THE FIRST DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2015

Amir opens new Assembly term with first grilling on agenda



Intolerable, unimaginable heat forecast for **Arabian Gulf**



Gulf Bank posts healthy net profit of KD 29.6m for 9 months of 2015



Sheikh Salman joins race for FIFA president





KUWAIT, INDIA INKACCORD ON RECRUITMENT OF NURSES

HIRING WILL BE DONE ONLY THROUGH GOVT AGENCIES

Min 20° **Max** 38°

High Tide

11:44 & 23:33 **Low Tide**

05:31 & 17:50

UNITED DROPS KUWAIT FLIGHTS

By Sara Ahmed

KUWAIT: American carrier United Airlines will stop providing flight services to Kuwait as of January. United will also stop services to Bahrain. The announcement comes only a few weeks after the US Department of Transportation found Kuwait Airways guilty of discrimination for refusing to allow Israeli nationals to fly its New York to London route.

A United Airlines spokesperson Luke Punzenberger told the aviation blog View from the Wing that the carrier would continue a "dialogue with the [Kuwait] government". "We have taken steps to cease our service to Kuwait and Bahrain, effective January 13, 2016. We will continue to maintain an open dialogue with both governments and others who may be affected by this decision, and offer alternative travel plans or refunds to customers who could be impacted," he was quoted as saying. United told the blog that the "service is not meeting our financial expectations".

United was the only US carrier to offer direct Kuwait to US services. Passengers can also choose national carrier Kuwait Airways for direct flights to New York, though it's unclear at this point if the recent ruling will result in an interruption or halt in KAC flights to the US.

POWERFUL QUAKE ROCKS SOUTH ASIA



BAJAUR, Pakistan: Residents gather next to the rubble of damaged houses following a powerful earthquake that rocked parts of South Asia yesterday. — AFP (See Page 7)

By Sajeev K Peter

KUWAIT: The Ministry of Health (MoH) and the Indian Embassy yesterday signed an agreement finalizing the modalities of recruitment of nurses from India and paving the way for hiring nurses only through three government agencies. Dr Mahmoud Al-Abdulhadi, assistant undersecretary for legal affairs at the MoH, and Dr Jamal Mansour Al-Harbi, assistant undersecretary for medical services affairs at the MoH, and Indian Ambassador Sunil Jain signed the agreement at a brief ceremony held at the MoH yesterday.

The agreement puts to rest uncertainty over the issue that has been hanging ever since India banned overseas recruitment of nurses by private agencies from April 30, 2015. Several agents in India had even moved to court to challenge the government decision.

After signing the agreement, the officials expressed optimism that the agreement would put an end to large-scale corruption and cheating by private recruiting agents who used to recruit nurses from India to Kuwait after taking huge sums as bribes and commission. "Both Kuwait and Indian authorities will work together to make recruitments of nurses corruptionfree and transparent," Jain told Kuwait Times.

The ministry of health plans to recruit nearly 3,000 nurses within a year and the majority of them will be from Kerala. The India government decided in March to route the recruitment of nurses through three government agencies - Norka Roots, the field agency of the Non-Resident Keralites Affairs Department, Overseas

Continued on Page 13



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National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanim during a session of the National Assembly.



Former National Assembly Speaker Jassem Al-Kharafi



Then National Assembly Speaker Ahmad Al-Sadoun during a session.



His Highness Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah presides over the inaugural session of the National Assembly on Jan 20, 1962.



Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah inaugurates the third official season of the National Assembly in this file photo.



Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah inaugurates the

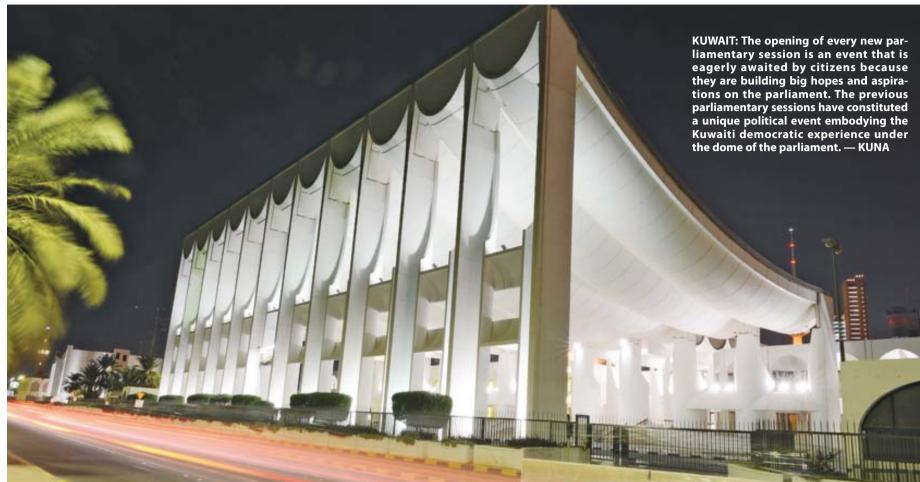


Ahmad Zaid Al-Sarhan, then National Assembly Speaker, presiding over the session.



One of the National Assembly sessions in the old building circa 1960's.

PARLIAMENT 'EMBODYING' DEMOCRATIC PROCESS'



The National Assembly - one of Kuwait's landmark institutions

AMIR OPENS NEW ASSEMBLY TERM WITH FIRST GRILLING ON AGENDA

MP TURAIJI FILES GRAFT CASE AGAINST CUSTOMS CHIEF

CABINET, PARLIAMENT MEMBERS MEET IN A CORDIAL ATMOSPHERE

KUWAIT: A number of Cabinet members have praised their 'brotherly and cordial' meeting with MPs during a dinner banquet hosted by National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanim at his Diwan in the presence of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. Minister of Oil and Minister of State for National Assembly Affairs Dr Ali Al-Omair said the government outlined the priorities of the development plan in collaboration with the National Assembly.

"There are some 37 draft legislations related to the prerequisites of the development plan which will be discussed by the Assembly in the coming weeks," he told reporters, voicing hope that the legislations will be passed at early dates. "These drafts, which are on the agenda of the Assembly, deal with issues such as juvenile delinquency, franchises and public tenders," Dr Al-Omair revealed. Minister of Justice and Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Ya'qoub Al-Sane' said the meeting between members of the legislative and executive authorities opens new horizons for fruitful cooperation and amity.

"The current Assembly was able to make a legislative revolution during its past three legislative terms," he said in similar press remarks. "The ongoing cooperation between the two authorities brought Kuwait back to its joyfulness and leading role," Al-Sane' said. He noted that the current Assembly puts the constitutional frameworks above all considerations and proved to be committed to the rules of correct parliamentary practices.

Minister of Social Affairs and Labor and Minister of Planning and Development Affairs Hind Al-Sabeeh said the meeting with the MPs, part of an annual chain, reaffirmed commitment of members of both authorities to cooperation for the sake of the homeland. She thanked Al-Ghanim for this "kind gesture," voicing hope that the fourth legislative term will add new achievements on all levels and meet the aspirations of the citizens. She added that the meeting did not touch on the interpellations some MPs plan to raise. On the plan for demographic restructuring, Al-Sabeeh said the implementation will start within two or three years and the plan could take three decades to complete.

For his part, Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah said the annual meeting at Al-Ghanim's diwan has become "a good tradition." He highlighted the importance of signing into law the draft bill on electronic media to bridge the legislative gap of the country in this regard. "The traditional media is controlled by law on publications and audiovisual content while the electronic media has yet to be regulated." Sheikh Salman said.

"The competent bodies of the Ministry of Information made praiseworthy effort to work out a draft bill which does not affect the personal accounts or blogs on social media but only has to do with professional media," he disclosed. The minister voiced hope that the bill will be discussed and passed during the coming legislative term. Meanwhile, Minister of Commerce and Industry Dr Youssef Al-Ali said the priorities of his ministry include the passing of the bills on franchises and insurance companies, and draft amendments to the law on competitiveness. The banquet gathered all cabinet members and 42 MPs who discussed the agenda of the fourth legislative term, due to start today, October 27. — KUNA

A National Assembly session attended by then Crown Prince

and Prime Minister, Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah pictured during the inauguration of the second half of the Fourteenth Season of the National Assembly. — KUNA photos

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah today opens the new term of the National Assembly which is expected to start with a discussion of a grilling against the Social Affairs and Labor Minister over alleged irregularities. The Amir will address the lawmakers about the local, regional and international situation. The address will be followed by the government statement to be delivered by the Prime Minister in which he will outline the government projects over the next year.

The session will witness the election of the Assembly secretary and the supervisor and immediately followed by the discussion of a grilling filed by MP Mohammad Tana to Minister of Social Affairs and Labor Hind Al-Sabeeh. The debate of the grilling however is unlikely to take place at the opening session as the minister is expected to ask for a two-week delay. The submission of the grilling ahead of the term opening is a precedence in Kuwait's parliamentary history as MPs normally waited until after the term started. The grilling alleges the minister of committing a number of financial and administrative violations at the ministry's various departments. Tana's grilling is not the only questioning as several MPs have threatened to grill the ministers of oil, commerce and industry, finance, health and others. MP Khalil Al-Saleh in the meantime has decided to delay filing a grilling against Oil Minister Ali Al-Omair over alleged violations in the oil sector and the agricultural authority which comes under

Following the discussion of the grilling, the National Assembly will elect 11 permanent panels including the key financial and economic affairs, legal and legislative affairs, interior and defense and foreign relations committees. A number of temporary panels might be elected too depending on proposals by lawmakers. If Sabeeh decides to accept the grilling debate in today's session, election of committees is expected to be postponed because of time considerations.

The new term should last for at least eight months. In another development, MP Abdullah Al-Turaiji said yesterday he has filed a complaint at the newly-established Anti-Corruption Authority against the director of the Customs Department for allegedly covering up corruption cases, bribery and irregularities in public funds.

He said he has submitted documents to prove his accusations of the customs chief and expected that the authority will take legal measures in accordance with its law. The law-maker said that he had repeatedly warned the finance minister about rife corruption in the customs department and urged him to take legal actions.

He said that recently, detectives have busted a number of employees at the customs department involved in corruption and bribery, a case that supports his accusations. Turaiji called on the finance minister to dismiss a number of employees at the customs department including the director because leaving them in their positions will send a wrong message for those who want to steal public funds.



His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah takes a constitutional oath during a special session of the National Assembly.



The late Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah inaugurates the sixth season of the National Assembly on March 9, 1985.



Photo shows former National Assembly Speaker Khaled Saleh Al-Ghunaim, during vote tallying to elect a Deputy Speaker.



Executive President of the Central Apparatus for Illegal Residents Saleh Al-Fadhala.



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives the Audit Bureau's Acting Chairman Adel Al-Saraawi.—KUNA photos

AMIR RECEIVES TOP OFFICIALS

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received at Bayan Palace yesterday, Saleh Al-Fadhala, **Executive President of the Central** Apparatus for Illegal Residents who presented to His Highness a report about condition of the illegal residents in the country. His Highness the Amir also received Adel Al-Saraawi, the Audit Bureau's Acting Chairman, who handed His Highness reports about revision of the State budgets and final accounts of the 2014-2015 fiscal year. The meeting was attended by Deputy Amiri Diwan Minister Sheikh Ali Jarrah Al-Sabah. His Highness also received Deputy Chief of the National Guard Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah at Bayan Palace. — KUNA



His Highness the Amir receives Adel Al-Saraawi, the Audit Bureau's Acting Chairman, who handed His Highness reports about revision of the State budgets and final accounts of the 2014-2015 fiscal year.

MUNICIPALITY COLLECTED KD 417,500 IN BANK GUARANTEES

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: Ahmadi municipality's PR department announced collecting KD 1,827 in fees and KD 417,500 in the form of bank guarantees during Sept 2015. The department added that 265 licenses were issued in the same period.

Best short movie

MoE Assistant Undersecretary for Educational Development and Activities Faisal Maqseed announced that in collaboration with the US embassy, a special competition will be held for the best short movie about Kuwait's liberation war and the role played by allied forces during the occupation and liberation war. Maqseed added that the competition will be open to intermediate and secondary students. Conditions include that the movie's length should be of 5 to 10 minutes in English or Arabic or both, and production teams must comprise of three to five people including a supervising teacher. Maqseed also stressed that participating CDs should be handed over at MoE's PR and media department by Thursday, Dec 3, 2015. He also noted that a joint commit-

tee comprising of elements from MoE and the US embassy will choose three winners. Also, MoE's Assistant Undersecretary for Financial Affairs Yousef Al-Najjar said air-conditioning contracts at the ministry's headquarters and the Jabriya training center had been extended for six

MEW 2016-2017 budget

MEW announced allocating KD 100 million from its 2016-2017 budget to fund a project to supply, install, operate and maintain new gas turbine units at the Subbiya power and water desalination plant to increase its capacity by 500 megawatts.

Passports of doctors

MoH recently withdrew the passports of doctors working at public hospitals according to the three-month 'locum' (placeholder in Latin) system and withheld them with hospitals' administrative departments throughout the three-month period.

Withdrawing houses

The Housing Public Authority is due to start withdraw-

KUWAIT: First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received UK's former Prime Minister Tony Blair. The meeting was attended by Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Abduallah Al-Mubarak. — KUNA

FM RECEIVES TONY BLAIR

KUWAIT: First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received UK's former Prime Minister Tony Blair, who is currently visiting the country. The meeting was attended sunday by Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Abduallah AL-Mubarak Al-Sabah, besides a number of senior officials from the Kuwait Fund For Arab Economic Development (KFAED). Both sides tackled a number of regional and international issues, besides other matters of mutual interest. — KUNA

FM RECEIVES CREDENTIALS OF TWO NEW AMBASSADORS

Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah yesterday received the credentials of the newly-appointed Ambassadors of Switzerland and Japan. The Minister wished the diplomats success in

progress and prosperity for the bilateral ties between Kuwait, and both of Switzerland and Japan. The meeting was attended by Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Sulaiman Al-Jarallah, Assistant Foreign Minister for the

KUWAIT: First Deputy Premier and their new positions - and further Minister's office Ambassador Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Mohammad Al-Sabah, as well as Assistant Foreign Minister for Protocol Affairs Ambassador Dhari Ajran Al-Ajran, besides a number of the Ministry's senior officials. — KUNA





KUWAIT: First Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received the credentials of the newly-appointed Ambassadors of Switzerland and Japan (right). — KUNA Photos

ing houses and apartments given to citizens who have not been using them for over 90 days or have been letting them out to others, by the beginning of November. In another development, the Minister of Commerce and Industry Yousef Mohammed Al-Ali decided to form a special committee comprising of elements from his ministry and some other relevant bodies to study regulating construction material subsidies. The committee is due to report back to the minister within a month.

CABINET CALLS FOR CONSOLIDATING UN FOR WORLD PEACE AND JUSTICE

KUWAIT: The Cabinet yesterday highly appreciated the UN's historical role and great achievements for maintaining peace, settling international conflicts as well as serving global humanitarian and development issues. During its routine weekly meeting held at Bayan Palace and chaired by His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, the cabinet also called for further support to the international institution to reinforce the world's peace and justice in line with the principles upon which the UN Charter was based.

On Saturday, the world marked the UN Day, 24 October, the anniversary of the entry into force of the Charter in 1945. Emerging from today's meeting, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah, said that the Cabinet was informed of a message from Saudi King Salman bin Abdualaziz Al Saud inviting His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to attend the 4th Arab-Latin America Summit due in Riyadh in November. The ministers were also notified of a message sent by President of Venezuela Nicolas Maduro Moros to His Highness the Amir thanking him for Kuwait's participation with a high-profile delegation in the recent technical meeting of oil experts from the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries and non-OPEC countries. Moros's message also tackled means of boosting bilateral ties in all fields, Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah. Then, His Highness the Prime Minister offered the meeting an account of his recent visit to France, in the framework of the bilateral historical ties, and part of Kuwait's keenness on fostering relations. His Highness the Premier told the Cabinet on the outcome of his talks with President Hollande at the Elysee Palace, which covered the distinguished bilateral ties and means of promoting cooperation between the two friendly countries. During the visit, Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak handed the French President a message from His Highness the Amir inviting him to visit Kuwait to exchange views on regional and international issues. He said that Kuwait is eager to make the utmost use of France's leading expertise in technology and sciences.

In addition, Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak gave notice of the military, education, economic and investment agreements signed during the France visit, for the good of people in both countries. Meanwhile, the Cabinet praised the substantial efforts exerted by the Ministry of Interior, represented by Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, and the ministry's commanders and personnel, to provide due security to mosques and Hussainiat. The sizeable efforts were acknowledged by citizens and expats.

The ministers extended thanks to the Kuwaiti firefighters and the Ministry of Health and Kuwait Municipality personnel who shared security fellows the mission toward the nation. By the same token, the Cabinet commended the firm security measures taken by the Ministry of Interior in the wake of a violent fight among expats in the Shuwaikh industrial area on Sunday, the Cabinet Affairs Minister said. Several expats involved in the scuffle were arrested in a record time after the video of their fight was leaked via social media. They were referred to competent authorities.

Then the meeting reviewed the half-yearly follow-up report for the annual development plan 2015-2016, Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah said. Minister of Social Affairs and Labor and Minister of State for Planning and Development Hind Al-Sabeeh briefed the cabinet on the future views and strategic goals of Kuwait's development plan. Covering the period 1 April- 30 September, the biannual follow-up report included 531 projects in fields of construction and partnership with the private sector besides joint stock companies, as well as their implementation status of all. The Cabinet concluded the customary by reviewing the political developments on the Arab and the international scenes. —KUNA



Photo

of the day



KUNA: Photo shows Al-Mubarakiah bazaar - where contemporary features blend with the past soul. It is an eminent panorama of the Kuwaiti popular heritage; an irresistible tourist attraction. —KUNA

CBK APPROVES ISSUANCE OF 'NET STABLE FUNDING RATIO'

BANK COMPLETES IMPLEMENTATION OF BASEL III REFORM PACKAGE

KUWAIT: The Governor of the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) Dr Mohammad Yousef Al-Hashel has announced the issuance of the Net Stable Funding Ratio (NSFR) Guidelines for both conventional and Islamic banks. In a press statement following a meeting of the bank's board of directors, Al-Hashel said that the board had approved in June, 2014 the implementation of the instructions of Basel III capital adequacy standard in its final format to all local banks, the instructions of leverage ratio standard in October, 2014, and the instructions of liquidity coverage ratio in December, 2014.

By approving these instructions, the bank had completed the implementation

KUWAIT SPORTS LAWS

IN TUNE WITH

OLYMPIC CHARTER

KUWAIT: Minister of Information and Minister of

State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Salem

Al-Humoud Al-Sabah affirmed that Kuwait's sports

laws are in consistency with the provisions of the Olympic Charter and the international regulations. "The International Olympic Committee is demanded to prove the contrary (in order to justify the recent FIFA decision to bar Kuwait from international football events); we will ask them (the IOC) when we meet in Kuwait," the minister told

of financial standards of Basel III reform package, and Kuwait has become one of the leading countries that implement these standards, adopted by Basel in the aftermath of the global financial crisis in order to consolidate the pillars of financial stability, he added. He referred that the standards approved Sunday aims to encourage banks to promote their stable funding sources in light of harmonizing assets inside and outside the budget to curb the independence on short-term finances.

He noted that the Net Stable Funding Ratio focuses on the possibility of making sure that the bank's stable funding is enough to meet the required stable funding (RSF) in light of assets and liabilities of each bank. The governor pointed out that the amount of available stable funding (ASF) is measured on basis of the broad characteristics of the relative stability of an institution's funding sources, including the contractual maturity of its liabilities and the differences in the propensity of different types of funding providers to withdraw their funding. He indicated that the proportion of the applied ASF ranges from 100 to Zero percent. Al-Hashel said the RSF factor assigned to various types of assets is a gauge of the amount of a particular asset that would have to be funded. It ranges from 100 to Zero percent.

He said the banks will start submitting standard reports to the CBK at the beginning of next year, and the banks would be committed to fully implementing the standards to develop their systems. He noted that the banks also can add new methodologies in managing their assets and liabilities including the amendments appropriate for their financial resources to achieve financial stability of each bank. He revealed that the guidelines of Net Stable Funding Ratio were published on the CBK website, adding that the CBK continues to exert its efforts to develop approaches of banking supervision in line with the international standards. — KUNA





Sheikh Salman Sabah Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah

reporters Sunday night. He made the comments after a dinner banquet hosted by National Assembly Speaker Marzoug Al-Ghanim which gathered in the presence of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

"The State of Kuwait is keen on cooperation and mutual respect with the IOC but the policy of setting conditions and deadlines and issuing three threats for a sovereign state is

totally unacceptable," Sheikh Salman made clear. He pointed out that the dignity of Kuwait is above all considerations, saying that "the documents, not just statements, affirm the rightness of our cause." Sheikh Salman noted that the Kuwaiti government spared no effort over long years in providing the necessary facilities and support for the sports movement, citing as evidence the ability of Kuwaiti sportspeople to reach top places at international events.

He added that Kuwait invited the IOC to a meeting here to discuss the reservations raised during the recent meeting in Lausanne, Switzerland, between representatives of the ICO and Kuwait Olympic Committee. "The Kuwaiti delegation to the Lausanne meeting received a note including the ICO observations about suspected inconsistency of the Kuwaiti sports laws with the Olympic Charter and claims of interference in the sports affairs," he said, adding that Kuwait handed the IOC a complete note to explain its right stance. The minister expressed hope that the IOC will accept the Kuwaiti invitation and send a delegation to discuss the matter in detail. —KUNA





KUWAIT: National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanim meets number of senior journalists and media figures. -KUNA photos

KUWAIT, EGYPT STRESS IMPORTANCE OF ACTIVATING MEDIA AGREEMENTS

CAIRO: A Kuwaiti official stressed the importance of activating media agreements between Kuwait's Information Ministry and Egypt TV, as well as boosting them in order to increase the media culture between the two countries. Talal Al-Subaie, Director General of Al-Arabi TV channel of Kuwait TV (KTV), made his remarks in a statement to KUNA after meeting with Essam Al-Ameer, head of Egyptian Radio and Television Union, in the Egyptian capital. He also stressed the importance of bolstering exchange of programming between the two countries, in accordance with the signed deals, in addition to increasing exchange of visits between Kuwaiti and Egyptian officials. It would increase the number of Kuwaiti drama, documentary, and cultural TV programs and shows in Egypt TV, giving the Kuwaiti-produced programs more spots and further cultural benefit in the media field. Al-Subaie noted.

Meanwhile, the Kuwaiti official

explained the purpose of his current visit to Cairo is to promote the "Kuwait as the capital of Islamic culture for 2016" event, pointing out a number of joint Kuwaiti-Egyptian evening shows, cultural programs, and other events to be produced by Kuwait TV and aired in Egyptian TV channels. For his part, Al-Ameer pointed out media's significant role in boosting communication among people of the world and highlighting their various cultures, commending the Kuwaiti-Egyptian deep-rooted and historic ties in several areas, particularly media.

He also praised the tremendous communication and interaction between Egypt and Kuwait TVs, indicating a future cooperation and joint production between the two media bodies. The Egyptian official also stressed the importance of bilateral cooperation in recording, historic, and documentary programs and shows, as well as joint purposeful films that have a positive influence on Arab children. He also revealed that the country's TV is currently in the progress of airing a set of programs produced by Kuwait's Al-Arabi channel, in addition to a set of Egyptian programs that would also be aired via Al-Arabi channel.

Al-Ghanim meets media figures

Meanwhile, National Assembly Speaker Marzoug Al-Ghanim yesterday met a number of senior journalists and media figures from different Arab newspapers and news agencies. The Arab media figurers are visiting the country to attend the opening of the 14th legislative term of the parliament.

During the meeting, Al-Ghanim said that the upcoming legislative term will discuss local and international security, humanitarian and economic files. He pointed out that the Kuwaiti leadership always calls for wise and moderate foreign policy in order to face security challenges in the region. — Agencies

News

In brief

Deputy Chief of the National Guard thanks well wishers

KUWAIT: Deputy Chief of the National Guard Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah yesterday expressed his thanks and appreciation to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Chief of the National Guard His Highness Sheikh Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah and all Kuwaitis who expressed their sincere feelings following his successful surgery. Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmed said he feels a great sense of pride for all the love and care extended to him by the Kuwaiti people, a matter that had an impact in his recuperation. Such kindness and affection are deep-rooted values engraved into the hearts of the Kuwaiti people, known for their solidarity and compassion.



Kuwaiti ambassador to Pakistan Ambassador Nawaf Abdulaziz Al-Enezi

Kuwaitis, diplomats in Pakistan 'are safe'

ISLAMABAD: All Kuwaiti citizens and the members of the Kuwaiti mission to Pakistan are safe in the earthquake that struck the Islamic Republic of Pakistan yesterday, said Kuwaiti ambassador to Pakistan Ambassador Nawaf Abdulaziz Al-Enezi. The Kuwaiti Embassy in Islamabad advised the citizens who are in the friendly Islamic Republic of Pakistan to exercise caution and to communicate with the embassy in case of any emergency. Also, Kuwait's Embassy in India has contacted the concerned authorities there to ensure safety of Kuwaiti nationals in the wake of the earthquake that hit the country yesterday, ambassador Fahad Al-Awadi said. No Kuwaiti was affected by the earthquake which rattled many of northern Indian states including New Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana and Chandigarh, the embassy said in a statement to KUNA. The embassy urged all Kuwaitis in India to contact it through hot-line numbers operating around the clock to ensure their safety and offer them help "at this time of distress." The following are the hotline numbers for any emergency and support: 09650656017, 01146100700.

Women club amends its constituent laws

KUWAIT: Al-Fatat Sport Club has amended its constituent laws in a move deemed as necessary for promoting the national athletic sector at the regional and international level. The basic laws were modified during an extraordinary general assembly, held late on Sunday, at the club's headquarters, with the required quorum. Fadhila Al-Shwailan, the deputy chairperson of the women's club, told Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) that the assembly was attended by the club President, Sheikha Fariha Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, and representatives of the Public Authority for Youth and Sports (PAYS). The amendments were introduced in line with the Resolution 548/2015 that enlists sport authorities' laws. Approval of the proposed modifications "is a step forward on path of overhauling and backing the Kuwaiti sports and elevating the sector to the highest regional and international levels," she said, lauding the brotherly spirit that distinguished the meeting.



Kuwaiti Ambassador to Japan Abdulrahman Al-**Otaibi seen with Japanese official**

Kuwait envoy Al-Otaibi visits Fukushima region

TOKYO: Kuwaiti Ambassador to Japan Abdulrahman Al-Otaibi yesterday visited Fukushima in the Tohoku region, accompanied by a number of accredited ambassadors in Japan. The visit was organized by the Japanese Foreign Ministry in cooperation with the Fukushima regional council. The Kuwaiti Embassy said in a statement that Al-Otaibi met during the visit with Fukushima Governor Masao Uchibori and Fukushima local officials. The statement noted that the ambassador also toured the area's Fukushima agriculture and technology center, various traditional locations, including a high school. Uchibori expressed pleasure for the visiting delegation and praised Kuwait's contribution to Fukushima in the aftermath of the Tsunami tragedy in 2011. For his part, Al-Otaibi expressed appreciation for the warm hospitality and the meaningful tour which highlighted the cultural and historic aspects of Fukushima.



KUWAIT: Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah yesterday met the visiting Mexican Deputy Foreign Minister Carlos de Icaza and his accompanying delegation. Both sides discussed aspects of bilateral cooperation, the latest developments at both regional and international levels, as well as, the upcoming visit of Mexican President to Kuwait. The meeting was attended by several officials of the Kuwait Foreign Ministry and the Mexican ambassador to Kuwait. —KUNA

KUWAIT, MEXICO DISCUSS **ECONOMIC COOPERATION**

KUWAIT: A Mexican economic delegation, visiting Kuwait, stressed the importance of developing bilateral ties and commercial exchange between the two countries. Mexico currently sits at the 14th place in the international economy list, and is considered the number one commercial partner for the US, Mexican Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs Carlos de Icaza said during his meeting with members of Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry yesterday. Meanwhile, he noted that his country's GDP is estimated at over USD one trillion per year, adding that the official statistics released by international organizations show that Mexico would be the eighth biggest economy in the world by 2050.

CEO of ProMexico investment company Francisco Diaz said that his country's commercial exchange with Arab states is limited, noting that Mexico's exports to the Arab World do not exceed \$1.17 billion. while the Arab imports were only recorded at \$1.6 billion. Diaz also noted that Mexico has signed free trade agreements with 64 countries and commercial integration agreements with six others, calling on Kuwait to increase investment between the two sides. Mexico's main exports are in the field of food, car industries and oil and gas, said the CEO, adding that his country is looking forward for further investments in the fields of renewable energy, oil refinery and natural gas processing.

In the same context, Second Deputy Chairman of the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry Abdulwahab Al-Wazan stressed that Kuwait is eager to develop investments and economic cooperation with Mexico mainly in the oil and gas sector, noting the prominent political ties shared by the two countries. He added that Kuwait is looking forward to the upcoming visit of Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto early 2016, hoping that it would be an opportunity to boost economic cooperation. —KUNA



FGCCC PROPOSES GULFIZATION OF JOBS IN ARABIAN GULF COUNTRIES

GCC'S PRIVATE SECTOR PLAYS KEY ROLE IN DEVELOPMENT

DOHA: Chairman of the Federation of Gulf Chambers of Commerce Sheikh Khalifa bin Jassem Al-Thani unveiled a plan for Gulfization (employment of Gulf nationals) in the Gulf Cooperation Council member states. Speaking at the First Gulf Economic Forum, currently held in Doha, Al-Thani said that the details of the plan will be disclosed during the forum's sessions. He underlined that the private sector in Gulf countries is totally aware of the huge challenges facing the Gulf economies and is ready to shoulder its national responsibility to overcome them.

Al-Thani pointed out that the forum, organized for the first time in implementation of a Kuwaiti proposal, allures a large number of officials, businesspeople, industrial leaders, traders and investors. The conferees would discuss a wide array of issues relative to the Gulf economies such as: The joint GCC economic action, successes and challenges, the role of the private sector in sustainable development and structural and economic reforms, and the future prospects of the customs union and common market Gulf, he said.

He noted the chambers of commerce have positively reacted and contributed to the GCC governments' to achieve sustainable development and economic flourishing. The federation has recently presented to the advisory body of the GCC Supreme Council a paper on its view of laws of partnership between the public and private sectors, Al-Thani said. Earlier, the Qatari Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Abdullah Al-Thani inaugurated the forum.

In a speech to the participants, Sheikh Abdullah stated that the participants share the same hopes and aspirations in building strong and balanced economy in the GCC states and create partnerships between the public and private sectors. Qatar, he said, has translated its belief in GCC joint action as it is considered today a gateway for joint Gulf investments and projects and it is also a gateway to the GCC businessmen looking for Qatari partners to set up partnerships. He noted that Qatar believes that a strong and balanced economy is based on a real partnership between the public and private sectors, especially as Qatar seeks to build a diversified economy built on the diversification of sources of national income and not relying on energy as a key driver of the economy.

In order to achieve this Qatar has taken a number of measures to facilitate doing business to ensure efficient performance and fair competition based on transparency. In addition to these factors, Qatar has an integrated set of features helped it attract foreign investments such as that the availability of inexpensive sources of energy and raw materials, he added. He conveyed the greetings of Qatari Amir and his wishes for a successful forum, praising the elite group of officials, experts and specialists attending this important event.

GCC's private sector

In another development, President of the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry Ali Mohammed Thunayan Al-Ghanim has stressed the importance of the First Gulf Economic Forum held in Qatar in showcasing the role of the GCC private sector in the development process. The forum aims to share experience between GCC economic specialists and present their final recommendations to the Gulf leaders, mainly in overcoming obstacles in commercial exchange, Al-Ghanim said yesterday.

Meanwhile, the official noted that the forum also focuses on executing economic and monetary-related recommendations approved by GCC leaders in previous conferences, while also strengthening ties between GCC businessmen. Al-Ghanim also mentioned that the Kuwaiti economy is constantly developing, mainly after the government has issued new laws for the Capital Market Authority (CMA) and other economic laws that had a positive impact on the country. The forum, organized by the Federation of Gulf Chambers of Commerce, aims to tackle the regional and international challenges facing the GCC states to achieve economic stability. —Agencies

ARAB COUNTRIES NEED CLEAR STRATEGY TO TACKLE DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES

OXFORD: The Arab region is facing numerous development challenges that necessitate a coordinated, wellstudies and clear strategy to overcome, a number of Arab and foreign experts concurred. The rarity of water is one of the major challenges facing most Arab countries due to the dearth and the unjustifiable wasting of the available water resources, UN Under Secretary General and Executive Secretary of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), Rima Khalaf said at a seminar on environment and human resources held Sunday as a part of the 15th session of the Abdulaziz Al-Babtain Cultural Foundation.

Khalaf added that the situation in the occupied Palestinian territories is worse due to the Israeli occupation authorities' seizure of all water resources to meet the needs of settlers. Only 6.5 percent of water in Gaza Strip could be used for drinking and agricultural purposes, Khalaf said. The UN official urged Arab countries to work together to face the disastrous impacts of water scarcity and climate change on development. She also called on the rich and developed countries to help the less developed and poor countries deal with the environment problems caused by their gas emissions and industrial develop-

Meanwhile, Professor of Economics and Head of the Economics Department at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) Jane Harrigan said that the Arab region is facing three developments problems related to the food security, agriculture and health sectors. The Arab region is the most food insure region in the world and has the largest food deficit, Harrigan said, adding that the region's countries import 35 to 50 percent of its food needs.

She warned that this means that Arab countries are very vulnerable to price volatility, noting that the wheat prices, for example, have remarkably soared in 2007 and 2008 by over 130 percent. The oil price rise is usually coincided with similar rise in energy, food staples and other basic commodities, she pointed out. Harrigan viewed that the agricultural sectors in Arab countries had been neglected and had been on downward trajectory since 1990.

This negligence does not go in line with the significant surge in food needs due to the steadily growing population, she said. Harrigan expressed surprise of spread of obesity and diabetes among the Arab population, and cautioned about the grave impacts of such diseases on the healthcare sectors in the region. For his part, Professor Eckart Woertz said the political crisis and military conflicts are wrecking the regional countries chances for development. The conflicts in Syria, Iraq and Yemen are crippling the development efforts and projects in the region, he regretted. Woertz blamed the growing water problems in Arab countries on the absence of clear Arab strategies for the optimal use of water resources. He also suggested a new pricing mechanism for water to encourage people rationalize their water consumption. —KUNA

ARAB EXPATS ARRESTED FOR FORGING SICK LEAVES

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: A number of Arab expats were arrested mental police force stopped a group of citizens fishing for forging sick leaves and medical reports, said in a no-fishing zone in Kuwait Bay, said security sources, security sources. Case papers indicate that fraud noting that a case was filed and that the violators were and forgery detectives had been tipped off concerning the suspects' activity and that the suspects were arrested with some MoH stamps. The suspects pleaded guilty and confessed that they had been forging such leaves and reports for money. A case was filed.

No-fishing zone

In collaboration with the coastquards, the environreferred to relevant authorities.

Fire in Farwaniya flat

Firemen put out a fire in a Farwaniya flat. Firemen evacuated the building as a precaution. A man died of burns on his body.

KUWAITIS AWAIT CAMPING SEASON











KUWAIT: Kuwaitis are eagerly awaiting the annual camping season which starts on November 1. Designated camping sites across Kuwait will fill up and many families will keep tents up throughout the season. —KUNA



SALMIYA • DAJEEJ • AL QURAIN • AL RAI • FAHAHEEL



Al-Qabas

CABINET DECISIONS

By Qais Al-Usta

he decision of the Cabinet to reduce the documentary cycle and transfer the major part of pre-supervision is a correct decision, and at the right time and direction. Also, the decision of the Cabinet to develop Failaka Island and establish a sea transport company to take citizens and expats who want to spend time at the beautiful resort that was constructed on the island is an excellent decision and indicates that the idea of diversifying sources of income has moved from ideology to direct true action.

The same applies to the ministers asking the National Assembly to hold an open session so concerned ministers can give a clear picture with documents on issues that were shrouded with some mystery, such as the farms, Eurofighters and other issues that were mentioned by the media. The decision by the Health Minister to instantly accept treatment abroad transactions by heart, cancer, liver and kidney transplant patients warrants thanks to the minister.

The decision of the Cabinet to form a committee to examine forged certificates, especially with those who got it while at work without any ministerial decision in that regard, which is a violation of the law, and recovering the money from such employees is a good decision that restores the academic integrity in Kuwait and returns confidence to PhD and masters degree holders in

The decision of the social affairs minister to dissolve all sports unions and have laws that fit the era in which we live to prevent the slander Kuwait sports is exposed to is something the minister should be commended for. The press conference that was held by the chairwoman of Kuwait Airways to explain the company's plans to expand to new routes like Australia, Japan and China, as well as some states in the American West, especially since KAC will receive 10 Boeing 777-300 aircraft, is something comforting after the suffering the Kuwaiti citizen faces while moving from one place to another while searching for a respectable carrier to take him to some remote destinations. While I was attending the press conference held by civil aviation chief, the alarm sounded to wake me up to go to work. The whole story is a good omen. I pray to Allah to make it a good dream oh, all this is a dream?! Was the message delivered? I hope so.

—Translated by Kuwait Times



الأنياء

Al-Anbaa

The thorny way to 2020

he way to the year 2020 will surely be a thorny one because four years before that year, in 2016, US presidential candidate

Donald Trump, who has been already threatening in recent media appearances, will have made his way to the White House and will surely change all forms of friendship with Arabs to a state of animosity with Arabs in general and GCC nationals in particular.

In view of the continued deterioration of oil prices in 2020 and the negative impact this would have on states that import all their needs, GCC states will have used up all their foreign investments and reserves in solving deficit problems resulting from their five-year plans for the years 2015-2020, said a report published by the British Financial Times on Thursday.

By that very near year, countries like Iraq, Syria, Libya and probably Yemen and Lebanon will have

By Sami Abdullatif Al-Nisf

been divided following a decade or more of civil wars and political blockades. Other countries will have already joined, or on the way to join the comprehensive regional chaos and intercultural, racial and sectarian conflicts.

According to Wikileaks, the year 2020 is the one in which the former US ambassador to Kuwait Deborah Jones predicted that Kuwait would vanish. She obviously did not mean vanishing in seas of honey and milk, but rather expected this to happen due to fatal conditions of disorder.

Finally, GCC states' best option then is to quickly form a confederation, if possible, to build a joint GCC army, politically and securely educate young people and turn them from tools manipulated and used by enemies to positive striking forces defending their nations rather than destroying them. We do still have time, though!

—Translated by Kuwait Times

الجُرْيدة.

Al-Jarida

CONTACTING MINISTERS

By Mudaffar Abdullah

o start with, it a nice thing that the information ministry held a debate discussing the e-media bill and invited those with second thoughts about it before referring it to the parliament. Secondly, it is highly commendable, as a genuine right of citizens, to speak without any barriers with those responsible for your daily errands. This was the headline of Al-Qabas daily published on Oct 20 in an article written by my colleague Yousif Al-Mutairi. The story said that Kuwait's e-gate website provides access to communicate with HH the PM and 300 senior officials from 32 government bodies via email, telephone and fax.

The question here is: How is this communication going to take place? Kuwait is a very active arena in terms of using the Internet and social media networks, while it is ironically ranked on top of Arab and international countries in hunting bloggers, according to a report by the Arab Human Rights network. According to a KUNA report, the total number of bloggers in Kuwait reached 85,000, a majority of them young people, and those who have Facebook accounts are 880,000, which is a large number compared to the population.

Viewing things from a different angle, the total number of e-transactions made by the Kuwaiti population through the official e-gate portal amounted up to 305,000 in the first few months of this year, mainly focusing on fee collection (KD 30 million was collected in that period) and looking up information, which a good and heartening rate of interaction that encourages the idea of communicating with ministers.

Nevertheless, I personally and excitedly read the report by Yousif and logged on to the official e-gate site, but noticed that, with the exception of senior officials' emails, clicking on any minister's email takes users to the concerned ministry's website, which means that they are not using personal email accounts, which means that any communication will be 'cold' and nominal, depending on each body's PR staff skills. One can never know whether the whole experience is serious enough, that is having an active, well-qualified staff responding to such mail.

I wished they would launch communication means that are more developed than emails, phones and faxes, such as social media networks like in Dubai that has boldly developed to the extent that the ruler Sheikh Mohammad bin Rashid inquires through personal individual messages whether people are happy in Dubai!

There is a great distance between officials and citizens in Kuwait. Most ministers' interaction with the media happens through press releases and statements, which means that information is conveyed one-sidedly and coldly. Though some young Kuwaiti Cabinet members use Twitter to communicate with the public, this remains a personal initiative that is not generalized with the whole Cabinet.

I was greatly offended to find that some of the emails on the e-gate portal belong to officials who retired this year, including some of my friends!

—Translated by Kuwait Times

Crime

Repor

KUWAIT: A citizen accused the administration of an elementary school of not supervising children after her nephew was bitten on his nose by another student. The administration initially attempted to convince the student's parents he had fallen on his face. She said that a complaint was lodged at Rumaithiya police station and investigations are ongoing.

SCHOOL 'NEGLIGENCE

Houbara bustards smuggled

Jahra police arrested two citizens, an Iraqi and an Iranian, with 24 houbara bustards smuggled in the country by sea, and they were on their way to sell them for KD 240. A security source said police patrols stopped two cars that were driving in sync, which raised suspicions. Police men searched the cars and found the birds. The smugglers and birds were sent to criminal detectives.

Egyptian dupes Kuwaiti

An Egyptian expat swindled a female citizen out of KD 5,200 in a car sale before disappearing. A security source said a citizen in her 50s told Fintas police that an Egyptian who volunteered to buy a car for her daughter took the money and told her to be ready to transfer the title the next morning. He then switched his phone off and disappeared. In another development, a Syrian wanted in a civil case failed to escape from a police checkpoint in Farwaniya. He was detained by police before being sent to the concerned authority. The suspect is wanted to pay back KD 50,000.



ABK SPONSORS CAN MARATHON FOR BREAST CANCER AWARENESS

KUWAIT: Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) yesterday announced the Bank's sponsorship of the Cancer Aware Nation (CAN) Marathon, which is scheduled to take place on Saturday, 5th December 2015. The marathon will start at the Scientific Center and will end at Green Island, on Gulf Road. Fawzy Al Thunayan, General Manager of Board Affairs at ABK met with Dr Eman Al Shammeri and Reem Al Salem from CAN at the Bank's Head Office to hand over the donation for the marathon.

The CAN Marathon is an annual event which is held to raise awareness of the relationship between exercise and cancer prevention, and to promote physical health awareness overall. ABK has launched a number of activities during Breast Cancer Awareness Month to support this important cause. The Bank continues to play a significant role in raising awareness of this disease to the community by supporting various activities both internally and externally. For more information about the various activities and offers during Breast Cancer Awareness Month visit www.eahli.com, contact an ABK representative via 'Ahli Chat' or a customer service agent via 'Ahlan Ahli' at 1900200

GCC ENVIRONMENT MEETING KICKS OFF

environment ministries kicked off in Doha yesterday, to tackle joint environmental issues. Qatar's undersecretary of the environment ministry Ahmad Mohammad Al-Sadat said in his opening remarks that the Gulf region is having a steady economic and social growth due to its leadership's directives that aim at achieving a sustainable development for is natural resources.

Environment in the GCC countries is facing many challenges, he said, adding that these challenges require a joint effort, exchange of information and technologies as well as good planning to sustain a good life for its communities. He pointed out that the meeting will tackle many issues regionally and internationally, especially

DOHA: The 36th meeting of Undersecretaries of GCC environment ministries kicked off in Doha yesterday, to tackle joint environmental issues. Qatar's undersecretary and Japan.

On his part, head of environment and human affairs at the GCC general secretariat Dr. Adel Al-Zayani said that environment joint effort in the Gulf region has reached an advanced level where many programs are near completion. He pointed out that studies on establishing a GCC environment observatory, e-gate for environment issues, Sultan Qaboos environment award are almost done and ready for implementation. Kuwaiti delegation to the meeting comprises of Director of Environment of Public Authority Sheikh Abdullah Ahmad Al-Humoud Al-Sabah, bis deputs and a pumber of sonior officials.

AL-MAJLIS TV CHANNEL TO AIR NEW PROGRAMS

KUWAIT: Al-Majlis TV channel, the tongue of the National Assembly (the Parliament) will begin today broadcasting new programs in conjunction with opening the new National Assembly's session, said Assistant Secretary-General for the parliament's media sector, Abdulhakim Al-Sabti. The channel will continue to show some previous programs, along with the new ones, to be presented by professional media personalities, Al-Sabti told Kuwait News Agency (KUNA).

One will be presented by former minister of information Mohammed Al-Sanousi, another by Yousef Al-Jassem in addition to others by lawyer Abrar Al-Saleh and a morning show on public services' issues.

Al-Sabti said the new programs, expected to enhance the channel's performance, include one about youth enterprise. Lawyer Mohammed Oqlah will address a program about the Kuwaiti Constitution. Mubarak Al-Wasis, in anoth-

er program, will host MPs, ministers and famous personalities. Most of the programs will be related to the National Assembly, including news, follow-up work and activities in addition to broadcasting the council's sessions. About "Al-Dostour" newspaper, Al-Sabti said it will be re-published "with new character" and will follow up on local and parliamentary affairs which will be the basic material. It will be available on the internet, along with e-accounts.





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Kuwait Times International

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2015

Morales: From Comedian to Guatemalan president

'Afghan Malala' speaks up for refugee children

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PESHAWAR: Pakistani residents look at a damaged house following an earthquake yesterday. — AFP

DEVASTATING QUAKE ROCKS SOUTH ASIA I

More than 215 confirmed dead, numbers to rise

ISLAMABAD: A powerful 7.5 magnitude earthquake which rocked parts of South Asia killed more than 215 people yesterday, including 12 Afghan girls crushed in a stampede as they fled their collapsing school.

At least 1,000 more were injured and hundreds of homes destroyed as the quake shook a swathe of the subcontinent, sending thousands of frightened people rushing into the streets in Afghanistan, Pakistan and India. It was centered near Jurm in northeast Afghanistan, 250 kilometers from the capital Kabul and at a depth of 213.5 kilometers, the US Geological Survey said. "Initial reports show a big loss of life, huge financial losses in Badakhshan, Takhar, Nangarhar, Kunar and other regions, including the capital Kabul," said Afghanistan's chief executive Abdullah Abdullah.

At least 31 people were confirmed dead in Afghanistan and 135 in Pakistan, according to officials, with the toll set to rise. "Exact numbers are not known because phone lines are down and communication has been cut off in many areas," Abdullah said, adding that the government has asked aid agencies for relief. "The quake wrecked huge devastation in some districts," said the governor of Badakhshan province, Shah Wali Adib. "So far 1,500 homes are reported to be damaged or destroyed."

The epicenter was just a few hundred kilometers from the site of a 7.6 magnitude quake that struck in October 2005, killing more than 75,000 people and displacing some 3.5 million more, although that quake was much shallower. Horrifying news emerged of at least 12 schoolgirls being trampled to death in a northern Afghan province. "The students rushed to escape the school building in Taluqan city (capital of Takhar), triggering a stampede," Takhar education department chief Enayat Naweed told AFP. "Twelve students, all minors, were killed and 35 others were injured."

'Very powerful'

The quake, which lasted at least one minute, shook buildings in Kabul, Islamabad and New Delhi. At least 31 people were killed in Afghanistan including the 12 schoolgirls, officials said. The toll included nine in Badakhshan province near the epicenter; eight in Nangarhar province bordering Pakistan, and at least two in northern Baghlan province, according to local officials.

In Pakistan at least 135 people had been killed, accordg to a tally from local and provincial officials. The military put the toll at 123 with 956 injured, and the National Disaster Management Authority put the official death toll at 43, but said it was checking unconfirmed reports of more deaths. One aftershock hit shortly afterwards, with the USGS putting its magnitude at 4.8.

In a statistical prediction on its website, the agency said there was a one-third chance of the number of fatalities climbing to between 100 and 1,000 people, with several million dollars' worth of damage likely caused. The rescue effort was being complicated by the lack of communications, with the region's already fragile infrastructure hit.

Gul Mohammad Bidar, deputy governor of Badakhshan in Afghanistan, told AFP lines were down and it was difficult to reach stricken communities. "The earthquake was very powerful-buildings have been damaged (in Faizabad) and there are possible casualties," he said. Pakistan mobilised its troops and all military hospitals have been put on high alert, army spokesman Lieutenant General Asim Bajwa said, adding that specialized earthquake rescue machinery and army helicopters were being readied

The Pakistan air force said it was offering full support to the National Disaster Management Authority. Arbab Muhammad Asim, district mayor for Pakistan's northwestern city of Peshawar, said more than 100 people had been

injured there alone. "Many houses and buildings have collapsed in the city," he said. Dr Muhammad Sadiq, the head of emergency services at a government hospital in Peshawar said the injured were still being brought in. "Many are still under rubble," Sadiq told AFP. "I have never seen such a massive earthquake in my life, it was huge," 87year-old Mohammad Rehman told AFP from Peshawar.

Panicked residents

Traffic came to a halt in downtown Kabul, with fright
γ KUWAIT CITY ened people getting out of their cars as they waited for the quake to stop. Restaurants and office buildings emptied in Islamabad, with cracks appearing in some buildings but no major damage reported. Hundreds in north India poured onto the streets from office blocks, hospitals and homes.

Delhi's metro ground to a halt during the tremor although the airport continued operating. In the Kashmir region, panicked residents evacuated buildings and children were seen huddling together outside their school in the main city of Srinagar, Indian Prime Minister Narendra

Modi took to Twitter immediately after the quake. "Heard about strong earthquake in Afghanistan-Pakistan region whose tremors have been felt in parts of India. I pray for everyone's safety," he wrote, adding that India stood ready to assist, including in Afghanistan and Pakistan if required. Afghanistan is frequently hit by earthquakes, especially in the Hindu Kush mountain range, which lies near the junction of the Eurasian and Indian tectonic plates.

South Asia's quakes occur along a major fault line between the two plates one under India pushing north and east at a rate of about two centimeters per year against the other, which carries Europe and Asia. In Nepal twin quakes in May killed more than 8,900 people, triggered landslides and destroyed half a million homes. — AFP





5:00pm to 9:00pm Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel & S

Al Ta'awun Street, Kuwait City



Canadä



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MAJOR EARTHQUAKES OF THE PAST 30 YEARS

KABUL: Below is a list of some of the world's strongest earthquakes in the past April 25, 2015: A 7.8 magnitude

quake in Nepal kills almost 8,900 people and destroys about half a million homes. A massive aftershock with a magnitude of 7.3 follows in May, killing dozens more. **August 11, 2012:** Twin earthquakes

with a magnitude 6.3 and 6.4 leave 306 dead and more than 3,000 injured near the Iranian city of Tabriz. March 11, 2011: Nearly 18,900 are

killed when a tsunami triggered by a massive magnitude 9.0 undersea quake slams into the northeast coast of Japan, triggering a nuclear crisis at the Fukushima Daiichi atomic plant. October 23, 2011: An earthquake of

7.2 magnitude rocks eastern Turkey, leaving more than 600 dead and at least 4,150 injured.

January 12, 2010: Magnitude 7.0 quake hits Haiti, leaving between 250,000 and 300,000 dead.

April 14, 2010: A 6.9-magnitude quake hits Yushu county in northwest China's Qinghai province leaving 3,000 people dead and missing.

May 12, 2008: A quake measuring 8.0 hits China's southwest province of Sichuan, leaving more than 87,000 people dead or missing.

May 27, 2006: A powerful quake in Indonesia's Yogyakarta region kills 6,000 and leaves 1.5 million homeless.

October 8, 2005: An earthquake of 7.6 kills more than 75,000 people, the vast majority of them in Pakistan's North West Frontier Province and the Pakistaniadministered zone of Kashmir state. Some 3.5 million are displaced.

March 28, 2005: An earthquake on Indonesia's Nias island off Sumatra leaves 900 dead.

December 26, 2004: A massive undersea earthquake off the coast of Sumatra island triggers a tsunami which kills 220,000 in countries around the Indian Ocean, including 168,000 in

January 26, 2001: A massive 7.7 earthquake hits the western Indian state of Gujarat, killing 25,000 people and injuring 166,000.

September 30, 1993: A 6.3-magnitude quake hits the western Indian state of Maharashtra, killing 7,601. October 20, 1991: A quake measur-

ing 6.6 hits the Himalayan foothills of

Uttar Pradesh state in India, killing 768. August 20, 1988: A magnitude 6.8 quake hits eastern Nepal, killing 721 people in Nepal and at least 277 in the neighboring Indian state of

Bihar. — AFP



An exciting business opportunity to partner a high-growth company.

> IOC Middle East **FZE** invites Distributor for

SERVO

Lubricants in Kuwait

IOC Middle East FZE, UAE, a wholly-owned overseas subsidiary of Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IndianOil), a Fortune 'Global 500' company and petroleum downstream major in Asia, wishes to appoint lube distributors in Kuwait.

IOC ME oversees IndianOil's business expansion in the Middle East, and is mainly into blending and marketing of SERVO brand lubricants, base oils and marketing of petroleum products in the Middle East, Africa and CIS countries. The company has registered a high growth rate and is currently exporting finished lubricants to Oman, Qatar, Yemen, Bahrain, UAE, KSA & African countries.

SERVO is the brand leader among lubricants and greases in India, with over 1,000 grades conforming to global standards. With a formidable combination of cutting-edge R&D, advanced technology and comprehensive back-end technical services support to customers. SERVO lubricants have approvals from leading Original Equipment Manufacturers and are widely used across diverse applications, particularly in the automotive, industrial and marine segments.

Now blended and packed in state-of-the-art plants in the UAE also, SERVO has acquired transnational footprints in 27 countries and is poised to gain customer mindshare as a global brand.

