—AFP

LIBYA VET STEERED NOAH'S ARK OF PETS TO SAFETY

TRIPOLI: When evacuated foreigners left hundreds of pets behind at the outbreak of Libya's 2011 revolution, Tripoli vet Jalal Kaal braved missiles, militia checkpoints and long terrifying drives to reunite them with their owners. "If I had to, I would do it again," says Kaal, a tall, slim 50-year-old man with smiling eyes. When the popular uprising against longtime dictator Moamer Kadhafi broke out in February 2011, many foreigners had to leave suddenly and were unable to take their pets with them, Kaal explains. In the chaos of the evacuations of diplomats and foreign workers four years ago, several called him from the airport to ask if he could collect their pets and take them in. As Kadhafi's regime cracked down on protesters in and around the capital, Kaal and an assistant drove to several neighborhoods to find the stranded animals. In total they rescued some 250 pets, including 200 cats and dogs, tortoises, guinea pigs and a parrot named Charlie.

He gave them shelter inside his practice, in a southwestern suburb of Tripoli, right next door to a building previously used by Kadhafi's intelligence services. "Missiles were falling so close that the clinic's ceiling fell in," he says. But he braved the rockets and bombs raining down around the building to reach the clinic to feed and tend to his "refugee" pets. "With my children, we'd take the animals out in groups for a walk and a cuddle," explains Kaal.

'Evacuation missions'

An assistant from Chad helped him throughout the adventure that year until October, when Libya's NATO-backed revolutionaries declared the country's "liberation". "He slept in the clinic, watching over the animals and feeding them, and cleaning," he says. "But I really couldn't have done without him when we started our missions to evacuate the animals" a few weeks into the revolution, he adds.—AFP

CLINIC PAGE



Kuwait Times

248 33 199





د. فهد علي المخيزيم
Dr. Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem

استشاري أطفال
Consultant Pediatrician
M.B. Bch. FRCPC. FAAP. PEM



Al-Jabriya - Block 1A - St. 1 - Mazaya Building - 15th Floor - Clinic B - Tel.: 22269369 - Fax: 22269368



KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY
(22/10/2015 TO 28/10/2015)

SHARQIA-1 AHWAK THE MARTIAN AHWAK AHWAK JUNE THE MARTIAN	11:45 AM 2:00 PM 5:00 PM 7:30 PM 10:00 PM 12:05 AM	WAR PIGS THE LAST WITCH HUNTER WAR PIGS THE LAST WITCH HUNTER WAR PIGS	3:45 PM 5:45 PM 8:15 PM 10:15 PM 12:45 AM	JUNE JUNE	11:15 PM 1:15 AM
SHARQIA-2 HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA2 THE LAST WITCH HUNTER THE LAST WITCH HUNTER HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA2 THE LAST WITCH HUNTER THE LAST WITCH HUNTER THE LAST WITCH HUNTER	11:30 AM 1:30 PM 3:45 PM 6:00 PM 8:00 PM 10:15 PM 12:45 AM	MARINA-1 THE MARTIAN AHWAK MOMENTUM JUNE AHWAK MOMENTUM	12:15 PM 3:15 PM 5:30 PM 7:30 PM 9:30 PM 12:05 AM	AL-KOUT.1 THE LAST WITCH HUNTER THE LAST WITCH HUNTER THE LAST WITCH HUNTER THE LAST WITCH HUNTER THE LAST WITCH HUNTER THE LAST WITCH HUNTER	12:15 PM 2:45 PM 5:15 PM 7:45 PM 10:15 PM 12:45 AM
SHARQIA-3 SHAANDAAR WAR PIGS FRI WAR PIGS SHAANDAAR WAR PIGS WAR PIGS WAR PIGS WAR PIGS	1:00 PM 1:45 PM 4:00 PM 6:00 PM 9:00 PM 11:00 PM 1:00 AM	MARINA-2 WAR PIGS WAR PIGS HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA2 WAR PIGS WAR PIGS WAR PIGS WAR PIGS	12:00 PM 2:00 PM 4:15 PM 6:15 PM 8:15 PM 10:15 PM 12:15 AM	AL-KOUT.2 THE LAST WITCH HUNTER AHWAK HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA2 AHWAK AHWAK THE LAST WITCH HUNTER	11:30 AM 2:00 PM 4:30 PM 6:30 PM 9:00 PM 11:30 PM
MUHALAB-1 WAR PIGS WAR PIGS AHWAK WAR PIGS AHWAK WAR PIGS WAR PIGS	11:00 AM 1:30 PM 3:30 PM 6:00 PM 8:00 PM 10:30 PM 12:45 AM	MARINA-3 THE LAST WITCH HUNTER THE LAST WITCH HUNTER THE LAST WITCH HUNTER THE LAST WITCH HUNTER THE LAST WITCH HUNTER THE LAST WITCH HUNTER THE LAST WITCH HUNTER	12:00 PM 2:30 PM 5:00 PM 7:30 PM 10:00 PM 12:30 AM	AL-KOUT.3 MOMENTUM THE MARTIAN THE MARTIAN MOMENTUM THE MARTIAN MOMENTUM	11:30 AM 1:30 PM 4:30 PM 7:30 PM 9:30 PM 12:30 AM
WAR PIGS		AVENUES-1 SHAANDAAR JAZBAA SHAANDAAR SHAANDAAR AMERICAN ULTRA	1:00 PM 4:00 PM 7:00 PM 10:00 PM 1:00 AM	AL-KOUT.4 WAR PIGS WAR PIGS WAR PIGS WAR PIGS WAR PIGS WAR PIGS WAR PIGS	12:15 PM 2:15 PM 4:15 PM 6:15 PM 8:15 PM 10:15 PM 12:15 AM
MUHALAB-2 AHWAK SHAANDAAR HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA2 KANCHE HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA2 SHAANDAAR KANCHE MOMENTUM MOMENTUM	11:30 AM 2:00 PM 2:00 PM 4:00 PM 5:00 PM 7:00 PM 10:00 PM 10:00 PM 12:05 AM	AVENUES-2 HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA2 HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA2 HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA2 JUNE JUNE JUNE THE LAST WITCH HUNTER	12:00 PM 2:15 PM 4:15 PM 6:15 PM 8:15 PM 10:15 PM 12:15 AM	BAIRAQ-1 THE LAST WITCH HUNTER THE LAST WITCH HUNTER THE LAST WITCH HUNTER THE LAST WITCH HUNTER THE LAST WITCH HUNTER THE LAST WITCH HUNTER	11:30 AM 2:00 PM 4:30 PM 7:00 PM 9:30 PM 12:05 AM
MUHALAB-3 THE LAST WITCH HUNTER THE LAST WITCH HUNTER THE LAST WITCH HUNTER THE LAST WITCH HUNTER THE LAST WITCH HUNTER THE LAST WITCH HUNTER	12:00 PM 2:30 PM 5:00 PM 7:30 PM 10:00 PM 12:30 AM	AVENUES-3 HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA2 10 ENDRATHUKULLA ENNU NINTE MOIDEEN 10 ENDRATHUKULLA THE MARTIAN	1:15 PM 3:30 PM 6:30 PM 9:45 PM 12:45 AM	BAIRAQ-2 WAR PIGS WAR PIGS HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA2 AHWAK WAR PIGS AHWAK WAR PIGS	11:30 AM 1:30 PM 3:30 PM 5:30 PM 8:00 PM 10:00 PM 12:30 AM
FANAR-1 AMERICAN ULTRA AMERICAN ULTRA SHAANDAAR SHAANDAAR SHAANDAAR AMERICAN ULTRA	12:00 PM 2:00 PM 4:00 PM 7:00 PM 10:00 PM 1:00 AM	AVENUES-4 SHAANDAAR THE MARTIAN AHWAK SHAANDAAR THE MARTIAN	12:15 PM 3:15 PM 6:15 PM 8:45 PM 11:45 PM	BAIRAQ-3 MOMENTUM THE MARTIAN MOMENTUM SHAANDAAR THE MARTIAN	11:30 AM 1:30 PM 4:15 PM 6:15 PM 9:15 PM 12:15 AM
FANAR-2 AHWAK JUNE AHWAK AHWAK JUNE AHWAK	12:15 PM 2:45 PM 4:45 PM 7:15 PM 9:45 PM 11:45 PM	AVENUES-5 THE LAST WITCH HUNTER THE LAST WITCH HUNTER THE LAST WITCH HUNTER NO FRI HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA2 THE LAST WITCH HUNTER THE LAST WITCH HUNTER THE LAST WITCH HUNTER	11:30 AM 2:00 PM 4:30 PM 4:30 PM 7:00 PM 9:30 PM 12:05 AM	PLAZA THE LAST WITCH HUNTER ENNU NINTE MOIDEEN 10 ENDRATHUKULLA	4:00 PM 6:30 PM 9:45 PM
FANAR-3 HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA2 THE MARTIAN HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA2 JAZBAA KANCHE THE MARTIAN KANCHE THE MARTIAN	11:45 AM 1:45 PM 4:30 PM 6:30 PM 6:30 PM 9:30 PM 9:30 PM 12:30 AM	360°- 1 THE MARTIAN THE MARTIAN THE MARTIAN THE MARTIAN THE MARTIAN	12:15 PM 3:15 PM 6:15 PM 9:15 PM 12:15 AM	LAILA THE MARTIAN THE LAST WITCH HUNTER WAR PIGS THE LAST WITCH HUNTER	3:30 PM 6:15 PM 8:45 PM 10:45 PM
FANAR-4 WAR PIGS THE LAST WITCH HUNTER MOMENTUM THE LAST WITCH HUNTER WAR PIGS THE LAST WITCH HUNTER	1:00 PM 3:00 PM 5:30 PM 7:30 PM 10:00 PM 12:05 AM	360°- 2 AMERICAN ULTRA AMERICAN ULTRA AMERICAN ULTRA 10 ENDRATHUKULLA 10 ENDRATHUKULLA AMERICAN ULTRA	12:00 PM 2:30 PM 4:45 PM 7:00 PM 10:00 PM 1:00 AM	AJIAL.1 ENNU NINTE MOIDEEN ENNU NINTE MOIDEEN ENNU NINTE MOIDEEN	3:15 PM 6:30 PM 9:45 PM
FANAR-5 WAR PIGS THE LAST WITCH HUNTER	11:30 AM 1:30 PM	360°- 3 HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA2 HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA2 HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA2 JUNE JUNE	1:15 PM 3:15 PM 5:15 PM 7:15 PM 9:15 PM	AJIAL.2 SHAANDAAR SHAANDAAR NAANUM ROWDYDHAAN	3:30 PM 6:15 PM 9:15 PM
		AJIAL.3 NAANUM ROWDYDHAAN NO FRI KANCHE FRI KANCHE KANCHE	3:45 PM 3:45 PM 6:45 PM 9:45 PM	AJIAL.4 10 ENDRATHUKULLA 10 ENDRATHUKULLA 10 ENDRATHUKULLA	4:00 PM 7:00 PM 10:00 PM

