THE FIRST DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF

Foreign direct investment in **Kuwait soars**



Poets latest to be snared in Iran crackdown



Honda opens two new showrooms in Al Rai



On stony ground: Asian cricketers find Saudi solace





AMIR OPENS ASSEMBLY TERM. URGES SPENDING CUTS, UNITY

SUBAIH GRILLING ENDS WITHOUT NO-CONFIDENCE MOTION



12:37 **Low Tide** 06:20 & 18:35





KUWAIT: HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah greets members of the National Assembly during the opening ceremony of the new legislative term yesterday. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat

EXPATS CANNOT GET CAMPING LICENSES

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: According to the municipal law, expats cannot apply for camping licenses this year, which will only be granted to Kuwaitis aged 21 and above. The local camping season begins on Nov 1. Municipality Director General Engineer Ahmad Al-Subaih said there are 20 camping sites over a total area of 1,135 sq km in Jahra and Ahmadi governorates - 15 sites in Jahra and five in Ahmadi. He said those applying for a camping license can do so in only one site from the 20 sites allocated by the municipality. Subaih said KD 50 will be charged as fees for each license for each camp, while a KD 300 deposit for every 1,000 m will be charged, and will be refunded after the camp is removed and the site cleaned.

23 EXPATS TO BE **DEPORTED FOR PUBLIC BRAWL**

KUWAIT: Kuwaiti authorities will deport without trial 17 Egyptians and six Syrians after they were involved in a mass brawl over a commercial dispute, an information ministry official said yesterday. The official denied media reports that the men were being deported after allegedly beating up a Kuwaiti citizen. The reports had also put the number of Egyptians at 18. "The men participated in a brawl and damaged vehicles in Shuwaikh industrial area," the information ministry official told AFP. "There was no (Kuwaiti) citizen involved in the case," he said, requesting anonymity.

Continued on Page 13

KUWAIT AIRWAYS SEEKS PARTNERS AS EXPANSION BEGINS

DUBAI: Kuwait Airways is heading into an expansion phase which will include partnerships, following a restructuring plan that helped it cut losses, an executive at the state-owned airline said yesterday. "We have a whole plan until 2022 of different fleet leases, purchases ... we're restructuring our routes as we speak and reducing operational costs," Kuwait Airways Chief Operating Officer Kamil Al-Awadhi told reporters. "We're looking at partners ... that would give more access and passengers," he said, saying agreements could go beyond code shares, whereby airlines extend networks by selling tickets for flights operated by partners, and vice versa.

In November last year, Kuwait Airways agreed to purchase 10 Boeing 777-300s which it will start receiving in Nov 2016. Some of these will be used to replace retiring aircraft, while others will be used for expansion on longhaul routes. The airline may also exercise options to purchase five more planes. Kuwait Airways has made firm orders for Boeing 777s, Airbus A320neos and A350s and has options to buy more.

Continued on Page 13

IOC BANS KUWAIT, PAYS SLAMS 'PLOT'

KUWAIT: The International Olympic Committee has suspended Kuwait for the second time in five years over government interference in the country's Games committee, but the decision was rejected by Kuwait's Public Authority for Youth and Sport. The IOC said yesterday it met the government and the Kuwait Olympic Committee (KOC) on Oct 12 to resolve the issue

over a piece of sports legislation that was seen as threatening the autonomy of the Olympic body but the talks proved fruitless.

"The Olympic Movement in Kuwait has faced a number of issues to preserve its autonomy, in particular due to recently amended sports legislation in Kuwait," the IOC added.

Continued on Page 13

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah yesterday called on the government and the National Assembly to take urgent austerity measures to cut spending and boost non-oil revenues after a slump in oil prices resulted in Kuwait losing 60 percent of its revenues. The Amir also urged the nation to unite to confront the threat of terrorism which struck the country when a suicide bomber blew himself up in the Imam Al-Sadeq Mosque in June, killing 26 people and wounding 227

Addressing the opening ceremony of the new parliamentary term, the Amir said that although revenues dropped sharply,

public spending, especially on items without returns, has continued without any reduction. The Amir also called on the Kuwaiti people to understand the aims of economic reforms, but insisted that any reforms should not hurt low-income people.