IOC ME proposes to enter Kuwait for marketing SERVO lubricants and is seeking interested parties to partner its business expansion as distributors for SERVO lubricants. Agencies with experience in automobile dealership, auto-parts dealership etc., having a wide distribution network, prominent contacts and requisite financial strength, may send in their applications along with their credentials, either by post or by email, within 21 days from the date of this advertisement so as to reach:

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For more details about the company, visit www.iocl.com

SHOW US RESPECT OR TIES WILL SUFFER, SAUDI TELLS BRITAIN

LONDON: Saudi Arabia's ambassador to and of the value of Saudi cooperation Britain criticized yesterday the breaching of "mutual respect" between the two countries, adding that the Gulf kingdom "will not be lectured to by anyone". The envoy's comments come after Britain this month cancelled a bid to provide training to Saudi Arabia's penal system, as criticism mounts over the absolute monarchy's human rights

Saudi Ambassador Mohammed Bin Nawaf Bin Abdulaziz spoke of his country's economic importance to Britain, on security matters. "We want this relationship to continue, but we will not be lectured to by anyone," Abdulaziz wrote in an opinion piece in Britain's Daily Telegraph newspaper. "To further our shared strategic interests in the years ahead as we confront a variety of threats, it is crucial that Saudi Arabia be treated with the respect it has unwaveringly afforded the United Kingdom."

The ambassador's blunt and public criticism is unusual for Saudi Arabia, which has in the past preferred closeddoor diplomacy in its relations with allies. The kingdom has become more vocal in recent years with the intensification of conflicts in Syria and Yemen, and in response to the US nuclear deal with Iran.

There has been growing concern in Britain over several Saudi human rights cases in the last few months. The family of a septuagenarian Briton caught with home-made wine in Saudi Arabia have pleaded for the government to intervene following reports that he is going to be flogged. A prominent Saudi blogger has been sentenced to the same punishment. The kingdom also plans to execute young pro-democracy activist Ali Al-Nimr, sparking a global outcry. New leftist opposition leader Jeremy Corbyn raised Nimr's case with Prime Minister David Cameron, urging him to intervene.

"One recent example of this mutual respect being breached was when Jeremy Corbyn, leader of the opposition, claimed that he had convinced Prime Minister David Cameron to cancel a prison consultancy contract with

Saudi Arabia," Abdulaziz wrote. "If the extensive trade links between the two countries are going to be subordinate to certain political ideologies, then this vital commercial exchange is going to be at risk."

Saudi Arabia is Britain's most mportant trade partner in the Middle East and was its biggest market for arms exports last year. Cameron also says Saudi Arabia is a key partner on security issues, and has claimed Saudi intelligence has helped saved British

ATTEMPT TO EASE TENSIONS AT AL-AQSA HALTS OVER CAMERAS

JERUSALEM: Efforts to douse Israeli-Palestinian tensions over Jerusalem's Al-Aqsa mosque compound ran into trouble yesterday when the Islamic trust which administers the holy site accused Israeli police of blocking the agreed installation of cameras. Israel on Saturday agreed to install surveillance cameras at the highlysensitive site after an intense diplomatic drive to calm spiraling violence that many fear heralds a new Palestinian intifada. In the latest in a wave of knife attacks by Palestinians, a 19-year-old Israeli was stabbed in the neck and severely wounded while his attacker was shot dead, the army

Attacks and clashes have become near daily occurrences since simmering tensions over the status of the Al-Agsa compound boiled over in early October, leaving dozens dead. The site is sacred to both Muslims and Jews, and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Saturday agreed to install the cameras to allay Palestinian fears that Israel plans to change rules governing the site.

US Secretary of State John Kerry has said the cameras would be a "game changer in discouraging anybody from disturbing the sanctity of the holy site". However the Jordanian trust known as the Wagf which administers the compound said that when a team went to install the cameras yesterday morning, "Israeli police interfered directly and stopped the work."

"We severely condemn the Israeli interference into the working affairs of the Waqf, and we consider the matter evidence that Israel wants to install cameras that only serve its own interests, not cameras that show truth and justice," it said in a statement. Israeli police had no immediate com-

Netanyahu was set to address parliament as part of commemorations of the 20-year anniversary of the assassination of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, as the fresh wave of violence throws into stark relief the failure to resolve the decades-old conflict.

Rabin was gunned down on November 4, 1995 by a rightwing Jewish extremist who hoped to derail the landmark 1993 Oslo accords he inked with the Palestinians. The deal lies in tatters after repeated failed efforts to solve the conflict, the most recent of which collapsed in April 2014 amid bitter recriminations on both sides.

Prevent provocations

The latest clashes erupted in September as Muslims protested an increase in Jewish visitors to Al-Agsa during their religious holidays. Palestinian protesters accuse the Jewish state of seeking to change the rules governing the compound which allows Jews to visit, but not pray there.

The Al-Aqsa mosque compound is situated in east Jerusalem which was seized from Jordan in the 1967 war. While Amman has retained custodial rights over the holy sites, administered by the Jordanian Waqf, Israel controls access. The compound is considered the third holiest site in Islam and is revered by Jews as their holiest site, known as Temple Mount.

Netanyahu said on Sunday that having cameras at the site would be in Israel's interest. "Firstly, to refute the claim Israel is violating the status quo. Secondly, to show where the provocations are really coming from, and prevent them in advance," he said. Jordan's Foreign Minister Nasser Judeh had said that technical teams from both sides would meet to work out the details of the new measures. Sheikh Azzam al-Khateeb, head of the Wagf, told AFP that the decision to install the cameras yesterday came from Jordanian King Abdullah II. "We want to have clear and open cameras for all the world," he said. "There is no other authority in the mosque except the administration of the Jordanian Islamic Waqf ... no one has the right to (carry out) this action except the Waqf administration."

Knife attacks continue

The tensions over Al-Aqsa sparked a series of knife attacks and shootings by Palestinians that has left eight Israelis dead and dozens wounded. In the latest attack a Palestinian man stabbed and seriously wounded an Israeli in the southern West Bank before being shot dead by soldiers, the army said. "The assailant stabbed the Israeli in the neck, wounding him severely. The attacker was shot on site, resulting in his death. The wounded victim is now being evacuated for emergency medical care," a statement from the military read. On Sunday, a 17-year-old Palestinian girl was shot dead while allegedly trying to knife Israeli border police in Hebron. Yesterday's attack takes the number of Palestinians killed in attempted attacks and clashes to 54. An Israeli Arab attacker has also been killed. — AFP



RAMALLAH: Palestinian protesters carry a wounded comrade who was shot in the thigh during clashes with Israeli security forces at the northern entrance of the West Bank town Al-Bireh yesterday. — AFP

SAUDI PRINCE HELD IN RECORD BEIRUT AIRPORT DRUG BUST

BEIRUT: A Saudi prince and four others were detained yesterday in Lebanon in the largest drug bust in the history of the Beirut airport, a security source said. Saudi prince Abdel Mohsen Bin Walid Bin Abdulaziz and four others were detained by airport security while allegedly "attempting to smuggle about two tons of Captagon pills and some cocaine," a security source said.

"The smuggling operation is the largest one that has been foiled through the Beirut International Airport," the source said on condition of anonymity. Captagon is the brand name for the amphetamine phenethylline, a synthetic stimulant. The banned drug is consumed mainly in the Middle East and has reportedly been widely used by fighters in Syria. The security source said the drugs had been packed into cases that were waiting to be loaded onto a private plane that was headed to Saudi Arabia.

The five Saudi citizens were still in the airport and would be questioned by Lebanon's customs authority, the source added. In April 2014, security forces foiled an attempt to smuggle 15 million capsules of Captagon hidden in shipping containers full of corn from Beirut's port. Lebanon's state news agency also reported yesterday's drug bust, saying the private plane was to head to Riyadh and was carrying 40 suitcases full of Captagon.

Saudi Arabia's large royal family has had past run-ins with authorities in various countries. Late last month, a Saudi prince was arrested in Los Angeles for allegedly trying to force a woman to perform oral sex on him at a Beverly Hills mansion. But authorities decided not to pursue the charge, citing a lack of evidence. In 2013, a Saudi princess was accused in Los Angeles of enslaving a Kenyan woman as a housemaid, but the charges were also eventually dropped. —AFP



ISTANBUL: People carry the coffin of Dilek Dogans during her funeral yesterday. — AFP

TURKISH POLICE IN SHOOTOUT WITH IS SUSPECTS, NINE KILLED

POLARIZED COUNTRY RATTLED FURTHER

DIYARBAKIR: Two Turkish policemen and seven Islamic State suspects were killed in a shootout yesterday that has further rattled the increasingly polarized country just six days ahead of snap elections. Police are hunting down IS militants after the suicide bombings that killed 102 people at a pro-Kurdish peace rally in the heart of the capital Ankara on October 10, the worst attack in Turkey's modern history.

Yesterday's gun battle in the main southeastern Kurdish city of Diyarbakir was the first on Turkish soil between security forces and the jihadists since Ankara launched air strikes on IS targets in Syria in July. Fears of further bloodshed have overshadowed the run-up to Sunday's vote, with an IS cell reportedly plotting major attacks, while Kurdish rebels have taken up arms again after the collapse of the peace process.

A police anti-terrorist squad launched dawn raids on several houses in Diyarbakir where militants were thought to be hiding out. The suspects opened fire and set off booby trap bombs, . killing two police officers and injuring five, according to the Diyarbakir governor's office. Seven IS militants were killed and 12 arrested after at least two hours of heavy fighting, it said.

IS cell 'neutralized'

"This was an important operation... we can say we have neutralized a major Daesh cell," Deputy Prime Minister Numan Kurtulmus told reporters, using an Arabic name for the IS group. The authorities declared the IS group the number one suspect over the Ankara bombings, but many accuse them of security failings and of turning a blind eye to the jihadists fighting the Damascus regime.

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan himself has vowed to fight all Turkey's "enemies" as his Justice and Development Party (AKP) battles to regain the parliamentary majority it lost in June's election, ending 13 years of single party rule. He said yesterday that Turkey would press on with its operations against "terrorists" before and after Sunday's vote, saying it makes no distinction between the PKK, the Islamic State and the DHKP-C, an outlawed Marxist group that has carried out a number of attacks.

And he urged voters not to cast their ballots for the pro-Kurdish Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP), which won enough seats in June to wipe out the AKP majority. "They have the audacity to speak of peace... but that means blood," he said in a veiled reference to the HDP, accused of acting as a PKK accomplice.

Attack plot feared

Turkey launched air strikes on IS targets in Syria after a deadly bombing on a border town in July, before turning its fire on PKK rebels based in northern Iraq, triggering a wave of titfor-tat violence that ended the peace talks with the outlawed Kurdish group.

The government says around 150 members

of the security forces have been killed in clashes or in PKK attacks, but there are no confirmed figures for Kurdish militant deaths. Ankara, which is staunchly opposed to the regime of President Bashar Al-Assad, joined the coalition against IS and allowed the United States to use its territory for the air war. A massive police hunt was also under way at the weekend for a suspected IS cell that included a German woman allegedly plotting to carry out other attacks, Turkish media reported. The Anatolia news agency said security forces feared they were preparing a major strike "such as hijacking a plane or a vessel or detonating suicide bombs in a crowded location". Police have been rounding up many suspected jihadists in the past two weeks, including four accused of having a direct role in the Ankara attacks. Photographs of fake Turkish identity cards allegedly being used by the wanted suspects were published at the weekend by local media, which said the woman was born in Kazakhstan but had a German passport.

One of the identity cards was said to belong to Omer Deniz Dundar, who had previously been identified by the media as one of the two Ankara suicide bombers-although other reports had suggested the bomber was foreign. The second bomber was officially identified last week as Yunus Emre Alagoz, brother of the man suspected of carrying out the July attack in the mainly Kurdish town of Suruc which left 34 people dead. — AFP

CLASSES SWELL IN CAMPS AS TEACHERS FLEE FOR EU

KAWERGOSK: The young Syrian refugees at the Kawergosk refugee camp in northern Iraq have already lost so much - and now they're losing their teachers. One after another, school teachers have packed up and left for Europe - searching for opportunity, safety and a better life.

With the school year just kicking off in Iraq, schools like this one are scrambling to accommodate the refugee students left behind. Nine of Kawergosk's teachers fled to Europe this summer and the remaining teachers are doubling up on students. Mizgeen Hussein, 28, is among those teachers left behind. A refugee from Derik, Syria, Hussein admits that despite her commitment to the students, she would leave if she had the money.

"The reason for me to leave is to have a future", said Hussein, who teaches a class of 37 children at the camp's school. "For sure this has an effect on us," she added. "For now, we'll solve it with the people who are here until they will bring other teachers." Camps across Iraq are experiencing the same exodus of teachers head-

Meanwhile student numbers are on the rise as fighting continues to tear through Syria and Iraq, forcing people to flee their homes. An increasingly chaotic civil war has gripped Syria for nearly five years, and the Islamic State militant group has claimed territory in a third of both Iraq and Syria.

Uncertain future

Four of the 21 teachers at the Kobani primary school in Domiz camp have left in the past month. With over 1,000 students, manager Abdullah Mohammed Saeed said the school's future is in jeopardy. "We need new people, otherwise we have to close the school," he said. "Our problem is that now our teachers are escaping to Europe," said Mazhar Mohammed, Kawergosk's principal. "We don't have any other

problems. The government is providing us with enough books."

Iraq's semi-autonomous northern region hosts approximately 250,000 Syrian refugees, with more than a third of them living in camps. Many have found work, opened shops and pursued some form of education. But their uncertain future has caused those in doubt to flee the region, either back to Syria or across the border to Turkey and beyond.

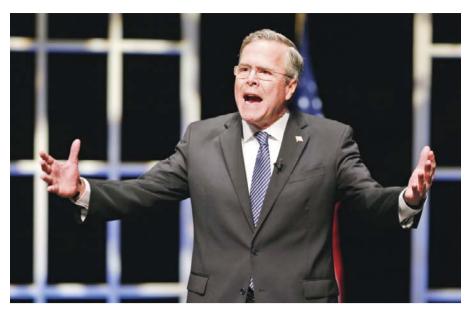
According to the UN refugee agency, the number of Syrians leaving northern Iraq for Europe has tripled in recent months. Among them are many Syrian teachers who have been getting paid by the Kurdish regional government to teach at the various camps. But the region is facing a severe financial crisis, and many teachers have not received salaries-another reason to leave.

On the first day of school at Kawergosk, children gripped the school's fence waiting for the gates to open. Hundreds flooded into the schoolyard, anxious to get back into their classrooms. The lessons are shortened, as there are not enough teachers to handle all the students. "We dropped the last lessons, so we send the students home earlier," Mohammed, the camp principal, said. The lack of teachers has forced many instructors to give lessons in areas outside their specializations, with history teachers covering geography and math teachers expanding into physics.

Some teachers, like Jeveen Salah Omer, have nevertheless vowed to stay, whatever the cost. "The education of students is more important than anything," she said. "They became refugees and had to come here. This is the least we can do for them." —AP



IRBIL: In this Wednesday, Oct 7, 2015, file photo, 20-year-old teacher Wafa teaches fourthgrade students at a makeshift school at the Kawergosk refugee camp. — AP



VIRGINIA BEACH: Republican presidential candidate Jeb Bush speaks during a presidential candidate forum at Regent University. — AP

FOR SLUGGISH BUSH, BACKERS FEAR IT MIGHT BE TOO LATE

WASHINGTON: For months, Jeb Bush's campaign insisted it was too early. To worry about the Republican presidential candidate's sluggish poll numbers. Or fret over the rise of unorthodox candidates Donald Trump and Ben Carson. Or question if the one-time frontrunner was merely a pedestrian candidate.

But with just over three months left until lowa kicks off the 2016 primary voting, and Bush remains mired in the middle of the pack, some supporters fear it soon could be too late. "The moment is now," said New Hampshire state Rep. Carlos Gonzalez, reflecting the sense of urgency among nearly two dozen Bush supporters interviewed this past week by The Associated Press.

On Friday, Bush signaled to supporters that he understood the need to make a change. Faced with slower-than-expected fundraising, the campaign announced spending cuts, including a 40 percent payroll reduction, that will deplete staff at its Miami headquarters and refocus resources in Iowa, New Hampshire, South Carolina and Nevada - the first four states to hold nominating contests.

Expanding concerns

"We made an adjustment in our campaign, that's what leaders do," Bush said Saturday while campaigning in Charleston, South Carolina. But interviews with supporters in early states reveal concerns that extend far beyond the campaign's allocation of resources. There are fears Bush is failing to distinguish himself from his rivals, despite a month of aggressive television advertising. Many said they were eager to see Bush be more assertive and forceful in debates, in his TV ads and at campaign appearances.

They worry he may not be capable of

doing so. "God gives us our personalities and our looks and we can't help that," said Robert Rowe, a New Hampshire state representative who is switching his allegiance from Bush to Ohio Gov. John Kasich. "We are who we are." Said Bush supporter Steven Zumbach, an attorney from Des Moines, Iowa: "He's going to need to take some risk. Unless he does something like that, it's going to be difficult."

Bush campaign aides say they understand the anxiety, but blame it on an unusual political season that has diverted attention away from more traditional candidates - not a sign of weakness in the former Florida governor. Bush himself has urged voters to stay patient, reminding them that candidates who sit at the top of polls at this stage in the race often fade.

During his appearance in South Carolina, which has the first primary in the South, Bush went with "blah, blah, blah" when asked whether he thought there was a perception among voters that his campaign was falling apart."October is not when you elect people. It's February and then you move into March. We have a campaign that is designed to win and I'm going to win," he said.

Indeed, many voters in Iowa and New Hampshire wait until just before their states' contests to settle on a candidate. The outcomes in those first two states have ripple effects in South Carolina, Nevada and other states that quickly follow.

There are also signs of volatility in the GOP contest. After spending the summer and fall atop the Republican field, Trump appears to be losing ground in Iowa to Carson, an untested politician with a penchant for provocative comments about Muslims and the Holocaust. —AP

CAN CARSON, A MAN OF GREAT SURGICAL SKILL LEAD A NATION?

SKEPTICISM FROM LACK OF EXECUTIVE EXPERIENCE

WASHINGTON: Ben Carson is the only 2016 candidate for president who has never led a state or company or run for political office. No matter, he says. Surely someone who can perform life-ordeath surgeries can run the country.

Carson challenged the medical status quo as a storied neurosurgeon - cutting out half of a child's brain to end her seizures, separating twins joined at the head - in a three-decade career at Johns Hopkins Hospital. "I believe in getting the best out of everybody," Carson told The Associated Press. "In my operating room, everybody was free to speak." He said, "I want that person who is cleaning the floor, if they see something, to say something."

But the White House is a long way from the operating room, where the doctor with the technical skill unquestionably is the one in charge, not the best deal-maker or diplomat seeking consensus. Carson's lack of executive experience produces deep skepticism from critics in both parties.

Yet he's among the leaders in the Republican presidential campaign. In a new Associated Press-GfK poll. Carson has the highest positive and lowest negative rating of any Republican sized up by registered GOP voters, with 65 percent giving him a favorable rating and just 13 percent rating him unfavorably. Moreover, 62 percent of such voters think he could win the presidency if he is nominated, second only to the 71 percent who think of Donald Trump as an electable candidate.

'Art of negotiation'

Elaine Kamarck, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution who ran the Clinton administration's "reinventing government" program, says she, like many others, is in awe of neurosurgeons and other doctors who heal people. "We love them but, hello, that doesn't even remotely resemble what the job of president is," she said. Conversely, "I would not want my neurosurgeon experienced in the art of negotiation."

At least one similarity between the professions: crises at any hour. "He was never one of those surgeons that throws things or yells and screams," said Dr Violette Recinos, who was trained by Carson and now directs pediatric neurosurgery at the Cleveland Clinic. As a resident at Hopkins, she often had to wake the surgeon late at night when a patient needed immediate care. "No matter what time I called him, he was never angry, he was never grouchy," she said.

Longtime colleagues don't know what to make of Carson's political persona, contrasting the doctor they saw as devoted to patients of all backgrounds with his divisive comments such as a statement that a Muslim shouldn't be president. Pediatricians were dismayed when Carson



WASHINGTON: In this June 19, 2008, file photo, President George W Bush places the Presidential Medal of Freedom on Johns Hopkins University's then-director of pediatric neurosurgery Dr Ben Carson, as he takes part in a ceremony for the 2008 recipients of the Presidential Medal of Freedom. — AP

questioned whether children get too many vaccines at once, even as he disputed any link with autism. And though he opposes abortion rights, Carson has defended co-authoring a 1992 study that used fetal tissue, telling CNN there's a difference between performing abortions and using tissue someone else already stored.

"People have asked me what his politics were like," said Dr Henry Brem, neurosurgery chairman at Hopkins, who joined the faculty with Carson in 1984. "There was no politics in the hospital, zero. It was never discussed." Brem said Carson was "very willing to think outside the box. A lot of patients came to him that other surgeons were not willing to take the risk to operate on." Could the political rhetoric tarnish Carson's medical legacy?

'There's a part of me wishes he'd never entered the political fray," Dr Damon Tweedy, an assistant professor of psychiatry at Duke University, said in an interview about a hero of his youth. Tweedy recently wrote in The Washington Post about how Carson was an inspiration for him and many other black medical students, with his rise from childhood poverty to become a pediatric surgical pioneer who established scholarships for kids. So Tweedy was stunned when Carson compared President Barack Obama's health care law to slavery.

In medicine, Carson is best known for leading

a 22-hour operation in 1987 to separate German twins joined at the head - the first such attempt when both babies survived. But Brem said Carson's larger contribution was in reviving a radical operation that had largely been abandoned as too dangerous: He removed half the brain of a child with a rare condition inflaming the entire left hemisphere.

"There was a lot of fear in doing that," recalled Brem, explaining that it works in children young enough for flexible remaining brain tissue to compensate. Carson wrote in his autobiography "Gifted Hands," that doctors in the past may have chosen inappropriate patients for the procedure or lacked the skills. Regardless, "we were at least giving this pretty little girl a chance to live," he wrote.

It worked, and soon other desperate families were calling. Carson said he doesn't miss what medicine had become by the time he retired as chief of pediatric neurosurgery at Hopkins two years ago. No more simply flying in a child from, say, Guatemala for complex surgery. "Now it's like, every penny, nickel and dime has to be counted, you go through 600 bureaucrats," he said. "It just wasn't exciting." And he dismisses criticism of his lack of political experience: "You need skill to bring in trustworthy people who understand the complete corruption of the system as it exists now," Carson said. "You don't have to be part of that." — AP

UNIVERSITY REMOVES MISSISSIPPI FLAG WITH CONFEDERATE EMBLEM

JACKSON: The University of Mississippi removed the state flag on its Oxford campus yesterday morning because the banner contains the Confederate battle emblem, which some see as a painful reminder of slavery and segregation. Interim Chancellor Morris Stocks ordered the flag lowered and said it was being sent to the university's archives. The action came days after the student senate, the faculty senate and other groups adopted a student-led resolution calling for removal of the banner from campus.

"As Mississippi's flagship university, we have a deep love and respect for our state," Stocks said in a statement yesterday. "Because the flag remains Mississippi's official banner, this was a hard decision. I understand the flag represents tradition and honor to some. But to others, the flag means that some members of the Ole Miss family are not welcomed or valued."

Since 1894, the Mississippi flag has had the Confederate battle emblem in the upper left corner - a blue X with 13 white stars, over a field of red. Residents chose to keep the flag during a 2001 statewide vote. However, the public display of Confederate symbols has been subject to heated debates since the June massacre of nine black worshippers at a church in Charleston, South Carolina. Police said the attack was racially motivated. The white man charged in the slavings had posed with a Confederate battle flag in photos posted online before the massacre.

Core values

More than 200 people joined a remove-the-flag rally Oct 16 on the Oxford campus. It was sponsored by the university chapter of the NAACP. The University of Mississippi has struggled with Old South symbolism for decades. In 1962, deadly riots broke out when James Meredith was enrolled as the first black student, under court order. Its administrators have tried to distance the school from Confederate symbols. Sports teams are still called the Rebels, but the university several years ago retired the Colonel Rebel mascot - a white-haired old man some thought resembled a plantation owner. The university also banned sticks in the football stadium nearly 20 years ago, which eliminated most Confederate battle flags that fans carried.

"The University of Mississippi community came to the realization years ago that the Confederate bat-

tle flag did not represent many of our core values, such as civility and respect for others," Stocks said in the statement yesterday. "Since that time, we have become a stronger and better university. We join other leaders in our state who are calling

for a change in the state flag." Several Mississippi cities and counties have stopped flying the state flag since the Charleston shootings. The state's three historically black universities had stopped flying the flag earlier, and the state's only black US representative, Democrat Bennie Thompson, does not display the state flag in his offices because of the Confederate symbol.

But Mississippians remain divided on the flag's future, and many politicians have been loath to stake their own positions as the governor and most state lawmakers seek re-election Nov 3.

The speaker of the House has called for change, but his fellow Republican, GovPhil Bryant, said he wouldn't call a special session this year to debate it, saying it's a matter for Mississippians themselves to decide in another statewide election. After last week's student senate vote, Bryant said during a news conference in Hattiesburg: "I think college students react a lot emotionally." — AP

events Eye on

HRW MEETS GADDAFI SON IN TRIPOLI PRISON

TRIPOLI: Human Rights Watch said yesterday it had been Senussi has also been named by British media as one able to meet slain Libyan dictator Muammer Gaddafi's son Saadi in a Tripoli prison, where he said his rights were being violated. "He said lawyers were not present during any of the interrogation sessions, where, he alleged, prosecution officials had intimidated and threatened him and other witnesses," the New York-based rights group reported.

Gaddafi's third oldest son spoke to HRW without guards present on September 15 at Al-Hadba prison, in what appeared to be his first meeting with a rights organization since his extradition from Niger in March 2014, it said. Saadi Gaddafi had sought refuge in Niger after the 2011 popular uprising that toppled his father.

He is charged with the first-degree murder in 2005 of a former trainer at Tripoli's Al-Ittihad football club and his trial is underway. Saadi Gaddafi, 42, told HRW researchers that he had no legal representation during the pretrial and investigation phase of his case, although he was able to appoint a lawyer around the start of his trial.

He said he had been "held in solitary confinement at Al-Hadba prison since his extradition in a windowless cell, though with a fan, and has had no communication with other detainees," HRW said. Researchers met with three other detainees including former military intelligence chief Abdullah Senussi, and two former prime ministers, Abuzeid Dorda and Al-Baghdadi Al-Mahmudi.

A Tripoli court sentenced all three to death in July for their alleged role in suppressing the 2011 uprising. of two new suspects Scottish prosecutors are reported to have identified in the bombing of a Pan Am jet over the Scottish town of Lockerbie in 1988 which killed 270 people.

The three former officials reported lacking private access to lawyers, court authorities refusing to allow them to speak during trial proceedings and armed groups intimidating their lawyers, HRW said. "One also alleged illtreatment during interrogations," it added. In early August, Arabic news website clearnews published a video appearing to show officials and guards at Al-Hadba prison illtreating several detainees including Saadi Gaddafi.

Libya plunged into chaos after the 2011 uprising and now has two governments and two parliaments vying for power in the oil-rich country. Al-Hadba is controlled by the Libya Dawn militia coalition, which supports the self-declared authority in Tripoli, rival to the internationally recognized Libyan government in Al-Bayda and Tobruk to the east.

In July, a court sentenced to death another Gaddafi son, his one-time heir apparent Seif Al-Islam, for crimes during the uprising. Seif Al-Islam, who is also wanted by the International Criminal Court (ICC), was tried in his absence because he is being held by a militia that opposes the Tripoli authorities. Three of Gaddafi's seven sons were killed in the uprising. Gaddafi himself was captured and killed by rebels in October 2011. — AFP



App Store

Altaharri (the detective) is a website concerned with people's issues. It is a news website that provides honest and bold discussion for social, political and economic topics and issues that negatively affect and form a burden on the Lebanese citizen. It also provides a comprehensive coverage for the latest local and international news, as well as issues concerning the Lebanese society in all fields.







MORALES: FROM COMEDIAN TO GUATEMALAN PRESIDENT

LACK OF POLITICAL EXPERIENCE SEEN AS A PLUS

GUATEMALA CITY: Guatemalan comedian Jimmy Morales' entry into politics started out sounding like a joke, but he is now laughing all the way to the presidential palace after a massive corruption scandal upended the election. Morales, a comic actor and TV personality with no political experience, had just 0.5 percent support in April, at the beginning of his presidential campaign. But the conservative candidate won a landslide victory in a run-off election Sunday.

Morales rode a wave of disgust among ordinary Guatemalans, who deserted the traditional political elite in outrage over a



GUATEMALA CITY: President-elect Jimmy Morales of the National Front Convergence delivers a speech after winning the run-off election. — AFP $\,$

series of corruption scandals that culminated in the resignation and jailing of president Otto Perez just days before the firstround vote. In a climate of widespread disdain for politics as usual, Morales' total lack of political experience was seen as a plus. He declared victory Sunday night, thanking Guatemalans for giving him a "mandate... to fight the corruption that has consumed us." "My commitment remains to God and the Guatemalan people, and I will work with all my heart and strength not to defraud you,"

His opponent, former first lady Sandra Torres, conceded defeat and wished him success. Morales, 46, is famous for his 2007

film "A President in a Sombrero," in which he plays a country bumpkin cowboy named Neto who nearly gets elected president by accident.

Neto surges in the polls by making a string of empty promises on the campaign trail, but ends up dropping out of the race and returning to his hometown. In one of the film's best-known scenes, he promises to build a bridge for residents of one downtrodden district. When informed there is no river there, he announces, "Then we will build them the rivers they need!"

'Not a thief'

In real life, the current race is Morales' first foray into national politics, though he once ran unsuccessfully for mayor of his hometown. Morales studied management at university, but never finished his degree. Running for conservative party FCN-Nacion, he has led a light-hearted campaign, cracking jokes at rallies but giving few concrete details on his policy plans.

"For 20 years, I've made you laugh. I promise that if I become president, I won't make you cry," he reassured voters. After surging in the polls, he hastily drafted formal policy proposals-which he had not done until then. He adopted the campaign slogan, "Not corrupt, not a thief." Political analyst Phillip Chicola said Morales benefited from being a political "outsider," but warned he lacked a true political base.

"The vote for Jimmy is fragile and circumstantial. His party doesn't have any real organization. The vote was a rejection of (traditional) candidates because of the corruption crisis," he said. Morales will have to govern with just 11 seats in the 158-seat Congress. While Morales is seen as uncontroversial, his party is not: It was founded in 2008 by former military officers accused of committing atrocities during Guatemala's civil war (1960-1996), which killed some 200,000 people. Morales has denied the party has anyone linked to abuses in its ranks. But one of its newly elected lawmakers is Edgar Ovalle, a former officer accused of human rights violations during the war. Morales, who hosts a comedy show on TV and also produces movies, is married with



BUJANOVAC: A man bottle-feeds his baby as they wait with other migrants and asylum seekers for a train heading to Croatia after crossing the Macedonian-Serbian

MIGRANT SURGE CONTINUES AMID ATTEMPT TO SLOW IT

BELGRADE: The surge of migrants crossing the Balkans on their way to Western Europe continued unabated yesterday in the hours after European leaders reached an agreement to slow the flow that has heightened tension among nations along the route.

European Union leaders committed to helping the Balkans handle the flow of people making their way through the region en route to more prosperous countries. But with cold weather setting in and record numbers of people arriving, questions remain about whether that assistance can come quickly enough to make a

difference. This is a step in the right direction and now it is crucial to respect the commitments," said Slovenian Prime Minister Miro Cerar, whose tiny Alpine nation has been overwhelmed by the flow since Hungary put up a fence on the border with Serbia and Croatia, diverting the flow to Slovenia. Croatian police said yesterday morning that more than 13,000 migrants arrived from Serbia in the past 24 hours, while Slovenian police reported nearly 10,000 arrivals from Croatia in the same period. Further west, some 3,500 people had to sleep outside in Austria in cold fall weather, while Germany said it had seen 15,000 arrivals over the weekend.

In a statement seeking to paper over deep divisions about how to handle the crisis, the leaders meeting in Brussels on Sunday committed to bolster the borders of Greece as it struggles to cope with the wave of refugees from Syria and beyond who cross over through Turkey. The leaders also decided that reception capacities should be boosted in Greece and along the Balkans migration route to shelter 100,000 more people as winter looms and additional EU border watchdog agency officials will be deployed to monitor the flow.

Sunday's summit was called in response to a string of chaotic actions taken by countries along the route. With no real ability to control Greece's porous island border or stop people leaving Turkey for sanctuary or jobs in Europe, the EU wants to restore some order and apply the brakes on those passing through. — AP



SPARTAK VILLAGE: Pro-Russian rebel sapper Konstantin, 42 years old, stands next to unexploded rocket. — AFP

'NO MARGIN FOR ERROR': UNSAFE WORK FOR UKRAINE'S DEMINERS

DONETSK: Pro-Russian rebel Konstantin carefully carried an unexploded shell to a hole in the earth under a tree. Laying a charge of TNT, he then blew it up in cloud of black smoke. After some 18 months the fighting in east Ukraine has all but ground to a halt as a ceasefire has largely taken hold over the past six weeks, but for Konstantin dangerous work still lies ahead. Going by the name of "Kot" (Tomcat), the 40-year-old works as a deminer on the separatist side, trying to defuse the landmines, ordnance and booby traps that are scattered in the countryside.

"You make a mistake and you're dead," Konstantin told AFP as he went about his risky work on the conflict-ravaged outskirts of the largest rebel stronghold of Donetsk. "You have to stay concentrated and not let anything distract you." Landmines and booby traps have been planted throughout the war zone, around the front line, near trenches in forests and fields and at roadblocks.

Certain death

"The worst one is the OZM 72 anti-personsaid Konstantin, referring to a Soviet-made said in March that at least 42 children had this line of work, blunders kill. — AFP

weapon. "We find a lot of these. When you touch the wire, the mine springs up 90 centimeters before exploding. This means certain death." Along with fighters and mine-clearers, farmers are the main victims of the scattered landmines and booby traps, according to both the Ukrainian authorities and the rebels.

Tractors have blown up driving over antitank mines and farmers ploughing their fields have stumbled upon landmines concealed in the soil. "The hardest thing for me is when a shell falls into a house," said Konstantin, who did not wish to give his last name. "Anyone can blow up a shell to destroy it. But finding a way to neutralize it on the spot without it blowing up is more complicated." Locals occasionally discover rocket fragments from the Soviet-era Grad or Uragan multiple rocket-launchers, calling the deminers onto the scene only to find that the rockets are innocuous. But not all devices prove to be harmless.

Around 10 children have been killed in eastern Ukraine in the past few weeks when shells uncovered in deserted houses or fields blew up in their hands, Ukraine and the rebels nel mine tied to taut wires on the ground," have said. The UN children's agency UNICEF

been killed and 109 injured by landmines and unexploded ordnance in eastern Ukraine since the war began.

Ukrainian authorities, rebel leaders and the International Committee of the Red Cross have published brochures and broadcast commercials to warn the population of the deadly dangers of mines and shells. A loudspeaker announcement at Donetsk's central market urges the population to report any suspicious devices.

Ukraine, along with 160 other states, ratified the 1999 Mine Ban Treaty that prohibits the production and use of anti-personnel mines. But both sides have large stockpiles of Soviet-made weaponry-with Kiev saying the rebels received their arms from Russia-and have not hesitated to use them. "I will have work for a long time to come," Konstantin said. The deminer takes pride in a job he says saves lives but recognizes that the high-stress environment can take its toll. "Many mine-clearers drink to relieve stress," he said. "It's dangerous. You can't have unsteady hands in this profession." A crest on his uniform-bearing the motto "No margin for error"-serves as a permanent reminder that in

TANZANIA COUNTS VOTES AS OPPOSITION CLAIMS FRAUD

DAR ES SALAAM: Votes were being counted yesterday in what is expected to be Tanzania's tightest election race ever, with the governing party facing the first major challenge to its dominance in decades. But the opposition Chadema party has alleged rigging in Sunday's presidential, general and local elec-

"There are allegations of electoral fraud," Chadema spokesman Tumaini Makene told reporters late Sunday. John Magufuli of the long-ruling Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM) is seen as the narrow favorite to beat ex-prime minister Edward Lowassa, a CCM stalwart who recently defected to Chadema, which is head-

ing a coalition of opposition parties. On Zanzibar, the semi-autonomous archipelago which also voted for its own leader, the main opposition presidential candidate declared himself the winner, ahead of any official announcement of results. Analysts have warned that the unusually tight race could spark tensions, with the opposition providing the first credible challenge to the CCM since the introduction of multi-party democracy in 1995. Voting was delayed in some districts, including in some suburbs of the main city Dar es Salaam, after ballot papers were delayed, top National Elections Commission (NEC) official Kailima Ramadhani said.

Voting kits torched

In the southwestern Sumbawanga region, "armed people attacked a vehicle hired by NEC and burned ballot papers," Ramadhani said, adding new voting dates for those districts would be organized. While voting otherwise passed off peacefully, senior Chadema official Mwesiga Baregu told reporters they were concerned at reports of "a number of reported interceptions of stuffed (ballot) boxes."

The opposition claims could not be independently verified, but Chadema said it was concerned, adding that police late Sunday arrested some party members at their tallying centre. "We seem to be heading to results that may not be credible, and therefore might not be accepted not just by political parties, but will not be accepted by the voters themselves," Baregu said.

British High Commissioner Dianna Melrose said she was generally impressed with the polls. "We witnessed thousands of people with high enthusiasm turning out and reporting at polling stations," Melrose said. "However, we are concerned with some cases where voting materials were delayed. This left many people frustrated."

Election officials said they expect the results of the presidential race within three days, but some early results should begin arriving yesterday. CCM election co-ordinator Yusuf Makamba criticised what he called the opposition's "inflammatory statements", warning that comments suggesting they might not accept officials results "may spark unrest".

Many believe 55-year old Magufuli-currently minister of works, for which he earned the nickname "The Bulldozer"-will face a tough challenge from Lowassa, 62. Lowassa was prime minister from 2005 until his resignation in 2008 over corruption allegations that he denies, and has for years been a CCM loyalist, but on the campaign trail he called for an end to the party's rule.

Zanzibar tensions

Outgoing President Jakaya Kikwete, who is not running having served his constitutional two-term limit, ordered the police to boost security to ensure calm in the country of 52 million people, of whom 22 million were registered to vote. On Zanzibar, a popular tourist destination, police fired tear gas to disperse crowds on polling day, and Britain's Foreign Office yesterday warned there "may be heightened tension and unrest" after the vote.

Leading candidates in the Zanzibar vote are incumbent President Ali Mohamed Shein of the ruling CCM, and current Vice-President Seif Sharif Hamad from the opposition Civic United Front (CUF), who shared power in a unity government. Hamad, 71, claimed yesterday to have seen official documents of final voting figures, although there has been no announcement from the electoral commission and the figures could not be verified.

"There is no question... the ruling party has been defeated for the first time since 1977," Hamad told reporters. "I have won by 52.87 percent, against the incumbent president Dr Ali Mohamed Shein's 47.13 percent," he said. The declaration is likely to raise tensions on the islands. Zanzibar has experienced sectarian and political tensions in recent years, including several grenade explosions-with the unrest affecting the islands' key tourist

Suspect held after crashing car into Belgian barracks

FLAWINNE: A man suspected of ramming his car into the gates of a military barracks in the Belgian city of Namur yesterday morning was arrested after a short manhunt, a prosecutor said. Officials said the man fled on foot after guards fired warning shots at his dark colored Ford Focus, which he then aban-

doned in a field nearby. They said the man had been identified and was known to come from the area. No casualties were reported in the attack, which immediately raised alarm in a country that is on high alert after a wave of violence by Islamic State-affiliated jihadists over the past year. "The individual has just been arrested. It is important to reassure residents. There is nothing to suggest there are others involved," prosecutor Vincent Macq told the Belga news agency. The prosecutors were expected to brief the press at 1400 GMT. Belgium's Defence Minister Stephen Vandeput was expected to travel to the scene.

The Flawinne military base is home to Belgium's Second Commando Battalion of 650 soldiers, most of which are currently taking part in a NATO exercise in Spain. The facility was likely empty at the time of the incident, except for a small group of surveillance personnel, a military official told Belga. Details of the attack remained sketchy but a military bomb squad had arrived at the site as well as a SWAT rapid reaction team. Media reports said the assailant was masked, though this was not confirmed by authorities to AFP. Hours after the incident, the sound of a muffled explosion was heard from the barracks.

An AFP photographer at the scene said the perimeter had been sealed off by authorities, with a helicopter flying overhead. During the three-hour manhunt residents said police combed the neighborhood looking for the driver. Nearby military facil-

A local TV station said that pupils at a nearby school were told to remain indoors, but the city mayor later said it was not necessary for parents to collect their children early. The incident stirred memories of recent deadly attacks, including the

ities and a police academy were locked down.

killing of four people at the Jewish museum in central Brussels in 2014 by a jihadist gunman. In January, the security forces killed two suspected jihadist fighters in Verviers, eastern Belgium, who they claimed were planning imminent attacks on

WOMAN BACK IN INDIA 12 YEARS AFTER STRAYING INTO PAKISTAN

NEW DELHI: Twelve years ago, a deaf and mute 11-year-old girl crossed the Indian border into Pakistan. Yesterday, finally, she flew home to a warm and emotional welcome. Wearing a red tunic, her head loosely covered with a matching scarf, the girl - now a 23-year-old woman who had been given the name Geeta - waved to the scores of people who had gathered at the New Delhi airport to greet her. She was carrying a big bouquet of flowers given to her by Indian officials. It was a rare happy moment between hostile neighbors whose officials are often indifferent to the lives of innocent civilians.

"I am very happy. In Pakistan, I used to often feel sad," she told reporters through a sign language interpreter. She has resolved to stay in India and work, she said at the news conference. More than a decade ago, Geeta was found by Pakistan border troops, alone and weeping, near the border. Accounts of how she arrived differ, with some saying she had accidentally crossed an unmarked section of the border and others saying she'd been a passenger on a cross-border train

Since she could not explain where she had come from, she was presumed to be Pakistani. The army handed the girl to a well-known Pakistani charity that ran a number of homes for orphans. The Edhi Foundation named her Geeta, but not knowing about her family, years passed without much effort to locate them.

Overcoming all odds

Earlier in 2015, Indian and Pakistani officials realized that Geeta was Indian, though details about how they made that discovery have not been announced. Her plight was highlighted by the media in India and Pakistan after the July release of a Bollywood film, "Bajrangi Bhaijan." In

the film, Salman Khan, one of Bollywood's biggest stars, overcomes all odds to reunite a mute girl with her family in Pakistan after she was separated from them during a trip to India.

The similarities between the film and Geeta's story helped accelerate action. In August, India declared that Geeta was an Indian citizen and efforts to trace her family were renewed. Vikas Swarup, spokesman of the ministry of external affairs, said Indian officials narrowed the search to three families who claimed they were Geeta's kin. The ministry then sent photographs of them

"About two weeks ago, Geeta identified her family after seeing some pictures provided to us by Indian diplomats," the charity's spokesman, Faisal Edhi, told The Associated Press in Islamabad. "She was very happy over it." It was a rare friendly moment in the traditionally hostile relations between the South Asian neighbors. Since independence from Britain in 1947, India and Pakistan have fought three wars. Years of bitter acrimony have reduced even normal interaction between the two countries.

In New Delhi, Geeta and the families were undergoing DNA tests to ensure she was reunited with her own parents, Indian External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj said at a news conference where Geeta was present. Earlier yesterday, when Geeta was introduced to Janardhan Mahato, a man who claimed to be her father, and his wife, Geeta said she did not recognize them. "Geeta met the Mahato couple today, but she could not recognize them. We will now wait for the results of the DNA test," Swaraj told reporters. Geeta would live at a home for people with disabilities in the central Indian city of Indore, before she decides what to do next. — AP



NEW DELHI: Geeta, 23, (right) a deaf and mute Indian woman who accidentally strayed into Pakistan as a child twelve years ago, greets the media with India's External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj at a press conference. — AP

AFGHAN SECURITY ADVISER WARNS OF IS, QAEDA RISK

KABUL: Al-Qaeda has re-established a presence in Afghanistan and the Islamic State group has become a serious threat, the Afghan national security adviser warned, saying the country was in danger of again becoming a safe haven for terrorists and calling for US and NATO military backing to help drive them out.

The warning by Mohammad Hanif Atmar follows the announcement earlier this month by President Barack Obama that the US would keep 9,800 troops in Afghanistan through most of next year, casting aside a pledge to withdraw most US forces before leaving office. Obama cited the fragile security situation in the face of a resurgent Taleban.

Speaking to The Associated Press in an interview late Saturday, Atmar said Al-Qaeda, the Taleban, the Islamic State group and other insurgents, including the brutal Haqqani network, which has ties to the Taleban, "are morphing." "They have not been degraded, they have regenerated themselves," he said. Atmar warned the insurgent groups are reinventing themselves, joining forces, and drawing funds and support from outside as they take advantage of a perceived weakness of Afghan forces following the end of the US-led international combat mission last year.

Taleban rising

Highlighting Afghanistan's need for continued support from the US and NATO, the Taleban overran the key northern city of Kunduz on Sept 28 - their first seizure of a major urban area since being toppled in 2001 by the US invasion - before being driven out over a period of two weeks. The Taleban then threatened cities in different corners of the country, including Lashkar Gah, capital of southern Helmand province, and Maymana,

capital of northwestern Faryab. The Taleban have been stretching Afghan forces to the limit this year, and the shift in tactics - from scattered shootings and bombings to coordinated assaults on cities - has posed a challenge to a force accustomed to coming in behind US troops to hold territory, rather than going on the offensive. This has provided fertile ground for insurgent groups to move into Afghanistan from other countries, particularly Pakistan, where a military campaign to eliminate their safe havens from the tribal areas of North Waziristan has pushed militants into Afghanistan. Atmar said several groups are now using Afghanistan as a staging ground to reach their "home countries," including China, Uzbekistan and other Central Asian states, and Russia. "What needs to be well understood is that the symbiotic network of terrorists that we are confronted with is going to be a threat to every country in this region and by extension the whole world," Atmar said. "We are hoping that assessment is shared not just by Central Asia, Russia and China, but by our neighbors to the south and east," he said, referring principally

Al-Qaeda has made a return to Afghanistan since the drawdown of US and NATO troops

began picking up steam from 2011 to 2013, Atmar said, blaming the simultaneous withdrawal of intelligence and eye-in-the-sky technology that the international forces had provided. He said the Islamic State group now poses an "existential threat" because it no longer includes only disaffected Taleban, unhappy with the lack of progress after years of fighting to topple the Kabul government, but has an "institutional connection" to the group's leadership in Iraq and Syria.

Leaders are now being appointed directly by the IS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, Atmar said, entrenching the rivalry with the Taleban - which believes itself the rightful ruler of an Afghan Islamic state. "They have well-established connections to the Islamic State (in Syria and Iraq). Islamic State is commanding and controlling them, Islamic State is financing them, Islamic State is giving them the strategy to pursue. We have no doubt about that," he said.

Terror sanctuaries

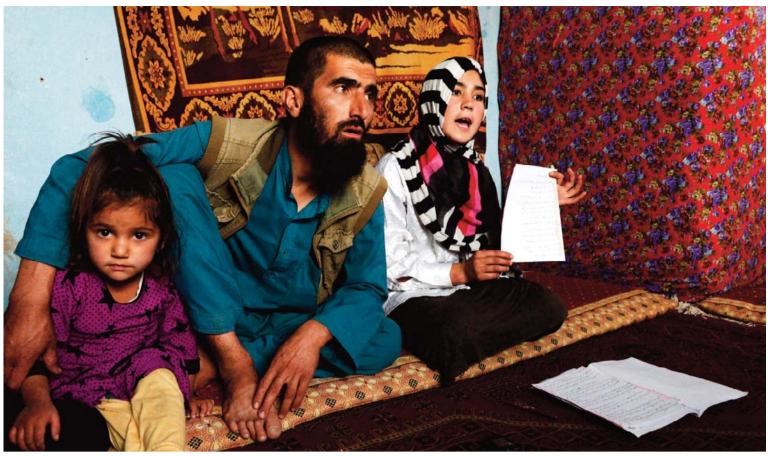
IS loyalists have a foothold in eastern Nangarhar province, near the Pakistan border, where they have battled government forces and Taleban fighters. Atmar said military operations were underway to dislodge IS from the four districts they have seized. "What these groups need to survive and to grow is sanctuaries, whether in Pakistan or Afghanistan. They've had them in Pakistan for decades now," Atmar said, referring to the widespread belief that Pakistani authorities provide safe haven to Taleban leaders.

"Unless we get rid of the Taleban, either through counter-terrorism or through peace and reconciliation, these elements will grow because they need a host, and they need a recruitment facility. And we should not allow the Afghan Taleban to grow into that kind of facility for them," he said. As the Taleban's traditional fighting season draws to a close, before winter snows cut mountain routes to and from Pakistan, Atmar said he expected another

tough fight in 2016.
"Our principle assumption is that the Taleban are not interested in peace," he said. "Those who believe the Taleban can win militarily need to be convinced they are wrong." Atmar called on Pakistani authorities to use their influence on the Taleban. Pakistan hosted a first round of peace talks between the Taleban and the Afghan government earlier this year, but the process was postponed indefinitely after the announcement of the death of

Taleban founder Mullah Mohammad Omar.

Atmar said that before the process could be revived, the Afghan government hoped for talks with the Pakistani leadership. "We hope that the response is reciprocal, that they are seeing the opportunity that has risen for a genuine peace and reconciliation between the two states and then between the government of Afghanistan and the Taleban," he said. "Our position is that we cannot go to the negotiating table while they (the Taleban) are killing our children." — AP



KABUL: In this photograph taken on October 15, 2015, 14-year-old Afghan girl, Aziza Rahimzada, (right), who has been nominated for the International Children's Peace Prize, sits with family members as she speaks with AFP during an interview at her temporary home. — AFP

'AFGHAN MALALA' SPEAKS UP FOR REFUGEE CHILDREN

Hopes to spread message of universal education

KABUL: At the age of just 14, Afghan rights activist Aziza Rahimzada has already surmounted legal hurdles preventing 25,000 refugee children from attending school, and cajoled authorities into providing tap water to a camp housing more than 100 families. Now she has been nominated for the International Children's Peace Prize-an award previously won by Malala Yousafzai-and, like her Pakistani counterpart, hopes to spread her message of universal education and fundamental rights for Afghanistan's youth.

"These children are the products of war," Aziza says during an interview from the Kabul camp for internally displaced people where she was born after her family fled fighting in the Parwan province in 2001. "They have suffered a lot during the war years. I give them advice and council them on the value of education," she says in Dari, wearing a black-and-white headscarf as she sits on the floor of the tiny mud brick home that houses her family of eight. "Their families are also uneducated so sometimes we have to convince them too." It is a thin line to walk, both for someone so young and without stirring a backlash in a conservative society unused to children, particularly girls, speaking up for themselves.

Forceful advocate

Aziza's confidence impressed the Mobile Mini Circus for Children (MMCC), an international humanitarian group founded by Danes Berit Muhlhausen and David Mason, who moved to

Afghanistan shortly after the fall of the Taleban regime in 2001.

The group works throughout Afghanistan with a local partner and aims to bring children together through play, while identifying young leaders who can represent the needs of their communities. In a country ravaged by decades of war, where more than 60 percent of the population are under 25, those needs are great.

"She was very special from the beginning. She was thinking more than the others, advocating for others, asking questions. Gradually she became a representative for the other children," said Mason.

In "shuras" (consultative councils) organized by the group, Aziza quickly identified pressing issues faced by the 500 or so children in her camp, and others like it in Kabul. Foremost among these was the lack of running water, which meant children were sent far away to fetch heavy pails of waters for the family-until Aziza intervened, securing a pipe that pumps water into the camp and serves

Another key issue was education. As children of refugees born into abject poverty, those in the camps lacked the necessary documentation for admission into the capital city's schools, with Kabul authorities viewing the internally displaced people as temporary migrants who would eventually return to their home districts.

Helped by the MMCC, Aziza led the children in lobbying local officials and then parliament,

with the aid of some high-profile lawmakers like women's rights activist Fawzia Koofi. Her persistence eventually led to a breakthrough allowing some 25,000 children living in Kabul's 59 refugee camps to register in the capital, making them eligible to attend school. "This was an achievement of astronomic scale. I saw those kids in school uniform, and I couldn't recognize them. It was such a relief to see them-it was such a radical transformation," said Mason, the MMCC

Bridging the gap

Aziza's unique talent, Mason's partner Muhlhausen argues, lies not only in her gifted rhetoric, but in her ability to forcefully advocate for her fellow children without stirring controversy. She is among the final three nominees for the award along with Abraham Keita, 17, from Liberia and Jeanesha Bou, also 17, of Puerto Rico, with the winner announced in the Hague on November 9.

But the teenager, who says she wants to found her country's first Ombudsman's office to redress her fellow citizen's grievances, says her work is far from complete. "What I have achieved so far is nothing," she says, emphasizing that as time goes on, her country will have to stand on its own feet. "The foreign NGOs will one day stop their aid. That's why we need to strengthen our own institutions and improve social justice for our people," she said. — AFP

SNOWFALL STRANDS HUNDREDS IN PAKISTAN

PESHAWAR: Hundreds of tourists were stranded yesterday after the earliest snowfall in 40 years blocked a main highway in Pakistan's northern areas, dumping three feet of snow on one town in less than 24 hours. Authorities sent heavy machinery along with troops and rescue workers to clear the roads in the Naran Valley in Mansehra dis-

Pakistanis enjoying a long weekend for Ashura in the holy month of Moharram had travelled to the area, popular for its natural beauty, when they were caught off guard by the unprecedented snowfall. "More than 1,200 people have so far been evacuated but still some 800 to 1,000 people are stranded there and rescue work is ongoing," Najeeb Ur Rehman, the top police official in Mansehra district, said.

Officials said the town of Naran was the worst affected, receiving more than three feet of snow since early Sunday. One coal miner was killed late Sunday when a mine collapsed due to a glacier break-off in Babusar area, some 40 kilometers from Naran.

Authorities rescued 15 other coal miners trapped by the collapse, Rehman said. The snowfall has also damaged the power lines and some small bridges. Rehman said the first priority had been to evacuate drivers stranded on the roads by the snow, and that authorities would now concentrate on extracting tourists trapped in their hotels. The first snow does not usually hit Pakistan's northern areas until early December, with officials saying this was the earliest recorded snowfall in 40 years. — AFP



DHAKA: Bangladesh police escort (from left) Minhajul Abedin Russel, Russel Chowdhury, Shakhawat Hossain and Tamjid Ahmed Rubel, alongside a motorbike police suspect of being used in the killing, after they were arrested over the murder of Italian citizen CesareTavella. — AFP

FOUR HELD IN BANGLADESH OVER AID WORKER MURDER

DHAKA: Bangladesh made its first arrests over an Italian aid worker's murder as authorities insisted yesterday the killing was a plot by government opponents to trigger anarchy and not the work of the Islamic State group. Police paraded four people detained for the killing of 50-year-old Cesare Tavella late last month, along with a motorbike said to have been the getaway vehicle.