ACCOMMODATION

Room for rent, Fully furnished room with fridge, satellite, air conditioner and other facilities available, family only, any citizen, near Al-Bike Hotel, Jaleeb. Contact: 97470947 **(C 5060)**
22-10-2015

FOR SALE

Misc. furniture for sale, sofa sets, cupboards, small dining table with six chairs. Contact: 25340757 / 97336407. **(C 5061)**

Honda Accord 2004, purchased in 2005 in top condition. Galant 1998 super saloon in very good condition, low mileage. Call: 25340757 / 97336407. **(C 5062)**
22-10-2015

CHANGE OF NAME

I, JOY CHINONYE OZURUMBA with Passport Number A02740384 and Kuwait Civil ID Number 276011603269 do hereby change my name to

JOY CHINONYE BRAGG. Hereafter, all the documents will be known by the name JOY CHINONYE BRAGG.
22-10-2015

My name is Syed Mohammed Umar, S/o S. Mohammed Yousuf, holder of Indian Passport No: G9943660, D.No. 19/321, Varasmiya Street, Y.S.R. Dist. In my Passport my name mention wrong as Shaik Mohammed Umar. Correct name is Syed Mohammed Umar (New Name). **(C 5057)**
21-10-2015

TUITION

Learn Holy Quran in perfect way, private tuition available for elders & children, by Hafiz-E-Quran. Call: 66725950. **(C 5058)**

EMERGENCY

112

Prayer timings

Fajr:	04:35	
Shorook	05:54	
Duhr:	11:32	
Asr:	14:45	
Maghrib:	17:10	
Isha:	18:28	

Hospitals

Sabah Hospital	24812000
Amiri Hospital	22450005
Maternity Hospital	24843100
Mubarak Al-Kabir Hospital	25312700
Chest Hospital	24849400
Farwaniya Hospital	24892010
Adan Hospital	23940620
Ibn Sina Hospital	24840300
Al-Razi Hospital	24846000
Physiotherapy Hospital	24874330/9

Clinics

Kaizen center	25716707
Rawda	22517733
Adaliya	22517144
Khaldiya	24848075
Kaifan	24849807
Shamiya	24848913
Shuwaikh	24814507
Abdullah Salem	22549134
Nuzha	22526804
Industrial Shuwaikh	24814764
Qadsiya	22515088
Dasmah	22532265
Bneid Al-Gar	22531908
Shaab	22518752
Qibla	22459381

**DIAL 161** FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

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

Arrival Flights on Saturday 24/10/2015											
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
PIA	205	Lahore	00:15	JZR	357	Mashhad	17:30	IRM	1181	Mashhad	10:25
THY	772	Istanbul	00:15	GFA	215	Bahrain	17:30	QTR	1071	Doha	10:40
JZR	239	Amman	00:20	JZR	177	Dubai	17:45	FDB	056	Dubai	10:40
SYR	343	Damascus	00:25	JZR	777	Jeddah	17:50	SYR	342	Damascus	10:55
JZR	267	Beirut	00:30	SVA	500	Jeddah	18:00	KAC	501	Beirut	11:00
FDB	069	Dubai	00:55	FDB	065	Dubai	18:05	KAC	165	Rome/Paris	11:25
JZR	539	Cairo	01:30	IRM	1180	Mashhad	18:10	KAC	561	Amman	11:25
SAI	441	Lahore	01:35	KAC	176	Geneva/Frankfurt	18:20	GFA	214	Bahrain	11:35
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:40	KAC	786	Jeddah	18:35	JZR	356	Mashhad	11:40
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	01:50	KAC	502	Beirut	18:35	KAC	541	Cairo	12:05
OMA	643	Muscat	02:05	CLX	856	Luxembourg	18:50	UAE	874	Dubai	12:10
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15	QTR	1080	Doha	18:55	RBG	554	Alexandria	12:10
KKK	6507	Istanbul	02:15	KAC	542	Cairo	18:55	JZR	776	Jeddah	12:15
JZR	529	Asyut	02:20	KAC	618	Doha	18:55	MSC	402	Alexandria	12:20
UAE	853	Dubai	02:25	KAC	742	Dammam	19:00	AGY	685	Sohag	12:40
QTR	1076	Doha	02:55	KAC	104	London	19:00	KAC	785	Jeddah	13:00
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:05	GFA	217	Bahrain	19:05	IAW	158	Al Najaf	13:00
FDB	067	Dubai	03:15	UAE	875	Dubai	19:05	JZR	176	Dubai	13:10
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	FDB	063	Dubai	19:10	IRM	1189	Mashhad	13:10
KAC	1544	Cairo	03:35	KAC	614	Bahrain	19:10	FDB	076	Dubai	13:10
PGT	860	Istanbul	03:45	ABY	123	Sharjah	19:20	OMA	642	Muscat	13:15
THY	1464	Istanbul	03:55	JAI	572	Mumbai	19:35	JZR	124	Bahrain	13:30
MSC	401	Alexandria	04:00	KAC	774	Riyadh	19:40	NIA	152	Cairo	13:35
JZR	555	Alexandria	04:15	FDB	061	Dubai	19:50	MSR	611	Cairo	14:00
THY	770	Istanbul	04:40	KAC	684	Sohag	19:50	THY	767	Istanbul	14:10
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10	AGY	674	Dubai	20:00	UAE	872	Dubai	14:15
KAC	416	Jakarta/Kuala Lumpur	06:00	KAC	647	Muscat	20:00	SVA	9518	Madinah	14:15
KAC	412	Manila/Bangkok	06:15	KNE	480	Taif	20:10	QTR	1079	Doha	15:05
BAW	157	London	06:35	MEA	402	Beirut	20:15	FDB	058	Dubai	15:05
JZR	503	Luxor	07:20	ABY	121	Sharjah	20:20	GFA	222	Bahrain	15:05
KAC	382	Delhi	07:30	DLH	634	Frankfurt	20:20	KNE	481	Taif	15:10
KAC	206	Islamabad	07:45	JZR	189	Dubai	20:25	KAC	617	Doha	15:15
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	MSR	618	Alexandria	20:40	KAC	673	Dubai	15:20
KAC	204	Lahore	07:50	KAC	174	Munich	20:55	IZG	4168	Mashhad	15:30
QTR	1086	Doha	07:55	ALK	229	Colombo	21:10	JZR	188	Dubai	15:50
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:55	ETD	307	Abu Dhabi	21:15	KAC	773	Riyadh	15:55
KAC	354	BLR	07:55	UAE	859	Dubai	21:15	KAC	741	Dammam	15:55
KAC	154	Istanbul	08:10	KLM	415	Amsterdam	21:25	KAC	613	Bahrain	16:00
KAC	352	Kochi	08:15	FDB	073	Dubai	21:30	KNE	463	Madinah	16:00
KAC	344	Chennai	08:15	QTR	1074	Doha	21:30	OMA	646	Muscat	16:05
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	GFA	219	Bahrain	21:45	IZG	4162	Mashhad	16:10
KAC	362	Colombo	08:30	KNE	470	Jeddah	22:05	RJD	136	Abu Dhabi	16:10
KAC	284	Dhaka	09:00	ETD	309	Abu Dhabi	2:10	ABY	128	Sharjah	16:15
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:05	THY	764	Istanbul	22:10	ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	16:45
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:10	AIC	987	Chennai/Hyderabad	22:25	NIA	252	Alexandria	16:50
IRM	1186	Tehran	09:15	MSC	407	Sohag	22:45	RJA	641	Amman	16:55
QTR	1070	Doha	09:25	FDB	059	Dubai	22:50	KNE	473	Jeddah	16:55
RJA	648	Amman	09:30	JZR	185	Dubai	23:00	JZR	266	Beirut	17:05
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	JAI	574	Mumbai	23:20	FDB	052	Dubai	17:10
KAC	350	Kochi	09:40	JZR	513	Sharm el-Sheikh	23:30	JZR	512	Sharm el-Sheikh	17:15
SYR	341	Damascus	10:00	MSR	614	Cairo	23:30	QTR	1073	Doha	17:25
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	FDB	071	Dubai	23:55	UAE	858	Dubai	17:40
UAE	873	Dubai	10:40	Departure Flights on Saturday 24/10/2015				KNE	475	Jeddah	17:50
MSC	405	Sohag	11:20	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	IRA	666	Esfahan	18:10
RBG	553	Alexandria	11:30	AIC	976	Goa/Chennai	00:05	SVA	511	Riyadh	18:15
AGY	680	Alexandria	11:40	RBG	556	Alexandria	00:05	JZR	184	Dubai	18:20
IRM	1188	Mashhad	11:45	BBC	044	Dhaka	00:10	GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20
OMA	641	Muscat	11:50	JAI	573	Mumbai	00:25	KAC	563	Amman	18:30
JZR	165	Dubai	11:50	MSR	615	Cairo	00:30	JZR	538	Cairo	18:40
IAW	157	Al Najaf	12:00	FDB	072	Dubai	00:30	UAL	982	Bahrain	18:40
FDB	075	Dubai	12:25	KLM	413	Amsterdam	00:55	JZR	238	Amman	18:45
NIA	151	Cairo	12:35	JZR	502	Luxor	01:10	FDB	066	Dubai	18:55
JZR	241	Amman	12:40	SYR	344	KAC/Damascus	01:25	IRM	1187	Tehran	19:10
UAE	871	Dubai	12:45	PIA	206	Lahore	01:30	SVA	505	Jeddah	19:30
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	THY	773	Istanbul	02:05	GFA	218	Bahrain	19:50
THY	766	Istanbul	13:10	SAI	442	Lahore	02:35	FDB	064	Dubai	19:50
SVA	2610	Madinah	13:15	ETH	621	Addis Ababa	02:50	QTR	1081	Doha	19:55
JZR	779	Jeddah	13:50	PGT	859	Istanbul	02:55	KAC	361	Colombo	20:00
KAC	672	Dubai	13:55	KKK	6508	Istanbul	03:10	CLX	856	Hong Kong	20:20
QTR	1078	Doha	14:05	OMA	644	Muscat	03:35	UAE	876	Dubai	20:35
KNE	460	Riyadh	14:10	UAE	854	Dubai	03:45	JAI	571	Mumbai	20:35
GFA	221	Bahrain	14:20	FDB	068	Dubai	04:00	FDB	062	Dubai	20:35
FDB	057	Dubai	14:20	ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	04:05	KAC	287	Dhaka	20:40
IZG	4167	Mashhad	14:30	MSR	613	Cairo	04:15	KAC	331	Trivandrum	20:45
IZG	4161	Mashhad	14:50	PGT	861	Istanbul	04:45	AGY	681	Alexandria	20:50
KAC	540	Sharm el-Sheikh	14:50	THY	1465	Istanbul	04:50	KAC	1543	Cairo	20:55
ABY	127	Sharjah	14:55	THY	765	Istanbul	04:55	OMA	648	Muscat	21:00
RJD	135	Abu Dhabi	15:00	MSC	406	Sohag	05:00	ABY	122	Sharjah	21:00
KAC	788	Jeddah	15:00	QTR	1077	Doha	05:05	KAC	351	Kochi	21:05
OMA	645	Muscat	15:05	GFA	212	Bahrain	06:50	KNE	461	Riyadh	21:10
KNE	462	Madinah	15:05	THY	771	Istanbul	06:50	JZR	554	Alexandria	21:15
UAE	857	Dubai	15:45	JZR	240	Amman	07:05	MEA	403	Beirut	21:15
NIA	251	Alexandria	15:50	FDB	070	Dubai	07:05	MSR	607	Luxor	21:40
RJA	640	Amman	15:55	JZR	164	Dubai	07:15	DHX	171	Bahrain	21:50
ETD	303	Abu Dhabi	16:00	KAC	173	Munich	07:45	ETD	308	Abu Dhabi	22:05
KNE	472	Jeddah	16:00	JZR	778	Jeddah	08:30	FDB	074	Dubai	22:10
JZR	535	Cairo	16:05	BAW	156	London	08:30	KAC	381	Delhi	22:20
FDB	051	Dubai	16:10	FDB	054	Dubai	08:30	ALK	230	Colombo	22:20
KAC	512	Mashhad	16:10	KAC	539	Sharm el-Sheikh	08:50	UAE	860	Dubai	22:25
QTR	1072	Doha	16:20	QTR	1087	Doha	08:55	KLM	415	Dammam/Amsterdam	22:25
JZR	125	Bahrain	16:25	JZR	534	Cairo	09:15	KAC	349	Kochi	22:30
KAC	118	New York	16:30	KAC	671	Dubai	09:25	KAC	301	Mumbai	22:30
KNE	474	Jeddah	16:55	KAC	787	Jeddah	09:30	QTR	1075	Doha	22:40
KAC	562	Amman	17:00	ABY	126	Sharjah	09:45	GFA	220	Bahrain	22:45
IRA	669	Mashhad	17:10	UAE	856	Dubai	09:50	KAC	205	Islamabad	22:50
SVA	510	Riyadh	17:15	KAC	101	London/New York	10:00	KAC	345	Ahmedabad	22:55
UAL	982	IAD	17:25	ETD	302	Abu Dhabi	10:00	ETD	310	Abu Dhabi	23:00
				RJA	649	Amman	10:15	KNE	471	Jeddah	23:05
				KAC	511	Mashhad	10:20	KAC	411	Bangkok/Manila	23:25
								MSC	408	Sohag	23:45