Over the past 16 fiscal years, oil revenues contributed close to 94-95 percent of public revenues and this contribution is forecast to slide by around 60 percent because of the drop in oil prices since June 2014. Kuwait is projecting a deficit of KD 7 billion before calculating the 10 percent deduction in favor of the future generations fund.

Continued on Page 13

SEE PAGES 2 & 3



PLATINUM LODHA









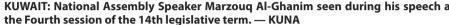




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HUBTNUT







KUWAIT: National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanim seen during his speech at KUWAIT: A Kuwaiti woman takes a selfie during the opening ceremony of the new legislative year at the National Assembly in Kuwait City yesterday. Amir called on the government and parliament to carry out urgent economic reforms after state income dropped 60 percent due to a sharp slide in oil prices. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

KUWAITIS DEFEATED TERRORISM THROUGH UNITY: SPEAKER

RESPONSIBLE DEMOCRACY 'KEY TO DEVELOPMENT'

KUWAIT: Through unity and cooperation with legislations, namely within the housing and the leadership, Kuwaitis have managed to defeat terrorism, said Speaker of the National Assembly Marzouq Al-Ghanim yesterday. In his speech to the Fourth Session of the 14th legislative term attended by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Al-Ghanim called on the people of Kuwait to band together to eliminate any chances for terrorism to undermine Kuwait's national security. Al-Ghanim touched on issues connected to the Imam Al-Saged Mosque terrorist attack on June 26 and the discovery of a terrorist cell in Kuwait, saying that the way the leadership handled the situations had defused tension in the country.

Al-Ghanim lauded His Highness the Amir's immediate and spontaneous response to the attack on Imam Al-Sadeq Mosque, noting that his visit to the scene of the attack was a "historical" move on his part.

The Speaker also commended the Kuwait people's reaction in denouncing all acts and attempts to spread fear in the country, affirming that the Kuwaiti people will come out triumphant against terrorism. Regarding the National Assembly's recent activities, Al-Ghanim said that the parliament had approved 49 public audit domains.

The parliament's achievements could not have happened without the guidance of the country's leadership, said Al-Ghanim who also commended MPs for their cooperation with the cabinet on various issues. Despite the fact, said Al-Ghanim, there are still some issues that need to be addressed; therefore, the parliament will continue to monitor the cabinet's efforts to ensure that things would be accomplished. Change will come with patience and planning, affirmed Al-Ghanim who called on the executive and legislative authorities to work together for the sake of the people. He also called on citizens to respect the rule of law, adding that the concept of unity will enable Kuwait to overcome social, economic, political, and other sorts of challenges ahead.

Enlightened democracy

Meanwhile, Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah said Monday that responsible and enlightened democracy is an effective means of development of nations. "It's important to promote public awareness about the correct democratic practices and the need to maintain security and stability as a way to attain multifaceted development including the political, economic and social aspects," he said.

Sheikh Salman made the comments during his meeting with foreign press people who arrived here to cover the opening of the fourth legislative term of the National Assembly. "The Arab world is undergoing challenging conditions and mixed experiences; some of these experiences were constructive and others went in the wrong direction," the minister said.

'The people of some Arab countries were seduced into believing in too idealistic slogans and far-fetched ideas that can hardly reflect reality; they are now unable to deal with reality as they are faced with fear for freedom versus fear for life and safety," Sheikh Salman argued.