The killing near Dhaka's diplomatic zone was the first of a series of attacks to be claimed by Islamic State (IS) and was followed days later by the gunning down of a Japanese farmer in northern Bangladesh. A weekend bombing of the capital's main Shiite shrine, which killed one person and wounded dozens more, has further heightened the fears of minorities living in the mainly

Muslim but officially secular nation.

But although that attack was also claimed by IS, the government responded by denying the extremist group was active in Bangladesh and instead rounded up dozens of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's opponents. Speaking after the four suspects were brought in handcuffs before the media, Dhaka police said they had all admitted killing Tavella on "the orders of a so-called big brother who offered them money".

"They carried out the murder to embarrass the government, to put the government under pressure and to create anarchy," Dhaka police commissioner Asaduzzaman Mia told reporters. "So far what they've admitted to us is that they were not specifically targeting Cesare Tavella but their aim was to kill any white-skinned

foreigner. "Their big brother wanted to prove that Bangladesh is not safe for foreigners and if they could prove that, then it would put pressure on the government." Police described two of the suspects as drug addicts who have previous criminal convictions, while another was a drug-dealer and the fourth was "a cold-blooded killer".

Mystery 'big brother'

They did not elaborate on the identity of the "big brother" said to have ordered the killing of Tavella, who worked for a faith-based Dutch charity. But Mia pointed a finger at the opposition and insisted the murder could not have been carried out by IS or by another Islamist group behind the recent killings of atheist bloggers.

"There is no militant connection with this killing. This is entirely a local group which wants to make political capital," he said. "We all know the identity of those people who have been trying to create anarchy in the country since January," he added in reference to protests led by the main opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) which began at the start of the year. His comments echoed those of Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal who told reporters after the shrine blast that "the IS organization does not exist in Bangladesh". Bangladesh prides itself on being a mainly moderate Muslim nation but the gruesome killings of a series of atheist bloggers this year have rocked the nation and sparked a crackdown on local hard-line Islamist groups.—AFP

Indian gangster 'Chhota Rajan' caught in Bali

JAKARTA: An alleged Indian crime boss wanted in his home country for up to 20 murders has been arrested in Indonesia after two decades on the run, police said yesterday. Acting on a tip-off from Australian police, Indonesian authorities detained Raiendra Sadashiv Nikalje on Sunday as he arrived in the popular resort island of Bali from Sydney, Bali police spokesman Heri Wiyanto said. The 55-year-old Nikalje, known in India as Chhota Rajan, had been evading police in several countries for years, with Interpol flagging him as a wanted man back in 1995.

"We received information from police in Canberra yesterday (Sunday) about the red notice for a murderer," Wiyanto told AFP. "We arrested the man at the airport yesterday. What we know is that this man was suspected to have carried out 15 to 20 murders in India." Nikalje was the alleged former right-hand man of Mumbai crime kingpin Dawood Ibrahim, who is suspected of being behind the 1993 bomb blasts in the city that killed more than 250 people.

'People were so scared'

Nikalie later became Ibrahim's rival, accused of running one of several underworld outfits that had a grip on India's financial and entertainment capital in the 1980s and 1990s until a police crackdown. "It (the



BALI: Motorcyclists pass by Denpasar's police station where Rajendra Sadashiv Nikalje is detained. — AP arrest) is very, very important because after Dawood's stopped even holding their marriages in Mumbai or

gang, his was the second most notorious and cruel gang," former Mumbai police chief PS Pasricha told an Indian TV station. "People were so scared that they

purchasing expensive cars because the moment they did, they would get calls from gangsters for extortion." Among other crimes, police accused Nikalje in 2011

of ordering the murder of a prominent Mumbai crime reporter, who was gunned down in a drive-by shooting the same year. Wiyanto said Bali police were coordinating with Interpol and Indian authorities, adding it was likely Nikalje would be deported to India.

A spokesperson for Australian Federal Police said Interpol in Canberra had alerted Indonesian authorities "who apprehended Nikalje at the request of Indian authorities".

The federal police confirmed last month that Nikalje was living in Australia under another identity and had been in discussions with Indian authorities, the spokesperson said, but would not provide further details.

Nikalje in 2001 was wounded by gunmen who burst into a Bangkok apartment and killed his associate in what appeared to be a shooting ordered by Ibrahim. Because he was facing a bid to extradite him to India, he made a dramatic escape from the Bangkok hospital where he was being treated. India's top Central Bureau of Investigation welcomed the arrest yesterday, saying it had been working with Australia authorities to hunt down Nikalje. Interpol's website says Nikalje was born in Mumbai, and was wanted for multiple charges including murder and possession and use of illegal firearms. — AFP

MYANMAR TRAINS CONTROVERSIAL 40,000 STRONG 'ELECTION POLICE'

YANGON: In a makeshift classroom in downtown Yangon, rows of uniformed men listened to lessons on election security yesterday as they prepared to join Myanmar's controversial 40,000-strong special polling day police force. The former junta-ruled nation will hold a highly-anticipated vote on November 8 in what many hope could be the freest election in decades.

Aung San Suu Kyi's opposition is expected to make major gains. But there are concerns unrest could flare in the conflictprone nation-where religious tensions are simmering-while the use of civilian deputies has sparked unease given the country's long history of military rulers using armed thugs to suppress opposition.

"They need more police and I wanted to help as much as I could," said Aung Swe Oo, a deputy head of the local fire service in Botadaung Township who was undergoing training yesterday. "We learned basic military subjects, the laws and principles of the election and police rules. But the priority is how to act during the polls and how to be ready," the 45-year-old told AFP, without elaborating what scenarios they might prepare for.

Some 41 recruits were undergoing lessons at the local police station yesterdayone for each polling station in the township. They have been kitted out with police uniforms, but with "special election police" red epaulettes on their shoulders. Last month's announcement that a special force would be created followed a joint statement from countries including the United States and Japan expressing alarm that rising religious tensions could spark conflict around the elections.

A new openness has blossomed in Myanmar since the military stepped back from outright power in 2011. But reforms under a quasi-civilian government have appeared to backtrack in recent months. The country has also been shaken by sporadic outbursts of often deadly religious unrest since 2012, with minority Muslims facing increasing political exclusion as the influence of nationalist Buddhist monks grows.

The special police will be unarmed and wield fewer powers than official police, according to officials. They will be paid around \$140, the same monthly salary regular officers receive. Use of civilians by Myanmar authorities as part of crackdowns has a long and controversial history in a nation where the military brutally suppressed dissent during its nearly 50 year rule. Most recently men believed to be deputized civilians in plain clothes with red armbands were seen beating protesters alongside police at a student protest in March. — AFP



YANGON: Specially recruited police officers for the election attend a training

TWO KOREAS WRAP UP **EMOTIONAL REUNIONS**

SEOUL: North and South Korean families divided since the Korean War said a tearful final farewell yesterday, wrapping up a rare reunion that was clouded at the last by a maritime border spat. After three emotionally fraught days of seeking to redress more than 60 years of separation, the reunion ended on the most traumatic note of all-a goodbye that for most of the elderly participants marked the last time they will ever see each other.

Around 1,000 relatives from both sides took part in the week-long event-a tiny fraction of the tens of thousands wait-listed for a reunion slot. Divided into two rounds, it was only the second gathering in five years for those torn apart by the 1950-53 Korean conflict. The two Koreas had agreed to the reunion as part of a deal brokered in August to ease tensions that had pushed them to the brink of armed conflict.

The fact that it went ahead as scheduled had encouraged those who hoped the deal might usher in a period of detente, but the inherent volatility of North-South ties was underlined on Saturday by an incident on their disputed maritime border. It was a minor spat, with a South Korean naval vessel firing warning shots at a North Korean patrol boat that had strayed across the border and promptly returned.

North Korean warning

But Pyongyang insisted it was a dangerous and deliberate provocation by the South that could "totally derail" the August agreement. The accord had also envisaged the resumption of official talks between the rival Koreas, but there has been no sign to date of such a dialogue getting under way. The latest reunion, meanwhile, ended with no commitment as to when the next one might be held.

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 yesterday's scenes of relatives clinging to each other and weeping at their final breakfast meeting underlined the emotional cost that gatherings exact. The "three-day" tag attached to each reunion round is misleading. In reality, that boils down to just six, two-hour sessions-only one of which allows the separated relatives to meet

Among those reunited over the last three days was Lee Bok-Soon, 88, and the son she had not seen since he was abducted by the North in 1972 while on a fishing boat in the Yellow Sea. "I am alive and have lived a good life," her son, 64-year-old Jung Gun-Mook told Lee during one of their meetings monitored by an ever-present North Korean official.

North Korea has rejected repeated requests from the South to make the reunions longer and more frequent. South Korean participants say the events are wrenchingly short and over-politicized, with their North Korean kin obliged to parrot official propaganda during their monitored conversations.

The reunion program began in earnest after a historic North-South summit in 2,000, and was initially an annual event, before strained cross-border relations interrupted their frequency. Pyongyang has long manipulated the reunion issue as a tool for extracting concessions from Seoul, and sees its agreement to hold the meetings as an act of diplomatic largesse that merits reward. Observers say the North has little to gain from the 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. — AFP



KALIMANTAN: In this picture taken on October 25, 2015 children play in their neighborhood by the Kahayan riverbanks, the worst-hit by haze

DESPERATION IN EPICENTER OF SOUTHEAST ASIA'S HAZE CRISIS

'I CAN'T EVEN BREATHE FRESH AIR'

PALANGKARAYA: When the smoke from forest fires turned a thick, acrid yellow, casting an apocalyptic glow over Palangkaraya, Kartika Sari decided to grab her child and flee the Indonesian city at the epicenter of the haze crisis smothering Southeast Asia. The 32-year-old pharmacist and her three-year-old daughter have for weeks been inhaling toxic air in Palangkaraya, a city of 240,000 that has been engulfed in poisonous darkness by smoke from peat land set alight to clear land for palm oil

"The smoke was no longer white, it was yellow," she told AFP from an evacuation centre in Banjarmasin, a six-hour drive from Palangkaraya. "Usually we just endured it, even though we had headaches and felt nauseous. But it has got so bad lately, that I can't take it anymore. I can't even breathe fresh air." Now she waits in limbo in a basic shelter with nine other evacuees, mostly children, including a one-year-old boy suffering from a severe cough and diarrhea. Authorities say the fires from slash-and-burn farming in Borneo and neighboring Sumatra have killed 10 people so far, some of whom died while fighting the blazes and others from the pollution. Respiratory illnesses in Palangkaraya have soared as the choking smog has worsened in recent weeks.

While many have relocated to safety elsewhere with friends and relatives, others have no choice but to stay behind despite the risks especially bad today, that is why I came here," posed by the noxious haze. 39-year-old Rahmah, a street vendor in Palangkaraya, said she needed to keep doing her job to pay her children's school fees, despite the toll on her health from working outdoors.

"I have to stay whether I like it or not. My livelihood is here so how can I leave?" Rahmah, who like many Indonesians goes by one name, told AFP on the porch of her riverfront wooden house in Palangkaraya. "You get light headed after a while, but I just try my best to cure myself with simple medication."

Her neighbor Nurjanah, who shares a small house with seven other family members, including her five-month-old granddaughter, echoed the sense of desperation felt in the blighted city, where visibility is sometimes as low as a few dozen meters. "Leave? Where to?" Nurjanah said, when asked why she doesn't evacuate. "The smoke gets everywhere, so what's the point of evacuating when there's no escape?"

"Can't go on like this"

At a nearby health clinic, hundreds of people queue for hours for a chance to use one of the 10 oxygen tanks available to get a breath of fresh air. Even there the haze finds its way in, swarming around 23-year-old English teacher Ayu Dwitasari, who has suffered from bronchitis for days and is having trouble breathing. "It's got Dwitasari said.

Mass evacuations-especially of children and those suffering chronic respiratory illnesseswere not out of the question, said Indonesian military spokesman Tatang Sulaiman. Three warships carrying medical teams, tents, cooking stoves and protective masks were on their way to the worst-affected regions in Kalimantan-Indonesia's half of Borneo-and Sumatra, he said, to help build temporary shelters away from the haze-plagued cities.

"Our warships are ready to evacuate residents, whether to these temporary shelters, or even to take them on board. We are prepared for that," he told AFP. But for those fighting the fires, a lack of equipment and tinder-dry conditions are hampering their best efforts to curb the thousands of blazes smoldering on carbon-rich peat lands.

In Kuala Kapuas, not far from Palangkaraya, 33-year-old volunteer Rahmat Muhamad Noor and around 20 others toil around the clock fighting the fires, struggling with limited water and poor equipment. Wearing thin rubber boots and a cotton face mask, Noor tried desperately to stamp out a fire with a wooden stick after the machine pumping water through the hose broke down. "Please tell the government we need more help," he told AFP. "We need masks. We can't go on like this." — AFP

JAPAN CALLED TO BAN CHILD MANGA PORN

TOKYO: A UN special envoy yesterday called on Japan to ban cartoon images featuring "extreme" sexualized images of children, after Tokyo last year fell into line with other G7 nations by criminalizing possession of child pornography. Graphic images of pedophilia in manga comic books remain legal under the new law, which came into effect this summer, while books and videos of real children in sexually provocative poses are still widely available-and legal. Campaigners had long urged Japan to toughen its stance on child pornography, complaining it was a major source of the material globally.

"When it comes to particular, extreme child pornographic content, manga should be banned," Maud de Boer-Buquicchio, the UN's special reporter on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, told reporters as she wrapped up a week-long Japan tour. But she acknowledged the challenge in "finding the right balance" between artistic freedoms and the need to protect children. "I accept that the freedom of expression argument should outweigh, should prevail when it comes to adult pornography," she added.

Despite calls for manga imagery to be includ-

ed in the new rules, there was strong resistance from manga artists, free-speech advocates and publishers, who said it would impinge on freedom of expression and allow authorities to make arbitrary decisions about art. De Boer-Buquicchio criticized the law for being riddled with "numerous loopholes" and lashed out at socalled "child erotica", saying kids were being exploited. The still-legal offerings feature photos and other materials depicting half-naked children in skimpy outfits, such as tiny bikinis.

DVDs or photo books of child erotica are readily available online and at stores in Tokyo including in the city's well-known Akihabara district. "All these are obviously lucrative businesses. What is worrying is that there is a trend which seems to be socially accepted and tolerated," the UN envoy said. Billboards featuring women with voluptuous figures and distinctly child-like faces are also widely seen in urban centres.

'Sexual crimes'

Japanese police say they have been cracking down with an 11 percent on-year increase in cases-a total of 1,828 — in 2014. Child prostitution has declined in Japan, but materials featuring the abuse of children have proliferated online, the envoy said, as she pointed to poverty, a lack of gender equality, social tolerance and few prosecutions.

While Japan is a relatively wealthy country, about 16.3 percent of children aged 17 or under were living in poverty-meaning a family income half that of the national median-according to 2012 data. The UN envoy said impunity for offenders is "relatively high" in Japan. "If these issues can be addressed, I believe Japan can make substantial progress, if not completely eradicate, sexual exploitation of children," De Boer-Buquicchio said.

Some Japanese non-profit organizations last week issued a formal call to the government to tighten up the new law. "Materials of children under 18 that were clearly created for the purpose of fulfilling sexual excitement should be regulated as child pornography," said Shihoko Fujiwara, head of non-profit organization Lighthouse. While Lighthouse called on firms to stop distributing DVDs depicting half-naked children several years ago, such images are still widely available, she added. "We should teach children about sexual crimes at schools," she said. — AFP



This screen grab taken from the Dubai Police website shows a photo of Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al-Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates and Ruler of Dubai, with the Burj Khalifa tower behind him, with one question in English and Arabic: "Are you happy in Dubai?" — AP

ARE YOU UNHAPPY IN DUBAI? POLICE MAY CALL TO ASK WHY

DUBAI: If you say you're unhappy in Dubai, the police Wednesday. It sent text messages to a number of Dubai may call to ask you why as part of a new survey. The online poll, unveiled in recent days, comes as Dubai tries to break into the top 10 rankings of world's happiest cities by 2021, an effort in league with other lofty aspirations in this emirate, home to the world's tallest building. The simple survey has users choose between a frown, a smile and an unimpressed straight line. The police say they will call those who say they are unhappy, which puzzles some observers, including William Davies, a senior lecturer at the University of London who recently published the book "The Happiness Industry: How the Government and Big Business Sold

"This looks like to me an attempt to try to slightly frighten people into A) replying to the survey question and B) replying to say they're happy because people really don't want to be rung up by the police with the question: 'Well, what's your problem?"' Davies said. "But I don't know. Maybe there's something sincere about it."

The effort to measure happiness can be seen in government offices across Dubai, one of seven of the United Arab Emirates. Small tablet computers placed next to civil servants allow citizens to provide instant feedback on their experience. Last year, authorities also began ranking municipal offices with a two-to-seven star system based on their customer service, part of Dubai's "smart government" push.

That happiness effort has included the Dubai police, most well-known abroad for some of the luxury cars employed in its fleet. Twitter messages from the police often include the hashtag "Your Security Our Happiness" in both Arabic and English.

At a recent electronics show, the Dubai police unveiled its happiness survey, saying it began

residents including a link to a webpage showing a picture of Dubai's ruler, Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al-Maktoum, with the Burj Khalifa tower behind him. It asked one question in English and Arabic: "Are you happy in Dubai?"

In a statement, police said the survey received more than 200,000 responses in its first day, with 84 percent saying they were happy, 6 percent neutral and 10 percent unhappy. Police did not disclose how many text messages they sent. But that wasn't all. Maj Gen Khamis Mattar Al-Mazeina, Dubai's police chief, told local media that his officers would randomly call a selection of those unhappy to ask what was upsetting them. "If the matter is under our jurisdiction, we will help them with it, but if it has to do with another government entity we will forward the issue to the concerned department," he said. He stressed police could not help with personal issues.

Police and Dubai officials did not respond to a request for comment from AP to discuss concerns about having police calling those who say they are unhappy. The United Arab Emirates is ranked No. 20 out of 158 countries surveyed in the United Nations' 2015 World Happiness Report. Though coming in first in the Arab world, the United Arab Emirates hopes to break into the top 10 by 2021, which will mark the 50th anniversary of the nation's founding.

Davies warns, however, that solely focusing on happiness, either in Dubai or elsewhere in the world, could mask other issues. "I think it diverts attention away from broader political or economic factors that might actually be ... problematic or unjust," Davies said. "It's possible to imagine a society which had great concern for happiness but very little for concern for say human rights or the rights of minorities." — AP

INTOLERABLE, UNIMAGINABLE HEAT FORECAST FOR THE GULF

their current pace, by the end of century parts of the Arabian Gulf will sometimes be just too hot for the human body to tolerate, a new study says. How hot? The heat index - which combines heat and humidity may hit 74 to 77 Celsius for at least six hours, according to numerous computer simulations in the new study. That's so hot that the human body can't get rid of heat. The elderly and ill are hurt most by current heat waves, but the future is expected to be so hot that healthy, fit people would be endangered, health experts say.

"You can go to a wet sauna and put the temperature up to 35 Celsius or so. You can bear it for a while, now think of that at an extended exposure" of six or more hours, said study co-author Elfatih Eltahir, an MIT environmental engineering professor. While humans have been around, Earth has not seen that type of prolonged, oppressive combination of heat and humidity, Eltahir said. But with the unique geography and climate of the Arabian Gulf and increased warming projected if heattrapping gas emissions continue to rise at current rates, it will happen every decade or so by the end of the century, according to the study published yesterday in the journal Nature Climate Change.

This would be the type of heat that would make deadly heat wave in Europe in 2003 that killed more than 70,000 people "look like a refreshing day or event,"

WASHINGTON: If carbon dioxide emissions continue at said study co-author Jeremy Pal of Loyola Marymount University. It would still be rare, and cities such as Abu Dhabi, Dubai and Doha wouldn't quite be uninhabitable, thanks to air conditioning. But for people living and working outside or those with no air conditioning, it would be intolerable, said Eltahir and Pal. While Makkah won't be quite as hot, the heat will likely still cause many deaths during the annual hajj pilgrimage, Eltahir said.

> "Some of the scariest prospects from a changing clime involve conditions completely outside the range of human experience," Carnegie Institute for Science climate researcher Chris Field, who wasn't part of the study, wrote in an email. "If we don't limit climate change to avoid extreme heat or mugginess, the people in these regions will likely need to find other places to live."

> Said Dr Howard Frumkin, dean of the University of Washington school of public health, who wasn't part of the research: "When the ambient temperatures are extremely high, as projected in this paper, then exposed people can and do die. The implications of this paper for the Gulf region are frightening." But if the world limits future heat-trapping gas emissions - even close to the amount pledged recently by countries around the world ahead of climate talks later this year in Paris - that intolerable level of heat can be avoided, Eltahir said. — AP



DUBAI: In this June 10, 2010 file photo, an Asian laborer avoids the direct sun by working behind a wooden sign on a manhole alongside an under-construction road. — AP

KUWAIT, INDIA INK ACCORD ON RECRUITMENT...

Continued from Page 1

Consultants (ODEPC), under the labor department of the state government, and the Overseas Manpower Corporation run by the Tamil Nadu government.

An Indian delegation comprising of Principal Secretary, Labor, Tom Jose, Norka Secretary Rani George, Chief Executive Officer R S Kannan and ODEPC managing director Dr G L Muralidharan had visited Kuwait in March and held talks with ministry of health officials.

The ambassador said Dr Abdulhadi and Dr Al-Harbi would lead a Kuwaiti delegation to Kerala in the second week of December and hold talks with Norka minister K C Joseph and other officials on follow-up action. There is a consensus that only a nominal amount may be charged from candidates for jobs in the MoH as recruitment fee, an amount that does not exceed KD 100.

The Indian government banned private agents following reports in local and Indian media that agents in Kuwait in collusion with their counterparts in India allegedly take huge sums from candidates ranging from KD 6,000 to KD 12,000 for nursing jobs in Kuwait. In

some instances, recruiters would bring large numbers of nurses after taking massive recruitment fees and Development and Employment Promotion then let them go after working for only a short period so that they could again recruit a new pool of candidates and take another round of fees.

The Indian embassy in Kuwait piled pressure on the Indian government to put an end to this malpractice, while the Kerala government requested the center to appoint a nodal agency to conduct overseas recruitment of nurses from India. Members of parliament in Kuwait also raised the issue in parliament, setting the stage for bilateral talks between the two governments.

The India government's decision has however unsettled many private recruiting agents and middlemen who were used to pocketing millions of rupees over the past few years from illegal recruitments. According to recent reports, one private agent, who is the alleged kingpin of the recruitment scandal in Kerala, last month conducted interviews of nurses in Dubai for jobs at Kuwait's MoH. The agent, circumventing the government ban, reportedly took candidates from India to Dubai for written tests, charging around KD 14,000 from each candidate.

OMANI FM MEETS ASSAD IN RARE VISIT

DAMASCUS: Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad met Oman's top diplomat, Yussef bin Alawi, in Damascus yesterday, in a rare visit for a Gulf official since Syria's conflict broke out, state media reported. Official news agency SANA said Assad and Alawi discussed "the ideas proposed at the regional and international levels to help resolve the crisis in Syria". "The Syrian people ... welcome the sultanate's sincere efforts to help Syrians realise their aspirations in a way that preserves the country's sovereignty and territorial integrity," Assad said.

Alawi, for his part, was quoted as saying Oman was eager to preserve Syria's "unity and stability" and would continue its efforts to find a political solution to the conflict. Oman has not cut diplomatic or political ties to Damascus, unlike other Arab countries in the Gulf. In August, Syria's top diplomat Walid Muallem met with Alawi in Muscat, in the foreign minister's first visit to the Gulf since the brutal war began in 2011. Oman's discreet diplomacy has contributed to several breakthroughs this year, including the release in August of a French hostage held in Yemen and the July nuclear accord between Iran and world powers. — AFP



DAMASCUS: Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad (right) receives Oman's Foreign Minister Yussef bin Alawi bin Abdullah yesterday.— AFP





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Focus

POLAND'S LURCH TO RIGHT STIRS ANXIETY IN BRUSSELS

Website: www.kuwaittimes.net

By Paul Taylor

oland's lurch to the nationalist right in the first election to be influenced by Europe's refugee crisis is sending shudders of anxiety through the European Union leadership in Brussels, where officials expect a prickly relationship. EU officials have not forgotten the first time Jaroslaw Kaczynski's conservative Law and Justice (PiS) party ran the biggest member state in central Europe in 2005-2007.

Warsaw held up ratification of the EU's Lisbon Treaty, fought for more voting power in the bloc, and obstructed the launch of partnership talks with Russia. "Things are going to get much more difficult," said a senior EU official involved in trying to forge compromises among the 28 EU governments. European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker wrote to PiS candidate for prime minister Beata Szydlo, congratulating her on victory and saying the EU executive expected Poland to play a central role in building a stronger Europe.

But leading EU powers Germany and France pointedly declined comment on Sunday's vote outcome, which saw the economically liberal pro-EU centre-right Civic Platform swept from office and left-wing parties decimated. A German government spokesman noted only that Berlin wanted to maintain good ties with Warsaw.

Even if discontent over the uneven distribution of Poland's economic boom and scandals involving Civil Platform politicians played a bigger role in the swing to the right, Kaczynski made hostility to taking in mostly Muslim refugees from Syria a key campaign issue, saying they could bring disease to Europe. Anti-migrant sentiment is fuelling a surge in support for hard-right populists in many EU countries that could help topple other governments if the influx of refugees endures.

Kaczynski is expected to call the shots and pick his battles in the EU, even though he has nominated the soft-spoken Szydlo as prime minister and may put conciliatory figures with European experience into the foreign and defence ministries. Warsaw and Brussels could soon be at loggerheads on other issues ranging from the euro to fiscal policy and central bank independence, climate change targets, energy policy and civil rights, judging by the new ruling party's manifesto.

The new Polish government may also mobilise and expand the Visegrad group of ex-communist central European countries, adding Romania and Bulgaria to the core of Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Hungary, to fight European Commission plans for mandatory quotas of refugees, EU officials said.

Orban Emulator?

PIS has said Poland will not join the euro in the next four years and has promised to make largely foreign-owned banks and supermarket chains pay new taxes to fund more social spending, imitating steps taken by Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban. EU officials say they are worried that Kaczynski may seek to change the constitution to emulate Orban's model of "illiberal democracy", packing the central bank, media, judiciary and other state bodies with loyalists.

On a personal level, relations between Warsaw and European Council President Donald Tusk, the former centreright Polish prime minister who chairs EU summits, are bound to be tense. There is deep personal animosity between Tusk and Kaczynski, who has suggested the former premier was responsible for the death of his late brother, Lech, killed when his presidential plane crashed in thick fog in Russia in 2010.

The new Polish government will have the power to renominate or withdraw support from Tusk when his 2-1/2 year term comes up for renewal in May 2017, giving Kaczynski a hold on his arch-rival's political future. EU officials fret that PiS, which has vowed to keep Poland's subsidised coal mines open and defend its high-carbon energy mix, may undermine the bloc's common negotiating position at the U.N. climate conference in Paris starting next month. They also worry that the party's plans to make banks bear the brunt of converting loans denominated in Swiss francs into local zloty to shield Polish home-owners from losses could trigger a banking crisis.

It remains to be seen how a PiS government will affect Britain's bid to renegotiate its relationship with the EU ahead of a referendum promised by end-2017. Only Eurosceptic UK Independence Party leader Nigel Farage was celebrating. "This result demonstrates once again how euroscepticism is growing right across the whole of the EU," he told Reuters.

While London will have an ally in Warsaw keen to curtail EU powers, the new Polish government is sure to defend the right of more than 700,000 Poles living in Britain to equal treatment with native workers. Prime Minister David Cameron aims to deny welfare and in-work benefits to EU migrants for four years. An EU source questioned whether Szydlo would be able to accept any deal allowing Britain to curtail those rights at her first EU summit in December. —Reuters

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NO LIGHT AT END OF TUNNEL IN LEBANON

By Sylvia Westall

our decades ago, Lebanon used to export power to its larger neighbor Syria. Now it barely generates enough electricity to keep streetlamps on at night. The situation is so bad that even people fleeing the conflict in Syria have been heard to complain. Outages have plagued Lebanon since its own 1975-1990 civil war and the power crisis is a legacy of that conflict, with the country now shackled by paralysis in government and widely perceived corruption that has put a brake on development.

"The situation (with electricity) is not bearable for the Lebanese people anymore," said Mustafa Baalbaki, the creator of a phone app, Beirut Electricity, which tracks outages and is used by 15,000 people daily. "Honestly, I don't care about the app itself, the app could die if the electricity problem is fixed and I would love that."

Lebanon's presidency has been vacant for more than a year in the absence of an agreement on who should take the post, and the parliament elected in 2009 has extended its own term and postponed elections until 2017 on the grounds of instability. Public dissatisfaction has been fed by anger over rubbish being left to fester in the streets of Beirut, widely seen as another sign of the political paralysis. Recent anti-government protests have at times turned violent over issues such as corruption and weak governance and the prime minister has threatened to resign.

There are no quick fixes to the power crisis even though public discontent over poor services has helped galvanise talk of finding solutions. One Lebanese city has given up hoping for a state solution and commissioned its own power station. "Today, Lebanese people in all regions talk about the electricity issue, it is very much at the forefront,"

activist Neamat Bader al-Deen said during a protest this month. She was speaking outside the headquarters of national utility Electricite du Liban (EDL), where residents wryly point out that only parts of its sign are illuminated at night. The crumbling state infrastructure is in contrast to the large number of privately-funded residential developments which have risen across Beirut since the war and have gone some way to rebuilding it.

Middle Class Squeezed

Electricity supply varies significantly throughout Lebanon. In the financial and political hub of Beirut, there are daily three-hour power outages while in some areas of the country mains electricity is available only a few hours a day. The cuts leave homes and businesses reliant on more expensive, unregulated, diesel-run generators of the kind that popped up in the war and still belch fumes into the atmosphere. Lebanese households spent on average \$1,300 on electricity in 2013, two thirds on generators, in a country where the gross national income per capita is \$9,800, according to the latest World Bank esti-

"It is hitting the middle class and outside Beirut it is especially severe," said Husam Beides, a Beirut-based World Bank official who runs the regional infrastructure and development program. Generation capacity falls more than a third short of demand and about 45 percent of what is produced is lost in the network because of illegal connections, tampering with meters or technical reasons. Experts say major investment is needed. "We estimate that in five to six years, instead of having an average supply of 16 hours or 18 hours, it will probably go down to 12 hours" on average daily across the country, Beides said. "It is a core economic crisis in Lebanon what will happen in the industries, with

economic development, with growth?"

The government has been spending an average of around \$2 billion annually on subsidies to purchase fuel for EDL, or around 15 percent of government expenditure, Beides said. This compares with 7 percent on education and 9 percent on health. A major overhaul of the system to get 24-hour power would take \$5-6 billion based on the government's own estimates, he said, adding the state could find much of that through private sector partnerships. "The technical solutions are all proven and tested, what is

needed is the political will to make a

decision," Beides said.

But political will is hard to find. Rival political blocs blame each other for the electricity crisis and tensions have been exacerbated by the conflict in Syria, which has driven more than 1 million refugees into Lebanon and put more strain on infrastructure. Lawmakers nearly came to blows at a meeting meant to address infrastructure issues this month. The Ministry of Energy and Water referred Reuters' questions about the electricity sector to EDL. An EDL source said citizens had a right to demand a better supply and that the utility's problems arose from a lack of major investment in production, transmission and distribution between 1997 and 2013, complex laws and regulations dating from 1972 and staff cuts.

One City Goes Local

In the eastern city of Zahle, people have given up waiting for the government to take action at a national level and have backed a local project to provide 24-hour electricity, a move that means its streetlamps now shine at night. Electricity has been available 50-60 percent of the time in Zahle in recent years, meaning residents had to pay \$100-120 a month to local generators for a 5 amp supply during cuts. The local electricity company, a rare utility con-

cession that buys power from the national grid, decided to take action to fill the gap.

"There was a huge desire and pressure from the people, from customers who said, why are you not producing electricity instead of the generators?' said Assaad Nakad, chief executive officer of Electricite de Zahle (EDZ). He signed a three-year contract with British company Aggreko to build and maintain a power plant providing electricity to EDZ during the cuts. For the past eight months this has allowed 57,000 customers in Zahle and surrounding municipalities to dispense with generators and get all of their supply through EDZ. They get one bill instead of two, saving around 35-45 percent.

The plan faced resistance: some of the generator operators who lost business literally fought back. "They shot at my transformers, at least five of them," Nakad said. "They threatened me, they threatened my family, they phoned me. I kept going. It is very important in this country to keep going right to the endthings are difficult everywhere but especially in Lebanon."

Zahle was able to go ahead because of the local concession contract dating from the 1920s and strong local backing. Asked about repeating this elsewhere, the EDL source said the priority was an overhaul on a national level under a 15-year government plan announced in 2010 which aims to eventually provide 24-hour electricity across the country.

In Zahle, some residents are facing another kind of problem. Delighted with constant electricity and no need to ration, some have started to use more than before. "People plugged in water heaters, air conditioners...so they felt it in the bill," said snack bar owner Joseph Richani. He said it was normal and people would learn to adapt: "It's been more than 30 years that we didn't see 24-hour electricity." —Reuters

PAKISTANI HOMICIDE UNIT'S NEW TACTIC

By Katharine Houreld

akistan's first specialized homicide investigation unit is promoting a radical idea: Find evidence, don't plant it. Launched last month by police in the eastern province of Punjab, the 478-strong unit pairs veterans with university graduates who had an extra year of training in forensics, report writing and interrogation. Reforming the crumbling criminal justice system and the cash-starved, poorly trained police force is vital to Pakistan's stability. Militants and criminals commonly walk free, and citizens are doubtful of seeing justice done. That is partly because antiquated courts rely heavily on witness testimony and evidence found at the scene, and both are easily manipulated, say police and lawyers.

Punjab police chief Inspector General Mushtaq Sukhera hopes the new unit will help put an end to the practice. "There was some pressure to do that (plant evidence) in the past, and the courts did not really want to rely on it," said Sukhera. "With this new unit there is no need." In most murder cases, victims' families say they know who the killer is, police say. Yet few officers are trained to collect evidence to prove it, and sometimes make it up.

A dozen senior prosecutors and police told Reuters they coached witnesses and planted evidence, but only to incriminate the guilty. "We get the right guy by the wrong methods," one senior officer in the eastern city of Lahore told Reuters, requesting anonymity. Without a protection program, witnesses are afraid to testify, leaving police with little choice but to coach them and plant evidence, said Hassan Abbas, author of "The Taleban Revival" and a prominent expert on police reforms. "You can't ask someone to risk everything if they are not convinced it will make any difference," he said.

Abbas argued that the new homicide unit was not enough. "Basic problems like lack of police training, political interference and lack of funding are still not being addressed," he said. "Announcing new units is nice for the media, but the basics are still neglected."

Another challenge for police is that Islamic laws allowing families of victims to pardon killers in exchange for cash mean the guilty can go free and the innocent may be blackmailed. "People are losing faith in the justice system day by day," said defence lawyer Raja Ghaneem Khan. He recently got three men acquitted after a judge ruled evidence was planted and the men were in custody when the murder occurred. They

were on death row for five years before being cleared.

'Old Wine, New Bottles'

At a mosque in the Punjabi city of Lahore last month, a team from the new homicide unit carefully photographed a corpse sprawled in the library, a bloody axe wedged in its back. "In the old days, they would have just moved the body immediately and vital evidence would have been lost," said Umar Riaz, head of the new unit's Lahore section. More than 400 homicide cases have been registered in the last month, and by mid-October the unit was close to completing one hundred. So far, 24 people have appeared in court based on its findings.

But funding and training gaps remain. The new homicide squad does not have a budget. Officers should receive 50,000 rupees (\$490) per investigation to cover the cost of transport, equipment and forensic tests. The senior police official in Lahore said the stipend had been paid in around 40-45 percent of cases. One newly appointed homicide officer, a veteran stationed outside Lahore, said he only had 25 days of extra training and had not been paid investigation expenses. "We are in favour of this initiative, but if they don't do it properly, it will just be old wine in new bottles," warned another

Punjabi policeman, himself a seasoned investigator.

Problems and Solutions

A tiny national police budget leaves little cash for training and witness protection. "In Pakistan, most of the time the natural (genuine) witnesses don't come forward. Even where the natural witnesses are available, police have to guide them on how they are supposed to testify," said Sukhera. One method several police officers said was used in Punjab to bolster their case was to buy a gun, shoot a few rounds then place the bullets at a crime scene. When the suspect is captured, the gun is planted.

The Punjab Forensic Science Agency, which carries out tests for police, said around 70 percent of guns taken from suspects match bullets from crime scenes. The senior police officer said the match rate from genuine evidence is closer to 5 percent. Even if the new unit is successful in Punjab, some killers will still walk free under Islamic laws passed in 1990 that allow pardons for cash. Last year courts in Punjab, Pakistan's biggest and richest province, issued judgments on 3,543 murder cases. Twenty-three percent were quilty verdicts, 30 percent were acquittals, and fully 46 percent ended in a deal. —Reuters

BARCA TO APPEAL RED CARD

BARCELONA: Barcelona will appeal the red card shown to Javier Mascherano in Sunday's La Liga game against Eibar for verbally abusing a referee's assistant, the Spanish and European champions said yesterday. Mascherano was dismissed in the 83rd minute of the 3-1 victory at the Nou Camp and the Argentina international, who mainly plays as a centreback but can also operate in midfield, could face a ban of up to four matches if the appeal is unsuccessful.

That would mean he will be unavailable for some key games in Spain's top flight, including the first of the season's two 'Clasicos', to be played at Real Madrid on Nov. 21, and the match at home to Villarreal on Nov. 8.

Referee Carlos Del Cerro Grande wrote in his match report he

had sent Mascherano off for directing an insult, common in Argentina, towards the match official. Barca's appeal, confirmed at a news conference by vice-president Jordi Mestre, could hinge on whether they can prove Mascherano made the comment in passing and did not direct it towards the assistant referee. They lost an appeal against a similar punishment given to defender Gerard Pique after he insulted a linesman in a Spanish Super Cup match in August and he was

banned for four games. —Reuters

ARSENAL FINED \$60,000 OVER CHAMBERS DEAL

LONDON: Arsenal have been fined 60,000 pounds (\$92,052) and warned about their future conduct for breaching agent regulations when signing defender Calum Chambers from Southampton in July 2014. The FA said in a statement yesterday that authorised agent Alan Middleton and unlicensed agent Philip Ercolano were both involved in the deal.

"Alan Middleton has also been warned as to his future conduct and sanctioned for breaching the FA's football agent regulations in relation to the same matter," the FA added.

Middleton has been fined 30,000 pounds and given a suspended ban of three months. "We acted in good faith throughout in this transfer and had no reason to believe that the player's representative (Ercolano) was not authorised to be involved in the transfer negotiations," said an Arsenal statement.

"The FA fully recognised that there was no intention to mislead on Arsenal's part. We have improved our procedures to prevent this happening again." Arsenal travel to Championship club Sheffield Wednesday for a Capital One Cup fourth-round tie today. —Reuters

KENYANS TO DEFEND TITLES

NAIROBI: Kenyans Wilson Kipsang and Mary Keitany will return to New York on Sunday to defend their marathon titles, hoping victory will help secure them places in the 2016 Rio Olympics.

Former Olympic bronze medallist Kipsang, 33, will be competing in his first marathon since he was forced to retire with exhaustion in the world athletics championships in Beijing.

"My training has been going on very well, and I hope to run a good race in New York," Kipsang told AFP before his departure for the US. "I hope the weather will be more favourable than in Beijing, where the conditions were too hot and humid for my liking. I like running in New York

City...I think the roads suit me very well." Former world record holder Kipsang is a favourite to win the men's race. But Keitany faces the biggest challenge to retain her crown against a strong field that includes the London marathon reigning champion, Tigist Tufa, who beat her into second place in the British capital last April. However, 33-year-old Keitany arrives in New York fresh from her successful defence of the women's Great North Run in the English city of Newcastle, where she clocked a time of one hour, seven minutes and 32 seconds in September. —AFP

ONE TITLE DROUGHT MUST END AS ROYALS FACE METS

KANSAS CITY: A heartbreaking near miss start today's opener in Kansas City, Jacob last year has the Kansas City Royals mindful of unfinished business as they face the New York Mets in the 111th World Series starting

The Royals have not captured Major League Baseball's best-of-seven final since 1985 while the Mets last won the crown in 1986, so one team's title drought will end.

But the Mets have not reached the World Series since 2000 while the pain of last year's seventh-game Series defeat at the hands of San Francisco still lingers for the Royals. "From the first day of spring training, we expected to be here," Royals manager Ned Yost said.

In the ninth inning of the last game in last year's World Series, Alex Gordon, the Royals' potential tying run, was stranded on third base when Kansas City catcher Salvador Perez flew out to Giants third baseman Pablo Sandoval to end the game.

"Ever since that pop up was caught by Pablo, this has been on our minds," Royals first baseman Eric Hosmer said of returning to the World Series. "The ultimate goal is to win a world championship."

Not since Oakland won the 1989 World Series after losing it in 1988 has a team done what the Royals are attempting. Both Texas and Atlanta have lost in back-to-back years since then. In all, return trip losers are 13-12 the next year in World Series history.

The Royals are the eighth team back after a game-seven loss. Five of the prior seven won the title on their second chance, the most recent being the 1961 New York

The Mets boast a strong staff of starting pitchers, with right-hander Matt Harvey to

de Grom going in game two, rookie Noah Syndergaard in game three at New York and left-hander Steven Marz in game four.

Mets second baseman Daniel Murphy is on a playoff-record six game home run streak and is batting .421 with seven homers and 11 runs batted in during the playoffs. He has a homer every 5.4 at-bats in the playoffs versus every 58.4 at-bats over his career.

It has been quite a bounce back for the Mets, whose majority owner Fred Wilpon was hit in the 2008 Bernie Madoff Ponzi scheme scandal. The Mets suffered six losing seasons in a row until this year, when a trade-deadline deal brought outfielder Yoenis Cespedes from Detroit and sparked a turnaround the led to the World Series.

For 66-year-old Mets manager Terry Collins, it's his first World Series after a lifetime in baseball. "It was worth the wait," Collins said. "It was worth all the work, to see what it takes. So it's a special moment for me after all these years, when this has been your whole life, to finally get to the ultimate series." Kansas City's Alcides Escobar, a Venezuelan shortstop, leads all playoff batters with 17 hits. The Royals have patiently moved runners around the bases with barely 30 percent of their runs from homers, least in the American League.

"Feeling pretty good compared to last year," Escobar said. "Last year we were really a good team and this year, again, a really great team. Everybody is playing hard."

The Royals have relied upon a strong bullpen of relief pitchers that produced fewer strikeouts but plenty of ground ball outs for a strong group of infielders. —AFP



CANADA: Michael Hutchinson No. 34 of the Winnipeg Jets stops the puck in third period action in an NHL game against the Minnesota Wild at the MTS Centre. —AFP

RANGERS DOUSE FLAMES

NEW YORK: Dan Girardi broke a deadlock late in Zach Parise also scored for Minnesota (5-2-1). the second period on a night when he passed Mark Messier for 10th on the Rangers' all-time games played list as New York beat the Calgary Flames 4-1 on Sunday. Oscar Lindberg, Kevin Klein and Derick Brassard also scored. The Rangers (6-2-2) have won three of their last five and earned points in all five games.

Antti Raanta made 22 saves in New York's third of 17 back-to-back sets this season - the Rangers lost to the Flyers in a shootout Saturday night. New York has won six of its past seven against the Flames.

In his 769th game with New York, Girardi scored his first this season to put the Rangers ahead 2-1 with 3:03 left in the second. Recently demoted to the third defense pairing with Keith Yandle, Girardi snuck down to the right circle and snapped a rebound of Emerson Etem's shot past Jonas Hiller. Jiri Hudler scored the Flames' lone goal.

JETS 5, WILD 4

Drew Stafford scored twice and Blake Wheeler had two assists as Winnipeg edged Minnesota. Minnesota's Jason Zucker scored 10 seconds into the game, but then Winnipeg got five consecutive goals. Bryan Little tied it 1:22 into the first, Andrew Ladd scored about 2 minutes later and Nikolaj Ehlers made it 3-1 Jets (5-2-1) midway through the period.

Stafford scored 51 seconds into the second, chasing Wild goalie Darcy Kuemper. Stafford scored again on Devan Dubnyk just under 4 minutes later for his team-leading fifth goal this

Wheeler extended his season-opening point streak to a franchise-record eight games. Michael Hutchinson made 26 saves for Winnipeg. Mikko Koivu, Justin Fontaine and

KINGS 3, OILERS 2

period with his first goal since breaking his leg last season as Los Angeles beat Edmonton for its fifth straight win.

Pearson's power-play goal put the Kings ahead with 3:26 left. He found the rebound from Jake Muzzin's shot and slapped it past goalie

Connor McDavid nearly tied it for Edmonton

with 5.2 seconds left, but Jonathan Quick sprawled to catch his backhander right at the goal line. A replay review upheld the no-goal Tanner Pearson broke a tie late in the third call. Pearson's score came fewer than 3 minutes after Taylor Hall tied it for Edmonton on the power play. Hall redirected a pass from Ryan

Nugent-Hopkins for his third of the season. Anze Kopitar and Jeff Carter also scored for the Kings. Drew Doughty had two assists. McDavid set up Benoit Pouliot's first-period goal with an impressive sprint toward the net around a defender. —AP

NHL Results/Standings

Winnipeg 5, Minnesota 4; NY Rangers 4, Calgary 1; Los Angeles 3, Edmonton 2.

	Wes	terr	Confe	erence	•		Tampa Bay	5	2	2	27	24	12	
	C	entr	al Divi	sion			Florida	4	3	1	26	17	9	
	W	L	OTL	GF	GΑ	PTS	Detroit	4	3	1	21	21	9	
Nashville	6	1	1	25	16	13	Ottawa	3	3	2	24	26	8	
Dallas	6	2	0	27	21	12			_	_				
Winnipeg	5	2	1	28	21	11	Boston	3	3	1	27	29	7	
St. Louis	5	2	1	23	20	11	Toronto	1	4	2	16	24	4	
Minnesota	5	2	1	24	22	11	Buffalo	2	6	0	16	26	4	
Chicago	5	3	0	18	16	10		Metr	opoli	itan D	ivisio	n		
Colorado	2	4	1	19	21	5	NY Rangers	6	2	2	28	20	14	
	P	acifi	c Divi	sion			_		_	_				
Los Angeles	5	3	0	16	17	10	Washington	6	1	0	29	18	12	
San Jose	5	3	0	23	18	10	NY Islanders	5	2	1	27	22	11	
Arizona	4	3	1	23	19	9	Philadelphia	4	2	1	16	18	9	
Vancouver	3	2	3	20	17	9	New Jersey	4	3	1	20	23	9	
Edmonton	3	6	0	21	27	6	Pittsburgh	4	4	0	13	16	8	
Calgary	2	6	0	16	31	4	Carolina	2	6	0	14	25	4	
Anaheim	1	5	1	6	20	3		_	-	-				
	Eas	tern	Confe	erence			Columbus	1	8	0	19	40	2	
	At	lant	ic Divi	ision			Note: Overtime	losse	s (OT	L) are	worth	one p	oint in th	e
Montreal	9	0	0	35	12	18	standings and a	re no	t inclu	ıded i	n the l	oss col	umn (L)	



NEW YORK: Mets right fielder Curtis Granderson stretches before batting practice. The Mets will face the Kansas City Royals in Game 1 of the World Series today. —AP

SMYLIE CLINCHES STUNNING WIN

LAS VEGAS: PGA Tour rookie Smylie Kaufman stormed from seven strokes off the pace to clinch a stunning one-stroke victory at the Shriners Hospitals for Children Open in Las Vegas on Sunday.

Kaufman, playing some two hours ahead of the overnight leaders, shot a bogey-free 10-under-par 61, sinking his winning birdie putt from 20 feet at the par-four 18th at TPC Summerlin in the Nevada desert. He finished at 16-under-par 268, one stroke ahead of six players, including former champion Kevin Na (67), whose 15-foot birdie chance at the last shaved the hole, and overnight leader Brett Stegmaier (69). Stegmaier also missed a good birdie opportunity at the last.

Kaufman, a 23-year-old from Alabama playing in just his fifth PGA Tour event, collected \$1.152 million, along with an invitation to next April's Masters. It was the mention of the latter, rather than the money, that reduced Smylie almost to tears.

"I can't put it into words," he told Golf Channel, his voice cracking with emotion. "I've been hitting it so good the last two days. I just wanted to give myself a chance and post a number.

"I dodged a lot of bullets coming down the stretch. Just thankful to get the W." The long wait to see whether his score would hold up had been way more stressful than his round. "I feel like I've been watching an LSU (Louisiana State University) football game," he said, referring to his alma mater. Kaufman, whose middle name is Smylie-his first name is Carter-continues a trend of young tour winners. The past six events have been won by players 27 or younger.

Na, meanwhile, could only lament another near-miss, after losing a playoff in the seasonopener last week. He seemed poised for another playoff until he bogeyed the parthree 17th, after a poor chip that he was trying to hole from 25 feet.

"I felt it was a good position to chip it in. The lie was almost sitting up too good," said Na, who posted his eighth runner-up finish on tour. His lone tour victory came in Las Vegas four years ago. Tour rookie Stegmaier also rued what might have been, having shared the lead after 36 holes and held it outright after 54. "Can't be too disappointed but certainly now it stings a little bit," he said.—Reuters



LAS VEGAS: Smylie Kaufman hoists the trophy after winning the Shriners Hospitals for Children Open golf tournament. —AP



LEBRON LEADS CAVALIERS AS 70TH SEASON OPENS

LeBron James sparks the NBA's highest-paid lineup in his quest of a longsought title for his hometown Cleveland Cavaliers when the league opens its 70th season today.

But the \$115 million squad will be challenged to lift the trophy next June by a handful of top foes, most notably the team that scuttled their championship dreams four months ago, the Golden State Warriors. Opening night features Cleveland at Chicago and Golden State unfurling a championship banner against visiting New

The Cavaliers remain nagged by injuries as they were in the final, only this time it's 30-year-old James with a sore back who is questionable.

"We feel like we're progressing really well and if we can continue to do

WASHINGTON: Superstar playmaker that, then I'm optimistic I'll be able to go," James said. "I'm trying to listen to the training staff and not be hard headed, and I'm going with them." Plenty is expected from James this season as Las Vegas oddsmakers have made the Cavaliers 5-2 favorites to claim the title and 53.6 percent of NBA general managers think the Cavaliers will win the crown.

"All the predictions and prognostications, it doesn't mean a whole lot," Cavaliers coach David Blatt said. "Certainly we can be a contender, but beyond that? I don't think we've got the right to talk too much about more than that.

"We're not even talking about that right now. We're talking about how we can get everybody on the same page, get all our players back, work hard and try to make day-to-day progress. What we're really concerned with is just becoming a good team right now."

James made his fifth NBA Finals appearance in a row last June, the first four with the Miami Heat before jumping back to the club he spurned in 2010 for the South Florida sun. The four-time NBA Most Valuable Player and two-time champion was undone by injuries to teammates, unable to carry the team to glory, and injuries still weigh upon Cleveland four months later.

"Internally, the motivation for us is to not repeat what happened last year, which is to get so close, but not be able to seal the deal," said Cleveland's James Jones. "So we're excited for the opportunity."

Kyrie Irving didn't practice after surgery to repair the left kneecap he fractured in game one of the final. His return date is unknown. Iman Shumpert underwent right wrist surgery and is out until late December. Timofey Mozgov has a sore right knee after an off-season operation. Anderson Varejao is working on fitness after Achilles tendon surgery last December. Kevin Love must regain form after off-season surgery to repair a dislocated left shoulder.

Golden State, expected to repeat as the Western Conference champions, boast the same veteran lineup led by sharpshooter Steph Curry that produced a club-record 67 wins last season. The question for the Warriors is can they become a dynasty. Los Angeles Clippers coach Doc Rivers teased that they had luck to win the Western Conference last year without facing his club or San Antonio and a pre-season war of words erupted, one Warriors' Australian big man Andrew Bogut plays down. "Most of the comments made by us were tongue in cheek, just joking around," Bogut wrote in an NBA blog. "We didn't take it too seriously. It's just interesting hearing it from a team that hasn't been there." The Spurs, seeking their second crown in three seasons, combine Tony Parker, Manu Ginobili and Tim Duncan with newcomer LaMarcus Aldridge for another run at the top while Oklahoma City expects Kevin Durant and Russell Westbrook to be healthy from the start as they seek a return to the NBA Finals. Add James Harden-led Houston and the West again figures to be tough.

Cleveland's reign in the East could be tested by Central division rival Chicago as well as the Toronto Raptors and Atlanta Hawks.—AFP

NBA EASTERN CONFERENCE TEAM CAPSULES FOR 2015-16

LOS ANGELES: Eastern Conference capsule team previews for the 2015-16 NBA season that tips off today (in predicted order of finish by division):

Atlantic Division Raptors, Celtics, Nets, Knicks, 76ers **Toronto Raptors**

After racing to a surprising 37-17 start last season, the Raptors had a 12-16 finish en route to a 49-33 season and were swept out of the playoffs in the first round by the Washington Wizards. The addition of Cory Joseph from San Antonio should help the Raptors' sluggish ball movement and Kyle Lowry's pre-season form has been impressive.

• Boston Celtics -

The Celtics made the playoffs last season with a late push to a 40-42 record in coach Brad Stevens' second campaign, but lack of star power could hinder their efforts to go further in the post-season.

• Brooklyn Nets -

The high spending aimed at fulfilling Russian owner Mikhail Prokhorov's bold 2010 guarantee that the Nets would win an NBA title by 2015 is over. But while the Nets may find it hard to produce much offensive pop, they still harbor hopes of bettering their 38-44 record of last season and reaching the playoffs for a fourth straight time.

New York Knicks -

Coaching great Phil Jackson has yet to turn things around as an executive, and draft pick Kristaps Porzingis won't be an immediate differencemaker. At least a healthy Carmelo Anthony might help them improve on a club-worst 17-65 campaign.

• Philadelphia 76ers -

With center Joel Embiid expected to miss a second straight season after another foot surgery, there's little light at the end of the tunnel for the 76ers. With little prospect of much improvement on last season's 18-64 record, they will be hoping young players Nerlens Noel and Jahlil Okafor will be able to develop even as the defeats pile up.