Word Search Puzzles

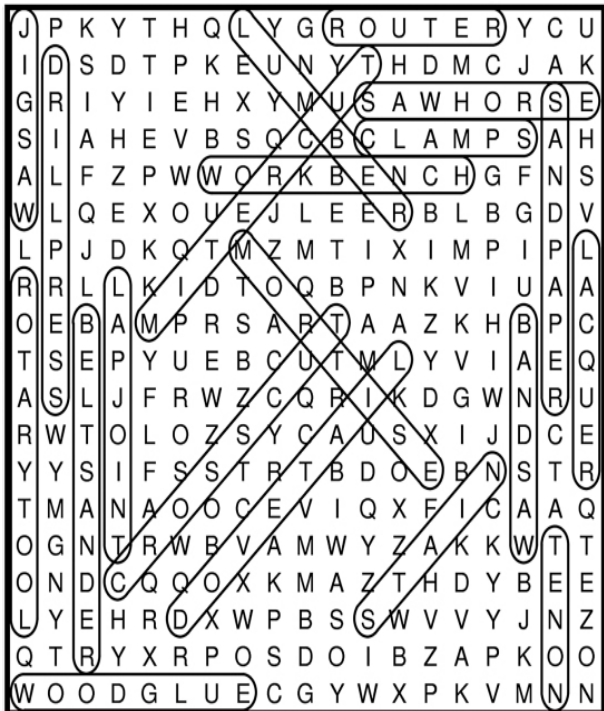
BEACH BOYS SONGS WORD SEARCH PUZZLE



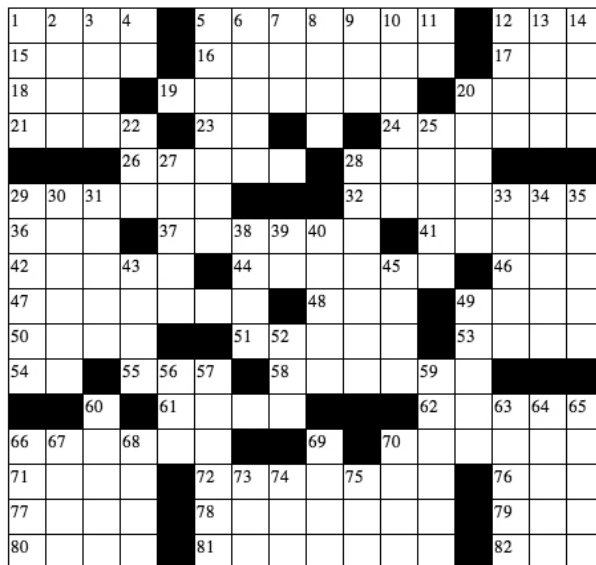
- ALL ALONE
- ALL SUMMER LONG
- BARBARA ANN
- CALIFORNIA GIRLS
- CAROLINE NO
- DO IT AGAIN
- DON'T WORRY BABY
- FUN FUN FUN
- GOD ONLY KNOWS
- GOOD VIBRATIONS
- HELP ME RHONDA
- I CAN HEAR MUSIC
- I GET AROUND
- I'M SO YOUNG
- KOKOMO
- LITTLE HONDA
- SLOOP JOHN B
- SURF'S UP
- SURFIN' USA
- WOULDN'T IT BE NICE

Yesterday's Solution

SOLUTION TO WOODWORKING PUZZLE



CROSSWORD 1058



ACROSS

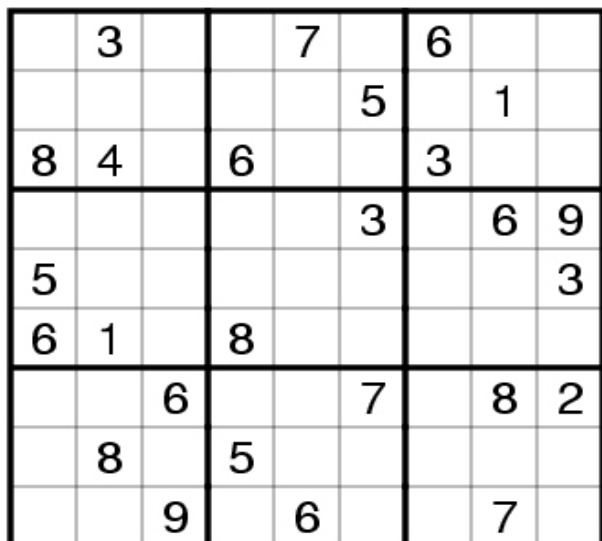
1. Asiatic wild dog.
5. Showing the wearing effects of overwork or care or suffering.
12. The basic unit of electric current adopted under the System International d'Unites.
15. A specific instance of feeling hopeful.
16. Relating to or consisting of or being in water.
17. The 19th letter of the Greek alphabet.
18. How long something has existed.
19. Lacking fresh air.
21. A city in east central Texas.
23. A logarithmic unit of sound intensity.
24. Basic principles of the cosmos.
26. Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
29. An esoteric or occult matter that is traditionally secret.
32. An ancient town on Crete where Bronze Age culture flourished from about 2000 BC to 1400 BC.
36. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
37. (Greek mythology) One of the three Graces.
41. The 10th and last incarnation of Vishnu.
42. Battles in World War II in the Pacific (November 1943).
44. Advance evidence for.
46. A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
47. Causing fear or dread or terror.
48. A rapid bustling commotion.
50. A republic consisting of 26 of 32 counties comprising the island of Ireland.
51. An ancient Hebrew unit of dry measure equal to about a bushel.
53. The protruding part of the lower jaw.
54. A state in southeastern United States.
55. A Kwa language spoken by the Yoruba people in southwestern Nigeria.
58. Hungarian playwright (1878-1952).
61. A large number or amount.
62. East Indian cereal grass whose seed yield a somewhat bitter flour, a staple in the Orient.
66. An alloy of copper and zinc (and sometimes arsenic) used to imitate gold in cheap jewelry and for gilding.
71. The content of cognition.
72. Inclined toward or displaying love.

76. A periodic paperback publication.
77. Being on the left side.
78. Herbs, shrubs and trees.
79. The 7th letter of the Greek alphabet.
80. Any of various small biting flies.
81. A ship with a reinforced bow to break up ice and keep channels open for navigation.
82. (Irish) The sea personified.

DOWN

1. A wad of something chewable as tobacco.
2. A Hindu theistic philosophy.
3. An organization of countries formed in 1961 to agree on a common policy for the sale of petroleum.
4. A colorless odorless gaseous element that give a red glow in a vacuum tube.
5. A bag used for carrying money and small personal items or accessories (especially by women).
6. Jordan's port.
7. A user interface based on graphics (icons and pictures and menus) instead of text.
8. Cassava with long tuberous edible roots and soft brittle stems.
9. Goddess of criminal rashness and its punishment.
10. (used in combination) Dominated or obsessed by.
11. The district occupied entirely by the city of Washington.
12. Essential oil or perfume obtained from flowers.
13. Injure or wound seriously and leave permanent disfiguration or mutilation.
14. The basic unit of money in Botswana.
20. A member of the Siouan people of the Kansas river valley in Kansas.
22. A Turkish unit of weight equal to about 2.75 pounds.
25. English scientist who formulated the law of elasticity and proposed a wave theory of light and formulated a theory of planetary motion and proposed the inverse square law of gravitational attraction and discovered the cellular structure of cork and introduced the term `cell' into biology and invented a balance spring for watches (1635-1703).
27. Either of two large African antelopes of the genus Taurotragus having short spirally twisted horns in both sexes.
28. (zoology) Lacking a tail or taillike appendage.
30. Fungus used in the preparation of punk for fuses.
31. Someone who bakes commercially.
33. A wound made by cutting.
34. Similar to the giraffe but smaller with much shorter neck and stripe on the legs.
35. A sea nymph (part woman and part bird) supposed to lure sailors to destruction on the rocks where the nymphs lived.
38. Remove with or as if with a ladle.
39. The blood group whose red cells carry both the A and B antigens.
40. A state in the Rocky Mountains.
43. The United Nations agency concerned with atomic energy.
45. German botanist who is generally recognized as founding bacteriology when he recognized bacteria as plants.
49. Lean end of the neck.
52. A syndrome that occurs in many women from 2 to 14 days before the onset of menstruation.
56. A group of African language in the Niger-Congo group spoken from the Ivory Coast east to Nigeria.
57. Medium-sized tree-dwelling monkey of the Amazon basin.
59. The act of apprehending (especially apprehending a criminal).
60. The ending of a series or sequence.
63. The 3rd letter of the Hebrew alphabet.
64. Related on the mother's side.
65. Moth having nonfunctional mouthparts as adults.
67. (Norse mythology) Ruler of the Aesir.
68. The basic unit of money in Thailand.
69. A thrusting blow with a knife.
70. The part of the eye that contains the iris and ciliary body and choroid.
73. (British) A waterproof raincoat made of rubberized fabric.
74. Used of a single unit or thing.
75. The United Nations agency concerned with the interests of labor.