"To the contrary, the Kuwaiti democratic experiment was the result and expression of reality, not imported from abroad; it has a unique feature derived from the intimate ruler-ruled relationship," he pointed out. He added that the Kuwaiti democratic experiment was able to overcome the numerous challenges through successful cooperation between the legislative and executive authorities, thus laying the groundwork for development and national action. — Agencies

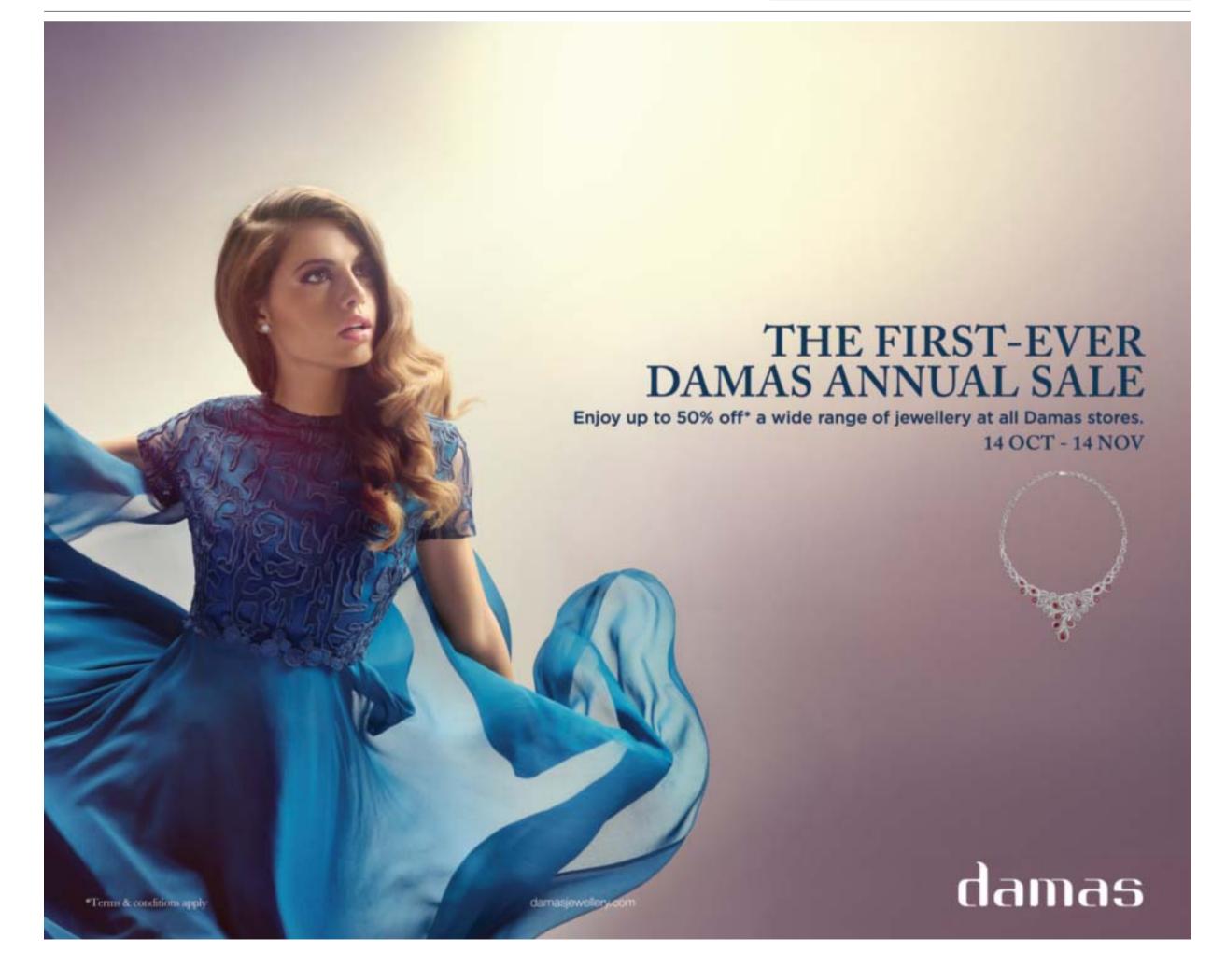
IIMFE IS THE GREATEST INCUBATOR FOR KUWAITI INVENTOR: MINISTER

KUWAIT: The International Invention Fair of the Middle East (IIFME) is considered the greatest 'incubator' for the Kuwaiti inventor, Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education Dr Bader Al-Essa said yesterday.