Central Division

ivaliers, Bulls, Bucks, Pacers, Pistons

Cleveland Cavaliers-

Superstar LeBron James will again be the key as he tries to take the Cavaliers back to the NBA Finals and-this time-all the way to a title. Improving on a 53-29 mark will be of no consolation if the Cavs don't go all the way.

Chicago Bulls

New coach Fred Hoiberg faces a challenge with early season injuries, with Derrick Rose on the mend from a broken orbital bone and Mike Dunleavy sidelined after back surgery.

His up-tempo approach will also require adjustment from big men Pau Gasol and Joakim Noah as they seek to improve a 50-32 record.

• Milwaukee Bucks -

The Bucks will try to build on 41-41 season in which their unexpected run to the playoffs under new coach Jason Kidd owed much to the stingiest defense in the East.

• Indiana Pacers -

The Pacers welcome Paul George back afer a year-long injury absence, but he is still adjusting to a new role at power forward. If he can thrive there, and if George Hill and Monta Ellis produce offensively, the Pacers could find themselves better than last season's 38-44 and back in the postseason.

• Detroit Pistons

Center Andre Drummond will be in the spotlight in new coach and president Stan Van Gundy's revamped roster. Sweeping personnel changes could see the Pistons better last season's 32-50 mark, but it could be too soon for the new-look lineup to put the Pistons back in the playoffs for the first time since 2009.

Southeast Division

Hawks, Wizards, Heat, Hornets, Magic Atlanta Hawks -

The Hawks will try to build on the an impressive 60-26 campaign that marked club's first 60-win season. The re-signing of Paul Millsap will aid that cause, as will the arrival of ex-Spur Tiago Splitter. But the departure via free agency of DeMarre Carroll leaves a void and the Hawks could be hardpressed to again finish with the best record in the East.

• Washington Wizards -

The departure of 37-year-old Paul Pierce helps open the door for a faster paced offense, although his resolve in clutch situations could be missed. The backcourt of John Wall and Bradley Beal is one of the best in the league and a key asset as the Wizards seek to improve on last season's 46-36 record and second-round playoff showing.

• Miami Heat -

After a disappointing 37-45 campaign, Miami at last have the lineup they wanted in February, when they acquired Goran Dragic only for Chris Bosh to be sidelined by blood clots. Bosh is back, but veteran Dwyane Wade remains a question mark after missing 20 games last season and the Heat will likely again have to manage his time to keep him healthy for a playoff push.

• Charlotte Hornets -

The Hornets will be coping for at least six months without top defensive player Michael Kidd-Gilchrist, who needed surgery on a shoulder injury suffered in the pre-season. It's a blow for a team that made moves to bolster an indifferent offense that ranked near the bottom of the NBA in most categories as the Hornets plummeted from a playoff team to a lottery outfit.

• Orlando Magic -

New coach Scott Skiles will have the task of developing a starting lineup with an average age of 24. His priorities will include cutting down turnovers and inspiring his players to attack on offense in a bid to better last season's 25-57 record. —AFP



PORTLAND: In this March 22, 2011, file photo, Washington Wizards head coach Flip Saunders shouts at an official in the second quarter of an NBA basketball game against the Portland Trail Blazers. —AP

T'WOLVES COACH SAUNDERS DIES

NEW YORK: Minnesota Timberwolves president of basketball operations and head coach Flip Saunders has died at the age of 60 after a battle with cancer, the National Basketball Association (NBA) team said on Sunday.

"It is with extreme sadness that the Minnesota Timberwolves today learned that Phil 'Flip' Saunders, who served as the team's President of Basketball Operations and Head Coach, in addition to being a minority owner of the team, passed away today at age 60," the team said in a

Saunders, a veteran of 17 NBA seasons who posted a career record of 654-592, was diagnosed with Hodgkins lymphoma, a cancer of the immune system, in June.

The longtime coach said in August when the team announced his health issues that doctors called his condition a "very treatable and curable form of cancer."

He took a leave of absence from the NBA team in September after complications arose following chemotherapy treatments.

The team promoted associate head coach Sam Mitchell to interim head coach and expanded general manager Milt Newton's duties until Saunders' return.

Saunders coached the Timberwolves for 11 seasons in two separate stints. He also coached the Detroit Pistons and Washington Wizards.

He began his NBA coaching career in 1996 with the Timberwolves and led the team to eight playoff appearances in a row. After being fired by Minnesota in 2005, Saunders joined the Pistons for the next season and steered them to the conference finals three times.

Saunders coached the Wizards for three seasons before returning to the T-Wolves in 2013 as team president and part-owner. He took over again as coach last season to direct a major rebuilding of a young team that finished 16-66. Tributes flowed in from the basketball community after the news broke of Saunders' death.

The Pistons released a statement which read, in part: "He will be remembered by Pistons fans as one of the franchise's most successful head coaches-leading the club to three consecutive Eastern Conference Finals appearances and a franchise-record 64 wins in 2005-06."

NBA great LeBron James tweeted: "Lost a great person in our fraternity way too early." James' team mate Kevin Love, who played under Saunders in Minnesota, also reacted on Twitter.

"Flip you were one of a kind," said Love. "Great basketball mind and even better human being. You had a great impact on my life personally and professionally."

Former NBA player Mychal Thompson, a friend of Saunders, recalled their final conversation. "He was so looking forward to the future," Thompson said. "That's why this is so heartbreaking to see him gone so soon, way too young ... this does not feel right. He had so much more to give."—Reuters

NBA WESTERN CONFERENCE TEAM CAPSULES FOR 2015-16

LOS ANGELES: Western Conference capsule team previews for the 2015-16 NBA season that tips off today (in predicted order of finish by division):

Northwest Division

Thunder, Jazz, Timberwolves, Nuggets, Trail Blazers

• Oklahoma City Thunder -

With Kevin Durant back from injury and new coach Billy Donovan at the helm the Thunder look set to improve on last season's 45-37 run that wasn't good enough to make the playoffs in the West three years after they reached the NBA Finals. The efforts of a healthy Durant and prolific point guard Russell Wilson should see the Thunder back in the post-season.

Utah Jazz -

The emergence of towering French center Rudy Gobert as a defensive force helped propel the Jazz to 38-44 last season. But with Dante Exum rehabbing a knee injury and a youthful lineup it's not clear if Utah, who won 20 of their last 31 games, can pick up where they left off.

• Minnesota Timberwolves -

Minnesota's young team-including the past two number one draft picks in Karl-Anthony Towns and Andrew Wiggins-opens the season under a pall after the death from cancer of coach Flip Saunders.

It will be up to interim coach Sam Mitchell and veteran Kevin Garnett to keep things steady, help Wiggins build on last season's rookie of the year campaign and hopefully see an improvement on last year's 16-66 record.

• Denver Nuggets -

Point guard Emmanuel Mudiay-who opted to hone his skills pre-NBA in China, rather than a US college-is being touted as a rookie of the year contender and new coach Mike Malone is out to shake the Nuggets out of the 30-52 malaise of last sea-

• Portland Trail Blazers -

Star point guard Damian Lillard finds himself surrounded by a new supporting cast after an all-change off-season. Four of the five starters that led Portland to a 51-31 record and first-round playoff appearance have departed including LaMarcus Aldridge as a free agent to San Antonio.

Pacific Division

Warriors, Clippers, Suns, Kings, Lakers **Golden State Warriors**

Steph Curry, Klay Thompson, Draymond Green and Co. return to try to replicate a dazzling 67-15 campaign capped by a Finals triumph that ended a 40-year title drought. The absence of head coach Steve Kerr because of complications from back surgery is the only dark spot on the Warriors horizon apart, of course, from all the teams anxious to prove their sensational run to the crown was a fluke.

• Los Angeles Clippers -

After flirting with the Mavericks, free agent DeAndre Jordan opted to return to the Clippers, who followed up a 56-26 regular season with another disappointing playoff exit in the West. With Jordan set to produce again alongside Chris Paul and Blake Griffin, newly acquired Paul Pierce brings the grit that could help Doc Rivers' team make it further.

Phoenix Suns -

Newly arrived Tyson Chandler should be a steadying presence on defense and in the locker room-where the stage is set for drama after Markieff Morris's objections to the Suns' decision to trade his twin brother, Marcus. If the Suns can keep things on an even keel, a breakout season for 25-year-old guard Eric Bledsoe could see them improve on last year's 39-43 campaign.

Sacramento Kings -

A restocked roster-including the addition of Rajon Rondo, Marco Belinelli and Caron Butler-gives coach George Karl plenty of options in his stated goal of reaching .500 a season after the Kings finished 29-53.

• Los Angeles Lakers -

Kobe Bryant's likely final season will look much the same as the previous two as the aging star fights fatigue and tries to avoid another season-ending injury. Bryant will have some new young talent around him, but it probably won't be enough to prevent the Lakers — 21-61 last season-from missing the playoffs for a third straight season.

Southwest Division

Spurs, Rockets, Grizzlies, Pelicans, Mavericks

• San Antonio Spurs -

LaMarcus Aldridge arrives to share the load with aging stars Tim Duncan, Tony Parker and Manu Ginobili. With Kahwi Leonard still developing, the Spurs look set for another playoff run, even if coach Gregg Popovich's habit of resting key players when he deems necessary means they might not be looking at improving on last season's 55-27 regular-season mark.

• Houston Rockets -

The addition of Ty Lawson gives Houston a playmaker to complement James Harden-provided Lawson overcomes personal issues that led to two drunk driving arrests. With big man Dwight Howard healthy the Rockets, who parlayed a 56-26 season to a surprise run to the West finals, could go deep again.

• Memphis Grizzlies -

The Grizzlies' physical, inside style will again rely on the front court pair of Marc Gasol and Zach Randolph, who led the Grizz to a 55-27 record and the Western Conference semi-finals-where the old-school body-banging game couldn't keep Golden State at bay.

• New Orleans Pelicans -

New Pelicans coach Alvin Gentry, tasked with improving on a 45-37 season, has long been an advocate of fast-paced offenses and the exciting Anthony Davis should thrive in his system, which will also play to the strengths of three-point shooter Ryan Anderson.

• Dallas Mavericks -

The Mavericks' big plans for improving on a 50-32 campaign that ended with a first-round playoff exit were scuppered when free agent DeAndre Jordan backed out of a commitment to Dallas to re-sign with the Clippers.

New signing Wesley Matthews was still recovering from an Achilles injury as the season approached and veteran Mavs star Dirk Nowitzki could find it tough sledding in north Texas.—AFP

SCOREBOARD

COLOMBO: Final scoreboard of the second and final cricket Test between Sri Lanka and the West Indies at the P Sara Stadium in Colombo on yesterday.

Sri Lanka 1st Innings: 200 West Indies 1st innings: 163 Sri Lanka 2nd innings: 206 West Indies 2nd innings (overnight 20-1) K. Brathwaite Ibw b Prasad S. Hope st K. Perera b Siriwardana

D. Bravo c Mathews b Herath

M. Samuels c Mathews b D. Perera J. Blackwood lbw b Siriwardana D. Ramdin c Mathews b Herath J. Holder Ibw Siriwardana K. Roach Ibw b Herath

J. Taylor c Siriwardana b Herath

D. Bishoo run out 20 J. Warrican not out Extras: (b3, lb1, w1, nb6) 11 Total: (all out, 65.5 overs) 171 Fall of wickets: 1-20 (Brathwaite), 2-80 (Hope), 3-97

(Samuels), 4-102 (Blackwood), 5-124 (Ramdin), 6-125 (Bravo), 7-133 (Holder), 8-136 (Taylor), 9-138 (Bishoo), 10-171 (Roach)

Bowling: Prasad 10-2-38-1 (nb5, w1), Pradeep 3-0-11-0 (nb1), Herath 19.5-3-56-4, D. Perera 20-4-37-1, Siriwardana 13-1-25-3.

Sri Lanka won by 72 runs; sweep series 2-0

SRI LANKA SPINNERS SEAL 2-0 SERIES WIN

COLOMBO: Left-arm spinners Rangana Herath and Milinda Siriwardana shared seven wickets as Sri Lanka thumped the West Indies by 72 runs in the second Test yesterday to sweep the series 2-0.

The tourists, who resumed on 20-1 chasing a victory target of 244, were shot out for 171 in the post-lunch session of the fifth day's play at the P. Sara Oval in Colombo.

"We fell short. We didn't bat well in the second innings," West Indies skipper Jason Holder said. "Whenever we came under pressure from the Sri Lankan bowlers we succumbed.

But there is a lot we can take away from the series. We are a young team and we have a lot to learn." Sri Lanka captain Angelo Mathews said he never doubted his bowlers' ability to clinch a victory

"It was a hard-fought win," Mathews said. "The pressure was on our bowlers because our batsmen did not deliver. I never had any doubts about my bowlers even when the West Indies were 80 for 1.

"Rangana (Herath) has enough experience and he showed his masterclass again." Veteran Herath finished with four for 56 and Siriwardana took three for 25 to wreck the tourists, for whom Darren Bravo played a lone hand with 61.

The West Indies slipped to 138 for nine before the last-wicket pair of Kemar Roach (13) and Jomel Warrican (20 not out) put on 33 runs to hand a batting

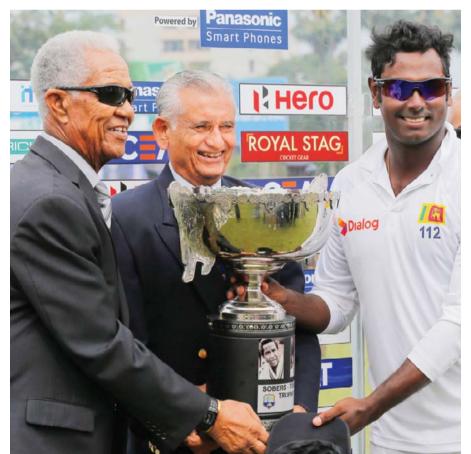
lesson to their teammates. Sri Lanka, who had won the first Test in Galle by an innings and six runs, clinched the trophy named after West Indies great Garfield Sobers and former Sri Lankan captain Michael Tissera.

Herath finished with 15 wickets in the series to take his tally to 293, nearing the 300-wicket mark previously achieved by only two Sri Lankan bowlers world record holder Muttiah Muralitharan and Chaminda Vaas. When play resumed after the entire fourth day had been washed out, the overnight pair of Bravo and Shai Hope easily negotiated the Sri Lankan bowlers to carry the score to 80-

Siriwardana broke the 60-run stand by having Hope stumped for 35 soon after Bravo had celebrated his half-century with two sixes off Herath.

Off-spinner Dilruwan Perera removed Marlon Samuels for six through a catch by Angelo Mathews, before Siriwardana trapped Jermaine Blackwood leg-before

Herath sealed the West Indies' fate soon after lunch by removing former captain Denesh Ramdin (10) and Bravo in the same over, both falling to catches by Mathews. Skipper Jason Holder was leg-before to Siriwardana for seven and Jerome Taylor holed out in the deep off Herath for one. The two teams will next meet in three one-day internationals and two Twenty20 games.—AFP



COLOMBO: Sri Lanka's captain Angelo Mathews (right) receives the series trophy from West Indies great Garfield Sobers (left) and Michael Tissera, a national captain in Sri Lanka's pre-test era after Sri Lanka defeated West Indies in the second Test cricket match. —AP

VIVA ANNOUNCES 'GET READY FOR THE CLASICO' CAMPAIGN

KUWAIT: VIVA, Kuwait's fastest-growing and most developed telecom operator, announces its campaign "Get ready for the Clasico", which started on Oct 18 and will end on Oct 31.

This golden opportunity allows soccer fans to enter the draw and win one of the three tickets to watch the upcoming match between Real Madrid vs Barcelona live

from Bernabeu stadium in Madrid, on Nov

To enter this draw, visit VIVA's website and fill in the following information: full name, civil ID number and mobile number.

To find out more about VIVA's new prepaid packages, or any of its other competitive promotions, products and packages, visit one of the 69 VIVA branches.





DUBAI: Pakistan's player catches the ball played by England's Mark Wood during the Pakistan and England Test match at the Dubai International Stadium. —AP

PAKISTAN OVERCOME ENGLAND CHALLENGE TO WIN DUBAI TEST

DUBAI: Pakistan's bowlers wore down tough resistance from England's tail to win the second Test by an emphatic 178-run margin in Dubai yesterday, taking a 1-0 lead in the three-match

Leg-spinner Yasir Shah (4-87) and left-arm spinner Zulfiqar Babar (3-53) shared the bowling honours as England, set a daunting 491-run target, were bowled out for 312 late on the fifth day with just 6.3 overs left in the match at Dubai

A win early in the day was very much on the cards, but England's ninth-wicket pair of Rashid and Mark Wood (29) put up a valiant fight for 29.2 overs through their 55-run partnership.

Babar ended Wood's resistance while Shah finished the match by ending Rashid's 239minute resistance when he had him caught in the covers in the fading light as the Pakistani fielders embraced each other.

Pakistan had sensed victory at lunch with just four wickets to take but first Rashid and Broad frustrated them through their 60-run stand for the eighth wicket and then the Rashid-Wood stand lasted for nearly two and a half hours.

Before tea Riaz bowled Broad to bring Pakistan to within two wickets of winning the match, but Rashid and Wood carried England to 285-8 at tea with 31 overs remaining to bat for a

Pakistan could have finished the game before the break but Mohammad Hafeez dropped a regulation catch at slip when Rashid edged a Shah delivery while on 42.

Rashid completed his maiden fifty soon after tea, pushing for a quick single off Raiz. It took him 110 balls of defiance to reach the mark including five boundaries.

In all Rashid batted for 172 balls, hitting seven boundaries, as he made 61. The victory was important for Pakistan after they narrowly escaped defeat in the first Test in Abu Dhabi when bad light helped them draw the match in final minutes. The third and final Test starts in Shariah on November 1.

Pakistan's win came on the anniversary of their first ever Test win, against India at Lucknow 63 years ago. "You have to give credit to the opposition when the ball is turning and two really good spinners were bowling they showed really good character," said Pakistan skipper Misbah-ul-Haq.

"Our spinners bowled well, especially under pressure. Whenever we needed a breakthrough they held their nerve and this is a great win for us." Cook said England's slump on the third day was costly. "That morning on day three has really cost us," said Cook of England losing seven wickets for 36 runs to be bowled out for 242 in their first innings in reply to Pakistan's 378.

"But the character we showed today...they are a fantastic bunch of guys who refused to buckle. The innings Adil played, he'll take a lot from that.

"It was disappointing he couldn't get over the line but if we'd all faced six or 10 balls more we would have done it." England's hopes of a fightback were pinned on Joe Root (71), who resumed cautiously on 59 as Pakistan attacked through Babar and Riaz.

Root completed 3,000 Test runs when he reached 61 with a single off Riaz towards squareleg. He completed the milestone in his 34th Test and became the 41st English batsmen to score 3,000 or more runs in Test cricket.

But Babar did not take long to dismiss Root with a sharp turner which took the edge of his bat towards the slips, where Younis Khan took a

Root hit six boundaries off 171 balls. Jonny Bairstow, dropped on 11 off Babar, did not survive much longer as Shah bowled him through the gate with a sharp googly for 22 as England slumped to 163 for five. Jos Buttler survived for 26 deliveries before Shah had him caught by Younis in the slips for seven as England went to lunch on 187-6. —AFP

SCOREBOARD

DUBAI: Complete scoreboard of the second Test between Pakistan and England on the fifth and final day at Dubai stadium on yesterday.

Pakistan 1st innings 378 (Misbah-ul-Haq 102, J. Buttler c Younis b Shah Asad Shafiq 83, Younis Khan 56, Shan Masood Adil Rashid c Babar b Shah 54; M. Wood 3-39, Moeen Ali 3-109) England 1st innings 242 (J. Root 88, A. Cook

65; Wahab Riaz 4-66, Yasir Shah 4-93)

Pakistan 2nd innings 354-6 dec (Younis Khan 118, Misbah-ul-Haq 87, Asad Shafiq 79; J. Anderson 2-22, M. Wood 2-44))

England 2nd innings (overnight 130-3) A. Cook c Riaz b Shah Moeen Ali c Younis b Khan

I. Bell c Younis b Babar J. Root c Younis b Babar 71 J. Bairstow b Shah B. Stokes c Misbah b Khan

61 S. Broad b Riaz 30 M. Wood c Hafeez b Babar J. Anderson not out Extras: (b12, lb4, nb5, w1) Total: (all out; 137.3 overs) 312 Fall of wickets: 1-9 (Ali), 2-19 (Cook), 3-121 (Bell), 4-157 (Root), 5-163 (Bairstow), 6-178

(Butler), 7-193 (Stokes), 8-253 (Broad), 9-308 Bowling: Khan 14-4-41-2 (1nb, 1w), Riaz 25-4-78-1 (nb3), Shah 41.3-15-87-4, Malik 10-2-37-0,

Babar 47-23-53-3. Result: Pakistan won by 178 runs

AUSTRALIA GRIPPED BY ALL BLACKS SHOWDOWN

SYDNEY: Australians Monday wildly celebrated the Wallabies' win over Argentina to set up a keenly-anticipated World Cup final showdown with their Bledisloe Cup nemesis New Zealand.

Die-hard fans watched on their TV sets at home and gathered in bars in the early hours of the morning to cheer the Wallabies' 29-15 semifinal victory over Argentina at Twickenham in

While there was relief that Australia had got past the Pumas, the immediate focus shifted to next weekend's all-or-nothing final with the All **Blacks**

Wallaby fan Matt Entwistle, watching the game in a Sydney pub, enthused: "The Wallabies mate, they're unpredictable and they win every time. We'll win every time. We're going to beat New Zealand!" Another fan Simon Auvaa added: "The Wallabies can win the World Cup. Since 2011 I've been telling them that but only if they beat the All Blacks. So I've got what I want for the final."

Social media went into meltdown with anticipation ahead of Saturday's first-ever World Cup decider between the two arch-rivals in what will be Australia's first final since 2003.

"Dream Final. Two best teams in the world at moment. #Wallabies have to beat the best to be world champions. How it should be," tweeted one Australian fan. "Can't wait for next week to watch the #wallabies take on the #allblacks.

It is going to be a sensational game," said another. Wallabies great John Eales insisted Australia held a decisive edge over the All Blacks at the breakdown with their outstanding back row of David Pocock, Michael Hooper and Scott Fardy. "We are the best in the world at the breakdown, pilfering the ball but also the pressure the guys are putting on," said Eales, who led the Wallabies to the 1999 World Cup crown.

In keeping with their new-found defensive steel after shutting out Wales with just 13 men for a critical time during the group stage, the

Wallabies put up a wall against the Pumas. But The Sydney Morning Herald posed the question: Was this enough to send tremors All Blacks remained favourites to win the tournathrough the All Blacks camp?

"No. The Wallabies will need to find another two gears in the final. But rewind a year and picture the Wallabies in a World Cup final. The journey has been astounding," the newspaper said.

"Scotland (35-34 quarter-final win) was an escape, and the performance an aberration.

"In the second World Cup semi-final the Wallabies returned to the line speed, breakdown dominance and clinical use of the ball that has been the trademark of their World Cup campaign. The 29-15 final scoreline perfectly captured the gap between the two sides."

New Zealand media lavished praise on Michael Cheika's revitalised Wallabies but said the

"From the outset of the eighth Rugby World Cup the All Blacks and Wallabies have been the two best teams-it's only right, then, the trans-Tasman neighbours will contest their first final," Fairfax NZ's Liam Napier said.

New Zealand Herald's Chris Rattue added: "The All Blacks are ready to pounce on the mouse which is roaring." "Street fighter coach Michael Cheika has revived Australia, but the tournament was always going to stretch their power resources to breaking point," he wrote. Australia have won just one of their last 10 Tests against the All Blacks, although a 27-19 victory in Sydney came as recently as August.—AFP



LONDON: Australia's Adam Ashley-Cooper tackles Argentina's Santiago Cordero during their Rugby World Cup semifinal match at Twickenham Stadium. —AP

PLATINI'S HOPES IN DOUBT AS INFANTINO TO STAND FOR PRESIDENCY

SHEIKH SALMAN ENTERS FIFA RACE

LAUSANNE: UEFA General Secretary Gianni Infantino dramatically announced that he will stand in the FIFA presidential election, casting doubt over the hopes of Michel Platini as yesterday's midnight deadline to submit bids approached. In a shock development, multilingual Swiss lawyer Infantino, who has been UEFA's General Secretary since 2009, entered the running to succeed Sepp Blatter with the "full backing" of UEFA's Executive Committee, with the total number of declared candidates standing at eight.

And that announcement would appear to place Platini, the UEFA president who is currently serving a 90-day ban as investigations continue into a \$2 million payment received from FIFA in 2011 without a written contract, in an uncomfortable position.

"We believe that Gianni Infantino has all of the qualities required to tackle the major challenges ahead and to lead the organisation on a path of reform to restore FIFA's integrity and credibility," said UEFA. "We are delighted that Gianni has agreed to stand and he knows that he has our full support in his campaign to become FIFA President."

Erstwhile favorite Platini officially remains a contender pending an examination of his candidacy when his ban ends on January 5.

But it remains to be seen whether he has now lost all support from his own organisation or whether Infantino is being presented by UEFA as a Plan B in case the former France star is prevented from standing.

Another potential pitfall for Platini is that FIFA's electoral committee must judge the integrity of all candidates, and their evaluation could be influenced by his ban.

Platini's lawyers confirmed he had a first appeal against his ban rejected on Monday, but the case is still to go before FIFA's appeals committee and his lawyers said they remained "convinced the appeals will eventually show his complete integrity and restore all his rights." Meanwhile, Asian football chief Sheikh Salman bin Ebrahim al Khalifa officially announced that he had entered the race to succeed Blatter.

The 49-year-old Bahraini royal has been the head of the Asian Football Confederation since 2013 and is familiar with FIFA from his role as a vice-president. He previously supported Platini's

Salman said in a statement that he had decided to run "out of a wish to put the international organisation back on the right track and in response to calls by many members of the football community." However, even without Infantino's announcement, his chances of receiving the backing of European federations may not have been helped by the fact he has been heavily criticised by human rights campaigners for his role in suppressing pro-democracy demonstrations in Bahrain in 2011.

Another heavyweight candidate to come forward is Tokyo Sexwale, the 62-

year-old South African anti-apartheid campaigner who was once jailed alongside Nelson Mandela, serving 13 years of an 18-year sentence on Robben Island on terrorism charges.

His non-footballing background could serve as an asset but also as a handicap, given that it is the presidents of FIFA's 209 member federations who elect the president.

Other confirmed candidates include the Jordanian Prince Ali Bin Al Hussein, the 39-year-old brother of Jordan's King Abdullah who was the only adversary to Blatter at the election in May this year and can boast that he took the veteran Swiss to a second round of voting before withdrawing.

But on that occasion he had the backing of UEFA, something he is likely to have to do without this time. French former diplomat Jerome Champagne, 57, spent 11 years working for FIFA between 1999 and 2010. Unlike during his previous bid in May, he has managed to get the five signatures from

national associations needed.

But he appears to lack the necessary clout, a problem also faced by David Nakhid, the former Trinidad and Tobago captain who once played for Swiss side Grasshoppers Zurich.

In addition, Liberian FA chief Musa Bility confirmed to AFP on Monday that he had entered the race, becoming the eighth runner to replace Blatter.

"I have officially presented my bid for the presidency of FIFA. I am very optimistic that I will win the presidency of FIFA and I promise to bring positive changes," Bility said.

FIFA's electoral committee is set to meet on Tuesday to study each bid and the integrity of the candidates, with the exception of Platini, who must wait until the end of his ban.

One name which will be missing will be that of South Korean businessman Chung Mong-Joon, who announced on Monday that he was withdrawing because of a six-year ban imposed on him by FIFA's ethics committee.—AFP

MOURINHO, KLOPP SEEK LEAGUE CUP BOUNCE

LONDON: Besieged Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho and his Liverpool counterpart Jurgen Klopp are both in pressing need of a change of fortune going into this week's League Cup fourth-round matches. Cup holders Chelsea, dealt a fifth Premier League defeat of the season at West Ham United on Saturday, visit Stoke City on Tuesday, while Liverpool, who have drawn all three games since Klopp's appointment, host Bournemouth the following evening.

Chelsea's 2-1 loss at Upton Park was a damaging affair for the league champions, with Nemanja Matic sent off and Mourinho banished to the stands alongside assistant Silvino Louro, and full-back Cesar Azpilicueta says that he and his teammates are itching to make amends.

"We want to play as soon as possible," the Spaniard told Chelsea TV. "We have the game against Stoke. "We want to get through and our mentality has to be to recover as quick as possible and to get into the next round on Tuesday."

With Chelsea 11 points off the pace in the league and in third place in their Champions League group, the trip to the Britannia Stadium offers an opportunity to sweep talk of crisis from the back pages. But Mourinho must balance pursuit of victory with the need to avoid over-exerting his players amid a sequence of six games in 19 days that continues this Saturday with a home match against Liverpool. Klopp was appointed to great fanfare as the successor to Brendan Rodgers, but Sunday's 1-1 home draw with Southampton was Liverpool's third successive stalemate since his arrival.

The German will hope that the tide turns at Anfield on Wednesday and will draw encouragement from the fact that opponents Bournemouth have shipped 10 goals in their last two outings, courtesy of back-to-back 5-1 beatings at the hands of

Manchester City and Tottenham Hotspur. "We can work with this result," Klopp said after the Southampton game. "We can work with this performance of the team.

"If I sit here and have to say, 'These guys are not ready for fighting, or what not, then it would be bad news. But everybody saw how ready they are and that's the most important thing."

Following a dreary goalless stalemate in Sunday's Manchester derby at Old Trafford, Manchester City and Manchester United continue their League Cup campaigns on Wednesday.

United entertain second-tier Middlesbrough, while City welcome Crystal Palace to the Etihad Stadium. Antonio Valencia is a doubt for United after manager Louis van Gaal revealed that the rightsided Ecuadorian player sustained a foot injury against City, which saw him replaced by Matteo Darmian late in the game.

The point earned at Old Trafford took City back to the top of the table above Arsenal, but Arsene Wenger's side otherwise had little to complain about following a week in which they resurrected their Champions League campaign by beating Bayern Munich 2-0 and then defeated Everton 2-1.

"It is a perfect week and it is not easy to have that," said the Arsenal manager, whose team visit second-tier Sheffield Wednesday.

"The only negative is that we lost some players through injury during the week, but I will have to rest some players today against Sheffield. I think for some players it will be one game too many for them." Aston Villa will begin life without Tim Sherwood, sacked as manager on Sunday, with a trip to Southampton, where Under-21 coach Kevin MacDonald will be in temporary charge of the visitors.

Leicester City, fifth in the Premier League after a 1-0 win over Palace, travel to Championship side Hull City, while Everton host Norwich City in one of the five all-topflight ties.—AFP



SPAIN: Barcelona's Luis Suarez (left) duels for the ball against Eibar's goalkeeper Asier Riesgo during a Spanish La Liga soccer match at the Camp Nou stadium. —AP

SUAREZ TREBLE GIVES BARCA

MADRID: Barcelona needed Luis Suarez to be at his clinical best with a hat-trick in a 3-1 comeback win at home to modest Eibar on Sunday which put the champions level on 21 points with arch-rivals Real Madrid at the top of La Liga.

Atletico Madrid, the only other team apart from Spain's Big Two to win the league in more than a decade, stayed firmly in the hunt when Yannick Carrasco scored the pick of the goals in a 2-1 victory at home to Valencia.

Real, who host Barca in the first of the season's two La Liga 'Clasicos' on Nov. 21, lead on goal difference with nine matches played after they secured a nervy 3-1 win at 10-man Celta Vigo on Saturday. Atletico, the 2014 champions, are third on 19 points, one ahead of fourth-placed Celta, who are a point clear of Villarreal in fifth after they drew 0-0 at promoted Las Palmas on Sunday.

Barca's defence has been ragged this season and more poor play at the back allowed Borja Gonzalez in to give Eibar a surprise 10th-minute lead at the

A after a 2-1 victory away at previous

leaders Fiorentina on Sunday, with

Mohamed Salah marking his return

to Tuscany with a goal and a red card.

league win of the season with a 2-0

triumph over Atalanta, while Lazio

goal of the game as Napoli defeated

Chievo 1-0 away. Left back Faouzi

Ghoulam crossed for the Argentine

striker, who took the ball in his stride

and sent a powerful left-footed shot

ond, level on points with Fiorentina,

Inter Milan and Lazio, while Chievo

drop to 11th. Sampdoria trounced

Verona 4-1 and AC Milan, who gave a

debut to 16-year-old goalkeeper

Gianluigi Donnarumma, beat

paign on loan at Fiorentina from

Chelsea, but rejected the chance to

rejoin his former club in order to

He duly received a hostile recep-

tion upon his return, but silenced the

home supporters with a magnificent

effort on six minutes. Cutting into the box from the right, Salah hit a left-

footed shot which curled across

Ciprian Tatarusanu's goal and into the

net. Fiorentina had not conceded a

goal at home in Serie A this season

before Salah struck, but Gervinho

move to Roma in the close season.

Salah spent part of the last cam-

The win takes Napoli up to sec-

past Albano Bizzarri on 59 minutes.

defeated Torino 3-0.

Sassuolo 2-1.

Juventus recorded only their third

Gonzalo Higuain scored the only

A well-worked move resulted in a simple header for Suarez to level in the 21st minute and Neymar drove into the area and fed the Uruguayan to make it 2-1 with a low strike into the corner three minutes into the second half.

Chances were scarce after the break until Neymar lifted a pass over the top for Suarez in the 85th minute and he chested the ball down and arrowed a shot past Asier Riesgo in the Eibar goal for his second La Liga hat-trick. Suarez's third goal, his seventh in the Spanish top flight this season, came moments after Barca's Javier Mascherano was shown a straight red card for verbally abusing one of the assistant referees. "We started off going behind, it was a difficult game because of that and that's what we need to

start looking at," Suarez told Spanish television. "Last season we conceded very few goals," added the 28-year-old, who made his Barca debut exactly one year ago on Sunday.

'These are phases in which every time the opponents get forward they score and we have to correct that." Valencia centre backs Shkodran Mustafi and Aderllan Santos failed to clear the ball and Jackson Martinez pounced to put Atletico ahead in the 32nd minute at the Calderon.

Belgium midfielder Carrasco weighed in with a goal Cristiano Ronaldo would have been proud of to make it 2-0 five minutes later when he dashed down the left, cut into the middle and cracked the ball into the bottom corner.

Paco Alcacer pulled a goal back with a penalty 18 minutes from time after Diego Godin bundled Mustafi over in the area but Valencia were unable to find another goal against a typically robust Atletico defence. Basque side Eibar, who were relegated last season but gained a reprieve when Elche were thrown out of the league for tax irregularities, are seventh on 13 points, level with sixth-placed Deportivo La Coruna. Valencia are one of four teams on 12 points along with Sevilla, Real Betis and Espanyol. Real Sociedad pulled away from the relegation places and up to 14th when they won 4-0 at Levante, with Mexico forward Carlos Vela hitting a double. —Reuters



SINGAPORE: Garbine Muguruza of Spain watches her return against Lucie Safarova of the Czech Republic during their singles match at the WTA tennis finals. —AP

MUGURUZA BLITZES SAFAROVA

SINGAPORE: Garbine Muguruza hammered out her WTA Finals threat in no uncertain terms yesterday as she celebrated her rise to world number three with a straight-sets dismissal of Lucie Safarova.

The imposing Spaniard, playing her debut match at the season finale, quickly shook off her nerves to win 6-3, 7-6 (7/4) and extend a run of form which has taken her to two straight finals.

In Monday's other White Group roundrobin match, Germany's Angelique Kerber beat ailing 2011 champion Petra Kvitova 6-2, 7-6 (7/3) as she also made a winning start in Singapore.

Muguruza turned 22 at this month's China Open, where she won her second career title, and has soared to a career-high third in the world in the latest rankings released yeserday.

And second-seeded Muguruza, the player of the moment on the women's tour, made no bones about her ambitions to rise further to world number one-and stay there. "I don't know how far I can get in the ranking, but definitely I'm trying to, you know, be there, top, and not only to arrive,

to try to stay there," she said.

"I always had it in my mind that I could be up there... step by step I'm trying to be there," Muguruza added. The result was also sweet revenge for Muguruza, after she lost to Safarova in this year's French Open quarter-finals, before going on to finish runnerup at Wimbledon.

Muguruza scored two breaks in the first set and recovered from an early break of her own service in the second to get it back on serve at 3-3. Ninth-ranked Safarova, 28, fought off four break points to make it 4-4 before the set went to a tie-break-which Muguruza won handily to wrap it up in just under two hours.

Both were Grand Slam runners-up this year to Serena Williams: Muguruza at Wimbledon and Safarova at Roland Garros, where she beat the Spaniard in straight

sets in the last eight. "In Roland Garros she played an amazing match. I think today I played a very good match also," Muguruza said. "I just wanted so much to win. I was fighting and you know, just very concentrated," she added. —AFP

ROME: As Roma moved top of Serie added another on 34 minutes to condemn Paulo Sousa's side to their second straight league defeat. Salah was sent off on 87 minutes after first receiving a yellow card following a tussle with Facundo Roncaglia, and then immediately being shown a second after showing dissent with a gesture towards the referee. Khouma Babacar scored a consolation goal in the fourth minute of stoppage time.

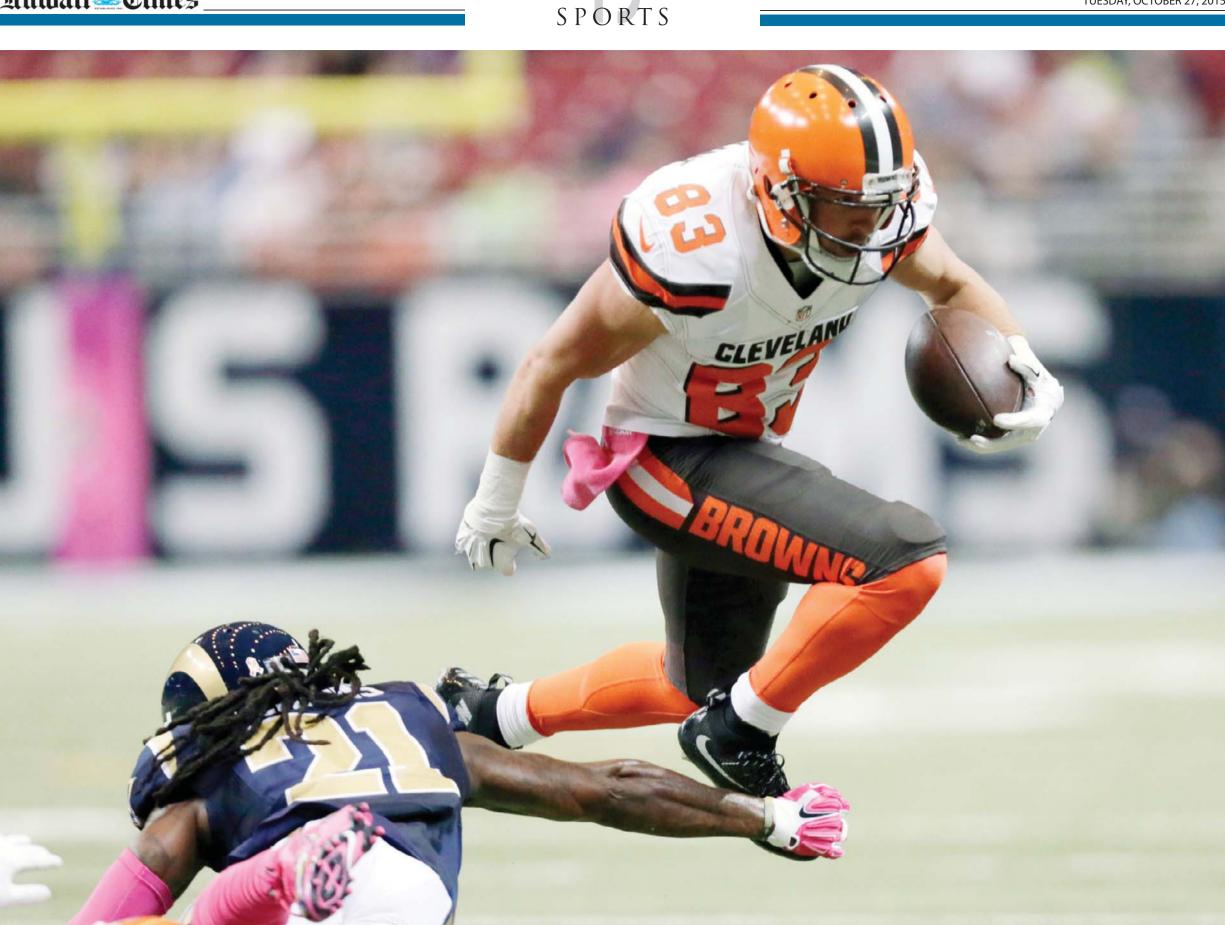
Paulo Dybala gave Juventus the lead against Atalanta on 28 minutes when he duped Marco Sportiello with a swerving 25-yard shot, before crossing for Mario Mandzukic to score his first Serie A goal on 49 minutes. Atalanta's Rafael Toloi was sent off and Paul Pogba's penalty was saved by Sportiello during an eventful second half. The win takes Juve up to 12th place. Donnarumma became the youngest goalkeeper to make a debut in Serie A for 35 years, as Milan sought their first Serie A clean sheet of the season against Sassuolo.

It was not to be. Domenico Berardi's magnificent free kick for Sassuolo cancelled out Carlos Bacca's first-half penalty, before Luiz Adriano scored Milan's second at the death.

Victory takes Milan to 10th on 13 points, with Sassuolo on 15 points. Lazio moved into fourth after defeating Torino 3-0 following a Senad Lulic effort and a Felipe Anderson double, Sampdoria beat winless Verona 4-1 to go seventh and Udinese defeated Frosinone 1-0.—Reuters



ITALY: Fiorentina's Nikola Kalinic (bottom) is challenged by Roma's Konstantinos Manolas during a Serie A soccer match at the Artemio Franchi stadium. —AP



ST. LOUIS: Cleveland Browns wide receiver Brian Hartline (right) is stopped by St. Louis Rams cornerback Janoris Jenkins after catching a pass for a 1-yard gain during the first quarter of an NFL football game. —AP

PATRIOTS SHOOT DOWN JETS, PANTHERS WIN

FOXBOROUGH: Tom Brady overcame New England's shaky first three quarters by throwing for a pair of touchdowns in the fourth, and the Patriots beat the New York Jets 30-23 on Sunday to remain unbeaten. Brady completed 13 of 16 passes for 135 yards in the final quarter to overcome a 20-16 lead and give New England a two-game lead over the Jets in the AFC East. He was 34 of 54 for 355 yards overall - numbers that would have been even better if not for the 11 drops by his receivers, six by newly activated Brandon LaFell.

The Jets kicked a field goal on first down and then recovered the onside kick with 15 seconds left. But a false-start penalty on Brandon Marshall ended the game after a short pass from Ryan Fitzpatrick left the Jets 37 yards from the tying score.

PANTHERS 27, EAGLES 16

Cam Newton took another step toward rewriting the NFL record book as the Carolina Panthers defeated the Philadelphia Eagles to improve remain unbeaten after their first six games for the first time in club history.

Newton threw for a touchdown and ran for another score, marking the fourth time this season he has accomplished that feat in a game and 28th time in his career - three behind Hall of Famer Steve Young for the league record. Jonathan Stewart ran for 119 yards and Mike Tolbert scored two touchdowns for Carolina, which has won a franchise-record 10 straight regular-season games dating to last season.

The Eagles (3-4) were only able to convert three interceptions by Newton into six points. The Panthers held Sam Bradford to 205 yards passing and sacked him five times, including twice by Jared Allen.

GIANTS 27, COWBOYS 20

Dwayne Harris sped 100 yards with a kickoff return against his former Dallas teammates seconds after the Cowboys had tied the game, and New York moved atop the NFC East with a victory.

Harris spent four seasons in Dallas without running back a kickoff for a score. But he tied a Giants record set in 1994 by romping untouched to the end zone.

New York (4-3) snapped a five-game slide against Dallas (2-4) thanks to big plays by its defense and special teams. Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie had two interceptions, returning one 58 yards for a touchdown. The Cowboys, losers of four in a row without injured offensive stars Tony Romo and Dez Bryant, got a big game from Darren McFadden. Starting running back Joseph

Randle left early with a strained back, and McFadden rushed for 152 yards and a TD.

DOLPHINS 44, TEXANS 26

Miami became the first team since at least 1940 to score four offensive touchdowns of at least 50 yards in a half. The Dolphins led 41-0 at halftime, making the drubbing even more emphatic than a 38-10 win at Tennessee a week earlier in Dan Campbell's debut as head coach.

Now he's the fifth interim coach of 26 since 2000 to win his first two games. Since the firing of Joe Philbin on Oct. 5, the Dolphins (3-3) have gone from notorious underachievers to contending for their first playoff berth since 2008.

The Dolphins had been 0-7 previously against Houston (2-5). Miami's four long scores in the first half were the most in at least 75 years, according to STATS.

REDSKINS 31, BUCCANEERS 30

Kirk Cousins threw three second-half touchdown passes, including the go-ahead score with 24 seconds left, to lead Washington to the largest comeback in franchise history.

Tampa Bay (2-4) was up 24-0 in the second quarter, before Cousins ran for an 8-yard TD to get Washington (3-4) on the board.

Cousins hadn't completed more than one TD pass in any game all season. But he got a pair of 3-yard scores in the third quarter, sandwiched around an onside kick, to make things interesting.

Then, trailing 30-24, Washington got the ball at its 20 with a little less than 2 1/2 minutes left in the fourth quarter. Cousins capped the drive with a 6-yard TD toss to Jordan Reed.

RAIDERS 37, CHARGERS 29

Derek Carr threw three touchdown passes, including a 52-yarder to Amari Cooper, and Oakland turned two interceptions of Philip Rivers into 10 points on their way to an easy victory over in what could be the last game of the AFC West rivalry played in San Diego.

It was the first meeting of the Raiders (3-3) and Chargers (2-5) since their owners announced plans to build a \$1.7 billion stadium in an industrial Los Angeles suburb if they can't get new stadiums in their home markets. Coming off a bye, the Raiders looked quicker and more efficient.

Cooper, the first-round draft pick out of Alabama, caught a short pass from Carr on an inside screen and raced through the defense to give Oakland a 30-3 lead just before halftime. San Diego made it close with three fourth-quarter touchdowns.

VIKINGS 28, LIONS 19

Teddy Bridgewater threw for a seasonhigh 316 yards and two touchdowns for Minnesota. Adrian Peterson rushed for 98 yards as the Vikings (4-2) won an NFC North game on the road for the first time in three

The Lions (1-6) had an 11-point lead after Matthew Stafford threw TDs on their first two drives, but they blew it because they couldn't protect the quarterback. Minnesota had a season-high seven sacks, which also was a season worst for Detroit.

FALCONS 10, TITANS 7

Matt Ryan threw for 251 yards and a touchdown pass, and Devonta Freeman ran for 116 yards. The Falcons (6-1) bounced back from their first loss by grinding out a road win and overcoming two interceptions. Freeman notched his third consecutive game with at least 100 yards, and Atlanta outgained Tennessee 378-256.

The banged-up Titans (1-5) lost their fifth straight overall. They played without rookie quarterback Marcus Mariota, who was replaced by Zach Mettenberger intercepted by safety Robenson Therezie with 1:31 left to seal the win.

JAGUARS 34, BILLS 31

arter touchdowns. Blake Bortles threw a touchdown pass to goals as Kans ing streak.

NFL Results/Standings

Jacksonville 34, Buffalo 31; Washington 31, Tampa Bay 30; Atlanta 10, Tennessee 7; New Orleans 27, Indianapolis 21; Minnesota 28, Detroit 19; Kansas City 23, Pittsburgh 13; St. Louis 24, Cleveland 6; Miami 44, Houston 26; New England 30, NY Jets 23; Oakland 37, San Diego 29; NY Giants 27, Dallas 20; Carolina 27, Philadelphia 16.

	Am	erican	Footb	all Conf East	erence				Na	tional F	ootbal		erence		
	W	L	Т	OTL	PF	PA	PCT	NY Giants	4	3	0	0	166	156	.571
New England	6	0	0	0	213	126	1.000	Philadelphia	3	4	0	0	160	137	.429
NY Jets	4	2	0	0	152	105	.667	Washington	3	4	0	1	148	168	.429
Miami	3	3	0	0	147	137	.500	Dallas	2	4	0	1	121	158	.333
Buffalo	3	4	0	0	176	173	.429	Dallas	2		NFC No	rth	121	150	.555
			AFC N	orth				Green Bay	6	0	0	0	164	101	1.000
Cincinnati	6	0	0	0	182	122	1.000	,			-	_			
Pittsburgh	4	3	0	1	158	131	.571	Minnesota	4	2	0	0	124	102	.667
Cleveland	2	5	0	1	147	182	.286	Chicago	2	4	0	1	120	179	.333
Baltimore	1	5	0	1	143	162	.167	Detroit	1	6	0	0	139	200	.143
			AFC S	outh							NFC So	uth			
Indianapolis	3	4	0	0	147	174	.429	Carolina	6	0	0	0	162	110	1.000
Houston	2	5	0	0	154	199	.286	Atlanta	6	1	0	0	193	150	.857
Jacksonville	2	5	0	1	147	207	.286	New Orleans	3	4	0	0	161	185	.429
Tennessee	1	5	0	0	119	139	.167	Tampa Bay	2	4	0	0	140	179	.333
			AFC V	Vest				' ,			NFC W	est			
Denver	6	0	0	0	139	102	1.000	Arizona	4	2	0	0	203	115	.667
Oakland	3	3	0	0	144	153	.500	St. Louis	3	3	0	0	108	119	.500
San Diego	2	5	0	0	165	198	.286	Seattle	3	4	0	2	154	128	.429
Kansas Čity	2	5	0	0	150	172	.286	San Francisco	2	5	0	0	103	180	.286

Allen Hurns with 2:16 remaining and Jacksonville rallied in the game at Wembley Stadium.

Bortles' second TD pass of the game came a short time after Buffalo safety Corey Graham intercepted a pass and returned it 44 yards to put the Bills ahead.

The Jaguars (2-5) won their first game in London after losing in each of the past two seasons at Wembley, the home of England's national soccer team. The Bills (3-4) were playing in the British capital for the first

RAMS 24, BROWNS 6

Rookie Todd Gurley rushed for 128 yards and his first two touchdowns, helping St. Louis to the win. St. Louis (3-3) had four sacks and recovered four fumbles. The Rams scored 10 points off miscues on Cleveland's first two series, a 17-yard fumble recovery by Rodney McLeod and a field goal after the first of William Hayes' two sacks and strips of Josh McCown on the day.

Johnny Manziel got mop-up duty for the Browns (2-5) after McCown left favoring his right arm with about four minutes left.

CHIEFS 23, STEELERS 13

Alex Smith threw for 251 yards and a touchdown, Cairo Santos kicked three field goals as Kansas City ended a five-game los-

Charcandrick West added 110 yards rushing and his first career touchdown for the Chiefs (2-5), and Eric Berry intercepted his first pass since his cancer diagnosis last December.

Meanwhile, the Chiefs shut down Pittsburgh's Landry Jones, who made his first NFL start in place of the injured Ben Roethlisberger and Mike Vick. Jones threw for 209 yards and a touchdown, but he was also picked off twice and lost a fumble. LeVeon Bell ran for 121 yards for the Steelers (4-3).

SAINTS 27, COLTS 21

Drew Brees threw for 255 yards and one touchdown, Khiry Robinson ran for two scores and New Orleans held on for the victory. New Orleans (3-4) has won three of its past four. Indy (3-4) still leads the AFC South despite losing its second straight. Brees finished 28 of 44 and was helped by a running game led by Mark Ingram, who ran for 143 yards and one score as New Orleans took a 27-0 lead.

Andrew Luck threw TD passes of 87 and 46 yards to TY Hilton, and an 8-yard TD pass to Donte Moncrief with 3:46 left to make it 27-21.—AP

Kuwait Times

Pakistan overcome **England challenge** to win Dubai Test



Muguruza blitzes Safarova



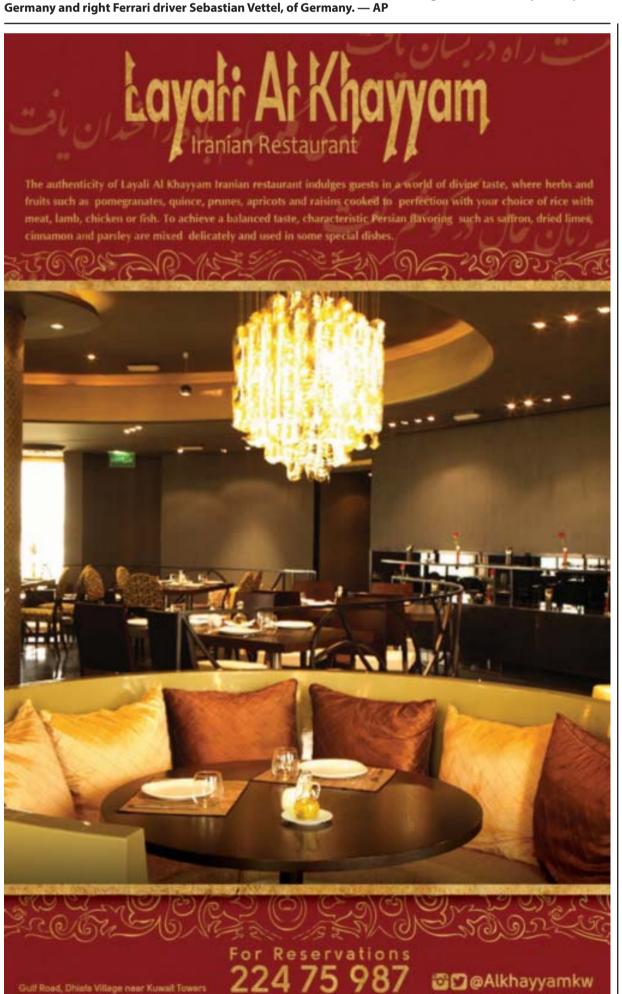
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2015

PATRIOTS SHOOT DOWN JETS, PANTHERS WIN

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AUSTIN: Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton of Britain, celebrates after winning the world championship at the Formula One US Grand Prix auto race at the Circuit of the Americas. Left is Mercedes driver Nico Rosberg of



HAMILTON TAKES

AUSTIN: Lewis Hamilton joined the elite group of triple Formula One world champions on Sunday after winning a thrilling US Grand Prix that kept the crowd on tenterhooks right to the very end.