Daily SuDoku



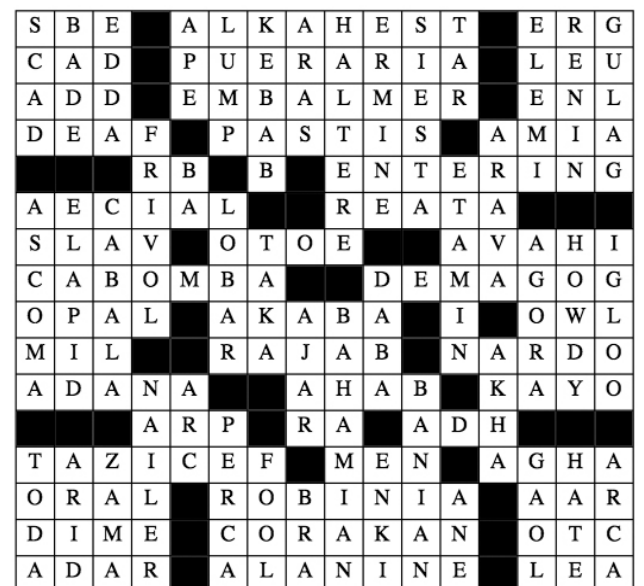
very hard

Yesterday's Solution



hard

Yesterday's Solution



FIRE & FEATHERS: BRAZIL KICKS OFF 'INDIGENOUS OLYMPICS'

PALMAS: Athletes from tribes around the world kicked off what's being dubbed the indigenous olympics on Thursday with the lighting of a sacred fire in Brazil's Amazon city of Palmas.

The event is billed as a chance for indigenous peoples from as far as Ethiopia and Mongolia to test their mettle alongside other traditional tribes in sports including archery, spear throwing, and racing with heavy logs.

At sunset, members of 24 Brazilian ethnic groups led the ceremonial lighting of a flame in central Palmas to symbolize energy and life and world unity. Tribes took turns dancing around the fire in front of City Hall until dark.

The opening ceremony was yesterday, but already the soccer tournament—one of the more mainstream sports included in the program—was under way. About 1,800 athletes from 23 countries were scheduled to take part, watched by an expected 10,000-30,000 spectators a day. This was the first year that Brazil has opened its annual indigenous games to foreigners, giving it the

flavor of what some describe as a low-key version of next year's Summer Olympics, being staged in Rio de Janeiro.

But critics of the World Indigenous Games point to Brazil's deepening recession and political turmoil, as well as an ugly background of expansion by farmers into the traditional lands of Brazil's indigenous people.

Folklore and tensions

The concentration of indigenous groups, many decked out in traditional garb, brought a splash of color to a remote, dusty city rarely visited by tourists.

At the sports center outside the city, dozens of people in robes and feathers disembarked from buses. Broad-chested men with symmetrical black markings on their faces walked with groups of women who pulled along children. Something of a head dress fashion show developed, featuring black and green and yellow feathers. There were grass skirts, painted bare chests, sculpted



PALMAS: The goalkeeper of the team Canela, center, controls the ball during a game against Gaviao at the World Indigenous Games in Palmas, Brazil, Thursday. Palmas is the host city for the first World Indigenous Games that will showcase conventional sports as well as indigenous sports, with the participation of more than 2,000 indigenous athletes from around the world. The event officially began yesterday and runs through Nov 1. — AP



PALMAS: A Brazilian indigenous man attends a ceremony on the eve of the beginning of the first World Indigenous Games in Palmas, Tocantins, Brazil yesterday. — AFP

hairstyles—and, not infrequently, modern sunglasses.

Some headed to the sporting area and some set up stalls in hopes of selling to journalists and other visitors. With the heat making even some of the tough indigenous athletes mop their brows, ice cream vendors did especially well.

But police helicopters flying overhead were a reminder of potential tensions. Raul Pako, a Brazilian man from the Canela people who had come to take part in tug-of-war and archery, said he had mixed feelings about the event.

"I am very happy because before we took part in a national event, which was good, but today it's the first world games," Pako, who had a weathered

face and a thick necklace of green beads, said. However, conditions at the games' humble equivalent of an Olympic Village made him wonder how much the athletes were valued. "We're missing a lot of things here. We're missing water, we're missing a few other things too, like soap," he said, adding that the bus trip was difficult because "there was no air conditioning or toilet."

"The organizers who got the buses are pirates," he said. Ubiranan Pataxo, of Brazil's Pataxo people, questioned whether the excitement of the games reflected the reality for indigenous tribes whose ancient ways of life are under siege from farmers, environmental degradation and cultural pressure.

"It's great that the indigenous games have become the world indigenous games," said the muscular, bare-chested young man, who sported black and ochre paint on his skin, large wooden ear piercings, and a flamboyant head-dress of white, red and blue plumes.

"We can show the whole world, the whole country, what a real Brazilian is a warrior fighting even now to preserve our culture and to survive the massacres, the discrimination, the rape of our women," he said. "This is the moment to celebrate, but also to make our demands so that the government hears us and notices what's happening to our planet, what's happening to our forests, and to our rivers." — AFP

ROSE TIGHTENS GRIP ON HONG KONG OPEN

HONG KONG: Justin Rose tightened his grip on the Hong Kong Open yesterday as he moved to the top of the leaderboard—but he singled out compatriot Ian Poulter as a key rival standing between him and the trophy. World number seven Rose, whose last visit to Fanling in 2011 saw him turfed out early after missing the cut, shot a four under par round of 66 to go nine under on the second day.

Poulter climbed to joint third position after hitting 66, going seven under par at the halfway point of the tournament. His precipitous descent to number 51 in the world rankings saw him make a last minute dash to Hong Kong in a bid to save his European Tour membership and his Ryder Cup chances. Taiwan's Lu Wei-chih, who underwent brain surgery in 2012, who was on seven under and Denmark's Lucas Bjerregaard, the world number 285, on eight under, completed the top four.

But American Dustin Johnson missed the cut after a poor day on the course, which saw him chalk up a two over par round of 72, including a double bogey on the sixth that left him hacking around in the rough.

The world number eight finished the day at one over after two rounds. Poulter, who said he was suffering from jetlag, insisted he was not just there to make up the numbers. "I don't play to take part—obviously I play to win," the former Hong Kong Open champion said.

There is added drama for the 39-year-old since he must finish on top to qualify for the coveted WGC-HSBC Champions event in Shanghai next month. He has been in the tournament, known as "Asia's major", every year since it started in 2005.

'Something to prove'

Poulter added he was looking forward to the chance of playing with his friend Rose this weekend. "Any time you get to play with a mate, and obviously a good one like Justin, is always quite nice," he said.

Rose's consistency over the first two days saw him play just one bogey, on the penultimate hole Friday, before finishing on a birdie. He said he was happy with his performance despite struggling with a sore left hip as temperatures topped 30 Celsius (86



HONG KONG: Justin Rose of England hits out of a bunker on the 3rd hole during round 2 of the Hong Kong Open golf tournament in Hong Kong, yesterday. — AP

Fahrenheit). He called Poulter a "tough to beat" opponent. "Poulter is a past champion and he's on the leaderboard," Rose said. "He's always good when he's got something

to prove, and he's probably a dangerous guy now that he's outside the top 50 in the world, and I know that he'll be desperate to get back in it." — AFP

POCOCK, FOLAU BACK FOR WALLABIES, SIO OUT FOR SEMIFINALS

TEDDINGTON: The return of David Pocock and Israel Folau will add firepower to Australia's starting XV for the Rugby World Cup semifinal against Argentina tomorrow.

The loss of Scott Sio, though, was a setback for the Wallabies ahead of a knockout game in which the scrum could be a deciding factor.

Pocock (calf muscle) and Folau (ankle) passed fitness tests yesterday after missing the quarterfinals last weekend, when the Wallabies needed a contentious last-minute penalty goal to edge Scotland 35-34.

Pocock's ability to win turnovers at the breakdown should give Australia extra possession, while Folau's size and speed make him a handful for any defensive lineup.

For the third consecutive week, Wallabies coach Michael Cheika delayed announcing his lineup until after the last full

training run because of concern over injuries. Sio injured his right elbow against Scotland and didn't recover in time, giving James Slipper a recall in the frontrow.

Great opportunity

"It's a World Cup semifinal, it's not like we're keeping anyone for next week," Cheika told a news conference yesterday, six hours before he announced the team.

The inclusion of 72-test veteran Slipper in the starting lineup left room on the bench for twice-called Toby Smith. It also gives Slipper the chance to make amends for a pass that led to an intercept try for Scotland last week, and easily could have ended Australia's campaign.

"James has been pushing for a starting spot with his performances as a finisher, and I know he'll take it with both hands," Cheika said. "James is a leader in our squad

and has performed well through this tournament so far, and in the lead-up matches.

"This weekend is a great opportunity for the lads to improve on last week and take advantage of the chance to play on such a big stage." Argentina beat Ireland 43-20 in the quarterfinals, stunning the Six Nations champions with two early tries to take a 17-0 lead and then finishing strongly after the Irish rallied to get back to 23-20. Wallabies skipper Stephen Moore, who earned his 100th test cap last week, hasn't been surprised by Argentina's run. The Pumas have scored 26 tries so far, second only to New Zealand.

"We've played Argentina already this year, so we're probably a bit more familiar with the teams we play more often," he said. "I guess if (quarterfinal results) told us anything, it told us how good a team they are and how dangerous they are."

Cheika said he'd been planning for an all-Rugby Championship semifinal matchup for a while.

"We see them on a regular basis," Cheika said. "We're not surprised at all by their position here - we would have expected it, so we've been preparing."

Kurtley Beale, who started at fullback against Scotland, and Ben McCalman, who filled in for Pocock at No. 8, revert to the bench this weekend.

Australia: Israel Folau, Adam Ashley-Cooper, Tevita Kuridrani, Matt Giteau, Drew Mitchell, Bernard Foley, Will Genia; David Pocock, Michael Hooper, Scott Fardy, Rob Simmons, Kane Douglas, Sekope Kepu, Stephen Moore (captain), James Slipper. Reserves: Tatafu Polota-Nau, Toby Smith, Greg Holmes, Dean Mumm, Ben McCalman, Nick Phipps, Matt Toomua, Kurtley Beale. — AP

HUMBLE HABANA ON BRINK OF HISTORY

LONDON: South Africa's Bryan Habana goes into today's World Cup semi-final against New Zealand at Twickenham just one try short of breaking Jonah Lomu's tournament record of 15.

Habana, who as a fan watched New Zealand powerhouse Lomu rampage his way round rugby fields in South Africa at the 1995 World Cup, cannot get over being talked about in the same breath as the legend.

"For me he is an inspiration. In 1995 for me in that World Cup to see a guy like Jonah Lomu demolish England, he went on to become a global superstar. I will never forget. I was there targeting signatures," said Habana.

"Records are always nice to achieve but the most important thing for me, throughout my career, has been making a contribution to my side." The sight of Habana in full flight, and the broad, almost boyish, grin he displays when he scores a try have made him a favourite of rugby fans around the world.

"It's so humbling I've been able to do something with my God-given talent, to do something I love and to do it with teammates you have formed a special bond with and to do it for a country where rugby gives us so much back, it is a massive privilege," Habana said.

As a leading player in post-apartheid South Africa, Habana, a member of the Springboks side that won the 2007 World Cup, has long been aware that his responsibilities extend far beyond the rugby field.

So it was no surprise when, in the build-up to the semi-final, he gave a moving tribute to South African teacher and rugby coach Zukisa Kela, murdered as part of a gang attack in Johannesburg last weekend.

Mandela moment

"Losing a quarter-final, losing a semi-final, even losing a final of a World Cup would never be ideal, and losing is certainly not something we have on the back of our minds-but the loss of life is not something you can put a value on. "That iconic moment of the late Nelson Mandela giving Francois Pienaar that trophy back in 1995, that was a watershed moment not only for myself and a lot of play-



LONDON: South Africa's Bryan Habana, left, and Schalk Burger attend a training session at Twickenham Stadium, London, yesterday. South Africa will play New Zealand's All Blacks in a Rugby World Cup semifinal match today. — AP

ers, but for our country. "So going out there on Saturday we'd like just to inspire, to give back and to hopefully unite a nation that so dearly needs it at the moment."

The son of a mother who under apartheid was classified as 'coloured' and grew up in a shack on the edge of Johannesburg, Habana was educated at the exclusive King Edward VII School in Johannesburg.

"Even though my parents had to go through apartheid, and even though their experiences were a lot tougher than mine, we

grew up without disregard for any type of person," Habana told Britain's Daily Telegraph in a recent interview. His rugby talent soon became apparent and he made his Currie Cup debut for the Lions in 2004 before switching to the Blue Bulls in 2005. Habana's Springbok debut, as a replacement against England in 2004, saw him score the first of 64 tries in 115 Tests, to leave him joint second in the all-time international standings alongside Australia's David Campese, with only Japan's Daisuke Ohata ahead of them with 69. — AP

US SPORTS CAN HELP F1 REACH NEW FANS: LEWIS HAMILTON

AUSTIN: Formula One should link up with mainstream American sports like basketball and football to reach new audiences in the United States, world champion Lewis Hamilton suggested on Thursday.

Asked at a US Grand Prix news conference how the sport could create "more enthusiasm in urban black America for Formula One", and among urban kids in general, Hamilton listened to rivals before offering an opinion.

"Maybe Formula One can start to engage more with the NFL or with the other sports," said the only black driver on the starting grid.

"I don't know if I've ever seen an NBA player come (to a race). I've had a friend come once. Otherwise it's never really been anyone from those sports, different kind of sports."

Hamilton, who could claim his third championship and second in a row for Mercedes in Sunday's race, recognised it was difficult for many Americans to relate to his sport.

Coming from an under-privileged background himself, the grandson of emigrants from the West Indies whose family had little money and no prior involvement in motorsport, Hamilton knows about reaching new audiences.

But he also recognises the difficulties. "Obviously they're crazy about NFL and NBA and they are sports that you can just go and buy the equipment, buy a ball or a racket and go play down the road or in the street, whereas karting, you can't," said the Briton.

"I was very lucky, my Dad bought me a go-kart and we drove it around a car park, like a DIY Homestore car park for a while, but there's not that much accessibility for kids who say 'Hey, I want to go go-karting'."

Hamilton is a regular visitor to the United States and, with friends in the music industry and Hollywood, has a high profile on celebrity websites and social media as he mixes with the likes of singer Rihanna and the Kardashian family.

"As you can see I'm doing as much as I can but I'm only one person," said the 30-year-old who spent time at a fashion show in New York before flying to Austin.

"Yesterday I was go-karting with some kids, there were two black kids with us. One passed me, the first time I'd ever been on a track with a black kid and, coming past it was like seeing myself come by. It was kind of funny. It was good." — Reuters



KUWAIT BAGS THREE SILVER ONE BRONZE IN SHOOTING TOURNAMENT

By Abdellatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: Today marks the final day of competition of HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah Shooting tournament as well as the 13th Gulf Championship being held at Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Olympic Shooting Complex.

Secretary General of Kuwait and Arab Shooting Federations Obaid Al-Osaimi welcomed the presence of the representative of the tournament patron, Hawally Governor Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah at the closing ceremony.

Al-Osaimi lauded the support of the political leadership, headed by HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber and the wise government for the sport of shooting.

Meanwhile, Kuwait bagged four medals including three silver and one bronze. Kuwait's Ahmad Al-Afasi won the individuals double trap silver medal after fierce competition with Oman's Hussein Al-Shoumi who won gold, while UAE's Ahmad Dhahi took bronze.

Al-Afasi along with Fuhaid Al-Daihani and Saadi Al-Mutairi gave Kuwait the double trap teams silver medal, second to the Qatari team which took gold as the bronze went to the UAE team. Again Kuwait's 10 meter pistol team took the silver medal as Saudi Arabia took gold, and Oman took the bronze. In the individuals event, gold went to UAE's Amin Ahmad, followed by Bahrain's Abdelmajeed Abdelkhalik and Saudi Attallah Al-Enezi.

Kuwait team of Abdallah Al-Harby, Mohammad Adel and Sultan Al-Osaimi won the team's 10 meters rifle bronze as



Bahrain took first place, and Oman second. The individual event saw Bahrain's Mohammad Haji taking gold, followed by compatriot Ali Haiderabadi silver while the bronze went to Oman's Salem Al-Nabi.

President of the Arab and Kuwait Shooting Federations Eng. Duaij Al-Otaibi commented on the continued threats by the International Olympic Committee to suspend Kuwait's sports, saying that this may be a good opportunity for Kuwait government to correct the wrong situation in sports, and put an end to the continued threats against Kuwait sports.

He said Kuwait Shooting Federation and clubs do not wish suspension of Kuwait sports. He said Kuwait already qualified for two places at the Brazil 2016 Olympics by Khalid Al-Mudhaf and Ahmad Al-Afasi during the world championship in Italy. He said shooters are ready to compete in the Olympics and make a third achievement following Sydney 2000 and London 2012. But if the suspension takes place, and had to participate under the Olympic Flag as the case was in China, then we will not participate, and it is either the Kuwait Flag or nothing.





SINGAPORE: Tennis players (Front L-R) Lucie Safarova, Angelique Kerbe, Petra Kvitova, Garbine Muguruza, Simona Halep, Maria Sharapova, Agnieszka Radwanska and Flavia Pennetta, and (Back L-R) Abigail Spears, Raquel Kops-Jones, Bethanie Mattek-Sands, Chan Hao-chin, Chan Yung-jan, Sania Kristina Mladenovic, Timea Babos, Caroline Garcia, Katarina Srebotnik, Andrea Hlavackova and Lucie Hradecka attend the Official Draw Ceremony prior to the WTA Finals yesterday in Singapore. — AFP

HALEP AND SHARAPOVA DRAWN TOGETHER AT WTA FINALS

SINGAPORE: Top seed Simona Halep was pooled with grand slam winners Maria Sharapova and Flavia Pennetta in a formidable looking Red Group for the end-of-season WTA Finals yesterday. With world number one and defending champion Serena Williams opting out after narrowly missing out on a rare calendar Grand Slam, Romanian Halep is the highest seed for the eight woman end-of-season championships which begin tomorrow.

Halep, who lost to Williams in the final last year after beating the American in the pool stage, was drawn against Italian Pennetta,

who lifted a shock US Open title after compatriot Roberta Vinci beat Williams in the last four.

The Romanian, winner at Indian Wells earlier this year, will also take on Russian multiple grand slam winner Sharapova, who lost in the Australian Open final to Williams in January. Poland's Agnieszka Radwanska, who won her 16th career title in China last week, rounded out the group from which the top two will advance to the semi-finals after round robin play.

Awaiting them will be the heavy hitters of the White Group, where Wimbledon finalist

Garbine Muguruza of Spain and twice champion of the grass court major Petra Kvitova were pooled together.

They were joined by Germany's Angelique Kerber, who completed the rare feat of winning WTA titles on green clay, red clay, grass and hardcourts this year.

Czech Lucie Safarova, who only qualified for the singles field on Thursday, was the other player in the group. Safarova, the world number nine and French Open runner-up, will also play in the doubles with American partner Bethanie Mattek-Sands where she has been drawn in the same pool as Muguruza

and partner Carla Suarez Navarro.

Singles

Red Group

Simona Halep (Romania)
Maria Sharapova (Russia)
Agnieszka Radwanska (Poland)
Flavia Pennetta (Italy)

White Group

Garbine Muguruza (Spain)
Petra Kvitova (Czech Republic)
Angelique Kerber (Germany)
Lucie Safarova (Czech Republic). — Reuters

ROOT STANDS FIRM AS ENGLAND PUSH PAKISTAN

DUBAI: Joe Root took the attack to the Pakistan bowlers with an enterprising half-century to guide England to 182-3 at close of play on the second day of the second Test in Dubai yesterday.

Root, unbeaten on 76, built the innings after England lost the key wicket of skipper Alastair Cook as they fought hard against a pace-cum-spin Pakistan attack on a Dubai stadium pitch.

With Root was Jonny Bairstow on 27 as England were 196 behind Pakistan's first innings total of 378 with seven wickets intact.

The first Test in the three-match series ended in a draw in Abu Dhabi last week. Cook, who hit an epic 263 in the first Test, added 113 runs for the third wicket with Root as the pair negotiated leg-spinner Yasir Shah and left-arm Zulfikar Babar with confidence.

They built on the early loss of Moeen Ali (one) and Ian Bell (four) and challenged Pakistan's superior bowling attack. Cook reached his 45th half-century with a flicked boundary off paceman Imran Khan before he was caught off a leg-side push off the bowling of Shah.

Cook hit 10 well-timed fours during his

117-ball stay.

Root was more aggressive, taking a single off Shah to complete 15th fifty to continue his excellent form in 2015 in which he had already passed the 1,000-run mark before this series. Root has so far hit nine fours during his 118-ball stay.

Valiant

Pakistan seamers Wahab Riaz and Imran Khan had given their team an early breakthroughs in the post-lunch session.

Ali was smartly snapped up at short-leg off Riaz while Bell edged one from Khan before Cook and Root led the fightback. Cook survived a confident leg-before appeal off spinner Zulfikar Babar on 27 as his attempted sweep hit his pads and the ball deflected on to the stumps and despite having an impact the bails were not removed.