"That's the greatest moment of my life," he gasped over the team radio, choking back the tears, after crossing the line 2.8 seconds ahead of German team mate Nico Rosberg who had led before a late mistake. The first British driver to win back-to-back titles, Hamilton realised a lifelong ambition to equal the tally of his boyhood idol Ayrton Senna, the Brazilian triple champion who died in 1994.

Ferrari's four-times champion Sebastian Vettel finished third, after starting 13th and fighting back to chase Rosberg nose-to-tail over the final lap with the crowd on the edge of their seats on a cold and blustery afternoon after morning rain.

Had Vettel passed Rosberg, the celebrations for the 'double double'-with Mercedes retaining their constructors' title two weeks ago in Russia-would have remained on

"I'm just overwhelmed," said Hamilton, who had needed to beat Vettel by nine points and Rosberg by two to take the crown with three races to spare.

"There were so many times when I thought I had lost the race." Interviewed on the podium by pop's very own 'rocket man', British pop singer Elton John, Hamilton sprayed the champagne with abandon while Rosberg looked shellshocked and barely reacted.

Before the podium ceremony, Hamilton tossed his team mate a cap to wear. The German threw it back in disgust. No words were necessary.

"I don't know what happened," he said later when asked about his slip. "It was my race to win, but with some strange mistake that has never happened to me that was really disappointing.

"It's unbelievable. That was really, really tough at the time, to lose the win." The victory, on a rollercoaster afternoon of enthralling racing, was Hamilton's third in four grands prix held in Austin and made the 30-year-old the first driver to win 10 or more races in successive seasons. He was also only the second Briton since Jackie Stewart in 1973 to win three titles. But for much of the race, on a drying track after torrential rain forced qualifying to be postponed from Saturday to Sunday monring, it had looked as Hamilton would be kept waiting to realise his dream.

He had seized the lead at the start from second place on the grid, banging wheels with Rosberg at the first corner and forcing his team mate wide and down to fourth place.

Hamilton could not pull away from the chasing Red Bulls however, with Australian Daniel Ricciardo taking the lead with 15 laps gone and before drivers pitted from intermediate to slick tyres.

The Briton then dropped down to fourth place, with Rosberg back in the lead after 22 laps following the pitstops, but the first of two safety car deployments brought everything back into play. Rosberg was heading for victory when, seven laps from

the end, he made an unforced error, ran wide at turn 12, and Hamilton-on fresher tyres after a later pitstop-seized his opportunity.

Ricciardo had dropped back by then after colliding with the Force India of Nico Hulkenberg on a rare afternoon of mayhem with just 12 finishers.

One of them was American Alexander Rossi, the first home driver to compete in a U.S. Grand Prix since 2007, in last place for Manor Marussia.

There was also early carnage when the two Saubers col-

lided in the Swiss team's 400th race while the Williams of Felipe Massa spun after a coming together with Fernando Alonso's McLaren. Russian Daniil Kvyat, who had also challenged for the

lead in the early stages, brought out the crucial second safety car when he lost control and slewed across the track and into the barriers on the 43rd lap. That gave Hamilton the chance to close right up and pounce when Rosberg erred. Dutch teenage rookie Max Verstappen was fourth for Toro Rosso after a lively battle against both Ferrari drivers and Mexican Sergio Perez, whose country returns to the calendar for the first time in 23 years next weekend, was fifth for Force India. Britain's Jenson Button produced some much-needed points for McLaren in sixth. — Reuters

ROSBERG AT A LOSS TO EXPLAIN HIS ERROR

AUSTIN: A downcast Nico Rosberg said he was at a afterwards, throwing a cap back at Hamilton when it loss to explain the error that gifted Mercedes team mate Lewis Hamilton both victory and a third Formula One world championship in a rollercoaster US Grand Prix on Sunday.

The German was leading when he ran wide with seven laps to go, a mistake that allowed Hamilton to blast past and take the victory.

"I just got wheelspin. It's never happened to me, ever. Not even in testing or racing, never, ever something like that. I can't explain it. It's unbelievable. I don't know," he told reporters.

"We just need to look into it afterwards but obviously that was really, really tough at the time, to lose the lead like that and to lose the win, because I was feeling really good at that point and it just went wrong." The German made his feelings very apparent tions are done. — Reuters

was tossed in his direction before they went on the podium.

Unsmiling, and almost rooted to the spot, he refused to join in the champagne celebrations. The pair, who have been friends and rivals since their early teens in go-karting and live in the same Monaco apartment complex, had a frosty relationship last season when the championship battle went down to the wire. This year, Hamilton has been far more dominant-winning 10 races to Rosberg's three so far-and Rosberg was understandably sore.

A first corner clash, with Rosberg on pole but Hamilton getting the inside line into the corner, also inflamed the situation and will have Mercedes bosses back in crisis management mode once the celebra-

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INDIA AFRICA FORUM SUMMIT 201

FUEL-STRAPPED NEPAL SENDS TEAM TO CHINA TO EASE SUPPLY



NEW DELHI: Indian Co-Chair of the Senior Official meeting Navtej Sarna (Front-6L) poses for a group photograph with other summit officials during the Third India-Africa Forum Summit at the Indira Gandhi stadium in New Delhi yesterday. India host an unprecedented gathering of Africa's leaders in India-Africa Forum Summit from October 29, as it ramps up the race for resources on the continent, where its rival China already has a major head start. — AFP

GULF BANK POSTS HEALTHY NET PROFIT OF KD 29.6M

Introduction of products and services helping growth

KUWAIT: Gulf Bank yesterday announced a 12% increase in net profit to KD 29.6 million for the first nine months of 2015. The growth in net profits for the first nine months was mainly from higher interest income, fee income, and other income. As of the end of September 2015, the Bank's total assets stood at KD 5,409 million, a 4% increase over the previous year, and the total shareholders' equity was KD 529

Omar Alghanim, Chairman of Gulf Bank

million, also a 4% increase over the previous

Omar Kutayba Alghanim, Gulf Bank's Chairman said: "I am very pleased to report the continued steady progress the bank has made in the first nine months of the year. Over the period, we have seen a 7% growth in our operating income and a 12% growth in our net profit, driven by strong double digit growth in retail banking, in line with our strategic intention. We have achieved this while continuing our policy of prudency and good governance, coordinated by a very capable and committed Board of Directors. We continue to invest and improve our products and services, using technology as an enabler. These figures reflect a strong and balanced performance, and underline the commitment of our management team and staff to deliver a better customer experience. I am encouraged by these results and believe the bank is well placed to continue this way."

Cesar Gonzalez-Bueno, Gulf Bank's CEO, added: "We have been able to deliver strong results and continue the positive trend of previous quarters. Gulf Bank's management team, with the support and guidance from the Chairman and the Board, is focused on improving its services and introducing products that better serve our customer's needs. Our excellent team of relationship managers in wholesale banking has been complemented by a team of product specialists. In retail banking, we just announced the launch of our exciting new Gulf Rewards program. More innovations will follow."



Cesar Gonzalez-Bueno Gulf Bank CEO

Superior Service Culture and Products are Keys to Growth

Gulf Bank customers are attracted and retained by the dedication to serve them by its staff. With regards to consumer banking, the Bank has had strong growth. Overall consumer loans increased 15% year-over-year. Earlier this year, the Bank undertook a revamp of two of its customer segments, the Kuwaiti Salary proposition and the Red proposition, which caters to the youth/student segment. New accounts coming from those segments have grown at double digit rates.

The Bank's credit cards business has also continued its strong performance with double digit loan growth. Gulf Bank launched 'point of sale' (POS) terminals with the latest technology that accepts 'near field communication' (NFC). This allows compatible debit and credit cards to be waved or tapped at POS terminals for payment. Gulf Rewards, the fastest and most rewarding loyalty program, was also launched. It allows points to be redeemed for free flights, with no blackout dates, and free hotel stays in over 300,000 global hotels. All existing Gulf Bank credit cardholders were automatically enrolled and the card is free for the first year. A special technology platform to facilitate easy online booking redemptions was created for Gulf Rewards. In terms of wholesale banking, our corporate banking group was reorganized to reflect key market segments and to deliver a broader suite of products and services with faster, more efficient customer service for local needs. Technology innovations such as new cash management products, a new collections system, and a series of process automaton initiatives to improve controls in our branches have also been implemented.

Awards

During this quarter Gulf Bank was recognized as the 'Best Cash Management Bank in Kuwait' by The Asian Banker. In the year to date, the bank has won "Best Retail Bank in Kuwait" by The Asian Banker; "Best Retail Bank in Kuwait" and "Best Retail Customer Service Bank in Kuwait" from International Finance Magazine (IFM); "Best Commercial Bank" and "Best Innovation in Retail Banking" from International Banker; "Best Customer Experience Overall Branch" from Ethos Integrated Solutions; as well as "Best Car Loan" and "Best Customer Service (Retail)" from Banker Middle East.

Importance of Human Capital and **Focus on Social Responsibility**

The Bank was pleased to mark a significant milestone in the third quarter for its Graduate Development Program, which works to build a large cadre of Kuwaiti bankers, by celebrating its first class of graduates. Further investing in Kuwaiti youth, the Bank continued its partnership with INJAZ to deliver educational and leadership development programs. A key heritage event sponsored by the Bank in this quarter was the 'Memorial Journey for Pearl Diving'. This event reminds new Kuwaiti generations of the difficulties and challenges of life, and traditions

of previous generations. In the third quarter the Bank undertook sponsorship of a unique walking and running sporting event in Kuwait, scheduled to take place on 14 November. The Gulf Bank 642 Marathon categories include: 5km walk; 10km walk or run; 21km half marathon, and full 42km marathon. The event will be raising awareness of the growing problem of diabetes and obesity. The marathon has the distinction of being the only full road race in Kuwait to be accredited, in the three longer distance categories, by the international marathon accreditation

SAUDI BOUNCES AS SOME BLUE CHIPS PARE LOSSES

DUBAI: Saudi Arabia's top stock index rebounded yesterday as some blue chips were bought back after several days of punishing falls on concerns that low oil prices would force the government into spending and subsidy reductions as well as tax rises.

The index fell 6.7 percent over the four previous trading but towards the end of the session, petrochemical producer Saudi Basic Industries rose 1.8 percent, mining group Ma'aden 3.8 percent and oil shipper Bahri 3.3 percent.

This helped the index close 0.6 percent higher. Turnover remained modest, however, and some stocks continued sliding on expectations of a tighter state budget. City Cement fell 0.3 percent to a 31-month low, extending a decline that has taken it down about 10 percent in the last two weeks.

United Arab Emirates (UAE) markets dropped after the cabinet approved a slightly smaller federal budget for 2016, in a sign that the country is crimping expenditure due to low oil prices.

The UAE federal budget traditionally accounts for only about 14 percent of total fiscal spending in the country; the seven individual emirates, mainly oilproducing Abu Dhabi, provide the rest. With its diversified economy and huge fiscal reserves, the UAE is better able to cope with cheap oil than most countries.

But the cabinet's decision was seen as an indicator for consolidated national spending, and Dubai's index fell 1.3 percent. Construction firm Drake & Scull, vulnerable to any cutbacks in government projects, fell 3.3 percent while builder Arabtec lost 2.3 percent.

Abu Dhabi also slipped 1.3 percent with Aldar Properties, which is involved in government-linked projects, down 4.7 percent. But Union National Bank, which had fallen 3.8 percent on Sunday after its third-quarter profit missed analysts' expectations, rebounded 3.3 per-

Stocks fall

Oatar's index, often seen as the most defensive in the Gulf because of its high dividend yields, rose 0.7 percent, and property developer Ezdan Holding climbed 1.8 percent before the announcement of its third-quarter earn-

Bucking the trend, drilling rig provider Gulf International Services, the most heavily traded stock, dropped 2 percent after reporting a 32-percent fall in third-quarter net profit that was roughly in line with analysts' expecta-

Egypt's index fell 1 percent as property developers Amer and Porto once again accounted for the vast bulk of turnover, after Amer spun off Porto last week. Amer slipped 3.6 percent and Porto soared 11.9 percent.

Beltone Financial edged up 0.3 percent to 3.84 pounds after Orascom Telecom Media and Technology and investment bank ACT Financial proposed a 4-pound-per-share offer to acquire Beltone.

MONDAY'S HIGHLIGHTS SAUDI ARABIA

The index rose 0.6 percent to 7,319 points.

The index fell 1.3 percent to 3,553

ABU DHABI

The index dropped 1.3 percent to

4,414 points. **QATAR**

The index rose 0.7 percent to 11,722

points.

EGYPT

The index fell 1.0 percent to 7,578

KUWAIT

The index edged down 0.1 percent to 5,804 points.

OMAN

The index edged up 0.2 percent to 5,933 points. — Reuters



GOLD RISES ON DIPPING DOLLAR, UNCERTAINTY OVER FED

LONDON: Gold rose yesterday after a three-day losing streak, as the dollar's ascent paused and uncertainty persisted over the timing of the first Federal Reserve rate increase in a decade.

Spot gold was up 0.2 percent at \$1,165.85 an ounce by 1516 GMT. The metal had dropped on Friday to \$1,158.77, its lowest since Oct. 13, when the dollar soared to its highest level in more than two months.

"\$1,158 is seen as the next major retracement area," Saxo Bank senior manager Ole Hansen said. "Longs would be fairly resilient as long as we hold above \$1,140." Gold had risen 1 percent soon after China's surprise interest rate cut on Friday, as investors bet the US central bank would be compelled to delay a rate rise given the fragility of the global economy. But buying evaporated after upbeat US data increased expectations of a Fed hike

this year. Investors awaited a two-day Fed policy meeting ending on Wednesday. Although the Fed is not expected to raise rates at this month's meeting, the market will be watching for clues on its take on the global economy and whether a hike could come in December.

"We have gone now from thinking it was going to be September to being sometime next year," Citi strategist David Wilson said. "I still think the medium trend is going to be downwards but we could get short-term support as people position ahead of what does or doesn't happen in the meeting this week." The dollar edged down against a basket of currencies, while global equities moved lower, after risk appetite spurred by the monetary easing from China on Friday waned. Investor positioning has been more bullish. Hedge funds and money managers raised their bullish bets in

COMEX gold and silver in the week to Oct. 20, data from the US Commodity Futures Trading Commission showed on Friday. Net long positions in gold rose to their highest since February.

Industrial metals fell on Monday, with platinum down 0.5 percent at \$994.50 an ounce and palladium falling 1 percent to \$680.97 an ounce. Silver followed gold's upside, rising 0.7 percent to \$15.88 an ounce. — Reuters

CHINA LEADERS MEET FOR FIVE-YEAR PLAN

BEIJING: China's Communist leaders gathered yesterday to plan the country's course for the next five years, official media reported, confronting an economic malaise that has investors worried and intractable problems such as pollution souring the public

The world's second largest economy is riddled with structural inefficiencies and growth is at its slowest rate since the global financial crisis. The meeting, called the Fifth Plenum, began in the wake of a series of disappointing economic figures prompting "increasing attention from observers both home and abroad", the official Xinhua news agency said.

Five-Year Plans-it will be the 13th since the People's Republic was founded in 1949 - are a holdover from the days before China embraced market reforms that have lifted hundreds of millions out of poverty.

But they still provide wide-ranging guidelines for managing the nation's affairs, from the boardroom to the bedroom. China is a key driver of the world economy and analysts have urged more and broader structural reforms to sustain its long-term expansion in the face of vested interests resisting change.

The ruling party's legitimacy depends on projecting an aura of ultra-competence, but growth fell to 6.9 percent in the third quarter, according to official figures.

Leaders took another step towards loosening remaining communist-style economic reins Friday, with a surprise announcement that the People's Bank of China was removing controls on what interest rates banks can pay savers.

'National rejuvenation'

At the same time it cut benchmark interest rates for the sixth time since November, and lowered the amount of money banks must keep in reserve, in an attempt to stimulate the economy and avoid a hard landing. A weekend posting on a government website reported Premier Li Keqiang as saying authorities may let growth rates slip below the previous target of around seven percent. "We never said we must defend any target to the death," he said.

China is entering a "key period of

Chinese socialism as it trudges along the road of national rejuvenation", the Communist Party mouthpiece, the People's Daily, said in a commentary.

The dedicated focus on promoting growth has, among other problems, led leaders to ignore the effects of the country's dependence on heavy industry powered by cheap but dirty coal.

That must change, according to an editorial in yesterday's China Daily, which is published by the government.

"The government should resort to energy restriction, particularly of coal, in order to press ahead with the transformation of the economic structure," wrote Lin Bogiang, director of the China Center for Energy Economics Research. Hu Angang, an economics professor at Tsinghua University, said bold environmental reforms cannot continue to have a lower priority than growth. "We need to raise economic efficiency, but we need to raise environmental efficiency more," said Hu, who was on an experts' committee helping guide the planning process. "We need to grow material investment, but we need to strengthen environmental investment more. We need to conserve energy, but we need to develop green energy more," he told AFP.

Beijing is also considering loosening restrictions on its one-child policy, which has fuelled public discontent and which experts say is now raising demographic dilemmas. After 205 members of the Central Committee, plus around 170 alternates, burnish the plan at the four-day plenum it is due to be formally approved by the rubber-stamp legislature next year.

More than half the Central Committee have changed jobs or been removed from their posts since they were appointed in 2012, according to a social media post by the Beijing Daily, the official newspaper of the capital's Communist committee.

Many of the personnel switches are linked to a widespread anti-corruption drive under President Xi Jinping, which critics have compared to a political purge. The Global Times, a newspaper with close ties to the government, said the "large-scale reshuffle is extremely rare" in the history of the party. — AFP



PHILADELPHIA: In this Sept 15, 2015 photo, an iron worker works on the new Comcast Innovation and Technology Center under construction in Philadelphia. Many business economists expect modest economic growth for the rest of the year, with only a small percentage taking a more bullish outlook, according to a new survey released yesterday by the National Association of Business Economics. — AP



TOKYO: Pedestrians walk past a post office in Tokyo yesterday. Japan Post Holding yesterday set its initial public offering at 1,400 yen (11.6 USD) after setting IPO prices of its two units, in a bid to raise a combined 11.8 billion USD, this year's biggest debut in the world. — AFP

ZAIN KUWAIT LAUNCHES M2M SERVICES WITH VODAFONE

SERVICES TO RESHAPE THE WAY THE WORLD DOES BUSINESS

KUWAIT: Zain, the leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, announced the launch of Machine-To-Machine (M2M) services on its ultrafast network to Enterprise and Government sectors in Kuwait. The launch came as part of the expansion of Zain Group's existing Partner Market Agreement with Vodafone.

The announcement was made during a press conference that was recently held at Zain's main headquarters and saw the attendance of Fahad Al Jassim, Zain Kuwait's Marketing Director, Waleed Al Khashti, Zain Kuwait's Corporate Communications and Relations Director, Alberto Hernandez, Global Head of Commercial and Partners Markets, Vodafone Machine to Machine, and Bilal Agha, Zain Kuwait's Corporate Marketing Senior Manager The Jaunch of M2M services is in line with Zain's strategic vision to enrich the bundle of solutions and services it offers to corporate customers, especially that M2M services are one of the telecom industry's fastest growing sectors in the region.

Vodafone is a leading global provider of M2M services and this partnership represents a new and important milestone in Zain's entry into the M2M sector. The two telecommunication companies have been working together for a number of years, and this development will allow Zain to leverage Vodafone's experience and benefit from the opportunities offered by the exponential growth in M2M sector, as the company developed a clear strategy to contribute to this growth as well as an extensive range of IoT (Internet of Things)/ M2M products and services from connectivity, managed connectivity and end-to-end solutions, designed to provide services for businesses and government organizations.

Intelligent devices

The dynamic nature and application of M2M services are set to reshape the way the world does business. Cost saving remains one of the primary drivers for businesses to adopt M2M solutions as it enables them to save time and money by optimizing business processes. Benefits of M2M include enhanced energy efficiency, improving safety and security, supporting faster and better decision-making, and even enabling whole new products, services, and business models. Zain's M2M services are provided with the support of the best experts in the field, who also benefit from Vodafone's global M2M experience. M2M connects machines, devices, and appliances wirelessly to the Internet, transforming them into intelligent devices that exchange real time information and open up a range of possibilities for how businesses run and grow. Through Zain's M2M portal, the solutions enable real time monitoring of IoT/M2M traffic, including volume and advanced diagnostics, and also support fraud detection features and the ability to set traffic caps and issue various reports. Additionally, online ordering and trouble ticketing functions that are facilitated by M2M solutions can increase operational efficiency, and the APIs offered allow customers to integrate their back end systems and processes with M2M Platform to access its data and capabilities.

Zain is also planning to conduct a series of industry-specific seminars in 2016 where corporate customers can learn more about IoT/M2M capabilities and their application into their businesses.

FIRST BOE HIKE TO 0.75% NOW SEEN IN Q2 2016

interest rates from a record low until the second quarter of next year, later than previously thought, as it has made no progress in driving up inflation, a Reuters poll found.

Britain's Bank Rate has been just 0.5 percent since early 2009 and the median forecast from nearly 60 economists polled in the past few days said it would be at least April before it rises. Even then, the rate is only likely to be lifted by 25 basis points, the poll published on Monday showed. In a similar poll taken two weeks ago, the median suggested a rate rise in the first quarter. Only 19 of 54 economists now say the first increase will come then, compared to 23 of

44 in that poll, published on Oct. 15. The group of economists assigned a median

LONDON: The Bank of England will not raise 40 percent probability the Bank would move by the end of March and a 60 percent likelihood it would act before end-June. There was a far more certain chance of a move by end-2016, seen at 80 percent

> But even that decision probably rests on whether the U.S. Federal Reserve jumps first, as 39 of 43 economists said it was unlikely or very unlikely the BoE moves before the Fed, which is forecast to raise interest rates in December.

> But signs of slowing in the U.S. job market have dented confidence the Fed will pull the trigger at all this year.

> Markets haven't priced in a hike from Britain's Monetary Policy Committee until late 2016, around half a year behind when they expect the Fed to hike. —Reuters

EXCHANGE RATES

2.508

4.672

2.905

2.152

2.937

218.260

39.171

3.902

6.529

8.558

81.003

83.441

788.980

806.700

39.300

37.855

1.417

153.180

428.090

2.024

2.165

31.396

AL-M	Muzaini Exchange Co	O.
Japanese Yen Indian Rupees Pakistani Rupees Srilankan Rupees Nepali Rupees Singapore Dollar Hongkong Dollar Bangladesh Taka Philippine Peso Thai Baht	ASIAN COUNTRIES	2 4 2 2 21 39 3 6 8
Saudi Riyal Qatari Riyal Omani Riyal Bahraini Dinar UAE Dirham	GCC COUNTRIES	81 83 78 80 82
Egyptian Pound - C Egyptian Pound - Tr Yemen Riyal/for 100 Tunisian Dinar Jordanian Dinar Lebanese Lira/for 10	ansfer 00	39 37 1.4 15 42 2.6

Syrian Lira

Morocco Dirham

EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES

US Dollar Transfer 303,600 336.540 Sterling Pound 467.090 231.580 Canadian dollar Turkish lira 104.690 Swiss France 312.350 221.320 Australian dollar US Dollar Buying 303.150

GOLD 20 gram 235.51 10 gram 120.45 5 gram

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

DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

Rate for Transfer Selling Rate US Dollar 302.750 Canadian Dollar 234.300 Sterling Pound 469.260 344.035 Euro Swiss Frank 290.555 Bahrain Dina 803.530 **UAE Dirhams** Qatari Riyals

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

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY

SELLDRAFT **COUNTRY SELL CASH** Europe **British Pound** 0.458527 0.467527 Czech Korune 0.004355 0.016355 Danish Krone 0.040829 0.045829 0.329311 0.337311 Norwegian Krone 0.032258 0.037458 0.087090 0.087090 Romanian Leu Slovakia 0.009062 0.019062 Swedish Krona 0.031713 0.036713 **Swiss Franc** 0.304062 0.314262 Turkish Lira 0.099740 0.110040 Australasia Australian Dollar 0.211784 0.223284 New Zealand Dollar 0.199487 0.208987 America Canadian Dollar 0.225237 0.233737 **US Dollars** 0.299500 0.304000

US Dollars Mint 0.300000 0.304000 Asia 0.004098 Bangladesh Taka 0.003498 0.046503 0.050003 Chinese Yuan Hong Kong Dollar 0.037071 0.039821 0.004785 0.004395 Indian upee Indonesian Rupiah 0.000018 0.000024 0.002603 0.002423 Japanese Yen Kenyan Shilling 0.003155 0.003155 0.000273 0.000258 Korean Won 0.074291 Malavsian Ringgit 0.068291 0.002908 0.003078 Nepalese Rupee 0.002799 0.003079 Pakistan Rupee 0.006744 Philippine Peso 0.006464 0.000073 0.000067 Sierra Leone Singapore Dollar 0.220413 0.214413 South African Rand 0.016296 0.024796 0.002446 0.001866 Sri Lankan Rupee 0.009443 0.009263 Taiwar Thai Baht 0.008775 0.008225

Arab 0.805884 Bahraini Dinar 0.797884 **Egyptian Pound** 0.040766 0.037936 Iranian Rival 0.000085 0.000084 Iraqi Dinar 0.000200 0.000260 Jordanian Dinar 0.431709 0.424209 1.000000 1.000000 Kuwaiti Dinar Lebanese Pound 0.000152 0.000252 0.044570 Moroccan Dirhams 0.020570 Nigerian Naira 0.001254 0.001889 Omani Rival 0.787831 0.782151 0.083893 Oatar Rival 0.082680 0.081023 Saudi Rival 0.080323 0.001287 Syrian Pound 0.001507 0.157148 Tunisian Dinar 0.149148 Turkish Lira 0.099740 0.110040 0.081678 0.082827 **UAE Dirhams** Yemeni Rival 0.001372 0.001452



KAZAKHSTAN CHALLENGES SEA SHIPPERS FOR CHINA-EU CARGO

KHORGOS: Kazakhstan wants to establish itself as a major trading hub between China and Europe and get a share of a \$600 billion market, but it will have to end tough, often time-wasting, regulations that hurt its reputation as a cross-border trading partner.

The landlocked Central Asian country has its eye on one day claiming a 10th of China-Europe traffic from maritime shippers, using its strategic location and help from major cargo handler Dubai Ports World. Its geographical position - it has a 1,780 km (1,112 mile) border with China - suggests it is well-placed to offer an alternative land route to maritime shipping for cargo from China, Japan and southeast Asia.

One train service, linking the southwestern Chinese city of Chongqing with Germany's Duisburg, already runs regularly, reducing delivery time by up to two-thirds compared with maritime shipping. But using the railway route costs about twice as much as the sea route, making it practical only for time-critical shipments or high value-added goods. The Chongqing-Duisburg train, for example, has delivered Acer and Asus computers to Europe and Mercedes and BMW cars to China.

Kazakh officials often refer to the development project overland through Central Asia as the new Silk Route; the original one, used in antiquity and the Middle Ages, was also based on Chinese exports.

DUBAI BLUEPRINT

Among factors that may attract more global transporters are perks such as being able to consolidate or split shipments along the way and maintain stockpiles close to Europe at a low cost.

In order to offer those, Kazakhstan has built a dry port near the Khorgos border crossing point, 300 km (188 miles) east of the biggest city and commercial hub Almaty. At the heart of it are parallel tracks of Chinese and Kazakh standards - whose gauge differs - where trains from both countries can swap, load or offload containers, instead of going through chassis exchange as they do at other border crossings. Around those, the authorities hope, investors lured by tax breaks will build warehouses and even factories - with energy to be provided by a gas power plant connected to the nearby pipeline which pumps natural gas from Central Asia to China.

One company which has expressed interest in setting up operations in Khorgos is German chemicals giant BASF, Karl Gheysen, chief executive of Khorgos Gateway and the leader of a small team of DP World managers working on the project, said.

"To be honest, what I am telling you is the history of how (Dubai port) Jebel Ali started," he told diplomats and reporters as he presented the project. Dubai is often cited as one of the most successful examples of economic diversification, having switched to logistics, trade and tourism as its main earners when the emirate's oil reserves all but ran out. In trying to replicate Jebel Ali's success, Kazakhstan joins the likes of Gulf nations such as Saudi Arabia and Oman, which have also established special economic zones around their ports.

CHALLENGES

However, Kazakhstan's legal framework is as different from that of Dubai as its climate, arid and with winter temperatures reaching -40.

While the United Arab Emirates ranked No.8 for trading across borders in the 2015 Doing Business survey by the World Bank, Kazakhstan was in 185th

place out of 189. The survey measures factors such as time and cost required to carry out import and export operations.

Although it partly reflects Kazakhstan's huge size and distance from the sea, survey data also shows that preparing documents and securing customs clearance for a container takes a month in Kazakhstan, against just five days in the UAE.

Khorgos hopes to change this by using simplified customs formalities and DP World's know-how in streamlining procedures. Another challenge is competition, especially from Russia which also borders China and can offer alternative railways routes bypassing Kazakhstan. But Kazakh Foreign Minister Yerlan Idrissov says the market will accommodate both players. "The volumes are big enough, this will not be a competition," he told reporters.

"We will (jointly) compete against maritime shippers," echoed Kanat Alpysbayev, vice-president of KTZ, the Kazakh state company in charge of the project."We want at least 10 percent of the China-EU shipments" which were worth \$615 billion last year and are projected to rise to \$800 billion by 2020, he added. — Reuters

WALL ST SLIGHTLY DOWN AS APPLE, ENERGY STOCKS WEIGH

NEW YORK: Wall Street was slightly down yesterday as energy stocks fell on concerns of a crude oil supply glut and Apple's shares retreated a day ahead of its quarter-

Investors are also awaiting the Federal Reserve's two-day policy meeting, which begins today. While the Fed is not expected to raise rates at the meeting, its statement on Wednesday will provide clues on the timing of a rate hike.

Apple's shares were down 3 percent at \$115.55, making it the biggest drag on the three major indexes. The iPhone maker reports quarterly results after the market closes today. Crude prices fell about 1 percent as global oversupply pushed fuel storage sites close to capacity. Exxon fell 1.4 percent, while Chevron was down 2 percent. Both report results on Friday.

The S&P energy sector's 1.6 percent fall led the decliners among the major S&P sectors, while health care stocks led the advancers. "The theme today is kind of wait-and-hold," said Katrina Lamb, head of investment strategy and research at MV Financial

"You've got a couple of key numbers and a pretty crowded calendar coming up this week. If you're a taking positions, you're probably just going to want to keep yourself hedged," Lamn said.

At 11:07 a.m. ET (1507 GMT), the Dow Jones industrial average was down 16.13 points, or 0.09 percent, at 17,630.57, the S&P 500 was down 3.99 points, or 0.19 percent, at 2,071.16 and the Nasdaq compos-

ite index was up 8.03 points, or 0.16 percent, at 5,039.89. Data yesterday showed new US home sales fell 11.5 percent in September, suggesting a softening of the housing market. Fed Chair Janet Yellen has said the central bank could raise rates this year but only if it sees clear signs of sustained economic growth.

Traders are pricing in only a 6 percent chance of rates being increased at this week's meeting and a 39 percent chance of a December hike, according to CME Group's FedWatch program.

Strong quarterly results from tech companies have helped improve expectations on overall US third-quarter earnings.

S&P 500 earnings are estimated to have declined a more modest 2.8 percent in the quarter, compared with 4.9 percent forecast at the start of the reporting season, according to Thomson Reuters data.

Ctrip.com was up 23 percent at \$91.35 after the online travel firm said it would merge with Qunar Cayman Islands. Qunar jumped nearly 14.4 percent to \$45.13.

Pep Boys jumped 23.3 percent to \$14.98 after it agreed to be acquired by Bridgestone for \$15 per share. Piedmont Natural Gas soared nearly 40 percent to \$58.93 after it agreed to be bought by Duke Energy. Duke Energy fell 2.5 percent.

Decliners outnumbered advancers on the NYSE by 1,882 to 994. On the Nasdaq, 1,309 issues rose and 1,303 fell. The S&P 500 index showed 29 new 52-week highs and eight new lows, while the Nasdaq recorded 70 new highs and 36 new lows. — Reuters



CHICAGO: In this Tuesday, Oct. 13, 2015, file photo, a beer vender holds up Budweiser and Bud Light at Wrigley Field. Budweiser's owner Anheuser Busch InBev clinched a preliminary deal earlier this month to take over British beer company SABMiller for around 69 billion pounds (\$106 billion). A survey from consulting firm EY yesterday, points to more global mega-deals in the year to come. — AP

BIG CORPORATE DEALS ON THE RISE DESPITE GLOBAL JITTERS

Executives focusing on M&A to secure innovation

LONDON: There is no let-up in executives' appetite for corporate takeovers despite volatility in the stock market and mounting concerns over the global economy, particularly China.

According to a survey released yesterday by consulting firm EY, the recent wave of mergers and acquisitions, or M&A, is set to continue over the coming year. It found that 59 percent of global companies are planning to secure at least one deal over the next 12 months, partly as a means of cushioning waning global growth as China's economy slows.

The figure for October is up from 56 percent in April and 40 percent at the same time last year. It represents the highest interest in acquisitions that EY's survey of corporate deal-making has found in its six-year history. The low point was at the start, when only 24 percent of companies signaled the intention to make a takeover.

"With modest increases in global GDP, organic growth alone is not enough for companies to expand and reshape at the pace they need," said Pip McCrostie, EY's global head of transactions.

"The search for growth is lifting deal-making to record highs, and executives are focus-

ing on M&A to secure innovation, competitive advantage and market share for the foresee-able future," she added. M&A activity has really gathered pace this year with deal values, according to EY, already up 35 percent on 2014 and more megadeals - those valued above \$10 billion - in 2015 than in any previous year of the survey's history.

Acquisitions

Earlier this month, the world's top two beer makers agreed to join forces to create a company that would control nearly a third of the global market. Much of the logic behind the 69 billion-pound (\$106 billion) takeover of British-based SAB Miller by Anheuser Busch InBev is to cope with faltering beer consumption in many parts of the world.

Other big deals this year include Royal Dutch Shell's 47 billion-pound (\$71 billion) yet-to-becompleted acquisition of BG Group, as well as the \$62.6 billion merger between Heinz and Kraft Foods, which is now called Kraft Heinz.

EY said the boundaries between industries looks set to blur, with 48 percent of executives

planning acquisitions in a different sector as new technology impacts almost everything along the business chain. The manufacturing and retail sectors are set for the most such activity. And companies are increasingly ready to make deals outside their home country. The firm said 70 percent of respondents are looking to do so, with the 19-country eurozone set to see a rise in deals amid hopes that the debt crisis that has gripped the region has abated following the latest bailout of Greece. "This is down to increased confidence in the stability of the region," said McCrostie.

Though deal-making has been on the rise over the past few years as the global economy recovered from its deepest recession since World War II and companies built up their cash reserves, EY says it could have been even higher. It noted that 73 percent of executives have walked away from deals over the past 12 months. "Executives are taking a long-term view and evaluating deals more carefully than ever before," said McCrostie. "They are stepping back when necessary. This is not 'a deals for deals sake mentality." EY's survey was based on surveys of more than 1,600 executives in 53 countries. — AP

NEW YORK: This Monday, Aug. 24, 2015, file photo, shows the New York Stock Exchange. Stocks were largely steady yesterday, after gains in Asian trading, as investors hoped major central banks will maintain or expand their monetary stimulus policies. — AP

OIL EDGES HIGHER BUT GLUT SWELLS STORAGE

LONDON: Oil edged higher yesterday as investors prepared for a week of important economic indicators, but prices remained range-bound on indications that the global storage was nearing capacity.

Brent, the international benchmark,

was up 21 cents at \$48.20 a barrel at 1133 GMT, 11 percent below this month's high. US crude futures traded up 26 cents at \$44.86 a barrel.

"Today, we have a consolidation in the price of oil. From our point of view

the low-to-mid \$40s constitutes a decent floor because it's deep into the cost curve of the US shale oil industry," said Harry Tchilinguirian, global head of commodity strategy at BNP Paribas.

Investors await the outcome of this week's two-day policy meeting of the

week's two-day policy meeting of the US Federal Reserve, just days after China's surprise fourth interest rate cut. The United Arab Emirates oil minister said yesterday he expected an upward correction in oil prices next year as demand is set to recover more quickly than expected.

Suhail bin Mohammed al-Mazroui said OPEC, of which the UAE is a member, had agreed to continue following a market-driven strategy, meaning demand and supply, rather than intervention, would decide price levels.

Many oil market experts remained bearish about the outlook for prices, however, as signals strengthened of a widening supply glut which has

already caused crude to lose more than half of its value since June 2014.

"While our distillate balances suggest that stocks will fall short of capacity, the margins of error are small and the risks high, leaving risks to current crude oil prices and timespreads as skewed to the downside through next spring," analysts at Goldman Sachs wrote.

Unwanted diesel and jet fuel (distillate) cargoes are backing up outside Europe's ports and taking longer, slower routes around the southern tip of Africa to buy time. Research consultancy Energy Aspects said product stocks rose by 0.6 million barrels per day in the third quarter.

Rising inventories as well as a mild winter expected for Europe and North America as a result of an El Nino weather event would likely lead to reduced refinery production and lower use of crude by refiners, it added.

Due to low oil prices, investment in the sector in 2016 is likely to decline further after sliding this year by more than a fifth, Fatih Birol, executive director of the International Energy Agency (IEA), said yesterday.

"If it comes true, this will be the first time in two decades we will see oil investments declining for two consecutive years and may be an indication for future oil markets," he said at Singapore International Energy Week. — Reuters

GM, US AUTO UNION REACH TENTATIVE LABOR AGREEMENT

DETROIT: General Motors and the United Auto Workers reached a tentative agreement on a new four-year labor deal Sunday, only minutes before a midnight strike deadline. "We believe that this agreement will present stable long-term significant wage gains and job security commitments to UAW members now and in the future," said UAW President Dennis Williams.

"We look forward to presenting the details of these gains to local union leaders and the membership," he said. GM has 50,000 employees who are UAW members. The union bargaining committee announced the settlement just 17 minutes before a midnight strike deadline that had been imposed the day before. The agreement secured significant economic gains and job security protections, the union said in a statement. The bargaining committee unanimously voted to send the proposed tentative agreement to local union leaders who make up the UAW National GM Council, the UAW said in a statement. The agreement's details are being withheld pending the GM Council's meeting, but are expected to parallel those of the union's agreement with Fiat Chrysler Automobiles (FCA), which included a 53 percent pay increase for lower-wage "second-tier" workers.

The union had been looking to claw back some concessions made in order to help GM survive the economic crisis. The company has regained is footing and now is posting healthy profits. Under the deal, second-tier workers will also reach higher paying "first-tier" wages after eight years. The FCA contract also called for first-



NEW YORK: This April 8, 2009 file photo shows the General Motors logo displayed at the New York International Auto Show in New York. General Motors and the United Auto Workers reached a tentative agreement on a new four-year labor deal yesterday, only minutes before a midnight strike deadline. — AFP

tier workers to get a three percent pay increase, the first in nine years, according to the UAW. The union plans to make the details of the agreement available immediately after the UAW National GM Council votes Wednesday. UAW Vice President Cindy Estrada called the agreement transformative. "The significant gains in this agreement are structured in a way that will provide certainty to our members and create a clear path for all GM employees now and in the future," she said. The agreement not only rewards UAW-GM members for their accomplish-

ments, but it protects them with significant job security commitments." GM said the tentative agreement was a positive development for both the company and the union.

"The new UAW-GM national agreement is good for employees and the business," said Cathy Clegg, GM North America Manufacturing and Labor Relations vice president. "Working with our UAW partners, we developed constructive solutions that benefit employees and provide flexibility for the company to respond to the needs of the marketplace." — AFP

KUNNATTRI



FEDEX PREDICTS 12% INCREASE IN HOLIDAY SHIPMENTS

MARIETTA: With online shopping growing, FedEx is bracing for a record volumes this holiday season. The delivery company predicted vesterday that shipments from Black Friday through Christmas Eve will rise 12.4 percent over last year to 317 million pieces.

The company said that to handle the crush, it is hiring more than 55,000 seasonal workers and investing in automation and expansion. Rival United Parcel Service Inc. will release its holiday forecast today, said spokesman Steve Gaut. He said that the same trends leading to FedEx's forecast of more shipping will affect

Delivery companies like UPS and FedEx Corp. have profited from the continuing shift in shopping from stores to online. Even still, the FedEx forecast is a bullish one. The National Retail Federation, for example, predicted that online sales in November and December will rise by between 6 percent and 8 percent over late 2014.

Planning for holiday demand can be treacherous for the delivery giants. After being caught off-guard by a late surge in shipping during 2013, they greatly increased their seasonal work forces last year. The heavy spending pulled down earnings at UPS, although FedEx profit rose.

FedEx and UPS now talk to retailers throughout the

year to plan for the spike in holiday shipping. Much of the surge is driven by retailers that promise free shipping even in the last days of the gift-sending season.

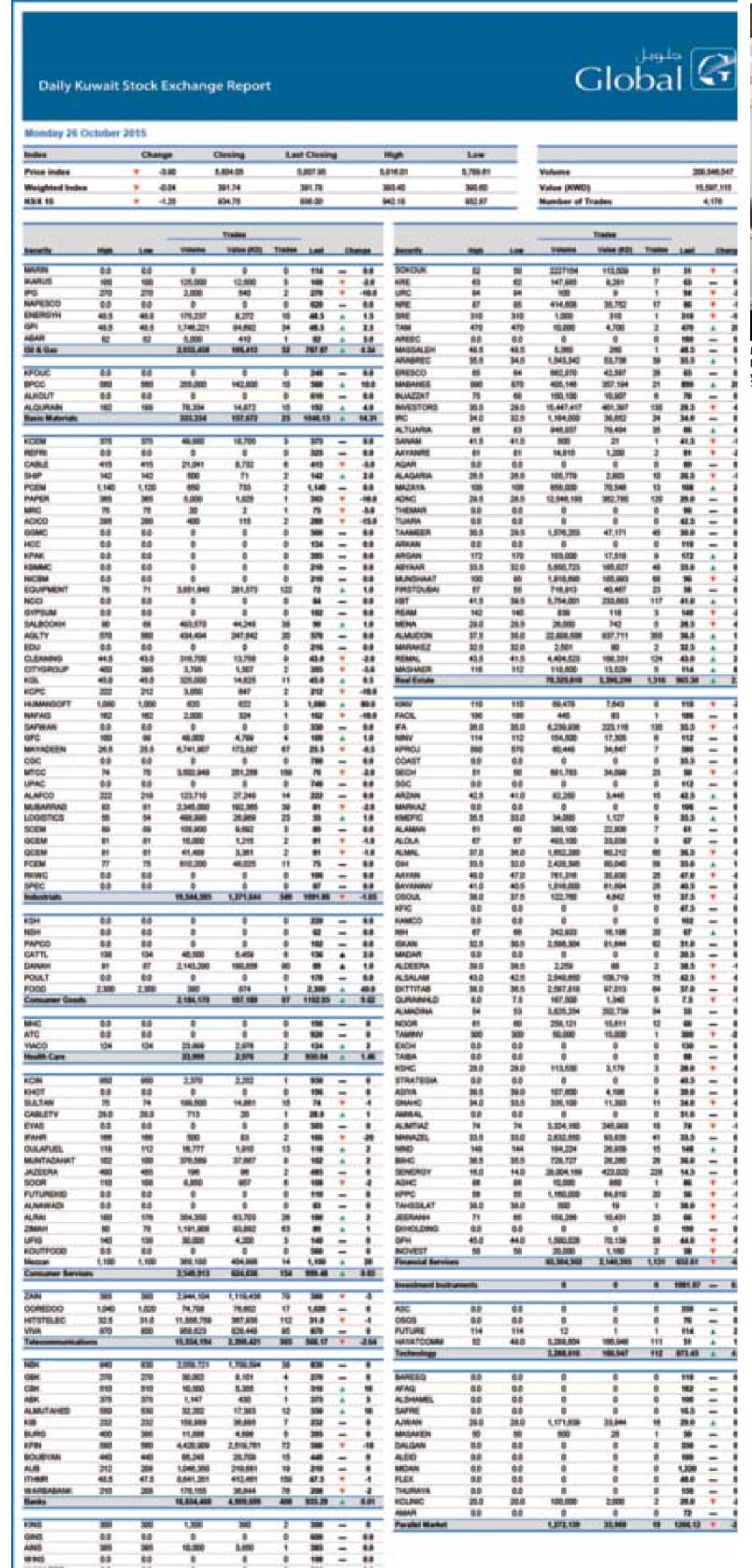
"We need to make sure that if they are looking at moves like that, they need to understand what our capacity is," said FedEx senior vice president Patrick Fitzgerald. "We do limit some delivery commitment to customers where necessary. That's not very common."

Free-shipping promotions aren't likely to disappear: Nearly half of shoppers surveyed by the retail federation said free shipping is an important factor in their buying. FedEx said that the busiest shipping days will be the

Monday after Thanksgiving and the first two Mondays in December.

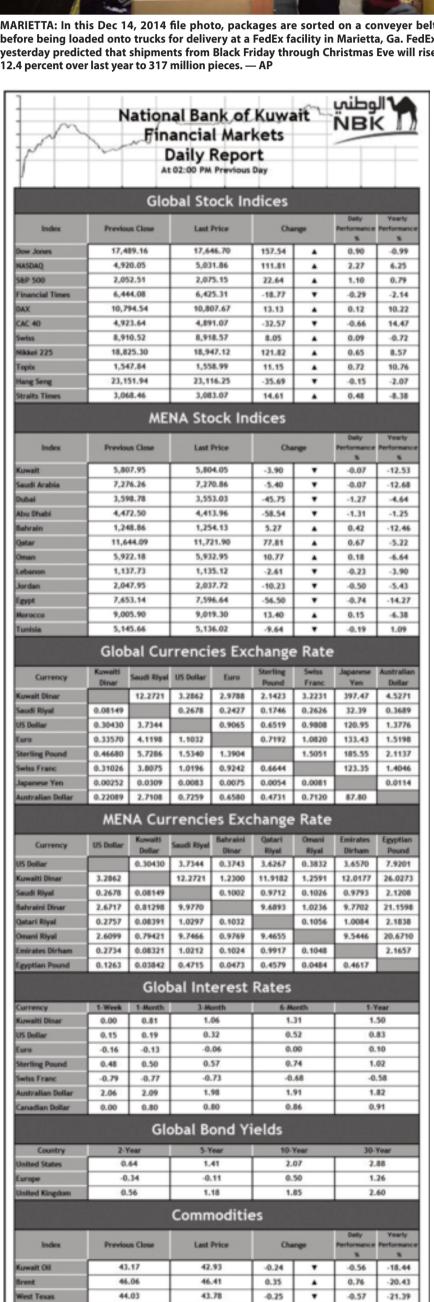
The first big test for the delivery companies will come on Monday, Nov. 30, so-called Cyber Monday, when FedEx expects to handle at least 20 million packages or double the daily average during the holiday season.

FedEx gets a break, however, Fitzgerald said: More online shoppers now get started early, spreading those orders and shipments over the Thanksgiving weekend instead of waiting for Monday. In morning trading, FedEx shares were down 57 cents to \$158.95, while UPS was up 6 cents to \$106.86. — AP





MARIETTA: In this Dec 14, 2014 file photo, packages are sorted on a conveyer belt before being loaded onto trucks for delivery at a FedEx facility in Marietta, Ga. FedEx yesterday predicted that shipments from Black Friday through Christmas Eve will rise



1163.86

1167.50

3.64

0.09

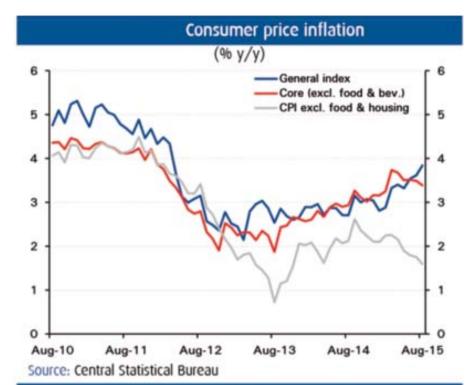
0.31

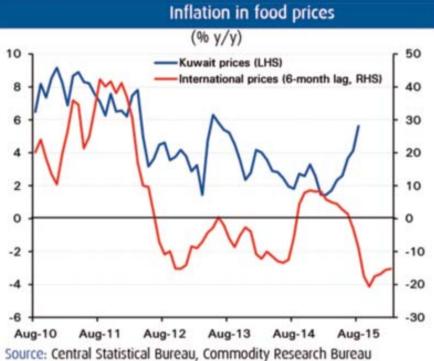
-1.73

0.57



KUWAIT: INFLATION EDGES TO 3.8% IN AUGUST





KUWAIT: Inflation in consumer prices edged higher in August, rising from 3.6% year-on-year (y/y) in July to 3.8% y/y, mainly on the back of strong gains in food inflation. Inflation across all other components either retreated or remained unchanged. Core inflation (excludes food) eased for the first time in almost a year, but still remains relatively high at 3.4%. Core inflation has been relatively steady in recent months as inflationary pressures from its components, with the exception of housing, have receded. Slowing inflation in most components and a stronger dinar against major currencies (excluding the US dollar), are expected to limit any further gains in headline inflation. Subsequently, annual consumer price inflation is forecast to average close to 3.5% in 2015.

Inflation in food prices jumped from 4.1% y/y in July to 5.6% y/y in August, though global food prices continued to decline. Local food inflation was driven higher by sharp increases in fish prices. Fish and seafood prices rose by 20% y/y in August, up from a rise of 14.5% y/y in July. However, inflation in this segment is expected to slow in the near-term after a local boycott was organized against the exuberant price hikes, forcing prices down. With international food prices still declining, upward pressures on local food inflation will be limited over the coming months. According to the Commodity Research Bureau global commodity index, international food prices were down by around 15% y/y in August.

Housing services

Inflation in housing services has been an important source of inflationary pressure over the last 12 months, though we expect that pressure to ease. The housing component rose to a six-year high of 6.5%y/y in June. However, after witnessing strong gains in 4Q14 and in 1Q15, housing inflation, which is mostly comprised of rents, is expected to ease in the coming months.

Inflation in clothing & footwear, and furnishings & household maintenance continued to trend lower in August. Clothing & footwear inflation fell further in August, declining by 1.8% y/y. Inflation in this component is witnessing a large correction, following a high base around the

NBK's Economic Report

CPI basket (%)	Month-o	n-month	Year	-on-year	Annual	average
	Jul-15	Aug-15	Jul-15	Aug-15	2013	2014
Food & beverages	0.5	1.8	4.1	5.6	4.0	2.9
Tobacco & cigarettes	0.3	0.1	1.5	1.5	7.1	7.8
Clothing & footwear	-0.4	-0.4	-1.5	-1.8	-0.1	2.2
Housing services*	0.0	0.0	6.5	6.5	3.8	4.4
Furnishings & household	0.1	-0.2	4.2	3.8	3.2	4.8
Healthcare	0.1	0.1	2.2	1.7	1.2	-0.6
Transportation	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.4	1.3	1.5
Communication	0.1	0.1	0.5	0.6	0.0	-0.8
Recreation & culture	-0.1	-0.4	-0.8	-0.9	1.9	0.9
Education	0.0	0.0	4.4	4.4	0.8	4.7
Restaurants & hotels	0.0	0.0	6.9	6.9	0.5	3.1
Other goods & services	-0.3	-0.2	2.0	1.7	2.3	-0.7
Core**	0.0	-0.1	3.5	3.4	2.3	2.9
General index	0.1	0.3	3.6	3.8	2.7	2.9

Source: Central Statistical Bureau

Updated once every quarter

Excludes food and beverages

same period last year. Another factor contributing to the downward trend is the stronger dinar (most goods in this component are imported). Inflation in furnishings & household maintenance also eased, slowing from 4.2% y/y in July to 3.8% y/y in August.

Inflation in the 'other goods & services' segment maintained its downward trend in August. Inflation in this segment, which includes prices of personal care products and jewelry and certain business charges, is currently seeing some downward correction. The slowdown can also be attributed to the stronger dinar, since most of the items in this segment are imported.

Hike in seafood

Wholesale price inflation has been rather steady since the beginning of 2015, amid stable

manufacturing costs and slowing mining & quarrying inflation. The most recent data on wholesale price inflation showed a slight easing to 3.4% y/y in June on moderating pressures from the manufacturing, and mining & quarrying components. Some of this was offset by upward price pressures in agriculture, livestock & fishing inflation during the summer months. There was a jump in the latter attributable mainly to hikes in fish & seafood prices. Here again, price rises are expected to ease following the boycott organized in August against high fish prices. We expect inflation in the agricultural component to soften over the coming months. Easing wholesale price inflation is a further reassurance that inflation in the consumer price index is poised to remain in check and average close to our 3.5% in 2015.



CHINA'S RICHEST MAN 'DOUBLED FORTUNE IN 12 **MONTHS': FORBES**

BEIJING: China's richest man saw his fortune balloon by nearly \$17 billion-a sum larger than the GDP of Iceland-in the past year, business magazine Forbes said yesterday. Wang Jianlin, founder of real estate and entertainment conglomerate Wanda Group, saw his wealth rocket from \$13.2 billion to \$30 billion in the publisher's 2015 China Rich List.

The windfall, which came despite sluggish growth in the world's second-largest economy, was driven by the flotations of two of his company's subsidiaries-even though he lost \$3.6 billion in a single day during China's market turmoil this summer. "It's good to have money," Wang said in a brief appearance at the announcement of the ranking.

At his average rate of accumulation last year he would have become more than \$200,000 wealthier during his seven minutes on the stage. The son of a Red Army captain, Wang was himself a soldier before he founded Wanda in the 1980s, building it up with military discipline. Its website says it is Asia's largest private property owner. Now 61, he is the 15th richest man on the planet according to Forbes' real-time billionaires ranking.

"To unabashedly go out and make money, then fairly and equitably distribute that wealth-this is what rich people should do," Wang said. Wang has sought to play down overseas media speculation on the link between his success and government ties, which in China can be crucial to seal land deals with local authorities.

He said yesterday that market forces and creative abilities were crucial to building major businesses in China, rather than personal connections. "If you've made money, it's definitely because you have skills; I believe that the majority of people who've made money did so through normal channels," he said. "The majority of people with money, especially extraordinarily rich people, are good people."