Pakistan also unsuccessfully reviewed a leg-before shout when Cook edged Riaz's delivery on to his pads when on 41 as England flourished in the second session.

Earlier, Pakistan, resuming at 282-4, lost their last six wickets for 96 runs in the two-and-a-half hour session, extended due to

SCOREBOARD

DUBAI: Scoreboard at stumps on the second day in the second Test between Pakistan and England on yesterday in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

Pakistan 1st innings (Overnight: 282-4)

M. Hafeez c Bairstow b Ali	19
S. Masood c Buttler b Anderson	54
S. Malik c Bairstow b Stokes	2
Y. Khan c Buttler b Wood	56
Misbah-ul-Haq lbw b Broad	102
A. Shafiq c Root b Wood	83
S. Ahmed c Anderson b Ali	32
W. Riaz c Anderson b Ali	6
Y. Shah c Stokes b Rashid	16
Z. Babar lbw b Wood	3
I. Khan not out	0
Extras (lb-4 w-1)	5
Total (all out, 118.5 overs)	378
Fall of wickets: 1-51 M. Hafeez, 2-58 S. Malik, 3-85 S. Masood, 4-178 Y. Khan, 5-282 Misbah-ul-Haq, 6-334 S. Ahmed, 7-342 W. Riaz, 8-370 Y. Shah, 9-377 Z. Babar, 10-378 A. Shafiq.	

Bowling: J. Anderson 20-5-40-1, S. Broad 17-4-48-1, M. Ali 25-3-108-3, M. Wood 19.5-7-39-3, B. Stokes 17-3-55-1 (w-1), A. Rashid 20-1-84-1.

England 1st innings

A. Cook c sub b Shah	65
M. Ali c Masood b Riaz	1
I. Bell c S. Ahmed b I. Khan	4
J. Root not out	76
J. Bairstow not out	27
Extras (lb-1 nb-3 w-5)	9
Total (for 3 wickets, 51 overs)	182
Fall of wickets: 1-5 M. Ali, 2-14 I. Bell, 3-127 A. Cook	
To bat: B. Stokes, J. Buttler, A. Rashid, S. Broad, M. Wood, J. Anderson	
Bowling: I. Khan 10-4-26-1, W. Riaz 10-0-51-1 (nb-3 w-1), Z. Babar 10-2-35-0, Y. Shah 17-2-59-1, S. Malik 4-1-10-0.	

Friday prayers.

Seamer Mark Wood (3-39) and Ali (3-108) shared the bowling honours. Asad Shafiq scored 83 before he was caught by Root off Wood, 17 short of his hundred.

He hit nine fours off 178 balls and valiantly attempted to reach his century as he was running out of partners. Pakistan suffered an early jolt when skipper Misbah-ul-Haq was dismissed off the fifth ball of the day, trapped leg-before by paceman Stuart Broad.

Misbah, who had not added to his overnight score of 102, reviewed Australian umpire Paul Reiffel's decision but the replays showed the ball was hitting the leg-stump.

Misbah hit eight fours and five sixes during his 197-ball stay at the crease. Shafiq added 52 with Sarfraz Ahmed (32) before Ali struck twice by having Ahmed and Wahab Riaz (six) caught at mid-on to leave Pakistan at 342-7. Shah scored a quick 16, including three fours. —AFP

SMALL-TIME CRICKET TOURNAMENT PROVES BIG DRAW IN QATAR

DOHA: Malfas, a Sri Lankan ticket officer who has worked in Qatar for six years, dabs the cricket ball into the outfield, scampers for the winning single then raises his arms in triumph.

Immediately his victorious teammates rush onto the vast Doha pitch in celebration, hugging each other. In the stands, a Sri Lankan band, including an irrepressible trumpeter and two noisy drummers, strike up their umpteenth song of a sticky Qatar evening.

Amid the growing din, a Bhangra band prepares to dance as the announcer shouts out the result over a booming pitch-side microphone. Organisers hurriedly place trophies on plinths.

Those present are drawn from among Qatar's army of Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi and Sri Lankan workers, all prominent cricket-playing nations. Between them, these four countries account for almost 40 percent of Qatar's population. "You see the workforce that comes from the subcontinent-India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka—they love cricket," said a smiling Shahid Iqbal, captain of the victorious team, Qalco, a local oil company.

"So, because the national game of Qatar is football, we are looking for some opportunities to play cricket.

That is our national game." The joyous scenes are worthy of one of the almost 90 major sporting events, including the current Paralympics world championships, to be held in Qatar in the 12 months up to March 2016.

But this jubilant night on the grim fringes of the capital does not even register as a footnote on the country's A-list sporting calendar.

It wasn't advertised, no promotional banners were stuck to lamp-posts, no tickets sold in the city centre, nor any international superstars flown into highlight the event, as usually happens in Doha.

Yet, despite the sweaty conditions, a good size crowd-around the same as that at a recent Qatar World Cup football qualifier — has turned out for a seemingly inconsequential eight-overs-a-side cricket competition between teams composed entirely of labourers or those representing local companies.

Labourers come to relax

Well away from the bright lights of Doha's ultra-modern city centre stands the Asian Town Cricket Stadium, where many of the Gulf state's labourers come to relax.

Both Qalco and their opponents in the final, QDVC, battled through a competition involving up to nine teams. The tournament itself is like



DOHA: The winners of the Workers Cricket Championship team Qalco pose for a group picture following the match at the Asian Town Cricket Stadium in Doha on September 10, 2015. — AFP

a form of street cricket, which just happens to be played in a 14,000-seater stadium.

There is no hard "real" cricket ball—more a slightly harder and bouncier tennis ball—so there's no need for batsmen to wear protective pads, or anything else.

Heading into the final Qalco are clear favourites, thanks in no small part to their star Pakistani batsman Ifzal Khan. QDVC skipper, who gives his name as Zuheb, admits his team, made up of an assortment of workers, has little chance as the final begins.

"Some of them are drivers. I do HR work. Some of them here are AC technicians. Some of them are stall-keepers, those kinds of things."

This being Qatar it is hard to escape the vexed issue of workers' rights—an international cause and a sensitive topic within the country itself. The match takes place close to a Labour City, a sprawling new accommodation centre for up to 70,000 workers, many from South Asia.

One of the teams taking part, QDVC, a subsidiary of French construction company Vinci, has been

accused of using forced labour on sites in Qatar and taken to court in France, a claim it vehemently denies. Prizes include sharing 25,000 Qatari riyals (\$6,800, 6,100 euros) among the winning team, and 10,000 for the runners-up.

One Bangladeshi player tells AFP he is desperate to win a share of the money as it will equate to around a month's wages, which he could then send home to his family.

The conversation is overheard and leads to accusations of trouble-making, a jarring note on an otherwise sportsmanlike evening. —AFP

WEST INDIES STRUGGLE TO SAVE SECOND TEST

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka stretched their lead to 113 over West Indies Friday as they followed up a clinical bowling performance with a solid start to their second innings in a low-scoring Test in Colombo. The opener Kaushal Silva was unbeaten on 31 and Dinesh Chandimal was not out on five as the visitors finished the second day of the final Test at the P. Sara Oval on 76-2.

Responding to their hosts' first innings total of 200, the tourists were all out in the last ball of the afternoon session for just 163 after pace bowler

Dhammika Prasad took four for 34.

"Our plan was to bowl them out for less than 200 and it worked," Prasad said. "All the bowlers bowled well. I was more interested in the team doing well than taking my fifth wicket. We did not want to allow a lead to the West Indies," he said. And having wrested the initiative away from the tourists, Sri Lanka then drove home their advantage as debutant Kusal Mendis justified the faith of the selectors with an entertaining innings of 39.

The opener Dimuth Karunaratne

was out first ball of the innings, caught by a diving Devendra Bishoo, after flicking uppishly at a ball by Jerome Taylor, but 20-year-old Mendis showed few sign of nerves. Hitting seven fours, Mendis became the second wicket to fall, caught behind off Jomel Warrican with the total on 55.

Good pitch

Silva and Chandimal then saw out the remaining 10 overs to leave the hosts well placed to clinch the series following their innings victory in the

SCOREBOARD

COLOMBO: Scores at close of play on day two of the second cricket Test between Sri Lanka and West Indies played at the P Sara Stadium in Colombo yesterday.

Sri Lanka 1st Innings

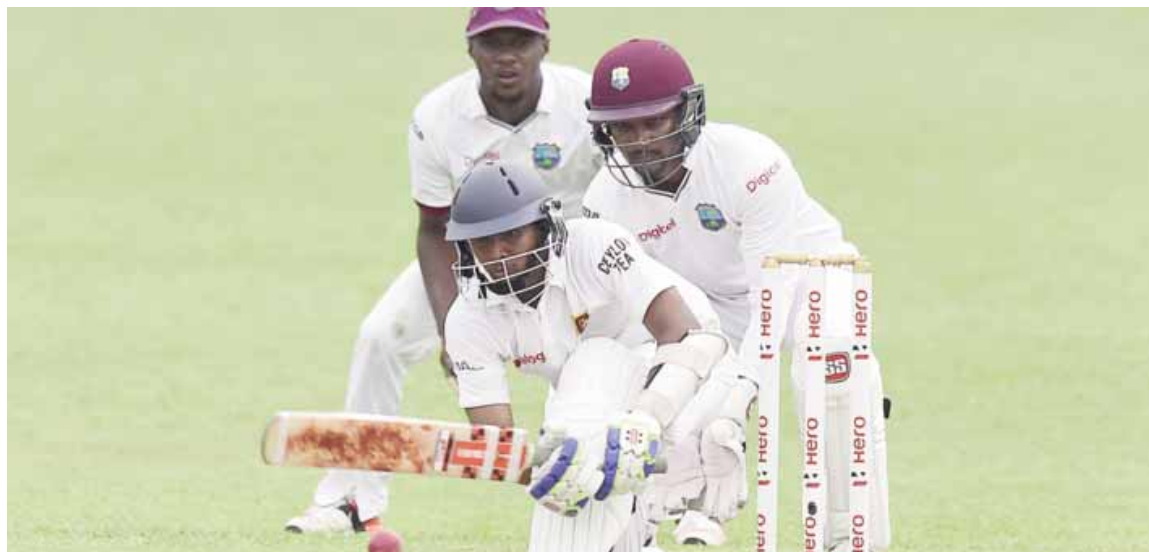
Dimuth Karunaratne lbw b Holder	13
Kaushal Silva c Ramdin b Taylor	0
Kusal Mendis c Ramdin b Roach	13
Dinesh Chandimal b Taylor	25
Angelo Mathews c Brathwaite b Holder	14
Milinda Siriwardana c Taylor b Warrican	68
Kusal Janith Perera ct & b Warrican	16
Dilruwan Perera st Ramdin b Bishoo	5
Rangana Herath not out	26
Dhammika Prasad c Ramdin b Warrican	7
Nuwan Pradeep lbw Warrican	0
Extras: (b10 lb3)	13
Total: (all out 66 overs)	200
Fall of wicket: 1-1 (Silva), 2-34 (Karunaratne), 3-34 (Mendis), 4-59 (Mathews), 5-90 (Chandimal), 6-127 (K Perera), 7-149 (D Perera), 8-173 (Siriwardana), 9-200 (Prasad), 10-200 (Pradeep).	
Bowling: Taylor 15-2-50-2, Roach 12-4-30-1, Holder 11-1-22-2, Warrican 20-2-67-4, Bishoo 8-0-18-1.	