'New opportunities'

Wang is known outside China for a string of overseas acquisitions including the organiser of Ironman extreme endurance contests, Swiss sports marketing group Infront, and a stake in Spanish football club Atletico Madrid. He burst into the international spotlight in 2012 by buying US cinema chain AMC Entertainment for \$2.6 billion and his company owns more than 200 malls, shopping complexes and luxury hotels across China. Wang leapt from fourth to first in the Forbes list, one of several charting China's most affluent people. He unseated Jack Ma, founder of tech giant Alibaba, who dropped to second place on \$21.8 billion as his firm's share price slumped in New York. The 100 richest people in China were worth \$450 billion, Forbes said, up nearly 20 percent in a year-far faster than current GDP growth of 6.9 percent and despite a rout on Chinese stock markets. Six out of ten of China's richest were in the technology sector, including Ma Huateng of Internet titan Tencent (third), Lei Jun of Xiaomi (fourth), and Robin Li of Chinese search engine Baidu, who slipped four spots this year from second to sixth.

"China's economy is going through a period of structural change," said Forbes senior editor and list compiler Russell Flannery, adding that the richest had found "new opportunities tied to that transition". — AFP

FUEL-STRAPPED NEPAL SENDS TEAM TO CHINA TO EASE SUPPLY

KATHMANDU: Nepali officials left for China yesterday to negotiate a fuel deal and ease crippling shortages after protests over a new constitution blocked imports from its sole supplier India, a minister said. Scores of trucks have been stranded at a key Indiasupplies and forcing fuel rationing across the landlocked

The shortages led to overnight queues at gas stations in Kathmandu and prompted the state-run oil company to ask foreign firms to airlift supplies into the country as it struggles to recover from a devastating earthquake earlier this year.

"An eight-member team left today for China to discuss importing petroleum products and end the current fuel crisis," Ganesh Man Pun, Minister for Commerce and Supplies, told AFP.

India has had a monopoly on Nepal's fuel supplies for decades but tensions over the blockade have prompted Kathmandu to turn to New Delhi's rival Beijing, which has already agreed to donate 1.3 million litres of petrol to the country. It is unclear whether China has donated fuel to Nepal in the past, but officials

say the two countries have never commercially traded oil or gas. "In the long run, we hope we can source some of our petroleum needs from China," Pun said.

Kathmandu is exploring the possibility of transporting fuel via this month after suffering damage in the earthquake that hit Nepal in April. Nepal has traditionally relied on its border crossings with India, with the flat plains easing the transport of imports and exports, avoiding the mountainous terrain of the northern

Dissatisfaction with constitution

Hundreds of protesters have blocked a bridge crossing in the town of Birgunj, 90 kilometres (55 miles) south of Kathmandu since September 24, while movement of cargo at other checkpoints along the Indian border has also slowed down.

Kathmandu has accused New Delhi of backing the protesters and imposing an "unofficial blockade" to register its dissatisfaction with the new constitution. New Delhi has denied the claims and has urged dialogue with protesters, who belong to the Madhesi ethnic minority and have close cultural, linguistic and family ties to Indians living across the border.

The constitution, the first drawn up by elected representatives, s meant to cement peace and bo a democratic republic after decades of political instability and a 10-year Maoist insurgency. But it has instead sparked deadly violence, with more than 40 people killed in clashes between police and ethnic minority protesters, who say a new federal structure laid out in the charter adopted last month will leave them underrepresented in parliament.

Work on the constitution began in 2008 after Maoist rebels laid down arms and entered politics, winning parliamentary elections and abolishing a 240-year-old monarchy. But power-sharing squabbles between parties stymied progress.

Lawmakers finally reached agreement in June, spurred by the massive earthquake two months earlier that killed nearly 8,900 people and left more than half a million people home-

WTO: TRADE DEAL COULD **BOOST GLOBAL EXPORTS**

GENEVA: Full implementation of the world trade accord reached two years ago could increase global merchandise exports by up to \$1 trillion annually, according to a new World Trade Organisation report published yester-

The World Trade Report offers the first estimates of the consequences of the December 2013 accord concluded at the WTO conference in Bali, noting in particular that emerging economies would capture more than half the gains. The report "provides new evidence of the significant boost that the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) will provide by expanding world trade, reducing costs and helping developed and least-developed countries to integrate into an increasingly globilised



GENEVA: Roberto Azevedo, Director General of the World Trade Organization WTO, of Brazil, speaks to the media about the WTO's World Trade Report 2015 during a news conference at the World Trade Organization headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, yesterday. — AP

production system," said WTO directorgeneral Roberto Azevedo.

"The world is more connected than ever before. More and more developing countries are seeking to join global trade networks," he added in a statement, stressing the need for quick implementation

The WTO's landmark TFA deal on overhauling global customs procedures was the first multilateral agreement concluded by the organisation since it was founded in 1995.

The measures however will only take effect when ratified by the parliaments in two thirds of the 161 member-states. To date only 50 countries have done so. It has been held up in part due to disagreements on the trade of agricultural goods and industrial goods, pitting bigger economies against smaller ones.

But without a deal, major barriers to trade remain. "Outdated and uncoordinated customs processes slow down the movement of good and raise costs to prohibitive levels," Azevedo said. The TFA would transform global trade, he added. "It is global trade's equivalent to the shift from dial-up Internet access to broadband-and it will have a similar impact." That impact for developing countries could be an increase in exports of between \$170 billion and \$730 billion annually; for developed countries the estimate is an increase of between \$310 billion and \$580 billion. A previous report on the impact of TFA was done by the economic research Peterson Institute in Washington.

It had also estimated that the fully implemented accord would boost global trade by as much as \$1 trillion, and would recreate 21 million jobs, 18 million of which would be in developing countries. — AFP

US NEW-HOME SALES TUMBLE TO 1-YEAR LOW

States tumbled to a 10-month low in September, stirring concerns about the economy, but analysts said the overall housing market continues to grow

The Commerce Department reported yesterday that sales of new single-family houses fell to an annual rate of 468,000 last month, compared to 529,000 in August.

It was the lowest reading since November 2014. But the often volatile report came after two months of gains, and the pace of sales was still up 2.0 percent from a year ago.

In another sign of strength, the median sales price of new houses rose 2.4 percent in the month, to \$296,900. "While disappointing, the September numbers are not indicative of a downturn," said Andres Carbacho-Burgos of Moody's Analytics.

"The three-month average of new home sales in September was down less than a percent from the prior month and is nearly 14 percent higher than the three-month trend in September 2014," said Kristin Reynolds at IHS Global Insight.

Housing has been a key growth sector and generator of new jobs, and is watched closely for weakness. Ultra-low interest rates and falling unemployment have supported strong sales.

New-home sales fell in all four regions of the country last month, with by far the largest drag in the chronically underperforming Northeast, where sales plunged almost 62 percent.

Slower new home sales contrasted with activity in the market for existing homes-the majority of the housing market. Sales soared last month to an annual rate of 5.55 million units, the National Association of Realtors reported last week.

Economists noted that the new-home sales data is highly volatile and subject to significant revisions. Ian Shepherdson of Pantheon Macroneconomics called the new-home sales report "the single least-reliable monthly economic

"This report appears utterly baffling given the

WASHINGTON: New-home sales in the United strength of the NAHB homebuilder index, now at a decade-high," he said. Last week the National Association of Home Builders predicted the housing market would remain "on a gradual upward trend in 2016." The NAHB forecast an 11 percent rise in single-family housing starts this year from 2014, and a jump of 27 percent in 2016. — AFP



FRAMINGHAM: In this May 8, 2014 photo, a sign announces a residential home sale pending in Framingham, Mass. Fewer Americans signed contracts to buy homes in August 2015, the National Association of Realtors said Monday, Sept. 28, 2015, as pending sales slumped amid broader concerns about the US stock market and global economy. — AP



ETIHAD AIRWAYS WINS GERMAN COURT INJUNCTION TO CODESHARE FLIGHTS WITH AIRBERLIN

ABU DHABI: Etihad Airways, the National Airline of the United Arab Emirates, today welcomed the ruling by the Administrative Court of Braunschweig allowing it to continue operating all its codeshare flights with airberlin to destinations in Europe, the US and the UAE.

The injunction, which is valid until 8 November, provides an opportunity for the parties to resolve outstanding differences through ongoing consultation between the Governments of the United Arab Emirates and the Federal Republic of Germany. Etihad Airways as well as airberlin will continue to honour all flights and passenger travel arrangements will remain entirely unaffected.

Etihad Airways applied for the injunction to help protect the German carrier's 8,000 employees and provide the passengers who have booked more than 82,000 journeys with clarity and confidence.

The airline was forced to launch this legal action as Germany's Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure had still not approved Etihad Airways codesharing on the airberlin services during the IATA Winter 2015/2016 schedule, which begins in just two days' time on 25 October 2015.

Etihad Airways President and Chief Executive Officer, James Hogan, said: "The failure by the German Government to approve the codeshares in time, would severely, and possibly terminally, damage airberlin, Germany's second-largest airline, of which Etihad Airways owns 29.2 per cent. The codeshare routes in question, including flights to our hub in Abu Dhabi, were among 65 previously approved by Germany's civil aviation authority, the LBA, and a key reason that we invested in airberlin.

"Since 2012, our codeshare partnership has enabled more than two million passengers to connect between the networks of both airlines, and contributed 252 million euros to airberlin's earnings. Etihad Airways has delivered 1,365,487 passengers to airberlin, while airberlin connected 645,157 passengers onto flights operated by Etihad Airways."

Connectivity will be lost

Since 2012, the LBA and the Ministry of Transport have approved seven Etihad Airways schedules, including all of the codeshares with airberlin, on the basis of the Air Services Agreement signed by the UAE and Germany in March 1994 and the Agreed Minutes and Revised Route Schedule signed in June 2000. A dispute arose in August 2014 because of a unilateral change of opinion by the Ministry of Transport, concerning the codeshare provisions of those bilateral agreements.

Hogan said: "In addition to the damage it would cause to airberlin, the withdrawal of approval for codeshare services on 29 routes would critically reduce consumer choice within and beyond Germany, and cause massive inconvenience to passengers, including during the peak Christmas and New Year travel periods. More than 82,000 journeys have been booked on these flights during the next six months.

"The social and economic damage to Germany by this decision would be even greater. By suddenly disallowing established and legitimate codeshare flights, the Government will endanger the jobs of 8,000 people directly employed by airberlin, and many more jobs provided by the airline's suppliers and business partners in affected destinations." Hogan said Germany's economic links to many countries would also be seriously damaged if Etihad Airways was forced to end the codeshare agreements with airberlin. "Connectivity will be lost or diminished to a range of destinations throughout the Middle East, Indian sub-continent, Asia and Australia, as these codeshare flights are directly linked to Etihad Airways' services beyond Abu Dhabi," Hogan said.

"Business people, tourists and families travelling between these destinations and Germany will be faced with less choice and higher costs," he said.

OOREDOO KUWAIT EMBRACES THE FUTURE AT GSMA

FREE MOBILE DATA WHEN using WhatsApp and Skype

US BOOST TRADE WITH CUBA

ign entities, as the US company Gen of the Cuban chemical industry to the

\$2,283,456 USD.

KUWAIT: Ooredoo Kuwait sent a high-level delegation to attend the GSM Association's Mobile 360 Middle East conference in Dubai last week. Ooredoo Kuwait is part of the international Ooredoo Group, which was the platinum sponsor of the confer-

Ooredoo's delegation met global players in the information and telecommunications sector, including Chinese networking giant Huawei, with the aim of identifying new technologies and offers to bring to Kuwait. Hani El-Kukhun, chief operating officer



at Ooredoo Kuwait said: "Market penetration in Kuwait is at an all-time high, so the key here is how we can offer greater value especially in data services and content. In this, the challenge is whether to join the OTTs or fight them. Our strategy is to embrace them fully."

Ooredoo Kuwait recently began providing its domestic customers with free mobile data when using apps like WhatsApp and Skype on its pre-paid

ne US Government strengthened

the economic, trade and financial

blockade of Cuba in 2015, a policy

that contributed to deteriorate the

Caribbean island's economy and wors-

ened the shortage the population is

Tech Scientific, which refused to sale

chromatographs of Agilent 5975C gas,

used for research and diagnosis in the

biochemistry, pharmaceutics and med-

ical areas, putting forward a prohibition

of sales ordered by the US State

after the decision of reestablishing the

relations between the United States

and Cuba was announced on December

17. said a draft resolution entitled

"Need to Put an End to the Economic,

Trade and Financial blockade of Cuba

Imposed by the United States of

America," to be presented at the United

On March 12, 2015, the German bank

Commerzbank agreed, with the

Treasury and Justice Departments, the

Federal Reserve, the New York State

Department of Financial Services, the

Attorney's Office for the Southern

District of New York and the Manhattan

District Attorney's Office, to pay a fine

measure was adopted, Due to violations

of the regulations against Iran, Sudan,

of Foreign Assets Control, between

September, 2005 and December, 2007,

According the US authorities, such

According to the report by the Office

of millions of US dollars.

Myanmar and Cuba.

This answer was given three days

The damage reach Cuban and for-

going through.

Department.

Xpress SIM packages - and most recently with its new iPhone 6s and iPhone 6s Plus plans. This is helping Ooredoo Kuwait win new subscribers and encouraging them to use more of its services.

High-speed network

Ooredoo Kuwait has the most modern data infrastructure in the country which provides adds to the customer experience and creates a clear differentiation.

"With our high-speed LTE network infrastructure, we're able to demonstrate a clear difference in the data network which is one of the major demands of customers," said Kukhun. "Typically they evaluate your data offers and connectivity before they look at call packages as people spend more time using data than making calls."

The GSMA Mobile 360 Series are one- to two-day conferences held around the globe, with a specific focus on regional issues or current industry topics. Senior executives in mobile and adjacent industries, as well as members in regulatory and government agencies have the opportunity to learn and discuss industry developments and network with peers specifically related to their region of the world.

Commerzbank processed 56 transac-

tions related to Cuba, with a value of

On June 1, 2015, the US Sigma-

Aldrich Corporation, one of the world

leaders in chemical and biochemical

products, refused to supply essential

chemical products for the development

Sigma-Aldrich put forward that it

cannot provide products, services or

technical information, because Cuba

was a country under sanctions, to which

they cannot export, re-export, sell or

supply goods, technology or services

directly or indirectly from the United

States or by any people from that coun-

Boiler Company, LLC, specializing in

manufacturing pressurized containers,

refused to supply to the Cuban compa-

nv Quimimpex the necessary cylinders

to bottle the chloride used to make

water drinkable for the aqueduct sys-

tem. The entity said that it was not

before the historic announcement on

December 17, President Barack Obama

1917 Trading with the Enemy Act, on

which the laws and regulations that

compose the blockade of Cuba are

based, citing foreign-policy interests.

The blockade continues to be an absurd policy and morally unsustainable and as

the US president recognized, did not

serve the purpose of crushing the

Such action was taken under the

renewed the sanctions against Cuba.

On September 5, 2014, three months

allowed to send products to Cuba.

On June 2, 2015, US Columbiana

try, regardless of his/her location.

Cuban company Quimimpex.



LG SHOWCASES ADVANCED HVAC solutions in Kuwait

KUWAIT: LG Electronics Gulf FZE in association with Al -Babtain Air conditioning & refrig. Company, held a technical seminar in Kuwait. The seminar had been attended by many stakeholders including ministries engineers and department heads, leading consultants, architects, property developers and MEP contractors.

At the event, LG Electronics, one of the leading heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) brands in the region, showcased the prowess of the Multi V IV air conditioner. The core of the Multi V IV is a superior combination of advanced inverter compressor technology and ease of maintenance. LG's world-leading system is the result of 10 years' worth of industry experience and tireless work. It is 30 percent more energy efficient than conventional air conditioning products and boasts an impressively high energy efficiency ratio (EER) of 4.78 and 1.2 Kw/TR at actual Kuwait condition (48 degree C) approved by MEW (Ministry of Electricity and Water).

Speaking at the event, Kang, Director, HVAC MEA, LG Electronics Inc. said "The Middle East region has established a strong understanding of the importance of using and developing environment friendly products. This has led to an influx in demand for LG's Multi V, variable refrigerant flow (VRF) product solutions that are energy efficient and eco-friendly. The Multi V IV is packed with several advanced green and energy efficient technology like HiPORTM, an advanced inverter, an active refrigerant control, a fourthgeneration Inverter Compressor, smartphone Monitoring and expanded Piping Capabilities.

Stong business impact

Being a global responsible company towards sustainability we are shifting to inverter technology in Ducted, ductless and single package units. Ghassan Al Loughani, GM at Al Babtain Air Conditioning & Refrigeration declared on his

speech: We are proud to showcase LG's world class HVAC solution today in Kuwait and we are curtained that it will create a strong business impact in the community." These machines will help the local authorities like MEW, KISR and KFAS in achieving their vision to reduce the burden on the Power plants as mentioned in the recent White Paper on "National Roadmap on Air



conditioning systems". We are glad to inform you that our Multi V IV and single package units are MEW approved and supported with a strong list of ongoing and completed project references.

HiPORTM (High Pressure Oil Return)

HiPORTM is an industry leading technology that reduces compressor energy wastage. The HiPORTM returns oil directly into the compressor, thereby resolving a significant and fundamental HVAC inefficiency.

Fast Heating and Cooling via Advanced Inverter

Thanks to a high performance cycle design, the Multi V IV is able to run both of its advanced inverter compressors simultaneously, resulting in significantly faster heating and cooling. Conventional two compressor models are unable to provide simultaneous operation, taking far longer to reach maximum capacity.

Active Refrigerant Control

LG's Active Refrigerant Control automatically regulates the amount of refrigerant circulating each cycle. Able to increase the flow of refrigerant incrementally, this precise, five-step system leads to a considerable improvement in energy

FLYDUBAI TO ASMARA FLIGHTS COMMENCE



Fourth-generation Inverter Compressor

The Multi V IV is equipped with two worldclass inverter compressors, boasting the widest operational range (15~150Hz) in the world. Due to this expanded range, LG's advanced solution is able to minimize energy loss generated during part load operation. Also, the Multi V IV can produce an exceptionally large volume of cool (or warm) air in a short period of time, delivering immediate comfort to a building's occupants.

Smartphone Monitoring and Control

The Smartphone Monitoring and Control function provides users with convenient management options, enabling them to remotely control the Multi V IV via Mobile LGMV's Bluetooth module or the LG SAC Control smartphone application.

Expanded Piping Capabilities

With outstanding installation flexibility, the Multi V IV is much easier for designers to incorporate into large, multi-level buildings. This solution supports piping up to an industry best 1,000m in length, with a maximum height differential of 110m between ODU and IDU, and a maximum distance of 40m between each IDU. As such, the Multi V IV is easier to install in highrise office and apartment buildings.

ETIHAD AIRWAYS ENGINEERING NAMED MRO SERVICE PROVIDER OF THE YEAR

Cuban people's.

ABU DHABI: Etihad Airways Engineering has been named MRO Service Provider of the Year - Middle East at the Aviation Business Awards 2015.

The event, organised by ITP Publishing, celebrates achievements within the Middle East aviation industry. The winners were announced during a gala reception in Dubai last night.

An independent panel of judges recognised Etihad Airways Engineering on the basis of its achievements over the last year, and the consistently high standards of Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) services provided to Etihad Airways, its Equity Partners and third party customers from around the

Jeff Wilkinson, Senior Vice President Technical, Etihad Airways, said: "Etihad Airways Engineering has committed itself to doing everything right the first time, every time. This coveted industry award is acknowledgment of this commitment, and also of the dedication of our multinational team, who hail from over 50 nations, to customer satisfaction and excellence."



(From left to right): Jeff Wilkinson, Senior Vice President Technical, Etihad Airways, receiving the 'MRO Service Provider of the Year - Middle East' award for Etihad Airways Engineering at the Aviation Business Awards 2015 from Captain W. Patrick Gordon MAS, **Acting President and Chief Executive** Officer, Royal Jet.

KUWAIT: flydubai's inaugural flight has landed in the capital city of Eritrea, Asmara. As it landed at Asmara International Airport, senior Eritrean officials including Tesfaslassie Berhane, Minister of Transportation and Communication, Askalu Menkorios, Minister of Tourism and Paulos Kahsai, Director General Civil Aviation Authority welcomed the flydubai delegation led by Sudhir Sreedharan, Senior Vice President, Commercial (GCC, Subcontinent, Africa) and members of the airline's senior management team. Ghaith Al Ghaith, flydubai's Chief Executive

Officer said, "The addition of Asmara to our network reflects our commitment to enhancing air connectivity to Dubai which includes 67 points that did not previously have direct air links to Dubai or were underserved. The Eritrean capital becomes our 13th destination in East Africa." Asmara is the 18th destination flydubai launched this year and the airline has recently launched operations to Burundi, Rwanda, Somaliland, Tanzania and Uganda. Sudhir Sreedharan Senior Vice President,

Commercial (GCC, Subcontinent, Africa), flydubai said: "With the addition of four flights a week to Asmara, we are providing passengers from East Africa with a direct link to Dubai. When passengers choose flydubai they will enjoy our convenient, reliable and affordable travel services, our onboard experience and our dedicated Business Class."

Business Class passengers can enjoy a comfortable spacious seat, a choice of meals from an internationally-inspired menu, a generous checked baggage allowance and fast track through immigration and security. In addition, Business Class passengers have access to business lounges across the network and a



The flydubai delegation led by Sudhir Sreedharan disembarks in Asmara.

dedicated 24-hour Business team to assist with bookings and attend to enquires throughout their journey.

Passengers travelling in Economy Class can enjoy the inflight entertainment system equipped with more than 1,300 hours of content, including movies, games and newspapers. The Boeing Sky Interior minimises jetlag and increases overhead locker space to ensure the best possible onboard experience.

Economy Class passengers have access to a variety of hot and cold meals available for purchase on board and on a pre-order basis.

Flight details

flights between Dubai and Asmara commenced on 25 October 2015 with 4 flights a week, with flight FZ665/666 operating on Monday, Thursday, Friday and Sunday.

VIRTUAL CURRENCY GROUPS FORM ALLIANCE WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT

WASHINGTON: The Obama administration is joining with private companies in a partnership aimed at training enforcement officials about the virtual currency Bitcoin and fighting crime arising from its use.

The goals of the partnership, called the Blockchain Alliance, include educating investigators on the ins and outs of how the technology works and enhancing the reputation of a digital currency that's been associated with high-profile crime even as it has slowly gained mainstream acceptance and legitimacy. Its members hope to change the public perception of virtual currency and deter criminals from using it to their advan-

The alliance announced Thursday includes the Departments of Justice and Homeland Security and representatives of private companies such as BitFury, BitPay and CoinBase that are involved in virtual currency.

The name comes from the term "blockchain," which refers to the digital ledger on which Bitcoin transactions are

Supporters see Bitcoin, a decentralized form of money that offers users a degree of privacy for their transactions, as a fast and easy payment system that is gaining legitimacy among regulators and businesses. New York state regulators last month approved their first license for a company dealing in virtual Overstock.com this year installed a bitcoin ATM at its corporate headquarters in Salt Lake City.

But Bitcoin's reputation has nonetheless suffered as criminals have exploited it for Ponzi schemes and as the primary currency for Silk Road, the Internet drug bazaar whose founder was sentenced to life in prison this year. Two agents from the Secret Service and Drug Enforcement Administration who were assigned to a Silk Road task force pleaded guilty this year to pocketing Bitcoin proceeds during the course of their investigation.

"Far too many people think of Bitcoin as the currency of criminals," said Jason

currency, and online retailer Weinstein, the alliance's director and a former Justice Department deputy assistant attorney general.

"We think that changing that misperception, that image problem, will be good for the growth of the industry as a whole," added Weinstein, a partner at the Steptoe and Johnson law firm.

He said he envisioned the alliance as a "one-stop shopping resource" for law enforcement, with training sessions and conference calls to answer questions about Bitcoin. Industry participation is intended to signal a commitment to helping law enforcement weed out criminal activity associated with the cur-

"The more law enforcement under-

stands how this technology works, the more they can understand what they can ask for, how they can ask for it," said Jerry Brito, executive director of Coin Center, a Bitcoin advocacy group and participant in the alliance.

He said the public perception of the virtual currency is reminiscent of the Internet's early days, when many saw the World Wide Web as a hub for illegal activity. Just as that association has changed over time, so too might the perception of Bitcoin, he said.

"We should get to a point where we don't think badly of Bitcoin because criminals use Bitcoin," and part of the way to get there is to draw attention to its legitimate uses, he added.



CINCINNATI: In this Wednesday, Oct 14, 2015, file photo, FBI Director James Comey speaks to the media during a news conference at the FBI offices in Cincinnati. Three federal cyberstalking cases that surfaced within a few days of each other in the Cincinnati area have underscored widening challenges in protecting susceptible youths from wily predators. The three men charged all were linked to multiple girls or young women they are accused of pressuring into providing sexually explicit images and threatening with vengeful acts. —AP

GOOGLE OPENS ALPHABET ERA

SAN FRANCISCO: Google received an "A" from investors for its third-quarter report that ushered the Internet search leader into a new era under Alphabet, its recently formed parent company. The numbers released indicated that Google is making significant strides in the increasingly important mobiledevice market, with its earnings surging 45 percent to nearly \$4 billion, or \$5.73 per

Ruth Porat, Alphabet's chief financial officer, cited improvements in mobile search and more mobile traffic on Google's YouTube video site as keys to the quarter. Alphabet, which replaced Google as a publicly traded stock earlier this month, won extra credit by announcing plans to spend nearly \$5.1 billion buying its own shares over an unspecified period. Buying back stock is something Google never did in its 11-year history as a publicly traded company.

The third-quarter gains also reflected the financial discipline that has been imposed by Porat, who made it clear she intended to curb spending shortly after joining Google in May. Google's operating expenses in the third quarter rose at slightly slower pace than net revenue, helping to fatten profit

Google's revenue for the three months ending in September totaled \$18.7 billion. After subtracting ad commissions, revenue totaled \$15.1 billion, a 15 percent increase from last year. Both the third-quarter earnings and revenue topped the analysts' projections that steer investors' expectations.

Alphabet's Class C stock soared \$62.86, or 9 percent, to \$744. If the shares hit that level in Friday's regular session, it will be a new high for the stock. The report covered a three-month period ending marked Google's final quarter as a public company. Google now is a subsidiary of Alphabet, which was created to oversee the hodgepodge of businesses that have been launched with the tens of billions of dollars that Google has made as the Internet's dominant search engine.

Investing in start-ups

In January, Alphabet will report Google's financial numbers separately from a group of peripheral businesses that experiment with self-driving cars, invest in startups, make Internet-connected thermostats and search for cures to health problems.

That breakdown is expected to reveal how much money Google would have been making in recent years if it hadn't been diverting billions of dollars to finance risky projects that Alphabet CEO Larry Page calls "moon shots."

Page, Google's co-founder, had been the company's CEO until Alphabet's birth. Google's new CEO, Sundar Pichai, assured analysts during a Thursday conference call that the company is "just beginning to scratch the service Our vision is for Google to remain a place of incredible creativity and innovation that uses a unique technical expertise to tackle big problems."

Google's profit margins have been squeezed by the shift to mobile devices from laptop and desktop computers during the past five years. The company was better prepared for the upheaval than most of its technology peers because it had the foresight to build and develop Android, a mobile operating system that features Google's search engine, maps, email and YouTube video site.

Even though Android is being used on 1.4 billion devices around the world, Google still has been hurt by the move to mobile. That's because advertisers haven't been as willing to pay as much for marketing messages shown on the smaller screens of smart-

The phenomenon is one reason that Google's average price for ads, a statistic known as "cost per click," has declined for four straight years. The third-quarter cost per click dropped another 11 percent from the same time last year.

But marketers are gradually paying more to connect with prospective customers on mobile devices as Google has come up with ways to fit more ads on screens and done a better job of demonstrating that the pitches translate into sales.

In the US, the average cost per click for ads shown after mobile searches climbed 18 percent, according to digital marketing consultants IgnitionOne. Google says average ad prices on mobile devices have been rising in the US but hasn't provided specific numbers. —AP

FREE HOUSING, OTHER EFFORTS TRY TO ATTRACT WOMEN TO TECH

'THERE'S INSPIRATION, THERE'S TECH SUPPORT'

SEATTLE: Free rent and groceries were selling points, but college freshman Aishwarya Mandyam was more excited about the chance to connect with like-minded women when she moved into the eightbedroom house offered up by a Seattle software startup.

"There's inspiration. There's tech support," said the computer science major who is interested in a career that combines medicine and tech-

Mandyam and seven other women are sharing a 3,100-square home, rent-free, blocks from the University of Washington. TUNE, a software startup that provides technology for marketers, is paying the rent for the house with the goal of creating a supportive community for UW women interested in computer science and technology.

It's the latest effort to get more women into the male-dominated industry. Women make up more than half of the nation's workforce, but they still play a small role in inventing technology, according to the National Center for Women and Information Technology.

Efforts like the TUNE-sponsored house and numerous other initiatives are trying to increase the number of women interested in the field. Organizations such as Girls Who Code, a national nonprofit, are introducing more high school girls to computer science. Women-only training programs such as Hackbright Academy in San Francisco and Ada Developers Academy in Seattle are also teaching women coding and other technical skills.

"There is definitely a momentum, but I would caution that it's not going to be solved immediately," said Elizabeth Ames, a senior vice president at the Palo Alto, California-based Anita Borg Institute. "There are some real challenges and it will take time."

While there's a lot of emphasis on increasing the pipeline, more work has to be done to address the barriers that women run into later in their careers, she added.

UW, which is not involved in TUNE's housing program, has been closing the gender gap in its computer science program. Last June, 31 percent of UW's computer science undergraduate degrees were awarded to women, more than twice the national average. Nationwide, just 14 percent of computer-science college graduates

were women in 2014, according to a Computing Research Association survey.

"There's no silver bullet. You have to do lots of little things all the time," said Ed Lazowska, UW professor of computer science and engineering. UW has introduced K-12 students and teachers to computer science through summer camps. A seminar explores the role of women in computer science, and about 40 percent of the school's teaching assistants are women.

Megan Hopp, a UW senior, said it was inspiring to see so many women - many with little or no coding experience - to become programmers. Michelle McCarthy, 35, worked in retail selling computers and electronics and had no coding experience before she enrolled in the yearlong program in May. Her class includes a former clinical psychologist, a flight attendant, a teacher and others hoping to make a career switch.

"There's a lot of focus on technology. It's a part of every field and there're not enough people doing the work," said McCarthy, who just landed a five-month internship

of school, Mandyam and her twin sister, Karishma, bonded with their new housemates over dinner and reunited with another freshman whom they had met at a girls coding camp.

Lilian Liang, a sophomore, described how stressful it was when she took the introductory computer science courses last year. While she found some women to talk to, she's looking forward to having a built-in network of mentors and women who share her interests in computer science.

TUNE's founders wanted to cre-



SEATTLE: In this Sept. 29, 2015, photo, Aishwarya Mandyam, left, and her twin sister, Karishma Mandyam, sit in the living room of the 3,100-square-foot home they share rent-free with six other female University of Washington computer science and technology students, in Seattle. Tune, a mobile marketing startup, is paying the rent for the house with the goal of creating a supportive community for UW women interested in computer science and technology. —AP

female teaching assistants when she took the intro courses. She's now a teaching assistant for an upper level course and makes a point to reach out to other female students to tell them to consider

She had not considered computer science because she thought it was too nerdy, but her older brother pestered her to take the introductory course. "I had that epiphany moment and realized how much I love it," she said.

At the Ada Developers Academy in downtown Seattle, a selective tuition-free program is teaching with Indigo Slate, a digital marketing agency.

Elena Donio, an angel investor in Ada and president of Concur Technologies, said it's important to recruit and support women at different stages, from high school to early- or mid-career to leadership positions. "You don't have to be an engineer coming out of school to be able to learn how to code," Donio said.

All of the 37 women who graduated from Ada have software development jobs, said executive director Cynthia Tee. At the TUNE-sponsored house during the first week ate a live and learn community because they benefited from living in an entrepreneur-specific dorm at Babson College, said Kristina Linova, manager of engineering growth.

Meredith Lampe, a junior who lives in the house, said she's heard of women in the field who experience feelings of isolation or feel like they're not part of the club. "You can give someone \$10,000 to pay for their tuition, but giving them a community of other girls who are likely experiencing the same thing and having that be another way to have them succeed." —AP

TALKTALK: CYBERATTACK DATA THEFT NOT AS BAD AS FEARED

TWITTER CEO GIVES UP \$200M IN STOCK

SAN FRANCISCO: After laying off more than 300 workers, Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey is trying to lift the spirits of the remaining employees by giving them 6.8 million shares of the stock he owns in the online messaging service.

Dorsey is giving up the stock, currently worth more than \$200 million, so Twitter can award the shares to its employees, according to documents filed Friday with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

The gesture comes a week after Dorsey laid off 8 percent of Twitter's workforce in an effort to make the company profitable for the first time in its nine-year history. The gift represents nearly one-third of the stock Dorsey owns in the San Francisco company.

"I'd rather have a smaller part of something big than a bigger part of something small," Dorsey tweeted about surrendering some of his stock. "I'm confident we can make Twitter big!" Twitter said Dorsey's shares will be earmarked for stock issued to employees next year under the company's incentive

Dorsey will still own 15 million Twitter shares worth about \$460 million, based on Twitter's current market value. Twitter's stock gained \$1.13, or nearly 4 percent, to close Friday at \$30.28.

The shares have declined by 40 percent in the past six months amid concerns about Twitter's slowing user growth and inability to make money. Twitter Inc. brought back Dorsey, one of its co-founders, as its CEO in hopes that he can figure out a way to make the messaging service more appealing beyond its core audience of about 300 million users. By comparison, Facebook's social networking service has 1.5 billion users, even though it is only two years older than Twitter.

Dorsey was Twitter's original CEO, but was ousted because the company's board didn't think he was the right leader at that time.

While he tries to re-tool Twitter, Dorsey is also serving as CEO of Square, a payment processor that is preparing to price an initial public offering of its stock.

Dorsey has given back nearly 15.1 million shares of Square stock during the past two years, too, according to Square's IPO documents. He remains by far Square's largest shareholder with a 24 percent stake in that San Francisco company, which is located a block away from Twitter's headquarters. —AP

LONDON: British telecoms company TalkTalk says a cyberattack feared to have put 4 million customers' details at risk is not as bad as initially thought. Chief executive Dido Harding said Saturday that attackers hacked the company's website but not its core systems, and "none of our customers' credit card information has been

She said some bank account details had been accessed, but not enough for thieves to steal money from customers' accounts.

TalkTalk has acknowledged that it realized it was under attack on Wednesday and has been criticized for not telling customers for more than

On Friday the firm said it had received a ransom note from the alleged hackers.

It is the third known cyberattack this year on Talk Talk, which provides mobile phone, Internet and pay-TV services.

TalkTalk, which is in the FTSE 250 mid-cap index rather than the blue-chip FTSE 100, extended the previous session's sharp losses and was down 12.3 percent, as it grappled with the effects of a cyber attack, first disclosed on Friday.

However, David Battersby, investment manager at Redmayne-Bentley, said he was looking to potentially buy TalkTalk shares, adding that in his opinion the market had overreacted.

He did not see a steep reduction in TalkTalk's customer base and said that recent price declines, along with its dividend yield of around 6 percent, had made the stock quite attractive.

The blue-chip FTSE 100 index ended 0.4 percent lower at 6,417.02 points, having risen 1.1 percent on Friday to its highest level in two

On the positive side, Aberdeen Asset Management rose 2.9 percent, the top gainer in the FTSE 100 index. The company denied press speculation it was looking for a buyer, but an earlier Financial Times report that it was courting suitors was enough to stoke bid hopes and push up its shares.

Analysts at RBC said Aberdeen was unlikely to look to sell after losing 25 percent of its stock market value since April.

"It is our belief that there is no sale process under way ... We would be surprised if Aberdeen sold from a position of weakness, which we believe it is currently in," analysts at RBC said in a note. The FTSE 100 is down around 2 percent since the start of 2015 and some 10 percent below a record high of 7,122.74 points reached in April. —Agencies



LONDON: In this file photo dated Oct. 3, 2014, Dido Harding, Chief Executive of telecommunications company TalkTalk. Phone and Internet service provider Talk Talk said Friday that private data from its 4 million British customers may have been compromised in a "significant and sus-

tained" cyberattack on its website. —AP

RUBBISH HAUL FOUND IN STOMACH OF DEAD WHALE IN TAIWAN

TAIPEI: Taiwanese marine biologists have discovered a mass of plastic bags and fishing net in the stomach of a dead whale, underlying the dangers posed by floating ocean trash. The 15-metre (49-foot) mature sperm whale was spotted stranded off the southern town of Tongshi on October 15. Coastguards and scientists returned it to the ocean but three days later it was found dead around 20 kilometers (12 miles) away. Marine biologists from a local university who conducted an autopsy over the weekend found a mass of plastic bags and fishing net sizeable enough to fill an excavator bucket.

Professor Wang Chien-ping, head of the

whale research centre at National Cheng-Kung University, said the garbage was probably a major factor in the death. Wang told AFP the whale could have suffered heart or lung disease and multiple infections. "But... the large amount of man-made garbage in the stomach could reduce its appetite and cause malnutrition. It was likely a critical cause of death." The Society of Wilderness said the case highlighted the growing threat from ocean trash. "We frequently heard of marine animals killed after swallowing lots of garbage, but this one was the biggest in size for many years," said He Chih-ying, spokeswoman for the conservation group. —AFP

MERS, EBOLA, BIRD FLU: SCIENCE'S BIG MISSED OPPORTUNITIES

LONDON: Anyone who goes down with flu in Europe this winter could be asked to enrol in a randomised clinical trial in which they will either be given a drug, which may or may not work, or standard advice to take bedrest and paracetamol. Those who agree could be helping the world prepare for the next potentially deadly disease pandemic as well as helping scientists who are now desperate to plug gaps in knowledge left by previous missed opportunities. Scientists are largely in the dark about how to stop or treat the slew of never-seenbefore global health problems of recent years, from the emergence of the deadly MERS virus in Saudi Arabia, to a new killer strain of bird flu in China and an unprecedented Ebola outbreak in West Africa.

They have been unable even to pin down where they came from. That is because vital studies to analyze transmission routes and test experimental drugs or vaccines have simply not been done during epidemics, disease experts say. It is a failure of science, they say, that should not be allowed to happen again.

"Research in all of the epidemics we have faced over the past decade has been woeful," said Jeremy Farrar, director of the Wellcome Trust global health foundation and an expert on infectious diseases. "The world is at risk because there are huge gaps in our knowledge base. "We don't now have a vaccine for SARS if it came back tomorrow; we don't know how to treat MERS; it took us six to nine months before we started clinical trials of vaccines for Ebola and in the meantime almost 12,000 people lost their lives; and during the H1N1 pandemic, the number of people randomized into clinical studies was very close to zero."

'Byzantine process'

Bureaucracy, logistics and lack of forethought are the heart of the problem, cording to Trudie Lang, professor of Global Health Research at Oxford University who has been working on ways to lower such barriers. During the Ebola outbreak that swept through Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, Lang's team, which specializes in planning and operating trials in vulnerable populations in difficult settings, was tasked with setting up a clinical study of a potential Ebola treatment called brincidofovir. "It normally takes 18 months to set up a trial, and we did it in 16 weeks," she told Reuters. "But the problem was we were still behind the curve."

In the 2009 H1N1 "swine flu" pandemic, when many governments had stockpiled antiviral drugs such as Roche's Tamiflu and GlaxoSmithKline's Relenza and doctors prescribed them, often as a preventative measure without a confirmed diagnosis, no proper randomized clinical trials were conducted to find out for sure whether they helped. This has left health officials with little or no concrete evidence on which to base treatment decisions when the next pandemic flu strain threatens the world.

"It is a huge pity we haven't made the most of our opportunity to generate evidence," said Chris Butler, a clinical professor at Cardiff University's Institute of Primary Care & Public Health, who is now working on the European-wide winter flu trial he hopes will help plug the evidence gap. There is little doubt that launching clinical trials in an outbreak is fraught with difficulty, partly because a new or rare strain of disease can infect so many and overwhelm health services

and partly because there are many bureaucratic hurdles.

Lang's team were awarded funds in September 2014 and by January 2015 were able to start the trial, but this coincided with a sharp drop in the number of patients with Ebola as the West Africa outbreak was beginning to plateau. Scientists point to vast amounts of form filling, box ticking, contract drafting, committee meeting and agreement signing that are involved in setting up a clinical trial.

"There's a huge industry around making triallists 'walk through treacle," said Butler. "There's a myriad of permissions needed. It's a Byzantine process... which can take months. "It gives me a headache just thinking about all the approvals" from ethics committees, sponsors, lawyers, research and development leaders and clinicians, he said. Legal agreements are needed between the suppliers of the product-the experimental drug, vaccine or other intervention-and the people running the trial, the funder and hospitals, clinics or health centers where patients will be recruited.

In an infectious disease outbreak scenario, particularly a fast-moving one like with flu or Ebola, these legal issues can be compounded by competition for access to patients. During the Ebola epidemic for example, Lang says, there were five or six different research groups seeking to set up and run clinical trials in the three most affected countries, each of which already had limited health systems that had been overwhelmed and crushed by the outbreak. "It was ludicrous," she told Reuters. "Because essentially we all had to fight over the same patients. It was like a land grab, and by that time the (new) cases were going down."

Thinking ahead

Part of the threat of any disease outbreak, be it Ebola in Africa, the 2003 outbreak of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) epidemic, Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) in Saudi Arabia or the new H7N9 bird flu in China, is the unknown. Yet Lang and others say there is nothing to say the sorts of clinical trials needed in an epidemic cannot largely be drawn up, agreed, signed and sealed ahead

"We need to have protocols ready to go, we need to have a task force of research staff in each region on standby to be deployed into the next outbreak trials," she said. Legal contracts, for instance, cover broadly the same things for any trial-data sharing and storage, patient confidentiality, informed consent, the timing and publication of results, and the pricing, production and availability of the product if and when it proves useful.

And in a rapidly moving outbreak which may be too swift and deadly to allow for months of organization, a coordinated approach would overcome the problem of having multiple research groups with not enough patients.

This would be both scientifically and ethically preferable, said Lang, since if a trial has to be stopped because it runs out of participants with the relevant disease, then everyone who has taken part until then has run a needless risk.

"The main issue is that this needs to be done in days rather than weeks or months," she said. "That basically means research has to be embedded in the immediate response to an outbreak, and not come as an afterthought."— Reuters

Patients, donors in 3-hospital kidney swap meet in Detroit

DETROIT: It was a donation chain linking three patients from three Michigan hospitals to three strangers willing to give them working kidneys. The surgery involved three people who wanted to give kidneys to loved ones but weren't matches for them. Instead, each was compatible to other patients through a pair kidney donation program. The donors were a husband who wanted to give a kidney to his wife at Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak; a friend who wanted to help her buddy at the University of Michigan Medical Center in Ann Arbor; and a daughter who wanted to help save her mother's life at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit.

The donors and patients met for the first time Thursday at Henry Ford Health System in Detroit. The meeting came three months after successful transplants July 22. Kim Yarbrough, 52,

of Detroit, praised her adult daughter, Markeshia Valentine, who donated her kidney as part of the program. "Without her, I couldn't even begin to get in the program," Yarbrough said. "And the individual who gave me the kidney is also my hero. And I just really, really feel so blessed." Valentine's kidney went to a woman at Beaumont Hospital, north of Detroit. Yarbrough received a kidney from a donor at the University of Michigan Medical Center.

A donor kidney from Beaumont was sent to Ann Arbor for a patient at the University of Michigan. "Paired kidney donation can shave months off the wait list for patients," said Dr Lauren Malinzak, transplant surgeon and paired donation program director at Henry Ford. "And with the crucial need for donor kidneys, it can provide lifesaving options." — AP





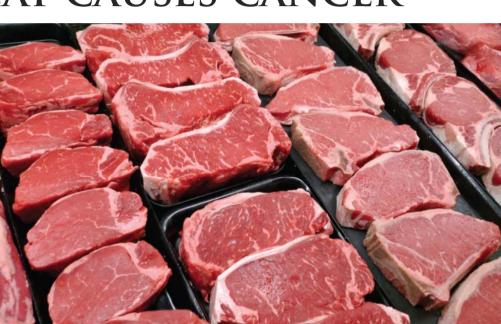
TAINAN, Taiwan: This handout photo taken on October 24, 2015 and released by the Marine Biology and Cetacean Research Center of National Cheng-Kung University yesterday shows a group of marine biologists conducting an autopsy on a dead sperm whale in the southern Taiwanese city of Tainan. —AFP

EATING SAUSAGES, HAM, 'PROBABLY' RED MEAT CAUSES CANCER

PARIS: Eating sausages, ham and other processed meats causes colon cancer, and red meat "probably" does too, a UN agency said yesterday in a potentially heavy blow for the global meat industry. The analysis of 800 studies from around the world by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) found "sufficient evidence in humans that the consumption of processed meat causes colorectal cancer." The category includes meat that has been salted, cured, fermented or smoked hot dogs, sausages, corned beef, dried meat like beef jerky or South African biltong, canned meat or meatbased sauces. The finding supports "recommendations to limit intake of meat"-particularly in processed forms, said the IARC.

"In view of the large number of people who consume processed meat, the global impact on cancer incidence is of public health importance," IARC official Kurt Straif said in a statement. For an individual, the risk of getting cancer from eating processed meat was statistically "small", the agency said, but "increases with the amount of meat consumed." "Each 50-gramme (1.8-ounce) portion of processed meat eaten daily increases the risk of colorectal cancer by 18 percent," it said in a statement. For unprocessed red meatbeef, veal, pork, lamb, mutton, horse or goat, the review found "strong" evidence of a cancer-causing effect, but not sufficient to place it in the same group of cancer-causing agents as tobacco smoke, asbestos, and now also processed meat. As for processed meat, the red meat risk was mainly for cancer of the colon and rectum, but also the pancreas and prostate, said the report. The agency cited research attributing about 34,000 cancer deaths per year worldwide to diets high in processed meat.

As for red meat-if the suspected link were to be confirmed-it would account for some 50,000 cancer deaths per year worldwide. The numbers were dwarfed by the estimated one million cancer deaths per year due to tobacco smoking,



MCLEAN, Virginia: In this Jan 18, 2010 file photo, steaks and other beef products are displayed for sale at a grocery store. — AP

600,000 from alcohol use, and more than 200,000 due to air pollution, said the agency.

'Tortured data'

Meat producers slammed the report, as independent experts urged caution in interpreting the numbers. The North American Meat Institute (NAMI) said the IARC "tortured the data to ensure a specific outcome". "Followers of the Mediterranean diet eat double the recommended amount of processed meats. People in countries where the Mediterranean diet is followed, like Spain, Italy and France, have some of the longest lifespans in the world and excellent health," said Betsy Booren, NAMI vice president of scientific affairs. British nutrition expert Elisabeth Lund said via the Science Media Centre: "Very few people in Europe

eat sufficient meat to fall into the high meat consumption category." "Meat is such a good source of iron and zinc and many women are short of these key micronutrients... Iron is much more... available from meat than from vegetables or supplements." According to Ian Johnson, a Britain-based nutrition researcher, "there is little or no evidence that vegetarians in the UK have a lower risk of bowel cancer than meat-eaters." The report of the IARC, based in Lyon, France, was compiled by 22 experts from 10 countries. Given that red meat is an important source of human nutrition, the results should help governments and regulatory agencies balance the risks and benefits of eating meat, it said. The agency made no finding on whether the method of cooking meat affects cancer risk. — AFP

FAMILY STUNTS DISABLED DAUGHTER'S GROWTH TO EXPAND HER WORLD

BALI, Indonesia: Charley Hooper is so disabled that her mother considers her "unabled." At 10, she cannot speak, walk or see anything beyond light and dark and perhaps the shadowy shape of a face held inches away. As she grew bigger, her parents feared she would eventually become too heavy to take anywhere. So Jenn and Mark Hooper came up with a radical solution. The New Zealand couple gave their daughter hormones to stop her growth. Then they had doctors remove her womb to spare her the pain of menstruation. Charley is now around 1.3 meters tall (4 foot 3) and 24 kilograms (53 pounds), and will remain so for the rest of her life. A small but increasing number of families across the US, Europe and New Zealand are turning to what is known as growth attenuation in an attempt to improve the lives of their disabled children.

The practice is highly controversial: Many see the very idea of stunting and sterilizing the disabled as a violation of human rights. But parents such as the Hoopers say it helps their children preserve their quality of life. "We haven't stopped her doing anything. Growing would have stopped her doing things," Jenn says. "We didn't take away any choices that weren't already taken from her." Back in the 1950s and 60s, growth attenuation - which refers only to the hormone treatment - was sometimes prescribed for girls who were expected to grow very tall. But the first known case of stunting a disabled child to ostensibly improve her life popped up in a medical journal in 2006. A Seattle couple wanted to keep their daughter, Ashley, small enough to participate in family activities as she grew up. So doctors gave her high doses of hormones that pushed her body into early puberty and stunted her growth, and removed her uterus and breast buds to prevent discomfort.

Not widely accepted

More and more doctors have since received requests for growth attenuation. In a recent survey of the Pediatric Endocrine Society, most of whose members are in the US, 32 of 284 respondents said they had prescribed growth-stunting hormones to at least one disabled child. But the practice is by no means widely accepted. Many doctors consider the treatment invasive and unnecessary, and refuse to prescribe it. The public, too, often reacts with everything from unease to revulsion. "People are really entitled to grow and to become the people they



BALI, Indonesia: Jenn, left, and Mark Hooper sit for a photo with their three children, from left, Cody, Zak and Charley. — AP photos

were meant to be," says Margaret Nygren, CEO of the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. "Would you ever want this kind of treatment done to you without your consent or knowledge? And if the answer is no, then why would one want to do that to someone else?"

Yet for Charley's parents, that question is moot, because they have never been able to ask for her consent on anything. They have always had to imagine what their daughter would want. Charley is a jumble of uncontrolled limbs with a floppy head that needs supporting. Her parents try to interpret what she feels by the pitch and volume of her moans, and whether her freckled face is relaxed or contorted in a gaping yawn because of intense muscle contractions. The warm sun on her skin can trigger a smile, but is it a sign of joy or a reflex?

Relax muscles

After reading about Ashley, they convinced Paul Hofman, a pediatric endocrinologist in Auckland, New Zealand, that stunting Charley would help her. But the local ethics board dismissed the treatment as unnecessary. So Jenn proposed a compromise: If she started the treatment outside New Zealand, could local doctors continue it at home? The board said yes. The family found a doctor in South Korea who gave them the hormones. Within days, they say, her seizures stopped and her stiff limbs became more pliable. Hofman says that may be because estrogen changes neurological activity and can relax muscles.

At 6, she began bleeding now and then in the way women sometimes do on birth control pills. Worried that she would have severe period pain like Jenn, the Hoopers discussed a hysterectomy. She would never be able to consent to sex, they reasoned, let alone to pregnancy. The ethics board approved it. Charley was 7 when doctors removed her uterus. It took nearly four years before she stopped growing. Today, Charley joins her family on trips to the mall and vacations to Bali. Her parents soothe her by cuddling her in their laps and carrying her in their arms. —AP

SOLAR PANELS EMPOWER INDIGENOUS PEOPLE IN CANADA'S NORTH

BEHCHOKO, Canada: Daniel T'seleie, an indigenous activist in Canada's far north, is campaigning to help his people wean themselves from a worrying dependence on imported fuel and food, recover old traditions and win greater autonomy from the government. In a region with nearly 24 hours of daylight in the summer, one way to help meet his goals seems obvious: more solar power. "Right now a lot of communities in the Northwest Territories are dependent on diesel-generated electricity, along with store-bought food," said T'seleie in an open air interview near Behchoko, a clutch of small wooden houses nestled along the shores of Great Slave Lake. Standing beside spindly jack pine trees growing from thin soil on the hard granite rock that covers much of northern Canada, T'seleie sees renewable energy as the force which could respond to the region's complex, intertwined challenges.

Canada's north is particularly vulnerable to global warming, which is making it harder for indigenous people to continue their traditions of hunting and trapping on the land, as ice sheets are melt and caribou herds collapse. And although indigenous people want what they call a "nation to nation" relationship with the Canadian government, they largely depend on it for diesel fuel in order to keep warm.

By harnessing renewable energy, T'seleie believes indigenous communities could gain more freedom from the state and revive ancient cultural practices, while doing their part to combat climate change which is hitting them particularly hard. "Any way that communities can produce energy at a local level produces independence," said the 34-year-old, sporting a baseball cap and jeans, the informal dress common in Canada's rugged north.

Solar surge

The Northwest Territories has seen a surge in the use of solar power over the last five years, after the

regional government spent about \$50 million to boost renewable energy production and improve efficiency, said Jim Sparling, the territory's senior climate change manager. "On a per capita basis, we are second only to Ontario (Canada's most populous province) for installed solar capacity," Sparling told the Thomson Reuters Foundation in the territorial capital Yellowknife. The huge and sparsely populated northern territory has fewer than 50,000 residents, about half of whom are indigenous, many from the Dene Nation, a tribal people who traditionally hunt caribou.

Solar power still represents a fairly small part of its energy consumption, though the level is rising, said Sparling. Private individuals and companies in the territory are also installing solar panels on their own to try and bring down their energy bills and cut dependence on imports, he said. That combination of rising use of renewable and better energy efficiency has allowed the province to hold its climate-changing emissions stable at 2005 levels despite a rise in the population and a growing economy, Sparling said. The territorial government plans to be part of a Canadian delegation going to Paris for a UN climate summit in December, aimed at reaching a new global agreement on climate change. Average temperatures in parts of the northern territory have already risen more than 3 degrees from pre-industrial levels, Sparling said. Scientists say average world temperatures should not rise more 2 degrees if the world is to avoid the worst disasters associated with global warming. "We have to scale up the ambition," Sparling said. "We are very vulnerable if this problem gets worse."

Switch over

North of the Arctic Circle, the village of Colville Lake, with fewer than 200 residents, is in the midst of a major switch from diesel power to solar. Last year, the mostly indigenous community faced weekly power outages. But after a new solar power system was setup, the area is now nearly self sufficient in electricity production during summer months when the sun shines almost round the clock. It still needs to import fuel for the winter, but officials believe the new investments will lead to a 30 percent drop in diesel consumption, helping the environment and saving money.Other small northern towns are looking to mimic the project to save cash and allow people to maintain traditional lifestyles by being less dependent on expensive imports. "In the last 10 to 15 years there has been a huge push from (indigenous) communities to try and support themselves," said Ashlee Cunsolo Willox, an indigenous studies professor at Cape Breton University and a researcher on climate change impacts. As global warming leads to the thinning of Arctic sea ice and changes in the habits of northern animals, the region's indigenous inhabitants are struggling to adapt their lifestyles while holding onto old traditions, she said.

The caribou population has collapsed in parts of the territory in a development experts link to climate change, and melting ice makes it harder for hunters to navigate the land in search of other animals to hunt. "The north is the fastest changing geography in the world," Cunsolo Willox said in a phone interview. "There is a lot of concern that traditional knowledge and skills will be lost with climate change."

Old traditions, new technologies

Building greater self sufficiency - including by adapting cleaner, cheaper energy - may be a strategy for holding onto the old ways, activists say. T'seleie, a law school graduate, said he previously tried to work through Canada's court system and treaty negotiations to win greater autonomy for his people, after what he considers years of colonial abuses. In the 1920s, Canadian colonial administrators declared the govern-

ment's aim was to "get rid of the Indian problem" by ending indigenous cultural practices, corralling the population into reserves and forcing aboriginal children into grim residential schools.

Canada's government signed treaties with many indigenous groups, often in return for political support during periods of conflict, granting them access to parts of the land they once controlled and other benefits. But many legal scholars and historians say the government did not honor those agreements in good faith. After becoming disillusioned with the legal process, T'seleie decided working towards greater self-sufficiency in food and energy was the best way forward. T'seleie is part of the first generation of indigenous people not forced to attend residential schools usually run by religious groups in other parts of Canada which took children from their parents, and forced them to speak English rather than native languages as a means of assimilation.

Sexual and physical abuse were rife at the institutions, the government now admits following years of litigation. Health experts and indigenous leaders believe the legacy from these schools - including that many parents never learned how to raise children, as they were taken from their own parents - partially explain high rates of substance abuse, family violence and poverty in some indigenous communities. Allowing people to stay on their ancestral land, continuing hunting and trapping practices, and learning stories and traditions from community elders are key to overcoming these problems, said Cunsolo Willox.

To support traditional practices and allow indigenous communities to live off the land as they have done for centuries, they need access to renewable energy, T'seleie said. "A huge aspect of our lives, culture and language is lost when we can't be on the land," he said. "For me, that's one of the biggest threats of climate change." —Reuters

MASROUJI LAUNCHES PRECIOUS NATURE BY ALFAPARF MILANO

PRECIOUS

asrouji entered the growing GCC market last month, backed by a strong team and innovative products. After launching the Revolution temporary Hair color range, the brand is ready with its second range of appealing products - Precious Nature by Alfaparf Milano.

Just as the name suggests, the new Precious Nature range has been formulated with the purest Mediterranean ingredients that are well-known for Italian cooking worldwide. The range, consisting of shampoos, masks and leave-in oils, allows you to create your own menus three different hair styles, using unique ingredients from Italy.

For colored hair, Alfaparf recommends the Almond and Pistachio Shampoo, Mask and Oils from Sicily, which keeps your hair color vibrant and prevent it from fading. Made with almond oil rich in

ointments, which nourish and condition the hair and the essence of pistachio that helps prolong the intensity and brilliance of colored reflections. For those with curly/wavy hair or fine hair, a blend of Grape and Lavender from the Tuscany helps control frizz and add definition. The products contain grape serum, which controls frizz and detangles and softens the locks, and lavender which makes curls more defined control over volume. And last but not the least, for long and straight hair, Prickly Pear and

Orange from Capri are the perfect solution. The oil of prickly pear has extraordinary regulating and softening properties and orange extract helps bring out the natural shine of your hair.

natural shine of your hair.
"Using all natural ingredients, we



allow our customers to choose what's best for their type of hair. But one thing is for sure, no matter what recipe they

choose from the Precious Nature range, they will see amazing results", said Marijana Habek, International Educator, Alfaparf. The market is flooded with synthetic products that offer good results instantly, but continue to damage your hair with extended use. But consumers are getting more and more aware of this and are opting for more natural hair products and other body care products as well. Products with natural ingredients not only offer the desired results, but also improve the quality of your hair over time.

The ever growing GCC fashion market and retail sector promises a bright future for all brands. And with its cutting-edge products, Masrouji is all set to make its mark and empower customers with the power to be the trend.

BIGFOOT BELIEVERS GATHER AT NEW YORK RETREAT, SWAP STORIES

'Yeti, Sasquatch, Ape-Man or Bigfoot, no matter the name, I know what I saw'

CHAUTAUQUA, New York: Bigfoot believers gathered Saturday in western New York, convinced the legendary Sasquatch has left its footprints all over the region. About 100 people sported buttons saying "I believe" and swapped stories at the fourth annual Chautauqua Lake Bigfoot Expo. Organizer Peter Wiemer knows it may not be the first topic that comes to mind in the rural county, best known for the Chautauqua Institution, a summer retreat devoted to scholarly and artistic pursuits. "You say Bigfoot in a room full of people and watch everyone stop and look to see who's talking," he said with a laugh.

And while he may have started the event as a way to draw people to the tourist-dependent region and his family's rental cottages, he said he



CHAUTAUQUA, New York: Peter Wiemer delivers opening remarks at the 4th annual Chautauqua Lake Bigfoot Expo.



CHAUTAUQUA, New York: Plaster casts and framed photos line one of the display tables at the 4th annual Chautauqua Lake Bigfoot Expo.— AP photos

has since met dozens of people who are certain they've seen one of the ape-like creatures in the area, far from the oft-cited Pacific Northwest. Wiemer is now enough of a devotee that he's tried to get New York state to put Sasquatch on its list of endangered species, alongside the mud turtle, the golden eagle and the cougar. The Department of Environmental Conservation isn't convinced. Its 2012 response in part: "This mythical animal does not exist in nature or otherwise. ... No program or action in relation to mythical animals is warranted."

Don't tell that to Julia Karanasky, who was afraid she had a peeping Tom when she became aware of a large figure clearing his throat outside her bedroom window on her second night in her Niagara Falls home in 2009. Then she heard the

stories of regular Bigfoot sightings on the nearby Tuscarora Indian Reservation. "I keep telling people, 'I think he came to my house that night," said Karanasky, who sat in the front row for the expo's lectures. Speakers included Steve Kulls, an Adirondacks-based Sasquatch detective who debunks Bigfoot hoaxes while seeking out credible reports, and Ken Gerhard, a cryptozoologist in pursuit of evidence of mystery creatures including the Loch Ness Monster, the chupacabra and werewolves.

Dave Wargo said that years ago he smelled the pungent beast before he saw it standing on railroad tracks near the Allegheny National Forest in Pennsylvania. "People make fun of you," said Wargo, who has appeared on Animal Planet's "Finding Bigfoot" series. —AP



Kuwait Times 248 33 199











The Ambassador of Georgia Roland Beridze hosted a reception on the occasion of the Independence Day at Crowne Plaza Hotel. Top government officials, diplomats and the media attended the reception. — Photos by Joseph Shagra

Mastering a better apple pie

By Sara Moulton

ny number of tasks may strike you as easy as pie, but anyone who's ever actually made a pie can tell you that it actually requires some care if you want it to turn out well. Consider apple pie. Its ingredients are few and elemental: apples, of course, along with sugar, flavoring and pie crust. But choosing the right apples is a serious business. Likewise, you'll want to do what you can to prevent the apples from shrinking in the pie shell as they cook, which simultaneously makes the bottom crust soggy and creates an unsightly gap between the filling and top crust.

Let's start with the apples. Some are tart and some are sweet. Happily, autumn is apple season, which means farmers markets (and, to a lesser extent, supermarkets) should be bursting with choices. Buy an assortment, taste each kind and take notes about their flavor, paying particular attention to their sugar level. An apple's flavor intensifies as it is

Unless you're nuts about one particular variety, I'd advise you to pick a mix for your pie. The complexity of the flavors will make the pie that much more interesting. Some apples turn into mush when they're cooked, while others hold their shape for days. If you're not sure which way a given variety will go, here's a test: Cut a wedge into cubes, combine it with a pinch of sugar and a tablespoon of water, then cook it, covered, over low heat for about 5 minutes, or until just tender.

DEEP-DISH APPLE PIE

Ingredients Start to finish: 3 hours

Servings: 8 4 pounds firm apples, (a mix of sweet and tart) peeled, cored and cut into 1/4-inch-thick wedges

1 pound applesauce apples, peeled, cored

and cut into 1/4-inch-thick wedges 1/2 cup plus 1 teaspoon granulated sugar,

divided

1/4 cup packed dark brown sugar 1/4 teaspoon table salt

1 to 2 tablespoons lemon juice 1 teaspoon lemon zest

Double batch of pie dough, refrigerated 1 tablespoon heavy cream

Preparation

In a large Dutch oven over medium-high heat, toss together all of the apples, 1/2 cup of the granulated sugar, the brown sugar, salt, 1 tablespoon of the lemon juice and lemon zest. Bring the mixture to a boil, reduce to a simmer and cook until the firm apples are just tender when poked with a knife, about 15 minutes. Transfer the apples to a large colander set over a bowl and let them drain for 15 minutes, shaking the colander every so often. After the apples have drained, add the juices from the bowl to the Dutch oven and simmer until reduced to



about 1/2 cup.

In the bowl, combine the reduced juices with the apples. Taste for seasoning and add additional lemon juice if necessary. Cool to room temperature.

Meanwhile, remove 1 disk of dough from the refrigerator and roll it out between 2 large sheets of plastic wrap into a 12-inch circle, about 1/8 inch thick. If the dough becomes soft and/or sticky, return it to the refrigerator and chill until firm. Remove the plastic wrap from one side of the dough and flip it onto a 9-inch pie plate. Remove the second layer of wrap. Ease the dough down into the plate and press it into the bottom and sides gently without stretching it. Leave the dough that overhangs the plate in place; chill until the dough is firm, about 30 minutes.

Roll the second disk of dough between 2 large sheets of plastic wrap into a 12-inch circle, about 1/8 inch thick. Chill, leaving the dough between the plastic sheets, until firm, about 30 minutes. While the dough chills,

adjust the oven rack to the lowest position, place an empty rimmed baking sheet on the rack, and heat the oven to 425 F.

Remove the pie plate lined with the dough from the refrigerator and spoon the apple mixture into it.

Remove the plastic from one side of the remaining dough and flip the dough onto the apples. Remove the second piece of plastic. Trim the excess dough hanging off the edge of the pie plate so it is flush with the edge. Pinch the top and bottom dough rounds firmly together and press them with the tines of a fork.

Cut four 2-inch slits in the top of the dough. Chill the filled pie for 10 minutes. Brush the surface with the heavy cream, then sprinkle evenly with remaining 1 teaspoon of granulated sugar. Bake the pie on the heated baking sheet until the crust is dark golden brown, 40 to 45 minutes. Transfer the pie to a wire rack and let cool until ready to serve. —AP





GUST ORGANIZES BREAST CANCER PRESENTATION, **CHECKUP FOR STAFF**

ulf University for Science and Technology (GUST) collaborated with the Indian Women's Association (IWA), to hold a breast cancer presentation and checkup for its labor staff in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month on Saturday at its campus. The lecture was conducted in three languages: English, Hindi, and Telgu, so that all the labor staff members understand it in their native tongue. Dr Siddiqa Hussain, Counselor at the university's Student Success Center and one of the founders of the IWA, said, "The goal was to raise awareness on the issue, provide knowledge to the staff, and teach them about conducting their own examinations to promote early detection."

Covering each aspect of the issue in detail, the presentation proved very beneficial for the university labor staff who were also given a small brochure illustrating the steps of self-examination and a calendar to mark their monthly examination. Engineer Ebraheem Al Foraih, Director of the Facilities Management Department said, "This event is the first of its kind for the university. Successful organizations care about the health of their employees, and support their staff by raising the level of awareness onsuch health risks." GUST continuously organizes events which will add value to their students, staff, faculty and community especially when it comes to issues of health, safety and environment.

WIN KD 400,000 WORTH OF GOLD COINS: MALABAR GOLD & DIAMONDS

TUNDRED THOUSAN

alabar Gold & Diamonds, the leading jewelry retailer unfurled the details of its much awaited campaign to celebrate this festive season. This campaign will run at all Malabar Gold & Diamonds outlet in Middle East & Far East from 22nd Oct 2015. The customers get unprecedented opportunities to win a total of KD 400,000 worth gold coins. A true shopper's delight,

Malabar Gold & Diamonds will captivate the customers by exhibiting eye catching designs in gold, platinum, diamonds and precious stones from different parts of the world to flaunt any occasion or event and are well priced too. For every purchase of gold jewelry above KD 150, the customers get a 'Scratch & Win' coupon through which they can win a guaranteed gold coin or up to 250 gold coins instantly. The customers can also avail a free one gram gold coin for every KD 200 spend on diamond jewelry

Keeping the convenience of their customers in mind, they also offer advance booking facility, where the cus-

tomers can book their ornaments in advance by paying a certain percentage of the total cost. Furthermore, to ease the shopping stress on Dhanteras day, the most auspicious day to buy ornaments and one of the busiest jewelry trading days in the whole year. The customers also get a fabulous chance to buy 8 gm gold coins with absolutely no

making charges from any of Malabar Gold & Diamonds outlets in GCC during this period.

To add more glitter to this season, they have also unveiled the latest collection of jewelry specially designed for the festive season in gold, diamonds and precious gems to suit the tastes of their multicultural and multinational customers. Moreover, the customers can update any of their old ornaments pur-

chased from GCC with the brand new enticing collection of Malabar Gold & Diamonds without any loss. Any 22K old gold ornaments purchased from GCC can be exchanged with Malabar Gold & Diamonds designs by paying only making charges ensuring they don't lose any value on the rate of gold.

All these offers will be valid at their outlets in GCC until 14 Nov 2015. The group offers one of the most admired brands in the jewelry segment that includes Ethnix -Handcrafted Designer Jewelry, Era - Uncut Diamond Jewelry, Mine - Diamonds Unlimited, Divine-Indian Heritage

Jewelry, Precia - Precious Gem Jewelry and Starlet - Kids Jewelry. Their mesmerizing collection of jewelry is available at all their outlets in India and GCC with unique exchange offers and buyback policies. The jewelry chain also offers lifetime free repair and maintenance service for all its prod-



The Managing director of Orma group International Abey Varicad presents Gold Gifts to the lucky draw winners of Orma Jewelry Gold Gift scheme. The Prize distribution was held at Orma Jewelry **Showroom at Farwaniyah.**









NESTLE MIDDLE EAST, MBC AL AMAL AND ARABIAN RADIO NETWORK LAUNCH U4HK

estle Middle East, MBC Al Amal, and the Arabian Radio Network have joined forces to launch United for Healthier Kids (U4HK), with an invitation to everyone to join the movement and contribute towards healthier children. U4HK aims to help parents establish healthier eating, drinking and lifestyle habits for children aged 4-12, and offers game-changing education and fun ideas to inspire action and influence behavior.

"Nestlé is committed to promoting healthy diets and lifestyles, with specific focus on children," said Yves Manghardt, Chairman and CEO, Nestlé Middle East. "As the world's leading Nutrition, Health and Wellness Company, we offer unique expertise to help tackle the diverse nutrition challenges facing people in the region, and we have the capacity and, more importantly, the determination to contribute to healthier kids.

Established for the sole purpose of positively impacting children's lives, U4HK will capitalize on the generosity of the Arab culture to offer MORE. It is with this insight that U4HK will be calling on people and entities to promote MORE Movement; MORE Water; MORE Fruits & Vegetables; and MORE Managed Portions - behaviors scientifically proven to positively impact quality of life throughout life if adopted at an early age. Mazen Hayek, MBC Group's Official Spokesman said: "The youth are the next generation and leaders of tomorrow. Healthy minds and active bodies are leadership enablers especially when coupled with the right set of skills, knowledge and education". Hayek further added: "MBC Al Amal is about Hope for a better and brighter future... and that starts with adopting a healthier and active lifestyle".

'Tackling growing childhood obesity rates

must be a priority for all parties concerned with public health in the region, and the drive to do that can certainly benefit from the involvement of as many in the private and public sectors as possible," said Dr Nahla Hwalla, Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture & Food Sciences at the American University of Beirut, and scientific advisor for U4HK. "International studies show that 30% of obese preschoolers and 40% of obese school children become obese adults1, making obesity reduction all the more vital.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), worldwide obesity has doubled since 1980, which will lead to 42 million children being obese by 2021. And, if current trends continue, the number of overweight or obese children globally will increase to 70 million by 2025. "The health of future generations concerns each and every one of us, and we believe that together we

can make a difference," said Zeinab Maktabi, Nutrition, Health& Wellness Manager at Nestlé Middle East. "We invite everybody to unite for healthier kids, by becoming a member of the movement and signing up at www.U4HK-me.com." "The website provides a wealth of tips and fun ideas to make adopting a healthy lifestyle enjoyable and easy for parents and kids." You can also join the movement on www.MBC.net/U4HK, Facebook.com\U4HKme, or Instagram: @U4HKme. More on U4HK focus areas:

More Movement

Being active is not only important for health, but for children to develop their motor skills, decision-making, attention and teamwork abilities. Regular physical activity is part of a healthy lifestyle where any amount and any type of exercise are better than

More Water Water is best for calorie-free hydration and

controlling the body's temperature - and is especially important for children who are physically active or live in hot climates. Parents should encourage children to drink adequate amounts of water.

More Fruits & Vegetables

Children should be encouraged to have a varied, nutrient-rich diet based on the different food groups. The United for Healthier Kids program emphasizes variety such as offering vegetables and fruits as snacks, in side dishes and incorporated into main meals.

More Managed Portions

Helping children select the right amount of food, in the correct proportions, instills healthier eating habits. United for Healthier Kids communicates age-appropriate portions to parents.

JAMES MARSDEN

BBC lifestyle

00:45 Rachel Khoo's Kitcher Notebook: Cosmo Cook 01:10 A Taste Of Greenland 02:05 The Planners 02:55 Antiques Roadshow

Bargain Hunt 04:35 Masterchef: The Professionals 05:30 Hairy Bikers: Meals On Wheels

06:20 Fat & Fatter 07:10 Marbella Mansions 08:00 Antiques Roadshow 08:50 Come Dine With Me 09:15 Phil Spencer: Secret Agent -Specials

10:05 Rachel Khoo's Kitchen Notebook: Cosmo Cook 10:30 A Taste Of Greenland 11:25 The Planners

12:15 Antiques Roadshow 13:05 Bargain Hunt 13:55 Hairy Bikers: Meals On

14:50 Fat & Fatter 15:40 Phil Spencer: Secret Agent -Specials 16:30 Rachel Khoo's Kitchen Notebook: Cosmo Cook 16:55 Antiques Roadshow

17:50 Fat & Fatter 18:40 Come Dine With Me 19:05 Phil Spencer: Secret Agent -Specials 19:55 Rachel Khoo's Kitchen Notebook: Cosmo Cook

20:20 A Taste Of Greenland 21:15 The Planners 22:05 Antiques Roadshow 22:55 Come Dine With Me 23:20 Bargain Hunt



00:20 Fast N' Loud 01:10 Deadliest Catch 02:00 Outback Truckers 02:50 Manhunt With Joel Lambert 03:40 Container Wars

04:05 Garage Gold Baggage Battles 05:00 How It's Made: Dream Cars 05:30 How Do They Do It? 06:00 Yukon Men

06:50 Junkyard Empire 07:40 Fast N' Loud 08:30 Container Wars 08:55 Garage Gold 09:20 Baggage Battles How It's Made: Dream Cars

10:10 How Do They Do It? 10:35 Deadliest Catch 11:25 Outback Truckers 12:15 Manhunt With Joel Lambert 13:05 Container Wars 13:30 Garage Gold 13:55 Baggage Battles 14:20 Yukon Men

15:10 Junkyard Empire 16:00 Fast N' Loud 16:50 How It's Made: Dream Cars How Do They Do It?

17:40 Marooned With Ed Stafford 18:30 Kings Of The Wild 19:20 Dual Survival 20:10 Garage Gold 20:35 Baggage Battles 21:00 Marooned With Ed Stafford

21:50 Kings Of The Wild 22:40 River Monsters 23:30 Junkyard Empire

00:00 E!ES 00:55 The Grace Helbig Show

01:25 Keeping Up With The Kardashians 02:20 E! News 03:15 Escape Club 04:10 Ryan Seacrest With The

05:05 E!ES 06:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians 06:55 Keeping Up With The

Kardashians 07:50 Style Star 08:20 E! News

09:15 Giuliana & Bill 10:15 Giuliana & Bill 11:10 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills 11:35 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills 12:05 E! News

13:05 House Of DVF 14:05 Fashion Bloggers 14:30 Fashion Bloggers15:00 Keeping Up With The

Kardashians 16:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians 17:00 Giuliana & Bill

18:00 The Grace Helbig Show 18:30 We Have Issues 19:00 WAGs

20:00 Hollywood Cycle 21:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians 22:00 E! News 23:00 Dash Dolls

CHOICE

00:10 The Chase: Celebrity Specials 01:05 May The Best House Win

02:00 Emmerdale 02:25 Emmerdale 02:55 Coronation Street
03:25 Agatha Christie's Partners In Crime The Jonathan Ross Show

05:15 Take On The Twisters 06:10 Who's Doing The Dishes? 07:05 Coronation Street
07:30 Agatha Christie's Partners In Crime The Jonathan Ross Show

09:20 Who's Doing The Dishes? 10:15 I'm A Celebrity Get Me Out 11:35 May The Best House Win 12:30 Take On The Twisters

Emmerdale 13:50 Eggheads 14:20 Coronation Street 14:45 The Chase: Celebrity 15:35 Who's Doing The Dishes? Doc Martin

17:25 Shetland 18:20 Take On The Twisters 19:10 Coronation Street19:35 Who's Doing The Dishes? 20:30 Doc Martin Shetland 22:20 I'm A Celebrity Get Me Out

Of Here

23:40 Eggheads

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CHANNEL HD

00:10 World's Most Extreme 01:00 Building Wild 02:00 Engineering Connections02:55 Man vs Ride 03:50 World's Most Extreme

04:45 Bad Trip 05:40 Hunter Hunted 06:35 Wicked Tuna 07:30 Monster Fish 08:25 Is It Real? 09:20 Bad Trip

10:15 Yukon River Run Airport Security: Colombia 12:05 Ultimate Airport Dubai 13:00 Is It Real? 14:00 Wicked Tuna 16:00 Yukon River Run 17:00 Airport Security: Colombia 18:00 Drugs Inc

19:00 Locked Up Abroad 20:00 Yukon River Run 20:50 Airport Security: Colombia 21:40 Drugs Inc 22:30 Locked Up Abroad

OM FIRST HD COMEDY

00:30 Last Man Standing 01:00 Last Week Tonight With John 03:30 The Goldbergs 04:30 The Tonight Show Starring

Jimmy Fallon Late Night With Seth Meyers 11:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon The Goldbergs

15:30 Last Man Standing 16:00 The Nightly Show With Larry 17:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers 18:00 Brooklyn Nine-Nine 18:30 The Goldbergs 19:00 Hot In Cleveland

Toniaht Shov Jimmy Fallon 21:00 Last Man Standing 21:30 The Nightly Show With Larry

22:00 Married 22:30 Married 23:00 Curb Your Enthusiasm

23:30 Late Night With Seth Meyers

OS FIRST HID

00:00 The Americans 01:00 Quantico 02:00 Homeland 03:00 The Leftovers The Ellen DeGeneres Show 05:00

The Astronaut Wives Club 08:00 Sleepy Hollow 09:00 Quantico The Astronaut Wives Club

12:00 Emmerdale 12:30 Coronation Street The Ellen DeGeneres Show 14:00 Sleepy Hollow15:00 The Astronaut Wives Club

16:00 Emmerdale 16:30 Coronation Street17:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show Sleepy Hollow 19:00 The Voice 21:00 Blood & Oil Downton Abbey

23:00 Tyrant

OIN FIRST

01:00 Good Morning America 03:00 The Killing

MORE

04:00 Grimm 05:00 Good Morning America 07:00 Emmerdale Coronation Street 09:00 C.S.I. 10:00 Emmerdale

Coronation Street 11:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show 12:00 Switched At Birth Franklin & Bash 14:00 Live Good Morning America 16:00 C.S.I.

Switched At Birth 18:00 Franklin & Bash 19:00 C.S.I. Switched At Birth 21:00 Franklin & Bash 22:00 The Killing

MOVIES

00:00 Snowpiercer 02:00 The Barrens 04:00 The Malay Chronicles: Bloodlines

06:00 Jaws III 08:00 Red Sky 10:00 Batman: Assault On Arkham 12:00 Assassin's Bullet 14:00 Clockstoppers 16:00 Red Sky

18:00 Getaway

21:45 Shaolin

20:00 Mercenaries

OM MOVIES HD **ACTION**

00:00 The Barrens-18 02:00 The Malay Chronicles: Bloodlines-PG15 04:00 Jaws III-PG15 06:00 Red Sky-PG15 08:00 Batman: Assault On Arkham-

10:00 Assassin's Bullet-PG15 12:00 Clockstoppers-FAM Red Sky-PG15 16:00 Getaway-PG15 18:00 Mercenaries-PG15 19:45 Shaolin-PG15 22:00 Maximum Risk-18 23:45 Watchmen-18

OM MOVIES HID COMEDY

00:00 Wedding Crashers 02:00 Major Payne 04:00 Roommates

06:00 Napoleon Dynamite Streetdance: All Stars 10:00 Roommates 12:00 Major Payne Problem Child 16:00 Streetdance: All Stars

18:00 Last Vegas

22:00 Bulletproof

ON MOVIES

Walk Of Shame

DRAMA 01:15 Stand Off-PG15 03:00 Second Coming-PG15 05:00 InSight-PG15 07:00 Wrath-PG15 09:00 Romeo & Juliet-PG15

11:00 InSight-PG15 13:00 Second Coming-PG15 15:00 Breathless-PG15 16:45 Romeo & Juliet-PG15 19:00 Decoding Annie Parker-21:00 A Long Way Down-PG15

OM MESTICAT

01:15 Great Expectations 03:30 The Immigrant 05:30 The French Minister The Way We Were Seven Days In Utopia 11:15 Great Expectations 13:30 Till Human Voices Wake Us Inescapable

17:00 Seven Days In Utopia

19:00 Casanova

21:00 I Am Ali

23:00 Eden

MOVIES HD 01:00 Breathe In-PG15 Heaven Is For Real-PG 05:00 Blended-PG15 07:00 The 7:39-PG15 Big Hero 6-PG 10:45 The Expendables 3-PG15

13:00 Non-Stop-PG15 14:45 Mandela: Long Walk To Freedom-PG15 17:15 Big Hero 6-PG Winter's Tale-PG15 21:00 Veronica Mars-PG15

23:00 John Wick-18

OM MOVIES

01:15 Hammer Boy 02:45 Sophia Grace And Rosie's Royal Adventure 04:15 Minuscule: Valley Of The Lost Ants

06:00 Top Cat: The Movie 08:00 Egon And Donci 10:00 Rugrats In Paris: The Movie 11:30 Postman Pat: The Movie 13:00 Sophia Grace And Rosie's Royal Adventure 14:30 Christmas Is Here Again 16:00 Miffy The Movie

18:00 Rugrats In Paris: The Movie 20:00 The Nut Job 22:00 Christmas Is Here Again 23:30 Miffy The Movie

MOVIES PREMIERE

00:15 A Million Ways To Die In The West-18 02:15 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles-PG15 04:15 40 Days And Nights-PG15 05:45 Salinger-PG15 08:00 Ender's Game-PG15 10:00 Mr. Peabody & Sherman-

12:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles-PG15 14:00 Robot & Frank-PG15 16:00 Ender's Game-PG15 18:00 Vamps-PG15 20:00 The Other Woman-PG15 22:00 Dom Hemingway-18

00:15 Struck By Lightning 01:45 Sorority Surrogate 03:15 The Joneses 04:45 Ironclad 06:45 Love And Other Impossible

Pursuits 08:30 School For Scoundrels 10:15 The Proposal 12:00 My Bollywood Bride 13:45 Sorority Surrogate 15:15 Love And Honor

20:00 Nixon 23:15 Hurricane Season

17:00 Pearl Harbor

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00:00 Desperate Housewives 01:00 MasterChef Australia 02:00 Private Practice 03:00 Private Practice 04:00 Grey's Anatomy 05:00 Cougar Town

05:30 Cougar Town 06:00 The Simpsons 06:30 The Simpsons 07:00 Lost 08:00 Desperate Housewives

09:00 MasterChef Australia 10:00 Private Practice 11:00 Private Practice 12:00 Grey's Anatomy 13:00 Cougar Town 13:30 Cougar Town

14:00 The Simpsons 14:30 The Simpsons 15:00 Lost 16:00 Desperate Housewives

17:00 MasterChef Australia 18:00 Revenge 19:00 Revenge 20:00 Bones 21:00 Scrubs 22:00 The Simpsons

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22:30

HISTORY

00:00 American Pickers 01:00 American Restoration 01:30 American Restoration 02:00 Pawn Stars 02:30 Pawn Stars 03:00 American Pickers 04:00 American Restoration 04:30 American Restoration 05:00 Shipping Wars

05:30 Shipping Wars 06:00 American Pickers 07:00 Ax Men 08:00 Swamp People 09:00 Mountain Men 10:00 Duck Dynasty 10:30 Duck Dynasty

11:00 Down East Dickering 12:00 The Legend Of Shelby The Swamp Man 12:30 The Legend Of Shelby The Swamp Man

13:00 American Pickers 14:00 Storage Wars 14:30 Storage Wars 15:00 Pawn Stars 15:30 Pawn Stars 16:00 Shipping Wars 16:30 Shipping Wars

17:00 Pawn Stars

17:30 Pawn Stars

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23:20

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18:00 American Pickers

19:00 American Pickers

20:00 Storage Wars

20:30 Storage Wars 21:00 Duck Dynasty

21:30 Duck Dynasty

23:00 Storage Wars

23:30 Storage Wars

Pawn Stars

22:00 Pawn Stars

The Basketball Diaries 04:15 06:00 Thunderbirds Are Go The Beautiful Country 07:35 09:35 True Heart 11:05 Saved! 12:35 Hoosiers 14:30 Big Screen 14:45 Earthbound 16:20 **Shattered Glass** Yours, Mine & Ours (2005) 17:55 19:20 Captain Jack 21:00 Fear The Walking Dead The Blair Witch Project 22:00



Fear The Walking Dead

I. Madman

04:25 Zoltan The Wolfman 06:02 06:49 Killer Ig: Lion vs Hyena 08:00 Call Of The Wildman 08:25

Treehouse Masters International Dogs 101 Zoltan The Wolfman Treehouse Masters International

Uncle Grandpa 13:15 12:00 Dogs 101 13:40 Regular Show 13:51 Regular Show

14:02

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The Will

Murder Shift

Disguise

Ben 10: Omniverse

Teen Titans Go

Adventure Time

Adventure Time

Adventure Time

Uncle Grandpa

Regular Show

Steven Universe

Ben 10: Omniverse

Ben 10: Omniverse

Total Drama World Tou

Total Drama World Tour

Transformers: Robots In

DISCOVERY

Adventure Time

Johnny Test

Grojband

Grojband

Regular Show

The Haunted

Forensic Detectives

Regular Show

New Uncle Grandpa

Clarence

Clarence

Matt Hatter Chronicles

Ninjago: Masters Of Spinjitzu

The Amazing World Of Gumball

11:05 Tanked 12:55 Bondi Vet River Monsters (Best Of Series 1-13:50 14:45 Zoltan The Wolfman

ELIZABETH BANKS

Treehouse Masters International Tanked 17:30 Mermaids: The Body Found 19:20

Zoltan The Wolfman Treehouse Masters: Bionic 20:15 21:10 Tanked 22:05 Shamwari: A Wild Life

Shamwari: A Wild Life 23:00 Killer Hornets From Hel 23:55 **Gator Boys** 00:50 Zoltan The Wolfman Call Of The Wildman 01:45 Call Of The Wildman

Killer Hornets From Hell BBC entertainment

> Inside No. 9 The Cafe Only Fools And Horses 04:30 05:00 The Green Balloon Club Nuzzle & Scratch: Frock n Roll Nuzzle & Scratch: Frock n Roll 05:45 Jollywobbles 06:05

The Green Balloon Club Nuzzle & Scratch: Frock n Roll 06:35 06:55 Jollywobbles Jollýwobbles 07:05 07:15 The Weakest Link 08:00 My Hero 08:30 Doctors 09:00 Eastenders

Call The Midwife 09:30 Pride And Prejudice 11:20 The Weakest Link Me & Mrs Jones 12:05 12:35 Call The Midwife 13:05 Pride And Prejudice 13:55 Me & Mrs Jones 15:20 Mv Hero 15:50 Doctors Eastenders 16:50 The Weakest Link

17:35 Me & Mrs Jones 18:05 Call The Midwife 19:00 Doctors 19:30 Eastenders Lorna Doone 20:50 The Line Of Beauty 21:50 Little Britain New Tricks 23:15 The Weakest Link 00:00 Doctors

00:30

01:00

01:55

03:35

12:05

12:50

13:02

The Line Of Beauty

Johnny Test

Eastenders

Call The Midwife

Lorna Doone

Grojband 04:42 Groiband 05:05 Totál Drama World Tour Total Drama World Tour 05:50 Teen Titans Go! The Amazing World Of Gumball 06:00 Uncle Grandpa 07:25 Adventure Time 07:50 Teen Titans Go! Ninjago: Masters Of Spinjitzu 08:35 09:00 Ben 10: Omniverse 09:20 Ben 10: Omniverse Regular Show 10:30

Dreamworks Dragons: Riders Of 10:55 Total Drama: Revenge Of The 11:20 Island 11:40 Total Drama World Tour

Johnny Test Steven Universe

How It's Made 07:37 Mythbusters 08:50 Bang Goes The Theory 09:40 X-Machines 10:30 Food Factory 11:20 Race To Escape Through The Wormhole With

WALK OF SHAME ON OSN MOVIES HD COMEDY Moon Machines 13:00 13:50 Bang Goes The Theory 14:40 **Building The Biggest** How It's Made Regular Show 15:30 Regular Show Race To Escape Adventure Time 17:10 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman Adventure Time Adventure Time The Amazing World Of Gumball 18:50 Ben 10: Omniverse

Bang Goes The Theory Mythbusters The Big Brain Theory 19:40 Food Factory How It's Made How Do They Do It? The Big Brain Theory Through The Wormhole With

22:10 23:50 Morgan Freeman Moon Machines 00:40 Mythbusters The Big Brain Theory 02:20

DISNED & Calimero 03:05

03:45 Art Attack 04:10 Henry Hugglemonster Calimero 04:35 04:45 Zou Loopdidoo 05:00 Art Attack 05:25 Henry Hugglemonster 05:35 Calimero 05:50 Zou Loopdidoo 06:00 Art Attack 06:15 06:35 Henry Hugglemonster 06:50 Calimero 07:00 Loopdidoo Art Attack 07:20

True Crime With Aphrodite 07:35 08:00 Calimero California Investigatoi 08:10 Zou Who On Earth Did I Marry? 08:35 Pirates True Crime With Aphrodite 09:20 Dr G: Medical Examine 09:45

03:20

03:30

Zou

Loopdidoo

On The Case With Paula Zahn Fatal Encounters Mickey Mouse Clubhouse Sofia The First 10:30 Murder Shift 11:00 Forensic Detectives Doc McStuffins True Crime With Aphrodite 11:55 Miles From Tomorrow Jake And The Never Land 12:25 I Almost Got Away With It Loopdidoo 12:55 California Investigator Nightmare Next Door 13:35 Fatal Encounters 14:00 On The Case With Paula Zahn

Jones California Investigator 20:55 21:20 The Will Who On Earth Did I Marry? 22:10 Deadly Affairs 23:50 Devil In The Details Who On Earth Did I Marry? 00:40 The Haunted 02:20 Ghost Lab

I Almost Got Away With It

True Crime With Aphrodite

Forensic Detectives



Food Factory How It's Made

Moon Machines

Home Factory 05:36 Through The Wormhole With 06:24 How Do They Do It? 07:12

Limon And Oli Jake And The Never Land Sofia The First Doc McStuffins Loopdidoo Sheriff Callie's Wild West

Mickey Mouse Clubhouse Sheriff Callie's Wild West Sofia The First Henry Hugglemonster 15:00 Doc McStuffins Mickey Mouse Clubhouse 16:15 Sofia The First Doc McStuffins 17:10 Aladdin Adventures Of The Gummi 17:40

Chip n Dale Rescue Rangers

Mickey Mouse Clubhouse

18:40 Jake And The Never Land 18:55 Cars Toons Miles From Tomorrow 19:00 19:30 Sofia The First Doc McStuffins 19:55 20:15 Jake And The Never Land Pirate Sheriff Callie's Wild West

18:10

20:45

21:05

21:35

22:00 Aladdin 22:30 Adventures Of The Gummi Bears 23:00 Chip n Dale Rescue Rangers 23:30 Lilo & Stitch Nina Needs To Go 00:00 00:05 Henry Hugglemonster 00:20 00:35 Calimero Zou

Sofia The First

00:50 Loopdidoo 01:05 Art Attack Henry Hugglemonster 01:30 Calimero



CLASSIFIEDS

Kuwait Times

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2015





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

SHARQIA-1		FANAR-3		ENNU NINTE MOIDEEN	6:30 PM	WAR PIGS	2:15 PM
AHWAK	11:45 AM	HOTELTRANSYLVANIA2	11:45 AM	10 ENDRATHUKULLA	9:45 PM	WAR PIGS	4:15 PM
THE MARTIAN	2:00 PM	THE MARTIAN	1:45 PM	THE MARTIAN	12:45 AM	WAR PIGS	6:15 PM
AHWAK	5:00 PM	HOTELTRANSYLVANIA2	4:30 PM			WAR PIGS	8:15 PM
AHWAK	7:30 PM	JAZBAA	6:30 PM	AVENUES-4		WAR PIGS	10:15 PM
JUNE	10:00 PM	KANCHE	6:30 PM	SHAANDAAR	12:15 PM	WAR PIGS	12:15 AM
THE MARTIAN	12:05 AM	THE MARTIAN	9:30 PM	THE MARTIAN	3:15 PM		
		KANCHE	9:30 PM	AHWAK	6:15 PM	BAIRAQ-1	
SHARQIA-2		THE MARTIAN	12:30 AM	SHAANDAAR	8:45 PM		11:30 AM
HOTELTRANSYLVANIA2	11:30 AM			THE MARTIAN	11:45 PM	THE LAST WITCH HUNTER	
THE LAST WITCH HUNTER	1:30 PM	FANAR-4				THE LAST WITCH HUNTER	2:00 PM
THE LAST WITCH HUNTER	3:45 PM	WAR PIGS	1:00 PM	AVENUES-5		THE LAST WITCH HUNTER	4:30 PM
HOTELTRANSYLVANIA2	6:00 PM	THE LAST WITCH HUNTER	3:00 PM	THE LAST WITCH HUNTER	11:30 AM	THE LAST WITCH HUNTER	7:00 PM
THE LAST WITCH HUNTER	8:00 PM	MOMENTUM	5:30 PM	THE LAST WITCH HUNTER	2:00 PM	THE LAST WITCH HUNTER	9:30 PM
THE LAST WITCH HUNTER	10:15 PM	THE LAST WITCH HUNTER	7:30 PM	THE LAST WITCH HUNTER	4:30 PM	THE LAST WITCH HUNTER	12:05 AM
THE LAST WITCH HUNTER	12:45 AM	WAR PIGS	10:00 PM	NO FRI			
		THE LAST WITCH HUNTER	12:05 AM	HOTELTRANSYLVANIA2	4:30 PM	BAIRAQ-2	
SHARQIA-3				THE LAST WITCH HUNTER	7:00 PM	WAR PIGS	11:30 AM
SHAANDAAR	1:00 PM	FANAR-5		THE LAST WITCH HUNTER	9:30 PM	WAR PIGS	1:30 PM
WAR PIGS	1:45 PM	WAR PIGS	11:30 AM	THE LAST WITCH HUNTER	12:05 AM		
FRI		THE LAST WITCH HUNTER	1:30 PM	THE EXOT WHEN TO THE EX	12.037411	HOTELTRANSYLVANIA2	3:30 PM
WAR PIGS	4:00 PM	WAR PIGS	3:45 PM	360°- 1		AHWAK	5:30 PM
SHAANDAAR	6:00 PM	THE LAST WITCH HUNTER	5:45 PM	THE MARTIAN	12:15 PM	WAR PIGS	8:00 PM
WAR PIGS	9:00 PM	WAR PIGS	8:15 PM	THE MARTIAN	3:15 PM	AHWAK	10:00 PM
WAR PIGS	11:00 PM	THE LAST WITCH HUNTER	10:15 PM	THE MARTIAN	6:15 PM	WAR PIGS	12:30 AM
WAR PIGS	1:00 AM	WAR PIGS	12:45 AM	THE MARTIAN	9:15 PM		
Willias	1.0074111	WARFIGS	12.43 AW	THE MARTIAN	12:15 AM	BAIRAO-3	
MUHALAB-1		MARINA-1		THEWATIAN	12.13 AIVI	MOMENTUM	11:30 AM
WAR PIGS	11:00 AM	THE MARTIAN	12:15 PM	360°- 2			
WAR PIGS	1:30 PM	AHWAK	3:15 PM	AMERICAN ULTRA	12:00 PM	THE MARTIAN	1:30 PM
AHWAK	3:30 PM	MOMENTUM	5:30 PM	AMERICAN ULTRA	2:30 PM	MOMENTUM	4:15 PM
WAR PIGS	6:00 PM	JUNE	7:30 PM	AMERICAN ULTRA	4:45 PM	SHAANDAAR	6:15 PM
AHWAK	8:00 PM	AHWAK	9:30 PM	10 ENDRATHUKULLA	7:00 PM	THE MARTIAN	9:15 PM
WAR PIGS	10:30 PM	MOMENTUM	12:05 AM	10 ENDRATHOROLLA 10 ENDRATHUKULLA	10:00 PM	THE MARTIAN	12:15 AM
WAR PIGS	12:45 AM	MOMENTOW	12:05 AW				
WARFIGS	12.43 AIVI	MARINA-2		AMERICAN ULTRA	1:00 AM	PLAZA	
MUHALAB-2		WAR PIGS	12:00 PM	360°-3		THE LAST WITCH HUNTER	4:00 PM
AHWAK	11:30 AM	WAR PIGS WAR PIGS	2:00 PM	HOTELTRANSYLVANIA2	1:15 PM	ENNU NINTE MOIDEEN	6:30 PM
SHAANDAAR	2:00 PM						
HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA2	2:00 PM	HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA2	4:15 PM	HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA2	3:15 PM	10 ENDRATHUKULLA	9:45 PM
KANCHE	4:00 PM	WAR PIGS WAR PIGS	6:15 PM 8:15 PM	HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA2	5:15 PM 7:15 PM		
HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA2	5:00 PM	WAR PIGS WAR PIGS	10:15 PM	JUNE JUNE	9:15 PM	LAILA	
SHAANDAAR	7:00 PM					THE MARTIAN	3:30 PM
KANCHE	10:00 PM	WAR PIGS	12:15 AM	JUNE JUNE	11:15 PM	THE LAST WITCH HUNTER	6:15 PM
MOMENTUM	10:00 PM	MADINA		JOINE	1:15 AM	WAR PIGS	8:45 PM
MOMENTUM	12:05 AM	MARINA-3	12.00 DM	AL KOUT 1		THE LAST WITCH HUNTER	10:45 PM
MONENTON	12.03 AIVI	THE LAST WITCH HUNTER THE LAST WITCH HUNTER	12:00 PM	AL-KOUT.1	12.15 DM		
MUHALAB-3			2:30 PM	THE LAST WITCH HUNTER	12:15 PM	AJIAL.1	
THE LAST WITCH HUNTER	12:00 PM	THE LAST WITCH HUNTER	5:00 PM	THE LAST WITCH HUNTER	2:45 PM		2:15 DM
THE LAST WITCH HUNTER THE LAST WITCH HUNTER		THE LAST WITCH HUNTER	7:30 PM	THE LAST WITCH HUNTER	5:15 PM	ENNU NINTE MOIDEEN	3:15 PM
THE LAST WITCH HUNTER	2:30 PM	THE LAST WITCH HUNTER	10:00 PM	THE LAST WITCH HUNTER	7:45 PM	ENNU NINTE MOIDEEN	6:30 PM
THE LAST WITCH HUNTER	5:00 PM 7:30 PM	THE LAST WITCH HUNTER	12:30 AM	THE LAST WITCH HUNTER	10:15 PM	ENNU NINTE MOIDEEN	9:45 PM
		AVENUES 4		THE LAST WITCH HUNTER	12:45 AM		
THE LAST WITCH HUNTER	10:00 PM	AVENUES-1	4 00 DM	AL VOLTO		AJIAL.2	
THE LAST WITCH HUNTER	12:30 AM	SHAANDAAR	1:00 PM	AL-KOUT.2	11.20 414	SHAANDAAR	3:30 PM
FANAD 4		JAZBAA	4:00 PM	THE LAST WITCH HUNTER	11:30 AM	SHAANDAAR	6:15 PM
FANAR-1	12.00 DM	SHAANDAAR	7:00 PM	AHWAK	2:00 PM	NAANUM ROWDYDHAAN	9:15 PM
AMERICAN ULTRA	12:00 PM	SHAANDAAR	10:00 PM	HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA2	4:30 PM	NAANOWNOWDIDIAAN	9.131101
AMERICAN ULTRA	2:00 PM	AMERICAN ULTRA	1:00 AM	AHWAK	6:30 PM	AHALO	
SHAANDAAR	4:00 PM			AHWAK	9:00 PM	AJIAL.3	2.45.014
SHAANDAAR	7:00 PM	AVENUES-2		THE LAST WITCH HUNTER	11:30 PM	NAANUM ROWDYDHAAN	3:45 PM
SHAANDAAR	10:00 PM	HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA2	12:00 PM			NO FRI	
AMERICAN ULTRA	1:00 AM	HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA2	2:15 PM	AL-KOUT.3	44	KANCHE	3:45 PM
FANADO		HOTELTRANSYLVANIA2	4:15 PM	MOMENTUM	11:30 AM	FRI	
FANAR-2	10.45.514	JUNE	6:15 PM	THE MARTIAN	1:30 PM	KANCHE	6:45 PM
AHWAK	12:15 PM	JUNE	8:15 PM	THE MARTIAN	4:30 PM	KANCHE	9:45 PM
JUNE	2:45 PM	JUNE	10:15 PM	MOMENTUM	7:30 PM		
AHWAK	4:45 PM	THE LAST WITCH HUNTER	12:15 AM	THE MARTIAN	9:30 PM	AJIAL.4	
AHWAK	7:15 PM			MOMENTUM	12:30 AM		4,00 DM
JUNE	9:45 PM	AVENUES-3	4.45.51	AL KOLITA		10 ENDRATHUKULLA	4:00 PM
AHWAK	11:45 PM	HOTELTRANSYLVANIA2	1:15 PM	AL-KOUT.4	40.45.014	10 ENDRATHUKULLA	7:00 PM
		10 ENDRATHUKULLA	3:30 PM	WAR PIGS	12:15 PM	10 ENDRATHUKULLA	10:00 PM

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Morasudhakar, holder of Indian Passport No. L5934350, R/o Nakkapalli Village, Kumpinipuram Post, Nandalur Mandal, Kadapa Dist, A.P., Changed my name as Muhammad Mora. (C 5063)

I, Potturi Harshavardhana Naidu, holder of Indian Passport No. M7062597, R/o Diguvanallaguttapalli Village, Guttapalli Post, Sambepalli Mandal, Kadapa Dist, A.P., Changed my name as Muhammad Arshad. (C 5063) 26-10-2015

SITUATION WANTED

Art Director, Jordanian, BA Graphic Design, 12 years experience with international agencies (Dubai, Riyadh & Amman) in Marketing, advertising, graphic skills, Web Design, Story boarding, Creative Solution & Mobile Design, Proficient in Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator, Indesign, seeks job in Kuwait, please call +966 582 904 264 or e-mail mamoonalqutob@gmail.com Note: I can visit Kuwait without visa. (C 5059) 25-10-2015

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



Prayer timings

-ajr:	04:37
Shorook	05:57
Duhr:	11:32
Asr:	14:42
Maghrib:	17:07
sha:	18:24

Flight Schedule

Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page (www.kuwait-airport.com.kw)

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

ı		W									•	•	•			
ı		Ar	rival Flights on Tuesday 27/10/2015		FDB	057	Dubai	14:10		Der	parture Flights on Tuesday 27/10/20	15	FBA	832	Al Najaf	14:15
	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	KAC	514	Tehran	14:10	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	JZR	324	Al Najaf	14:25
					AXB	393	Kozhikode	14:20	JAD	302	Amman	00:15	KAC	673	Dubai	15:00
					SVA	500	Jeddah	14:30	FDB	072	Dubai	00:40	FDB	058	Dubai	15:10
	BBC	143	Dhaka	00:05	KNE	472	Jeddah	14:35	MSC	404	Asyut	00:55	QTR	1079	Doha	15:10
	MSC	405	Sohag	00:05	KAC	672	Dubai	14:45	JAI	573	Mumbai	00:55	AXB	394	Kozhikode	15:20
	KLM	411	Amsterdam/Dammam	00:20	KAC	788	Jeddah	14:50	MSC	406	Sohag	01:00	KNE	473	Jeddah	15:35
	JZR	267	Beirut	00:30	GFA	221	Bahrain	15:00	BBC	143	Chittagong/Dhaka	01:35	KAC	617	Doha	15:45
	JZR	539	Cairo	00:40	OMA	645	Muscat	15:30	KLM	411	Amsterdam	01:35	SVA	501	Jeddah	15:45
	FDB	069	Dubai	00:55	KAC	562	Amman	15:40	THY	773	Istanbul	02:30	GFA	222	Bahrain	15:45
	THY	772	Istanbul	01:05	ABY	127	Sharjah	15:45	DLH	635	Frankfurt	02:35	KAC	773	Riyadh	15:50
	DLH	635	Doha	01:35	UAE	857	Dubai	15:45	ETH	3403	Addis Ababa	03:05	KAC	613	Bahrain	15:50
	PGT	858	Istanbul	02:00	QTR	1072	Doha	16:10	UAE	854	Dubai	03:45				15:55
	UAE	853	Dubai	02:30	FDB	051	Dubai	16:30	PGT	859	Istanbul	03:55	KAC	741	Dammam	
	GFA	211	Bahrain	02:30	ETD	303	Abu Dhabi	16:40	OMA	644	Muscat	03:55	ABY	128	Sharjah	16:25
	OMA	643	Muscat	02:55	RJA	640	Amman	16:55	FDB	068	Dubai	04:00	OMA	646	Muscat	16:30
	FDB	043	Dubai	03:05	KAC	542	Cairo	16:55	MSR	613	Cairo	04:00	JZR	266	Beirut	17:05
	RJA	644	Amman	03:05	SVA	510	Riyadh	17:15	ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	04:15	JZR	238	Amman	17:30
	MSR	612	Cairo	03:10	UAL	982	IAD	17:15					ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	17:30
		1076		03:10	GFA				KKK	6508	Istanbul	04:20	FDB	052	Dubai	17:35
	QTR		Doha			215	Bahrain	17:30	QTR	1077	Doha	05:00	QTR	1073	Doha	17:40
	KKK	6507	Istanbul	03:20	KAC MSR	502	Beirut	17:30	THY	765	Istanbul	05:15	JZR	538	Cairo	17:45
	ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:25		614	Cairo	17:35	ETH	621	Addis Ababa	05:45	UAE	858	Dubai	17:45
	THY	1464	Istanbul	03:25	JZR	325	Al Najaf	17:50	JZR	560	Sohag	06:10	RJA	641	Amman	17:55
	JZR	503	Luxor	04:25	JZR	777	Jeddah	17:55	FDB	070	Dubai	06:30	SVA	511	Riyadh	18:15
	ETH	620	Addis Ababa	04:45	UAE	875	Dubai	18:00	THY	6376	Dubai/Istanbul	06:35	GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20
	THY	6376	Istanbul	05:05	FDB	063	Dubai	18:05	JZR	164	Dubai	06:55	UAL	982	Bahrain	18:30
	DHX	170	Bahrain	05:40	JZR	177	Dubai	18:20	THY	1465	Istanbul	06:55	MSR	615	Cairo	18:35
	THY	770	Istanbul	05:55	KAC	680	Muscat	18:25	RJA	645	Amman	07:05	JZR	184	Dubai	18:40
	THY	764	Istanbul	05:55	KAC	786	Jeddah	18:30	THY	771	Istanbul	07:05	FDB	064	Dubai	19:20
	FDB	5061	Dubai	06:30	ABY	123	Sharjah	18:45	FDB	5062	Dubai	07:10	ABY	124	Sharjah	19:25
	BAW	157	London	06:40	QTR	1080	Doha	18:55	GFA	212	Bahrain	07:15	UAE	876	Dubai	19:30
	KAC	416	Jakarta/Kuala Lumpur	07:15	KAC	742	Dammam	19:05	FDB	054	Dubai	08:30	GFA	218	Bahrain	20:15
	KAC	412	Manila/Bangkok	07:20	KAC	614	Bahrain	19:10	QTR	1087	Doha	08:40	KAC	283	Dhaka	20:35
	QTR	1086	Doha	07:40	KAC	774	Riyadh	19:25	BAW	156	London	08:45	QTR	1081	Doha	20:50
	FDB	053	Dubai	07:45	KAC	166	Paris/Rome	19:30	SVA	513	Riyadh	08:50	KAC	351	Kochi	20:55
	KAC	302	Mumbai	07:50	GFA	217	Bahrain	19:30	OMA	642	Muscat	08:55	KAC	343	Chennai	21:00
	SVA	512	Riyadh	07:50	KAC	618	Doha	19:35	KAC	787	Jeddah	09:25	MSR	607	Luxor	21:05
	OMA	641	Muscat	08:00	KAC	104	London	19:40	ABY	126	Sharjah	09:40	OMA	648	Muscat	21:20
	KAC	382	Delhi	08:00	KAC	674	Dubai	19:45	KAC	513	Tehran	09:45	FDB	062	Dubai	21:20
	KAC	352	Kochi	08:20	MSR	618	Alexandria	20:05	KAC	541	Cairo	09:55	DLH	634	Doha	21:45
	KAC	206	Islamabad	08:25	FDB	061	Dubai	20:20	KAC	101	London/New York	09:55	FDB	5054	Dubai	21:50
	UAE	855	Dubai	08:40	OMA	647	Muscat	20:20	UAE	856	Dubai	09:55	DHX	171	Bahrain	21:50
	KAC	332	Trivandrum	08:50	FDB	5053	Dubai	20:50	KAC	561	Amman	10:00	JAI	571	Mumbai	21:55
	ABY	125	Sharjah	09:00	DLH	634	Frankfurt	20:55	KAC	501	Beirut	10:00	KAC	381	Delhi	22:00
	KAC	362	Colombo	09:00	JAI	572	Mumbai	20:55	KAC	671	Dubai	10:05	KAC	301	Mumbai	22:10
	KAC	284	Dhaka	09:10	ETD	307	Abu Dhabi	21:20	ETD	302	Abu Dhabi	10:25	ETD	308	Abu Dhabi	22:10
	ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:20	MEA	402	Beirut	21:20	FDB	056	Dubai	10:35	KAC	203	Lahore	22:10
	QTR	1070	Doha	09:25	ALK	229	Colombo	21:25	KAC	165	Rome/Paris	11:00	KAC	331	Trivandrum	22:10
	FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	UAE	859	Dubai	21:40	QTR	1071	Doha	11:00	MEA	403	Beirut	22:20
	GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	GFA	219	Bahrain	21:45	GFA	214	Bahrain	11:25	ALK	230	Colombo	22:25
	IRA	675	Lar	10:40	QTR	1082	Doha	22:00	IRA	674	Lar	11:40	GFA	220	Bahrain	22:30
	UAE	873	Dubai	11:05	KLM	415	Amsterdam	22:05	JZR	776	Jeddah	12:20	UAE	860	Dubai	22:55
	JZR	165	Dubai	11:30	UAL	981	Bahrain	22:25	UAE	874	Dubai	12:30	KAC		Ahmedabad	23:00
1	MEA	404	Beirut	11:55	ETD	309	Abu Dhabi	22:25	MEA	405	Beirut	12:55	QTR	345 1083	Doha	23:05
	FDB	075	Dubai	12:25	FDB	059	Dubai	22:30	KAC	785	Jeddah	13:00				23:05
	MSC	401	Alexandria	12:30	PIA	239	Sialkot	22:35	KAC	679	Muscat	13:00	KLM	415	Dammam/Amsterdam	
	JZR	561	Sohag	12:45	JZR	239	Amman	23:05	FDB	076	Dubai	13:10	KAC	205	Islamabad	23:10
	UAE	871	Dubai	12:50	JZR	185	Dubai	23:15	MSC	402	Alexandria	13:30	ETD	310	Abu Dhabi	23:15
	MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	FDB	071	Dubai	23:45	JZR	176	Dubai	13:45	FDB	060	Dubai	23:35
	FBA	831	Al Najaf	13:15	JAI	574	Mumbai	23:55	MSR	611	Cairo	14:00	PIA	240	Sialkot Bangkak/Manila	23:35
1	QTR	1078	Doha	14:10	MSC	403	Asyut	23:55	UAE	872	Dubai	14:15	KAC	411	Bangkok/Manila	23:35

DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

CROSSWORD 1061

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56	T		57	1		58	59				60	61		T	T
		62					63	T	64		1	T			
65	66		1	1		67					68	T	69	70	71
72	\top	\top	\top		73		\top	74			75	\top	\top	\top	T
76	+	\top	\top		77	T	T	\top	\top	78			79	\top	T
80	+	T	+		81	+	+	1	1	+			82	\top	+

ACROSS

- 1. The federal department responsible for 1. United States labor organizer who ran for safeguarding national security.
- 4. A region (and former kingdom) in northwestern Spain on the Atlantic and the Bay of Biscay.
- 11. (of molten metal or glass) Formed by pouring or pressing into a mold n 1.
- 15. A federal agency established to coordinate programs aimed at reducing pollution and protecting the environment.
- 16. A South American river 1,500 miles long.
- 17. Slightly open. 18. A piece of furniture that provides a place
- to sleep.
- 19. A person's partner in marriage.
- 20. A very young child (birth to 1 year) who has not yet begun to walk or talk.
- 21. Singing jazz. 23. A homeless child especially one forsaken
- or orphaned.
- 24. A metallic element of the rare earth group. 25. A plant hormone promoting elongation of
- stems and roots. 26. Imperial dynasty that ruled China (most of the time) from 206 BC to 221 and expand-
- ed its boundaries and developed its bureaucracy. 28. A Chadic language spoken south of Lake
- Chad. 31. Any of various chiefly fall-blooming herbs of the genus Aster with showy daisylike
- 34. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
- 36. A small cloth bag filled with dried beans. 39. A state in southeastern United States
- between the Atlantic and the Gulf of Mexico. 44. The largest continent with 60% of the
- earth's population. 45. The capital of Lombardy in northern Italy.
- 47. Starch resembling sago that is obtained from cuckoopint root.
- 48. A gathering of passengers sufficient to fill an automobile.
- 50. Take the place of.
- 52. A benevolent aspect of Devi.
- 53. The federal agency that insures residential
- 54. A particular geographical region of indefinite boundary (usually serving some special purpose or distinguished by its people or culture or geography).
- 55. Tag the base runner to get him out. 56. A toxic nonmetallic element related to sul-
- fur and tellurium. 58. A Chadic language spoken in northern
- Nigeria. 60. An Indian side dish of yogurt and chopped
- cucumbers and spices. 63. Inclined to or serving for the giving of
- 65. French romantic writer (1766-1817).
- 68. Yellow-fever mosquitos.
- 72. A lawman concerned with narcotics viola-
- 75. Conforming to an ultimate standard of perfection or excellence.
- 76. Primitive chlorophyll-containing mainly aquatic eukaryotic organisms lacking true stems and roots and leaves. 77. A tricycle (usually propelled by pedalling).
- 79. A constellation in the southern hemisphere near Telescopium and Norma.
- 80. A Gaelic-speaking Celt in Ireland or Scotland or the Isle of Man.
- 81. A member of the Siouan people formerly
- inhabiting the Black Hills of western South Dakota. 82. (British informal) Not to be deceived or hoodwinked n 1.

branch arteries. 11. A compartment in front of a motor vehicle where driver sits.

of petroleum.