West Indies 1st innings	
Kraigg Brathwaite c Kusal Janith Perera b Siriwardana	47
Shai Hope lbw b Prasad	4
Devendra Bishoo c Kusal Janith Perera b Prasad	13
Darren Bravo b Prasad	2
Marlon Samuels a Mathews b Siriwardana	13

Jermaine Blackwood c Kusal Janith Perera b Prasad	16
Denesh Ramdin b Herath	14
Jason Holder c Mathews b Dilruwan Perera	1
Kemar Roach not out	17
Jerome Taylor lbw Dilruwan Perera	1
Jomel Warrican c and b Dilruwan Perera	1
Extras: (b9 lb3 w1 nb1)	14
Total: all out (64.2 overs)	163
Fall of wicket: 1-7 (Hope), 2-33 (Bishoo), 3-37 (Bravo), 4-76 (Samuels), 5-89 (Brathwaite), 6-105 (Blackwood), 7-137 (Ramdin), 8-149 (Holder), 9-151 (Taylor), 10-163 (Warrican)	
Bowling: Prasad 12-3-34-4, Pradeep 11-3-24-0, Herath 20-5-39-1, Dilruwan Perera 11-2-3-28-3, Siriwardana 10-2-26-2.	

Sri Lanka 2nd Innings

Dimuth Karunaratne c Bishoo b Taylor	0
Kaushal Silva not out	31
Kusal Mendis c Ramdin b Warrican	39
Dinesh Chandimal not out	5
Extras: (lb1)	1
Total: 2 wickets (31 overs)	76
To bat: Angelo Mathews, Milinda Siriwardana, Kusal Janith Perera, Dilruwan Perera, Rangana Herath, Dhammika Prasad, Nuwan Pradeep	
Fall of wicket: 1-0 (Karunaratne), 2-55 (Mendis)	
Bowling: Taylor 4-1-15-1, Roach 4-1-10-0, Holder 5-1-9-0, Warrican 11-1-21-1, Bishoo 7-1-20-0.	



COLOMBO: Sri Lankan cricketer Kusal Mendis bats as West Indies wicketkeeper Denesh Ramdin (R) and cricketer Jermaine Blackwood look on during the second day of the second Test match between Sri Lanka and the West Indies at the P. Sara Oval Cricket Stadium in Colombo yesterday. — AFP

first Test in Colombo. None of the West Indies batsmen passed the 50 mark in their first innings, with opener Kraigg Brathwaite top-scoring with 47. "It was a good pitch," said Brathwaite. "But the Sri Lankan bowlers bowled really well. Spinners got good purchase."

After resuming in the morning on 17-1, few of the West Indies batsmen ever looked comfortable and found runs harder to get as the day wore on—struggling in particular to score off the miserly Rangana Herath. Between lunch and tea, the tourists lost six wick-

ets for the addition of 86 runs.

Prasad led the way with his four wickets but he was well backed up by Dilruwan Perera who finished with 3 for 28 while left arm spinner Milinda Siriwardana also chipped in with 2 for 26. Play began half an hour late due to a soggy outfield caused by heavy overnight rains. Although the light was gloomy at the start, it had improved significantly by the afternoon. The tourists have never won a Test match in Sri Lanka in 10 previous attempts. —AFP

WILD WINS 3-2 TO SEND BLUE JACKETS TO ANOTHER LOSS

ST PAUL: Thomas Vanek broke a tie in the second period and the Minnesota Wild beat Columbus 3-2 on Thursday night, pushing the Blue Jackets to 0-8-0 and spoiling John Tortorella's debut. Columbus' start is the worst season-opening regulation losing streak in the NHL since the New York Rangers started 0-11-0 in 1943-44. Tortorella took over as coach Wednesday after Todd Richards was fired. Zach Parise tied for the league lead with his sixth goal 5:04 in. After Alexander Wennberg and Brandon Dubinsky countered for Columbus, Nino Niederreiter tied it and Vanek scored the winner with 8:48 left in the second with his third goal of the season. Devan Dubnyk made 27 saves for his fourth win in five games this season. Sergei Bobrovsky made 20 saves for the Blue Jackets.

STARS 4, PENGUINS 1

Jason Spezza scored his fifth goal of the season and Dallas beat Pittsburgh for its fifth straight victory. Johnny Oduya and John Klingberg scored their first goals of the season and Mattias Janmark got his third, helping the Stars finish a perfect four-game trip. They are 6-1-0 overall. Antti Niemi stopped 33 shots for his third victory of the season and fourth straight against Pittsburgh. Niemi made 37 saves in a 3-0 win over the Penguins two weeks ago in Dallas. Nick Bonino scored for Pittsburgh. The Penguins (3-4-0) had won three straight. Evgeni Malkin's four-game points streak ended, as did his stretch of three straight games with a goal. The Penguins have scored 11 goals in their first seven games. They ended a five-game homestand, their longest this season, and will play six of their next seven on the road.

BLACKHAWKS 3, PANTHERS 2

Patrick Kane and Brent Seabrook each had a goal and two assists and Chicago beat Florida in its first game since top defenseman Duncan Keith had surgery in his right knee. Artem Anisimov also scored for the Stanley Cup champions, and Corey Crawford made 16 saves to improve to 5-1 in seven career starts against Florida. Keith had a meniscal tear repaired Tuesday, sidelining the two-time Norris Trophy winner for four to six weeks. Jaromir Jagr and Vincent Trocheck scored for Florida. The Panthers have dropped three in a row.

CAPITALS 3, CANUCKS 2

Alex Ovechkin broke a tie with 4:55 left and Washington Capitals beat the Vancouver Canucks 3-2 on Thursday night for their fourth straight victory. Jay Beagle pulled Washington even at 5:42 of the third, and Ovechkin won it with his fifth goal of the season. Jason Chimera scored in the first for the Capitals, but Radim Vrbata and Henrik Sedin each had a goal and an assist in the second for Vancouver. Washington's Braden Holtby made 23 saves. He stopped Daniel Sedin on a 2-on-1 midway through the third, and made a save against Bo Horvat with less than 7 minutes left. Washington is 5-1-0 and has beaten Chicago, Carolina and Calgary on its streak.

RANGERS 4, COYOTES 1

Henrik Lundqvist made 34 saves and Kevin Hayes broke a tie early in the third period in New York's victory over Arizona. Chris Kreider, former Coyotes defenseman



PITTSBURGH: Patrick Sharp #10 of the Dallas Stars takes a shot on goal against the Pittsburgh Penguins during the game at Consol Energy Center on Thursday in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. — AFP

Keith Yandle and Rick Nash also scored for New York. Nash's goal was his 700th career point. Mats Zuccarello added two assists. Klas Dahlbeck scored for Arizona. The Coyotes have lost four in a row after opening the season 3-0. Hayes broke a 1-1

tie at 2:35 of the third period. Goalie Mike Smith turned the puck over to J.T. Miller trying to play the puck behind the goal line. Miller found Hayes along the goal line, and the center lifted a backhand into the net.

KINGS 4, SHARKS 1

Jeff Carter scored twice, Jhonas Enroth made 39 saves and Los Angeles beat San Jose for its third straight victory. Tyler Toffoli and Milan Lucic also scored. The Kings have rebounded for a 3-3-0 start to the season. Joel Ward had a goal for the Sharks in their third straight loss. They've been outscored 13-4 over their past three games and have one power-play goal in their last 16 chances. Lucic scored the Kings' second power-play goal of the season. Los Angeles entered the game 1 for 21, but scored on its first opportunity to take a 2-0 lead. Carter added another in the third period.

DEVILS 5, SENATORS 4, SO

Lee Stempniak tied it with 32 seconds left in regulation and added the shootout winner in New Jersey's victory over Ottawa. Adam Henrique pulled New Jersey within a goal with 5:50 to go. Travis Zajac and Jordin Tootoo also scored, and Cory Schneider made 35 saves to help the Devils improve to 3-3-1. Chris Neil and Mike Hoffman, Zack Smith and Mika Zibanejad scored for Ottawa. Andrew Hammond made 28 saves in his season debut. The Senators are 3-2-2.

PREDATORS 5, DUCKS 1

Colin Wilson and Ryan Ellis each had a goal and two assists and Pekka Rinne made 27 saves to lift Nashville past Anaheim. Mattias Ekholm and Mike Ribeiro each had a goal and an assist, Eric Nystrom also scored to help the Predators improve to 6-1-0. Jiri Sekac scored for Anaheim. The Ducks have lost five of six this season. — AP

NHL Results/Standings

NY Rangers 4, Arizona 1; Dallas 4, Pittsburgh 1; New Jersey 5, Ottawa 4 (SO); Nashville 5, Anaheim 1; Minnesota 3, Columbus 2; Chicago 3, Florida 2; Washington 3, Vancouver 2; Los Angeles 4, San Jose 1.

Western Conference							Eastern Conference						
Central Division							Atlantic Division						
	W	L	OTL	GF	GA	PTS							
Dallas	6	1	0	25	15	12	Montreal	7	0	0	23	7	14
Nashville	6	1	0	24	14	12	Tampa Bay	4	2	1	23	20	9
St. Louis	5	2	0	21	17	10	Ottawa	3	2	2	23	22	8
Minnesota	4	1	1	17	17	9	Florida	3	3	1	20	15	7
Winnipeg	4	2	0	20	13	8	Detroit	3	3	0	16	16	6
Chicago	4	3	0	17	16	8	Boston	2	3	1	22	26	5
Colorado	2	3	1	16	17	5	Buffalo	2	4	0	11	15	4
Pacific Division							Toronto	1	3	2	13	19	4
San Jose	4	3	0	18	16	8	Metropolitan Division						
Vancouver	3	2	2	18	14	8	NY Rangers	5	2	1	22	16	11
Arizona	3	3	1	19	18	7	Washington	5	1	0	22	14	10
Los Angeles	3	3	0	10	15	6	NY Islanders	4	1	1	21	15	9
Edmonton	3	4	0	15	17	6	Philadelphia	3	2	1	13	16	7
Anaheim	1	4	1	6	17	3	New Jersey	3	3	1	16	20	7
Calgary	1	5	0	12	25	2	Pittsburgh	3	4	0	11	15	6
							Carolina	2	4	0	12	17	4
							Columbus	0	8	0	15	37	0

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

CHAMPAGNE TO MAKE ANOTHER BID FOR FIFA PRESIDENCY

ZURICH: Frenchman Jerome Champagne is to make another bid for the FIFA presidency, saying that soccer's governing body needs to be saved from collapse and the World Cup protected. Champagne, who held four different posts at FIFA, including deputy secretary general, between 1999 and 2010, said the organisation was "in danger" after being buffeted by a wave of scandals over the last few years.