3. An informal term for a father.

the United States.

12. A genus of Platalea. 13. A region of Malaysia in northeastern Borneo.

DOWN

President as a socialist (1855-1926).

2. An organization of countries formed in 1961

4. The younger of two major political parties in

7. The innermost membrane of an organ

10. The large trunk artery that carries blood

from the left ventricle of the heart to

(especially the inner lining of an artery or

5. (Welsh) Lord of Annwfn (the other world.

6. The basic unit of money on Malta.

vein or lymphatic vessel).

9. Water frozen in the solid state.

8. An informal conversation.

to agree on a common policy for the sale

- 14. A step in walking or running.
- 22. Of or relating to the palm of the hand or to the area at the base of the thumb.
- 27. Someone who engages in arbitrage (who purchases securities in one market for immediate resale in another in the hope of profiting from the price differential).
- (Norse mythology) The Norse dragon that guarded a treasure and was slain by Sigurd.
- 30. Wild and menacing.
- 32. East Indian annual erect herb.
- 33. Long-tailed arboreal mustelid of Central and South America.
- 35. An uproarious party.
- 37. A woman hired to suckle a child of some-
- 38. A Chadic language spoken south of Lake Chad.
- 40. Fail to keep or to maintain. 41. A native or inhabitant of Iran.
- 42. Formerly a gold coin of various European countries.
- 43. Naked freshwater or marine or parasitic protozoa that form temporary
- pseudopods for feeding and locomotion. 46. A city in southern Turkey on the Seyhan

- 49. Viscera and trimmings of a butchered ani-
- mal often considered inedible by humans.
- . A river in northeastern Brazil that flows generally northward to the Atlantic Ocean.
- 57. Of or like a cecum.
- 59. A member of the Iroquoian people formerly living east of Lake Ontario.
- 61. Advanced in years.
- 62. A boat with a flat bottom for carrying heavy loads (especially on canals).
- 64. Joint capital (with Riyadh) of Saudi Arabia.
- 66. The basic unit of money in Western Samoa. 67. Large swift fly the female of which sucks
- blood of various animals.
- 69. Lacking or deprive of the sense of hearing wholly or in part.
- 70. A British peer ranking below a Marquess and above a Viscount.
- 71. Kill intentionally and with premeditation.
- 73. A corporation's first offer to sell stock to
- the public.
- 74. Aromatic bulb used as seasoning. 78. A silvery ductile metallic element found primarily in bauxite.

Yesterday's Solution

С	Α	В		P	A	N	Α	M	I	С	Α		Α	W	N
Α	R	Α		T	R	I	N	I	D	Α	D		В	Е	Е
R	Α	G	В	Α	G		Α	N	Е	L	Е		F	Α	В
D	M	D		Н	0		L	I	S	P		Н	Α	K	Е
S	Е	Α	L		S	L	0	В		Α	L	Α	R		
		D	Α		Y	Α	G	I		С	Α	M	Α	S	S
D	В		G			D		K	С		M	Α	D	Α	M
I	R	Α		Α	L		В	Е		P	Е	N		L	Е
Α	I	R	S	P	Α	С	Е		Α	I	N			Α	G
M	Е	Т	Н	A	N	Α	L		M	Α	Т	Α	K	A	M
		S	Е	D	Α	N		D	0		Е	D	Е	M	Α
Е	С		R	Α	I	N		v	Е	Α	D	Α	R		
В	L	Α	I	N		A	D	0	В	Е		М	U	S	D
L	Α	N	D	Α	U		Α	R	I	S	Е		G	С	Α
I	D	Е	A		M	Α	Т	Α	D	0	R		M	A	D
S	E	W	N		Α	T	A	K	A	P	A		A	В	Α

STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

You are acutely aware of what is missing from a significant relationship today. Nevertheless, you may still feel pretty calm and confident as the steadfast Taurus Full Moon sheds her light in your 2nd House of Self-Esteem. However, you could also feel the thrilling spark of inspiration by discovering a simple solution to a complex problem. But don't assume you can make your dreams come true just because you are committed to taking a practical approach now. You must express what's in your heart if you want others to join in the dance.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

It's healthy to ask difficult questions as you search for the hidden meaning of life. Nevertheless, the Taurus Full Moon brightens your 1st House of Personality, revealing more about your emotional uncertainty than you prefer. Responding to people's assumptions about your inner process is a challenging task today. Thankfully, you will have plenty of opportunities over the next couple of weeks to process all the knowledge you learn about your most valuable relationships. Never underestimate the power of a beginner's mind when it comes to matters of the heart.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Your self-protective mechanism swings into operation today, camouflaging your true feelings and keeping your heart safe. The Taurus Full Moon lands in your 12th House of Secrets, reminding you of how much your fantasies impact your daily life. Luckily, you won't have to work so hard to suppress your dreams once you acknowledge the difference between illusion and reality. Although it isn't easy to pin down your emotions now, it helps to stick to the basics. No matter how tempting it is to space out, your common sense will ultimately see you through the confusion.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

You are typically comfortable with your changing moods but you might go out of your way to avoid them today. The fixed Taurus Full Moon illuminates your 11th House of Social Networking, encouraging you to seek stability in the midst of a crowd. Happily, your friends and associates provide you with a reliable emotional anchor that can moderate the vagaries of your passions. Leaning on others is fine as long as you don't let them talk you out of your feelings. Even if your desires take you places that make you temporarily nervous, it's important to stay in touch with your heart.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

You're riding waves of irrepressible feelings that could test the mettle of your professional relationships now. You may be questioning how much of your emotional life to bring into the workplace while the Taurus Full Moon highlights your 10th House of Career. You would like others to know more about you, but you don't want to overwhelm them with drama that could detract from your performance on the job. Being transparent with those you trust makes sense, but otherwise err on the side of caution when it comes to personal disclosure.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

If you already have a plan in motion for reaching the stars, then it's crucial to stick to it as closely as possible now. However, if you're flying by the seat of your pants, the earthy Taurus Full Moon offers you a chance to create a sensible strategy as it reinforces your 9th House of Big Ideas. You can achieve your dreams, but don't get carried away with your enthusiasm. Focusing on the simplest tasks enables you to end up at the most distant destination by taking one small step at a time.

WORD SEARCH

RENAISSANCE ART WORD SEARCH PUZZLE

М	I	С	Н	Е	L	Α	N	G	Е	L	0	Ε	0	М	Н	Н	Н	U
М	G	M	X	Т	Q	Т	X	В	F	Н	Y	G	M	C	В	Α	Т	1
٧	L	Н	Υ	Υ	М	W	Т	Е	0	X		1	S	Α	Ε	Ε	D	Α
J	Z	Ε	1	Α	1	L	Н	L	S	J	K	0	Н	G	U	W	В	Т
F	Α	G	Ρ	В	E	Ε	L	L	В	٧	В	Т	K	Q	Р	Q	0	Υ
1	В	Е	G	Α	Е	Е	Т	1	0	В	D	Т	U	Z	F	0	Т	М
Α	Е	Е	Н	Z	С	R	W	Ν	Z	Q	0	0	Χ	М	Т	U	Т	С
С	S	Ρ	J	С	М	Α	Т	1	1	L	F	R	F	Т	0	L	1	Q
0	Α	N	U	K	Ν	٧	K	1	L	N	J	U	Е	L	K	Ρ	C	В
R	Q	R	Z	1	Ρ	1	L	Е	G	W	1	R	S	1	Q	Q	Е	S
D	Ν	F	S	J	Ε	W	Т	G	K	J	0	S	M	Υ	Р	U	L	٧
Α	Α	S	L	K	0	Α	W	Ρ	Q	Т	F	٧	K	٧	R	F	L	S
Т	Е	٧	M	Α	N	T	Е		Ν	Α	R	C	R	В	K	0	I	U
М	G	K	1	0	٧	U	J	1	Z	K	Y	F	R	F	Α	C	Z	Z
1	K	Α	D	Ν	J	Ε	Т	R	Ρ	Е	Υ	R	٧	Α	S	Α	R	1
U	М	Α	S	Α	С	С	1	0	Ν	٧	Е	R	0	Ν	Е	S	Е	S
Χ	W	Н	G	Т	W	1	L	Α	Ε	P	J	Q	Р	W	R	D	G	Т
1	G	Χ	С	Α	R	Α	٧	Α	G	G	1	0	Н	G	D	В	U	В
В	R	U	Ν	Ε	L	L	Е	S	С	Н	1	F	G	F	U	Z	М	U

BELLINI DA VINCI **MANTEGNA TINTORETTO** BOSCH DONATELLO MASACCIO UCCELLO BOTTICELLI **FOUQUET MESSINA** VAN EYCK BRUNELLESCHI **GHIBERTI MICHELANGELO** VASARI CARAVAGGIO GIOTTO RAPHAEL VERONESE

Daily SuDoku

		_					-	_
		3		4			6	8
		4	5		7			
7							2	
				1		2		9
			2		3			
8		2		7				
	3							2
			3		8	4		
1	4			5		8		



Libra (September 23-October 22)

Your life may be so loud now that you are tempted to escape into your dreams to ponder the mysteries of the cosmos. Although the steady Taurus Full Moon offers you a solid place to stand while exploring your 8th House of Metamorphosis, the shifting sands of reality are not as stable as they seem. It's impossible to see around the corner today because a major transformation is in process. Don't try to hold onto old assumptions. The more willing you are to let go of the past, the brighter the future will be.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

You might believe that your interpersonal communication skills aren't as effective as you wish. However, your prime directive is changing as your thoughts turn inward to reconnect you with your spiritual core. Today's Taurus Full Moon shines in your 7th House of Partners, reflecting your feelings back to you through another person's perspective. Forget about the complicated issues that plague your life and the little details that fill your day. For now, keep everything as simple as possible while sharing your heart in the present moment with



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

You are reconsidering the promises you made at work and are willing to renegotiate your commitments, if necessary. The down-to-earth Taurus Full Moon grounds your 6th House of Daily Routine, advising you that a pragmatic approach to your job is wiser now than harboring unrealistic ambitions. Be satisfied with your current position today, instead of plotting and scheming to get further ahead. Patiently listening to what others want enables you to bargain more effectively for what you need in the long run.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

You're eager to indulge in pleasure today, but you're still not willing to slack off and let your commitments fall to the wayside. Luckily, you're the happy recipient of positive cosmic vibes while the sensual Taurus Full Moon dances in your 5th House of Play. Put your artistic talents to work. Focus on your dreams, even if they momentarily seem unattainable, and they will play a growing role in the coming weeks. Let your creative brilliance be a guiding light not only for yourself, but for the rest of the world, too.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

You may be trying so hard to inspire others at work that it creates static at home. Family issues must be addressed while the Taurus Full Moon settles into your 4th House of Domestic Conditions. Luckily, your current dilemma won't be dramatic enough to throw you off track, since you have your priorities in order and can manage the temporary stress. Nevertheless, don't pretend that everything is fine if it is not; others will quickly see through any attempts to embellish the truth. For the sake of simplicity, be honest right from the start.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Share your current plans with your closest friends as soon as you can, for it will only become more complicated the longer you wait. Oddly enough, people may seem overly irritated today if you aren't willing to express your point of view. However, the Taurus Full Moon activates your 3rd House of Communication, reminding you that honesty is the best policy. Nevertheless, once you start explaining your opinions, it might be hard to stop before you end up saying too much. A little objective self-regulation tilts the scales in your favor.

Yesterday Solution

SOLUTION TO CIVIL WAR SITES PUZZLE

G DH E (P) S Е G E O N ORNY PHZGOQBWMJG(H) CKSBUR

Yesterday's Solution

5 2 9 8 6 3 2 8 5 6 9 4 3 6 4 9 8 3 9 8 5 4 6 3 5 6 9 8 4 5 3 8 9 6 9 5 3 6 4 2 8 9 1 3 5 6 9

Sabah Hospital

Amiri Hospital

Chest Hospital

Adan Hospital

Ibn Sina Hospital

Al-Razi Hospital

Kaizen center

Rawda

Adaliya

Khaldiya

Kaifan

Shamiya

Shuwaikh

Nuzha

Qadsiya

Dasmah

Shaab

Qibla

Mirqab

Sharq

Salmiya

Jabriya

Bayan

Mishref

Sabah

Jahra

W Hawally

New Jahra

West Jahra

South Jahra

North Jahra

North Jleeb

Ardhiya

Firdous

Omariya

N Khaitan

Fintas

Bneid Al-Gar

Ayoun Al-Qibla

Maidan Hawally

Abdullah Salem

Industrial Shuwaikh

Physiotherapy Hospital

Maternity Hospital

Farwaniya Hospital

Mubarak Al-Kabir Hospital

INTERNATIONAL

INFORMATION

For labor-related inquiries and complaints: Call MSAL hotline 128

Hospitals

Clinics

24812000

22450005

24843100

25312700

24849400

24892010

23940620

24840300

24846000

24874330/9

25716707

22517733

22517144

24848075

24849807

24848913

24814507

22549134

22526804

24814764

22515088

22532265

22531908

22518752

22459381

22451082

22456536

22465401

25746401

25316254

25623444

25388462

25381200

22630786

24810221

24770319

24575755

24772608

24775066

24775992

24311795

24884079

24892674

24719048

24710044

23900322

Soor Center

Tel: 2290-1677

Fax: 2290 1688

PHARMACIES ON 24 HRS DUTY

GOVERNORATE	PHARMACY	ADDRESS	PHONE
Ahmadi	Sama Safwan Abu Halaifa Danat Al-Sultan	Fahaeel Makka St Abu Halaifa-Coastal Rd Mahboula Block 1, Coastal Rd	23915883 23715414 23726558
Jahra	Modern Jahra Madina Munawara	Jahra-Block 3 Lot 1 Jahra-Block 92	24575518 24566622
Capital	Ahlam Khaldiya Coop	Fahad Al-Salem St Khaldiya Coop	22436184 24833967
Farwaniya	New Shifa Ferdous Coop Modern Safwan	Farwaniya Block 40 Ferdous Coop Old Kheitan Block 11	24734000 24881201 24726638
Hawally	Tariq Hana Ikhlas Hawally & Rawdha Ghadeer Kindy Ibn Al-Nafis Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Salmiya-Amman St Hawally-Beirut St Hawally & Rawdha Coop Jabriya-Block 1A Jabriya-Block 3B Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	25726265 25647075 22625999 22564549 25340559 25326554 25721264 25380581 25628241

STATE OF KUWAIT DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION

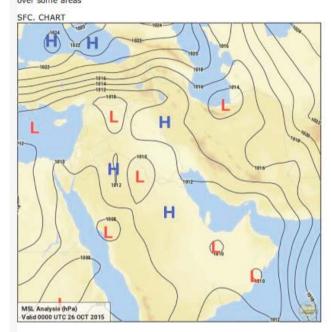
METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT

Tel: (+965) 161 Ext: 2627 - 2630 Fax: (+965) 24348714 www.met.gov.kw

Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours Issued 26/10/2015-07:00 LT UTC +3h

MAX Temperature 37 °C

 ${\bf By\ Day:}$ Mostly sunny with light to moderate southerly to south easterly wind, with speed of 08 - 30 km/h and some high clouds will appear By Night: Relatively humid specially over coastal areas with light to moderate south easterly with speed of 10 - 32 km/h and some scattered clouds will appear with a chance for fog



Tuesday
110

Four-Day Forecast

	*		X	*
	3383	2333	3353	3383
Expected Weather	clouds increase gradually later on+scattered rain might br thundery+dust	Cloudy+scattered rain might be thundery+dust	partly cloudy+scattered rain might be thundery+dust	partly cloudy+scattered rain might be thundery
Min Temp °C	23	24	22	22
Max Temp °C	35	34	35	35
Wind Direction	southerly to south easterly	south easterly	southerly to south easterly	south easterly
Wind Speed km/h	15 - 40	15 - 40	25 - 45	22 - 42

Thursday

Friday

All times are local time (GMT+3) unless otherwise stated

Warnings NO CURRENT WARNINGS

Station	MIN °C REC	Max °C EXP
KUWAIT CITY	26	37
KUWAIT AIRPORT	22	37
ABDALY	22	37
BUBYAN	20	33
JAHRA	25	37
FAILAKA ISLAND	24	35
SALMIYAH	27	33
AHMADI	27	32
JAL ALIYAH	24	36
QAROH ISLAND	28	34
UMM AL-MARADEM	28	33
NUWAISIB	23	36
WAFRA	22	37
MANAGISH	23	36
SALMY	23	36
MUTRIBA	23	38

Recorde	d Yesterday at Ku	wait Airport			
Max Temp (°C)		37			
Min Temp (°C)		19			
Max Rel Hum (%) Min Rel Hum (%) Max Wind Speed (km/h) and Direction		51 19 32 SW			
			TOTAL R	AINFALL IN 24 HR	0 mm
			1	Sunrise	05:57
0	Sunset	17:07			

Fajr	04:37
Sunrise	05:57
Zuhr	11:32
Asr	14:42
Sunset	17:07
Isha	18:24

Haiti

India

Iran

Iraq

Italy

Laos

Liberia

Lithuania

Libya

00231

00218

00370

Zambia

Zimbabwe

00260

00263

PRIVATE CLINICS

Ophthalmologis	its		
Dr. Abidallah Al-Mansoor	25622444		
Dr. Samy Al-Rabeea	25752222		
Dr. Masoma Habeeb	25321171		
Dr. Mubarak Al-Ajmy	25739999		
Dr. Mohsen Abel	25757700		
Dr Adnan Hasan Alwayl	25732223		
Dr. Abdallah Al-Baghly	25732223		
Ear, Nose & Throat (ENT)		
Dr. Ahmed Fouad Mouner	24555050 Ext 510		
Dr. Abdallah Al-Ali	25644660		
Dr. Abd Al-Hameed Al-Taweel	25646478		
Dr. Sanad Al-Fathalah	25311996		
Dr. Mohammad Al-Daaory	25731988		
Dr. Ismail Al-Fodary	22620166		
Dr. Mahmoud Al-Booz	25651426		
General Practition	ners		
Dr. Mohamme Y Majidi	24555050 Ext 123		
Dr. Yousef Al-Omar	24719312		
Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhazeem	23926920		
Dr. Kathem Maarafi	25730465		
Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadah	25655528		
Dr. Nabeel Al-Ayoobi	24577781		
Dr. Dina Abidallah Al-Refae	25333501		
Urologists			
Dr. Ali Naser Al-Serfy	22641534		
Dr. Fawzi Taher Abul	22639955		
Dr. Khaleel Abidallah Al-Awad	i 22616660		
Dr. Adel Al-Hunayan FRCS (C)	25313120		
Dr. Leons Joseph	66703427		

Psychologists

/Psychotherapists

Plastic Surgeons				
Dr. Mohammad Al-Khalaf	22547272			
Dr. Abdal-Redha Lari	22617700			
Dr. Abdel Quttainah	25625030/60			
Family Doc	tor			
Dr Divya Damodar	23729596/23729581			
Psychiatris	sts			
Dr. Esam Al-Ansari	22635047			
Dr Eisa M. Al-Balhan	22613623/0			
Gynaecologists & Obstetricians				
DrAdrian arbe	23729596/23729581			
Dr. Verginia s.Marin	2572-6666 ext 8321			
Dr. Fozeya Ali Al-Qatan	22655539			
Dr. Majeda Khalefa Aliytami	25343406			
Dr. Ahmad Al-Khooly	25739272			
Dr. Salem soso	22618787			
General Surg	eons			
Dr. Amer Zawaz Al-Amer	22610044			
Dr. Mohammad Yousef Bash	er 25327148			
Internists, Chest & Heart				
Dr. Adnan Ebil	22639939			
Dr. Mousa Khadada	22666300			
Dr. Latefa Al-Duweisan	25728004			
Dr. Nadem Al-Ghabra	25355515			
Dr. Mobarak Aldoub	24726446			
Dr Nasser Behbehani	25654300/3			

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Paediatricians				
Dr. Khaled Hamadi	25665898			
Dr. Abd Al-Aziz Al-Rashed	25340300			
Dr. Zahra Qabazard	25710444			
Dr. Sohail Qamar	22621099			
Dr. Snaa Maaroof	25713514			
Dr. Pradip Gujare	23713100			
Dr. Zacharias Mathew	24334282			
Dermatolog	ıy			
Dr. Mohammed Salam				
Bern University	23845955			
Dentists				
Dr Anil Thomas	3729596/3729581			
Dr. Shamah Al-Matar	22641071/2			
Dr. Anesah Al-Rasheed	22562226			
Dr. Abidallah Al-Amer	22561444			
Dr. Faysal Al-Fozan	22619557			
Dr. Abdallateef Al-Katrash	22525888			
Dr. Abidallah Al-Duweisan	25653755			
Dr. Bader Al-Ansari	25620111			
Neurologists				
Dr. Sohal Najem Al-Shemeri	25633324			
Dr. Jasem Mola Hassan	25345875			
Gastrologists				
Dr. Sami Aman	22636464			
Dr. Mohammad Al-Shamaly	25322030			
Dr. Foad Abidallah Al-Ali	22633135			

Kaizen center

25716707

Noor Clinic

23845955

	Endocrinologist			
)	Dr. Abd Al-Naser Al-Othman	25339330		
	Dr. Ahmad Al-Ansari 25658888			
	Dr. Kamal Al-Shomr 25329924			
	Physiotherapists & VD			
	Dr. Deyaa Shehab 25722291			
	Dr. Musaed Faraj Khamees	22666288		
	Rheumatologis	ts:		
	Dr. Adel Al-Awadi 25330060			
581	Dr. Khaled Al-Jarallah	25722290		
	Internist, Chest & Heart			
	DR.Mohammes Akkad	24555050 Ext 210		
	Dr. Mohammad Zubaid MB, ChB, FRCPC, PACC Assistant Professor Of Medicin Head, Division of Cardiology	e		
	Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital	25339667		
	Consultant Cardiologist			
	Dr. Farida Al-Habib MD, PH.D, FACC	2611555-2622555		
	Inaya German Medical Center Te: 2575077 Fax: 25723123			

William Schuilenberg, RPC 2290-1677

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CALLS Afghanistan 0093 Luxembourg 00352 Albania 00355 00853 Macau 00213 Macedonia 00389 Algeria **Andorra** 00376 Madagascar 00261 00244 Majorca 0034 Angola Anguilla 001264 Malawi 00265 001268 Malaysia 0060 Antiga **Maldives** 0054 00960 Argentina Armenia 00374 Mali 00223 0061 00356 **Australia Austria** 0043 Marshall Islands 00692 **Bahamas** 001242 Martinique 00596 00973 Mauritania 00222 Bahrain Bangladesh 00880 Mauritius 00230 **Barbados** 001246 Mayotte 00269 **Belarus** 00375 Mexico 0052 0032 Belgium Micronesia 00691 00501 Moldova 00373 **Belize** Benin 00229 Monaco 00377 001441 Bermuda Mongolia 00976 **Bhutan** 00975 Montserrat 001664 00212 Bolivia 00591 Morocco **Bosnia** 00387 Mozambique 00258 **Botswana** 00267 Myanmar (Burma) 0095 0055 00264 Brazil Namibia Brunei 00673 Nepal 00977 00359 Netherlands 0031 Bulgaria Netherlands Antilles 00599 **Burkina** 00226 Burundi 00257 **New Caledonia** 00687 00855 Cambodia **New Zealand** 0064 Cameroon 00237 Nicaragua 00505 00227 001 Nigar Canada Cape Verde 00238 Nigeria 00234 Cayman Islands 001345 Niue 00683 00236 Norfolk Island 00672 **Central African** Chad 00235 N. Ireland (UK) 0044 Chile 00850 0056 **North Korea** China 0086 Norway 0047 Colombia 0057 Oman 00968 Comoros 00269 **Pakistan** 0092 00242 Palau 00680 Congo 00682 00507 Cook Islands **Panama** Costa Rica 00506 Papua New Guinea 00675 Croatia 00385 **Paraguay** 00595 0053 Cuba Peru 0051 00357 **Philippines** 0063 Cyprus 0090392 Poland 0048 Cyprus (Northern) **Czech Republic** 00420 **Portugal** 00351 0045 **Puerto Rico** 001787 Diego Garcia 00246 00974 Djibouti 00253 Romania 0040 001767 Russian Federation **Dominica** 007 Dominican Republic 001809 Rwanda 00250 **Ecuador** 00593 Saint Helena 00290 **Saint Kitts** Egypt 0020 001869 00503 Saint Lucia 001758 El Salvador England (UK) 0044 Saint Pierre 00508 **Equatorial Guinea** Saint Vincent 001784 00291 Samoa US 00684 00372 Samoa West 00685 Estonia 00251 Ethiopia San Marino 00378 Falkland Islands 00500 00239 Sao Tone **Faroe Islands** 00298 Saudi Arabia 00966 00679 Scotland (UK) 0044 **Finland** 00358 Senegal 00221 0033 00284 France Seychelles Sierra Leone French Guiana 00594 00232 French Polynesia 00689 0065 Singapore 00241 Slovakia 00421 Gabon Gambia 00220 Slovenia 00386 Solomon Islands 00995 00677 Georgia 0049 00252 Germany Somalia Ghana 00233 South Africa 0027 South Korea Gibraltar 00350 0082 Greece 0030 Spain 0034 00299 Sri Lanka 0094 Greenland 001473 Sudan 00249 Grenada Guadeloupe 00590 Suriname 00597 001671 Swaziland 00268 Guam 00502 Sweden 0046 Guatemala Guinea 00224 Switzerland 0041 00592 Guyana Syria 00963 00509 Serbia 00381 Holland (Netherlands) 0031 00886 00504 Tanzania 00255 **Honduras** 00852 Thailand Hong Kong 0066 0036 00228 Hungary Toga Ibiza (Spain) 0034 00676 00354 00690 **Iceland** Tokelau 0091 **Trinidad** 001868 **Indian Ocean** 00873 Tunisia 00216 Indonesia 0062 Turkey 0090 0098 Tuvalu 00688 00964 Uganda 00256 Ireland 00353 Ukraine 00380 0039 **United Arab Emirates 00976** United Kingdom 00225 **Ivory Coast** 0044 001876 Uruguay 00598 0081 USA 001 Japan 00962 Uzbekistan 00998 Jordan Kazakhstan 007 Vanuatu 00678 Kenya 00254 Venezuela 00582 Kiribati 00686 Vietnam 0084 Kuwait 00965 Virgin Islands UK 001284 00996 Virgin Islands US 001340 Kyrgyzstan 00856 Wales (UK) 0044 Latvia 00371 Yemen 00967 00961 Yugoslavia 00381

Music & Movies



Sterbanseen, and Joe Bonsall, pose for a photo at The Country Music Hall of Fame 2015 Medallion Ceremony at Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum on Sunday in Nashville, Tenn. —AP photos



From left, Kenny Rogers, with The Oak Ridge Boys William Lee Golden, Duane Allen, Richard From left, March Martin, Texas Martin, Jamie Martin, Tallant Martin and Kell Martin of the Martin Family Circus perform on stage.





Garth Brooks performs at The Country Music Hall of Fame From left, Trisha Yearwood and Garth Brooks perform on stage.



From left, Jody Williams, Maxine Brown, Bobby Bare, Bonnie Brown and

Oak Ridge Boys, the Browns inducted into Hall of Fame

he sound of voices in synch filled the air as two of country music's greatest vocal harmony groups, the Oak Ridge Boys and the Browns, along with the late gifted guitarist Grady Martin were inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame on Sunday night. On hand to honor the 2015 inductees were Garth Brooks, Trisha Yearwood, Dierks Bentley, Vince Gill and Marty Stuart with performances of hits

like "Elvira," "The Three Bells" and "El Paso." The four members of the Oak Ridge Boys. Joe Bonsall, Duane Allen, William Lee Golden and Richard Sterban, each received a medallion from their longtime friend and tour mate, Kenny Rogers. Brooks, who is nominated for entertainer of the year at the Country Music Association Awards next month, said the Oak Ridge Boys gave him his start as a young artist in the 1980s.

"So they opened the doors for me, but what they really did, long before that - 'Y'all Come Back Saloon,' might be one of the greatest albums ever recorded in country music history," Brooks said before the ceremony. "Great song after song, hit after hit." The four newest members of the hall have all been performing together since 1973, although the band's origins date back to the 1940s. They are one of the few gospel acts to successfully transition to secular music and become hit-makers in multiple genres.

"It's always been family," Bonsall said during the ceremony. "Family has been what's most important. We've tried to run our group that way, as a family." The Browns, a sibling trio made up of Jim Ed Brown and his sisters Maxine and Bonnie, established themselves as smooth harmony singers in the 1950s and '60s with songs like "The Old Lamplighter" and "Scarlet Ribbons (for Her Hair.)" When Maxine and Bonnie left the business to raise their children, Jim Ed Brown continued on as a popular solo artist who had a successful run as a radio and television host as well.

Jim Ed Brown was inducted into the hall of fame at his bedside a few days before his death in June from cancer, and his sister. Bonnie. announced earlier this month that she has also



From left, Rebecca Isaacs Bowman, Lily Isaacs, Sonya Issacs Yeary and Ben Isaacs of The Isaacs perform onstage.

diagnosed with cancer. Bentley, who performed Jim Ed Brown's "Pop A Top," said Brown was like a father figure at the Grand Ole Opry when Bentley first started performing there. "He's probably up there looking down on us and will probably be in the room tonight when we're singing, and I'll be nervous," Bentley said before the ceremony.

Few musicians have had a career like Martin, a guitar and fiddle player who performed with musical legends like Hank Williams, Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash, Patsy Cline and Willie Nelson. He could play just about any style, from acoustic, rockabilly, rock 'n' roll or twangy country. One famous story about Martin was how he created his signature guitar lick on Marty Robbins' hit, "Don't Worry." A preamp in the studio mixing board malfunctioned, which gave his solo guitar part a fuzzed-out sound that became so popular that even Keith Richards replicated it for the Rolling Stones. Martin died in 2001. Singer Brenda Lee presented the medallion to his son, Joshua



Amy Schumer

Amy Schumer, senator cousin call for tighter gun control

■hen it comes to gathering support for major issues, Amy Schumer is at the cutting edge of influence. The actress and comic has more than 2 million Twitter followers, and nearly as many on Facebook and Instagram. Her cousin, Sen Charles Schumer, knows that. On Sunday, they stood in front of New York's City Hall for what they call their "crusade on guns." It started in August, when the two teamed up days after a gunman fatally shot two women in a Louisiana theater showing "Trainwreck," starring Amy Schumer.

"On Thursday, July 23rd, a man sat down for my movie, "Trainwreck." I don't know why he picked my movie," she said on Sunday. "It is something I live with every day." "Schumer & Schumer" - as the cousins whimsically dub themselves - urged lawmakers to back a proposed gun control bill sponsored by the New York Democrat. It would close the loophole allowing weapons to be sold without background checks at gun shows and online; fill gaps in the background check system itself; and stop arms trafficking of weapons across state lines.

In New York City, 85 percent of guns used in crimes come from out of state, the senator said. The two Schumers want Americans to call, write, tweet, post on Facebook and march to stop gun violence. They say that could create a groundswell forcing a vote early next year. On Sunday, Amy Schumer introduced the hashtag #AimingForChange to give people a voice across social media. "Live from New York: We're aiming for a change," the senator added, playing on words that kick off television's "Saturday Night Live," recently hosted by Amy Schumer. The senator believes at least 40 other senators support him, but he hopes for votes from the 60 needed to pass a bill. —AP

Bond returns with license to thrill in 'Spectre'

ames Bond has a license to thrill once more in new film "Spectre", which premiered yesterday at a glittering event expected to be attended by members of Britain's royal family. Prince William, his wife Kate and brother Prince Harry are among guests due at the opening night for the 24th outing of the Martini-quaffing spy. Broadly praised by critics, the film is directed by Sam Mendes and sees Daniel Craig play suave MI6 spy 007 for a fourth time. The film's title is the acronym for the Special Executive for Counter-Intelligence, Terrorism, Revenge and Extortion-a shadowy organization bent on world domination which last made an appearance in 1971's "Diamonds Are Forever".

The organization's members include classic Bond villains Dr No and Ernst Stavro Blofeld, but the group disappeared from the films for decades due to a legal dispute that was only resolved two years ago. "One of the most exciting parts of this movie is that we've got the chance to use that organization and all that that brings with it," Craig told film website ScreenSlam.

Britain's Guardian and Telegraph newspapers gave Spectre a maximum five stars, the latter praising the film's "swaggering show of confidence". However, the Financial Times gave it only two stars and said the film was attempting to alter the winning formula of 2012's "Skyfall" while "clearly being thrown into panic at the thought".

New Bond?

"Spectre" was filmed in England, Italy, Austria, Mexico and Morocco and includes the usual Bond ingredients: High-speed chase scenes, a suave villain, sultry female leads, exciting gadgets and witty one-liners. "I came here to kill you," Bond tells new bad guy Franz Oberhauser, played by Christoph Waltz, in the trailer. "And I thought you came here to die," Oberhauser counters. "Well, it's all a matter of perspective," Bond replies with a smirk. There have been doubts over Craig's future as the sixth actor to play Bond, however, after he voiced unhappiness at the prospect of doing another film-despite being contracted to do so.

He told Time Out magazine he would rather "slash my wrists" than play the famous spy again, adding: "If I did another Bond movie, it would only be for the money." Speculation has mounted over his possible replacement, with former Bond actor Roger Moore telling Britain's Mail on Sunday

newspaper that the next Bond should not be female or gay.

"They wouldn't be Bond for the simple reason that wasn't what Ian Fleming wrote," Moore was reported as saying, referring to Bond creator and author lan Fleming.

Wink, wink

An online poll by Britain's Independent newspa-

val outfits recreating Mexico's "Day of the Dead" festival, the biggest opening scene ever for a Bond film, long-time franchise producer Michael Wilson told Empire magazine. British actor Ralph Fiennes plays Bond handler and MI6 chief M, while fellow Briton Naomie Harris reprises her Skyfall role as M's secretary Eve Moneypenny.

Italian actress and model Monica Bellucci plays Lucia Sciarra, "the beautiful and forbidden widow of



per on who should play Bond in the next installment of the franchise found that most respondents would pick Craig, followed by British actor Tom Hardy, who recently starred in Mad Max: Fury Road. Under Craig, Bond has transformed from urbane and dandyish into a rugged and troubled intelligence professional, a change not all critics appreciate. "Daniel Craig, as Bond, looks like a security guard, not a man who moves easily at the highest levels of society," Telegraph columnist Charles

Moore wrote. The film opens with 1,500 extras dressed in carni-

an infamous criminal", according to the official synopsis. At 51, Bellucci is reportedly the oldest ever "Bond Girl"-a term used to describe the attractive women featured as love interests or sidekicks in Bond films. France's Lea Seydoux is the main Bond Girl, Madeleine Swann, a psychologist and daughter of a former Bond villain. "We have the same sense of humor. There was a real complicity," Seydoux told British newspaper the Mail on Sunday, referring to Craig. "It was always that 'wink, wink' feeling between us. The chemistry was strong. I hope the audience can feel that." —AFP

JAKARTA FASHION WEEK









Models display creations by Hannie Hananto during the Jakarta Fashion Week 2016 in Jakarta, Indonesia, yesterday. —AP photos







Models display creations by Irna Laperle.







Models display by Anniesa Hasibuan.











Models display creations by Najua Yanti.

Models display creations by Monika Jufry.

Bailey to design Claridge's Christmas tree

Burberry's Christopher Bailey will design Claridge's Christmas Tree. The creative director and CEO of the British fashion brand will follow in the footsteps of designers including Domenico Dolce and Stefano Gabbana, John Galliano and Lanvin's Alber Elbaz, who have previously decorated the tree at the luxury London hotel. Christopher said: "Christmas is one of my favourite times of year so I was delighted to be asked to design the Claridge's Christmas Tree.

"We wanted the tree to reflect the playfulness of the season with a little bit of the English weather thrown in. We also love the idea that the tree comes to life as guests pass by bringing a wonderful touch of festive magic to their stay." Vogue.co.uk reports that the tree - which will be made up of over 100 umbrellas - will explore the relationship between light and dark.

Claridge's general manager Thomas Kochs said of the collaboration: "Christmas has always been a truly special time of year at Claridge's and we are delighted to welcome Christopher Bailey to add the enchanting Christmas magic and creativity of Burberry to our lobby. "We are particularly proud to be flying the British flag this year with London being at the heart of both Claridge's and Burberry, and it is this shared sense of heritage and the key part we both play in London life that makes Christopher's collaboration with us so special. The Claridge's Christmas Tree has long symbolized the start of the festive season in the capital and we hope our annual tradition will continue to be a part of our guests' memories as they become part of ours."—Bang Showbiz



KENDALL AND KYLIE JENNER HIT WITH LAWSUIT

endall and Kylie Jenner have been hit with a lawsuit after they allegedly copied Island Company's trademarked logo. The famous sister are being sued by the resort clothing brand founded in 2002 for reportedly stealing its phrase, "Quit your job. Buy a ticket. Get a tan. Fall in love. Never return," according to the New York Post newspaper. Island Company has claimed PacSun has created T-shirts within Kendall and Kylie's clothing line with the similar motto, "Run away. Fall in love. Never return," which it believes will cause "confusion and deception among consumers."

Island Company, which is highly popular with the likes of Brad Pitt, Cameron Diaz and Johnny Depp, has reportedly asked the sisters and PacSun to remove the T-shirts from their line as it's been their trademark phrase since 2005. Kendall, 19, and Kylie, 18, previously said they were inspired to team up with PacSun and design their own clothes after seeing their half-sisters Kim, Kourtney and

Khloe create their own line, The Kardashian Kollection.

Speaking in an interview with the brand earlier this year, Kendall said: "We've always been very involved in fashion. I think seeing our sisters do their clothing line was very inspiring. We kind of saw their whole process and we wanted to try it out, and when the opportunity came with PacSun, we just jumped on it."—Bang Showbiz

Awards

Macklemore, Bieber win at MTV Europe awards





Canadian singer Justin Bieber poses with his trophies in the photo room of the 2015 MTV Europe Music Awards (EMA) at Mediolanum Forum in Milan. — AP/AFP photos

ip-hop duo Macklemore and Ryan Lewis were the surprise winners Sunday for Best Video at the ■ MTV Europe Music Awards in a show dominated by Justin Bieber. In a field that included superstar Taylor Swift, who had the most nominations of the night, the Seattle-based duo won for Best Video with "Downtown." "I had no idea we were going to win an award," Macklemore told the gala ceremony in Milan. "We're not on a major label; we don't have a big budget. What you guys give to us, we give back to you in the art we make," Macklemore said, referring to fans.

The duo, best known for their 2012 gay equality anthem "Same Love," shot the video for the funky track "Downtown" in Spokane, Washington, showing street life as Macklemore shops for a moped and leads a street parade. Pop sensation Bieber, whose long-awaited album fourth album "Purpose" comes out next month, appeared in a red jumpsuit as he performed his new hit "What Do You Mean?" driven by a mellow electronic

The Canadian singer took home awards for Best Male, Best Collaboration and Best Look-for which he joked, "I got these looks from my mom." Bieber hinted that he was happy to win attention for his music, not his legal troubles or often turbulent personal life. "Thank you, it's been a long couple of years. I just feel that this is pretty awesome to be recognized for my music," Bieber said.



Justin Bieber holds his Best Collaboration award.



Justin Bieber performs on stage.



Rihanna winner of Best Female award performs on stage. Ed Sheeran, left, is given the Best Live Act award.





Ruby Rose performs during the MTV European Music Awards.



Eric Nally (left), US rapper Macklemore (center) and Ryan Lewis (right) pose on the red carpet of the 2014 MTV Europe Music Awards (EMA).



Ruby Rose hosts the MTV **European Music Awards.**



Jess Glynne performs on stage.



Macklemore and Ryan Lewis hold their Best Video award.



Nicki Minaj winner of Best Hip Hop award.



Ed Sheeran, left, and Ruby Rose present the MTV **European Music Awards.**

Taylor Swift again triumphs

Best Video is determined by MTV's editorial team, but most categories are decided through fans' voting. Best Song went to Taylor Swift's "Bad Blood," whose video-a star-studded action clip with feminist undertones-landed Video of the Year at the main US-based MTV awards in August. R&B star Rihanna, who is also preparing to release a long-awaited album, won for Best Female and British boy band One Direction scored in the Best Pop category.

Nicki Minaj won in the hip-hop category, as she did at the main MTV Video Music Awards in Los Angeles in August. But Minaj was again not nominated for Best Video. After she was passed over at the US awards, she accused the music industry of a blind spot towards black women, saying that her sensual "Anaconda" video was clearly influential. Minaj accepted the latest award in a video message, saying, "I wish I was in Milan, having some delicious spaghetti, but I am not."

Global categories

Conceived as an alternative to the MTV Video Music Awards aimed at international fans, North American stars nonetheless have often dominated the European edition, whose venue changes each year. Hoping to offer a local flavor to the evening, the show featured not only English-language pop stars but Italian tenor Andrea Bocelli, who sang the classical crossover megahit "Con Te Partiro." MTV Europe gave out a number of awards aimed at non-English-speaking audiences. Singer Marco Mengoni, also from Italy, was named Best European Act and Brazilian singer Anitta won for Latin America. Diamond Platnumz, a star of bongo flava, the Tanzanian hip-hop genre that has found a growing international audience, won in a category for Africa and India. Rising pop-punksters 5 Seconds of Summer won among Australian and New Zealand acts, and the girl idol group Dempagumi.inc took the Japanese category. — AFP

LIFESTYLE

Awards

Winners

BEST SONG

Taylor Swift featuring Kendrick Lamar ìBad Bloodî

BEST POP One Direction

BEST FEMALE

Rihanna

BEST MALE Justin Bieber

BEST LIVE ACT

Ed Sheeran **BEST NEW ACT**

Shawn Mendes

BEST VIDEO

Macklemore & amp; Ryan Lewis 'Downtown'

BEST ROCK Coldplay

BEST ALTERNATIVE

Lana Del Rey

BEST HIP HOP Nicki Minaj

BEST ELECTRONIC Martin Garrix

BEST PUSH Shawn Mendes

BEST COLLABORATION

Justin Bieber, Skrillex, Diplo iWhere Are You Now?i

BIGGEST FANS Justin Bieber

BEST LOOK

Justin Bieber

Brazil - Anitta

BEST WORLD STAGE Ed Sheeran V Festival, Hylands Park, UK 2014 **VIDEO VISIONARY AWARD**

Duran Duran **WORLDWIDE ACT: North America**

Canada - Justin Bieber **WORLDWIDE ACT: LATIN America**

WORLDWIDE ACT: Europe

Italy - Marco Mengoni **WORLDWIDE ACT: Africa / India**

Africa - Diamond Platnumz **WORLDWIDE ACT: Asia**

China - Jane Zhang

WORLDWIDE ACT: Australia / New Zealand Australia - 5 Seconds of SummeróReuters



Tori Kelly and Andrea Bocelli arrive for the 2015 MTV European Music Awards.



DJ Martin Garrix holds up his Best Electronic award.



Justin Bieber, right, and Martin Garrix pose for photographers.



Duran Duran pose for photographers with their Video Visionary Award.



Duran Duran accept their Video Visionary Award on stage.



Pharrell Williams performs on stage.



James Bay performs on stage.



US model and actress Ashley Benson poses An artist performs during the MTV



European Music Awards.



Ellie Goulding arrives for the 2015 MTV European Music Awards.







Whitmore poses on the red carpet.



MTV Talent Laura Australian DJ, actress and Model Shay Mitchell pos-TV host Ruby Rose poses on the red carpet.



es on the red carpet.



Italian singer Marco Mengoni poses on the red

carpet.



Tennis player Novak Jokovic poses with fans on the red carpet.

Kuwait Times

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2015

Macklemore, Bieber win at MTV Europe awards





People dressed and painted as 'Catrinas'.



A boy with his face painted as a 'Catrina' has his picture taken.



A woman dressed up and with her face painted as a 'Catrina' takes part in a Day of the Dead celebration in Mexico City.



A woman dressed as a 'Catrina', Mexico's grand dame of death, attends an alebrijes parade in Mexico City, Saturday. Alebrijes are colorful sculptures that combine components of different animals to create a unique fantastical creature. The term was penned by Mexico City folk artist Pedro Linares, who originated the art form in the 1930s based on creatures he dreamt about during a severe illness, which he began recreating after his recovery. — AP photos



A young girl with her face painted as a 'Catrina'.



prepare themselves before their performance at the Hollywood Forever Cemetery to celebrate Dia de los Muertos (Day of the



A woman and a girl with their faces painted as 'Catrinas,' listen to a band playing music as part of the Day of the Dead celebration.



Isabelle Aubin, from Paris, France arrives for the celebrations at the Hollywood Forever Cemetery for Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) in the Hollywood section of Los Angeles.



Women stand under a billboard advertising the reality TV show 'House of Scales' in Almaty on October 20, 2015. — AFP

Supersized Kazakhs battle to drop pounds in hit show

ulmira Jumagulova, a 125-kilogramme (275-pound) contestant on a popular Kazakhstan fat camp reality show, is still haunted by the words of a boyfriend who dumped her mid-pregnancy. "He told me'l could never introduce you to my relatives. How would you even get into a wedding dress?" says Jumagulova, 28, on the House of Scales show broadcast by the Russian-owned 31.kz channel. The taunt was made worse by the fact that Jumagulova, now a single mother, often finds herself capturing the joy of other couples' weddings as part of her job as a professional photographer. "I feel I am limiting my son's enjoyment. I cannot go on the rides at theme parks because I cannot squeeze into them," she said during the show's second season.

'We have to watch from the sidelines." Jumagulova is one of 16 contestants packed into a glass-andsteel house and monitored around the clock as they bid to lose a collective 500 kilos of body fat. The contestants also have to avoid getting voted off each week by the public, while competing individually for the main prize of around \$350,000 (320,000 euros). Most of the contestants, put through their paces by demanding trainers and counselled by in-house psychologists, are in their 20s and 30s. They are the first generation to grow up in the age of globalization and fast food in the former Soviet state which has grown rich on its oil production.

Changing tastes, growing waists

According to World Health Organization data for 2014, nearly

one in four of Kazakhstan's adult population is obese, making it the fourth fattest former Soviet country behind Lithuania, Russia and Latvia. "In Communist times, many of these calorie-rich foods were simply not available," says Batyrbek Taizhanov, the winner of House of Scales' first season, who trimmed down from 178 kg to 129 kg and met his current wife while on the show. "Now we are hurrying everywhere, not thinking about what we are shoving in our mouths: A burger with lots of calories or a can of cola stuffed

While the show filmed in the Central Asian country's largest city Almaty has enjoyed massive ratings, it has also been criticized as exploitative. The first season saw contestants frequently break down due to isolation from family and friends, who can only watch them through the glass walls, as well as the strenuous exercise routine. They also must battle the ever-present temptation of sweet food, which is allowed in the house. The Kazakh Academy of Nutrition, which monitors the country's weight problem, told AFP in a statement that the show "does not correlate to modern knowledge, or approach (obesity) from either a scientific or ethical point of view."

Unabashed, 31.kz promised that season two, which kicked off this month, will be "more realistic, tougher and more interesting". Asel Toyanova, general producer of the 31.kz channel, defended the show, saying it "helps people transform their lives." "Other than excess weight, many of the participants have problems in their personal lives which may have caused this problem or resulted from it," Toyanova told AFP. "Our show has allowed people to talk about these issues and find solutions to them."

'I owe the show a lot'

Authoritarian Kazakhstan has seen rapid economic growth since 2000, mostly on the back of high oil prices, and growing wealth has attracted Western fast food franchises such as Burger King and Kentucky Fried Chicken, with McDonalds set to open soon. Some say the trend for fast food is squeezing out traditional dishes, such as beshbarmak, a meat and noodle specialty that translates as "five fingers" and is often eaten with the hands. As pizzas and fries encroach on home cooking, the government has also sounded the alarm over the growing number of obese chil-

To burn off the extra pounds, the country has developed a Western-style personal fitness culture with increasing numbers of plush private gyms catering to a growing middle class. House of Scales' first winner Taizhanov, who now regularly trains at a gym himself, says the reality show has changed his life. "I owe the show a lot. I won a lot of money, I met the love of my life, I weigh just over 100 kilograms now and I want to weigh 80. A person needs to have goals to pursue. What is a life without goals?" he told AFP. — AFP