"We need to save FIFA and its role of governance and redistribution, which is in danger at a time when they are needed the most," said Champagne in a letter to FIFA's 209 member associations, which will choose the next president at a Congress on Feb. 26.

"We must also restore FIFA's credibility and prepare it for the challenges of an ever-evolving world." "We must protect the World Cup as that moment of planetary communion during which the pride in our colours and friendship among people of the world are truly at the altar." FIFA was thrown into turmoil in May when the US Department of Justice indicted 14 soccer officials and sports marketing executives on a series of corruption charges.

In June, president Sepp Blatter announced he would lay down his mandate, just four days after being re-elected for a fifth four-year mandate. Earlier this month, Blatter and UEFA president Michel Platini, who had been the favourite to replace him, were both suspended for 90 days pending an ethics investigation.



Jerome Champagne

Champagne had wanted to run in the election earlier this year but failed to get the written backing from five national football associations (FAs) which is needed to register. With the Oct. 26 deadline for nominations looming, Jordanian Prince Ali Bin Al Hussein and former Trinidad and Tobago midfielder David Nakhid have announced their candidacies.

Former Brazil World Cup player Zico also wants to run but has said he is struggling to get the backing of five FAs and Asian soccer chief Sheikh Salman Bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa of Bahrain has said he is taking soundings about a

possible run. Champagne confirmed to Reuters that he had the five FAs, said he would not comment on rival candidates and criticised the way in which the campaign had been conducted. "We are witnessing the first months of the electoral campaign being dominated by controversy and deals made behind closed doors," he said.

Wealthy clubs

He called for three televised debates between the candidates, in December, January and February. "FIFA also deserves a proper debate about its future," he said. "Errors have been made and they must be corrected ... with no whitewash."

Champagne said he wanted to address the financial gap between a few wealthy clubs and the rest of the sport. He said clubs were losing identity and "prefer to trade their young talent rather than groom them into active members of their squad."

His proposals included giving more places to "under-represented" continental confederations such as Africa's on FIFA's executive committee and at the World Cup, and including players, clubs and leagues in decision-making.

On the field, his proposals include a so-called orange card, which would mean a temporary sending-off for the player concerned, and more respect for referees, who would be able to punish dissent by moving a free kick forward by ten metres as in rugby. — Reuters

BAYERN EYE 1000TH LEAGUE WIN TO CLAIM A PERFECT 10

BERLIN: Bayern Munich can claim their 1000th Bundesliga victory if they beat Cologne at home today as the German league leaders look to bounce back from their Arsenal disappointment.

Pep Guardiola's Bavarians suffered their first defeat in 13 games this season when they lost 2-0 at the Emirates Stadium on Tuesday in the Champions League. Despite the loss, Bayern are top of Group F in Europe and host Cologne at the Allianz Arena having won all nine Bundesliga games so far this season—a new league record they are eager to extend to a perfect 10.

Last Saturday's 1-0 win at Werder Bremen was Bayern's 999th victory since the Bundesliga started back in 1963 and the

Bavarians want to claim another German league first to make up for their blip in London.

"That's the Champions League. And in the Champions League you have to be perfect. We weren't," said Guardiola after their Arsenal defeat. But Bayern chairman Karl-Heinz Rummenigge had a different spin. "Actually nothing dramatic has happened. We're still top of the table," he said.

"It is important that the players show the right reaction immediately and continue their winning streak. "I recommend that you just keep it up against Cologne, it could be a record that stands for all time."

Guardiola hopes to have wingers Douglas Costa, Kingsley Coman and Arjen Robben available to face Cologne. Costa played against

Arsenal, Coman was on the bench after a thigh strain and Robben is set to return from a groin strain having trained with the reserves at the start of the week.

Battle

Second-placed Borussia Dortmund host bottom side Augsburg tomorrow in the battle of Germany's Europa League teams with the hosts' star-studded attack looking to add to their impressive goal tally.

Only Bayern have scored more goals (29) than Dortmund (24) so far this term. Gabon striker Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang failed to score in last Friday's 2-0 win over Mainz, the first time he has failed to hit the net in nine league matches so far this season having claimed ten Bundesliga goals. There will be a fascinating battle at Borussia Park also on Sunday when hosts Moenchengladbach take on third-placed Schalke.

Gladbach's 10th place in the table disguises their impressive recent form having won all four Bundesliga matches under caretaker coach Andre Schubert since Lucien Favre resigned last month.

Their run includes a 2-0 home win over Wolfsburg and a 5-1 routing of Eintracht Frankfurt away last weekend. Bayer Leverkusen are home to Stuttgart on Saturday with the visitors having only escaped the bottom three last weekend.

Roger Schmidt's Leverkusen are eager to learn the lesson from their 4-4 draw with Roma in the Champions League on Tuesday.

Bayer took an early 2-0 lead when Leverkusen's Mexico striker Javier Hernandez scored twice, only for the hosts to ship four goals before scoring twice in the final ten minutes to rescue a point.

"We need to look at what we did well in this game so that we can do the same (in Stuttgart), but we also need to improve," said Hernandez. "We can't afford to throw a lead like that away again and concede so many goals."

"Sometimes, though, football is like that and that's why I love it." —AFP



CAEN: Caen's French-Tunisian defender Alaeddine Yahia (L) vies for the ball with Nantes' Argentinian forward Emiliano Sala during the French L1 football match between Caen (SM Caen) and Nantes (FC Nantes), yesterday, at the Michel d'Ornano stadium, in Caen, northwestern France. — AFP



Matches on TV (Local Timings)

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

Aston Villa v Swansea	17:00
beIN SPORTS 11 HD	
West Ham v Chelsea	17:00
beIN SPORTS 1 HD	
Leicester v Crystal	17:00
beIN SPORTS 7 HD	
Norwich v Albion	17:00
beIN SPORTS 10 HD	
Stoke v Watford	17:00
beIN SPORTS 3 HD	
Arsenal v Everton	19:30
beIN SPORTS 1 HD	
beIN SPORTS 11 HD	

SPANISH LEAGUE PRIMERA

Vigo v Real Madrid	17:00
beIN SPORTS 2 HD	
beIN SPORTS 16 HD	
Granada v Real Betis	19:15
beIN SPORTS 7 HD	
Sevilla v Getafe	21:30
beIN SPORTS 2 HD	
Malaga v Coruna	23:05
beIN SPORTS 11 HD	

ITALIAN CALCIO LEAGUE

Empoli v Genoa	16:00
beIN SPORTS 6 HD	
Carpi v Bologna	19:00
beIN SPORTS 3 HD	
Palermo v Inter	21:45
beIN SPORTS 3 HD	

GERMAN BUNDESLIGA

Hannover v Frankfurt	16:30
beIN SPORTS	
Mainz V Bremen	16:30
beIN SPORTS	
Darmstadt V Wolfsburg	16:30
beIN SPORTS	
Leverkusen V Stuttgart	16:30
beIN SPORTS 8 HD	
Munich V Koln	16:30
beIN SPORTS 4 HD	
Ingolstadt V Hertha Berlin	19:30
beIN SPORTS 4 HD	

FRENCH LEAGUE

Lorient v Stade Rennes	18:00
beIN SPORTS 5 HD	
Montpellier v Bastia	21:00
beIN SPORTS 5 HD	
Angers v Guingamp	21:00
beIN SPORTS 9 HD	
Ajaccio v Nice	21:00
beIN SPORTS 10 HD	

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2015

Kuwait Times

Sports



Kuwait bags three silver one bronze in shooting tournament

43



GLASGOW: Spain's Nora Fernandez performs on the vault as she takes part in the women's qualification competition at the World Artistic Gymnastics championships in Glasgow, Scotland, yesterday. — AP

ROMANIA OFF TO ROUGH START AT WORLD GYMNASTICS

GLASGOW: The back of their blue, red and yellow warmup jackets read "Romania." The performances on the floor, under the lights and in front of the world, hardly looked like it. Shaky on balance beam and shakier still on uneven bars, the former gymnastics superpower

crumbled on the opening day of the 2015 world gymnastics championships. Once a regular medal contender and still considered among the sport's elite, Romania might not even make next week's eight-team final.

The once mighty have fallen. And fallen. And fallen. And they might not get the chance to get up. Not until next year anyway. Romania's lethargic total of 217.220 left it vulnerable to finish outside the top eight, a once seemingly impossible scenario for a country that has medaled in every Olympic team final since 1976.

Though there are still more than nine months before the flame is lit at the 2016 Rio Games, Romania could find itself head-

ing to Brazil sooner. Failing to make the team finals at worlds would force the Romanians to qualify through the test event next April. Star Larisa Iordache, runner-up last year to two-time defending world champion Simone Biles, slipped off the bars and finished with 55.698, well off what she would need to be a serious threat to Biles in the individual all-around. The 19-year-old broke down in tears before ushering her sullen teammates back to the hotel to regroup.

Sitting up in the stands, 1976 Olympic champion Nadia Comaneci sat in shock. The Romanian great understood her home country walked onto the floor at The SSE Hydro shorthanded after veteran Catalina Ponor injured her leg in training a few weeks ago and Anamaria Ocolisan twisted her ankle in practice on Thursday. Comaneci didn't expect to see what amounted to a full-on meltdown.

"I am sick to my stomach," Comaneci said. The Romanians were sluggish on floor

exercise and uninspired on vault before unraveling on uneven bars. Laura Jurca was the only one among her teammates to get through a routine without hitting the mat. Diana Bulimar came off twice, standing there stunned for several seconds after her second miscue.

Great qualification

The mistakes continued on beam, with Iordache botching an early skill and appearing disgusted as she tried to complete her set. The scores will reset for the team final next Tuesday. If Romania makes it. "Sometimes when you have a great qualification I would be worried about the final," Comaneci said. "I think you should be somewhere in the middle. But this was not very lucky for them. (I just) pray to be there in the first eight and I think we'll talk differently in the final."

Japan had no such issues in early competition, posting a strong team total of 223.863 that should have them in solid

position for the finals. They felt relaxed enough to pose for selfies afterward, a stark contrast to the Romanians.

Oksana Chusovitina of Uzbekistan likely won't make the individual all-around final, but the 40 year-old - yes, she's 40 - should make the vault finals even though she sat while trying to land a Produnova, basically two forward flips. Her two-vault average of 14.683 puts her in good position to make it to the event finals and has her on track as she tries to make it to a seventh Olympics.

Chusovitina said she feels "fantastic," three years after saying she was going to retire following the 2012 London Olympics. "We are women," she said through a translator. "We say one thing and we change our mind. It happens all the time."

Russia and rising Britain are scheduled to compete later yesterday. The US women, the defending Olympic champion and defending world titlists, will compete today evening. — AP