The Minister praised the efforts exerted by the Kuwait Science Club's (KSC) officials for preparing the launching of the 8th session of IIFME that will be held on November 16, under the auspices of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

His Highness the Amir's care offered to IIMFE since it kicked off in 2007 reflected His Highness' great attention towards science, scientists and scientific researches. His Highness' interest in the field was also reflected in his instructions to establish Sabah Al-Ahmad Creativity and Talent Center. Al-Essa praised the fruitful cooperation between KSC and Ministry of Education which contributes in serving the scientific research field, indicating that "our political leadership is fully aware of the importance towards coping with the latest modern technologies and scientific notions worldwide.

The Minister expressed his trust in the skills and capabilities of the IIMFE organizers as its 8th session will be more successful as the Ministry is offering the fair all the support it needs through the field trips of high school students. IIMFE and KSC both form the largest incubator for the Kuwaiti inventor. IIMFE was first launched in 2007, and was established by KSC. It aims at founding basic pillar for the scientific research which is capable to empower Kuwaiti youth in activating their inventions in the regional and international arenas, which reflects Kuwait's prominent role in taking care of science and scientists. — KUNA





GOVERNMENT 'WON'T TOLERATE BIDS TO UNDERMINE SECURITY'

PM CALLS FOR A TIGHT-BELT POLICY TO TRIM OVER-SPENDING

KUWAIT: His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah yesterday reaffirmed that government would not tolerate any attempt aimed at undermining security of Kuwait and called for implementing a tight-belt policy to trim over-spending. "Our national unity is a shield against anyone attempting to undermine the security of this society, while the vigilance of security forces will deal with all possibilities in order to keep Kuwait and people safe," His Highness the Prime Minister said in a speech at the inauguration of the parliament's 4th term of the 14th legislative term.

He said the government, in its quest to fight and eliminate terrorism, started activating a number of "important laws," like the DNA, the installation of surveillance cameras and the collection of unlicensed weapons. These laws, he added, would strengthen security and stability of Kuwait. The Prime Minister noted His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's calls to safeguarding security of Kuwait. He said the government would spare no effort to develop its security services and vigilance, as well as work on promoting national unity vis-a-vis security challenges facing the country.

Cooperation

He added that the government is determined to achieve development and prosperity despite numerous challenges, foremost low oil prices. "Cooperation between the government and National Assembly in line with the article 50 of the constitution has contributed to many achievements that benefited the country and citizens. The government realized the gravity of the low oil prices and the "negative impacts on our national economy as well as our ability to address financial burdens....," PM said.

The Prime Minister said that maintaining social prosperity required doubling of efforts coupled with cutting of spending and proper investment of resources. He cited His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's call to cut spending without affecting standard of living of citizens, in addition to diversifying income and minimizing dependence on oil. "The government would continue its tightbelt policy, protecting public fund and

fighting corruption, citing efforts of the Public Anti-Corruption Authority (PACA)," he added, calling on all officials to submit their own financial statement to PACA, just like he did earlier.

On reforms, Prime Minister said the process of reform needed collaboration of all citizens with the objective of achieving development of Kuwait. "The government is targeting the development of human resources as the backbone of prosperity. Caring and empowering of youth is a major element in the development plan," he added and cited the launch of the national fund for small and medium-size enterprises.

UN resolutions

His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak said the competitiveness of Kuwait has improved, and the country has made large strides in the fight against money laundering and terrorism financing, all in line with relevant UN resolutions. He said the Working Group on Tackling Financing of Terrorism's lifting of Kuwait name from its terrorism financing list was "a great civilized achievement." On the development projects, His Highness the Prime Minister said over 80 percent of ventures have been implemented in 2014-15.

The government has recently opened Al-Razi hospital with eight hospitals to be operated in the next five years, he said. New transportation and housing projects are also being implemented, he added, in addition to the development of the education system which was implemented in cooperation with the World Bank. His Highness the Prime Minister said "constructive" cooperation between the government and parliament contributed to approval of many projects like Al-Zour North power station, Al-Abdaliya solar station, sewage water treatment station and waste recycling.

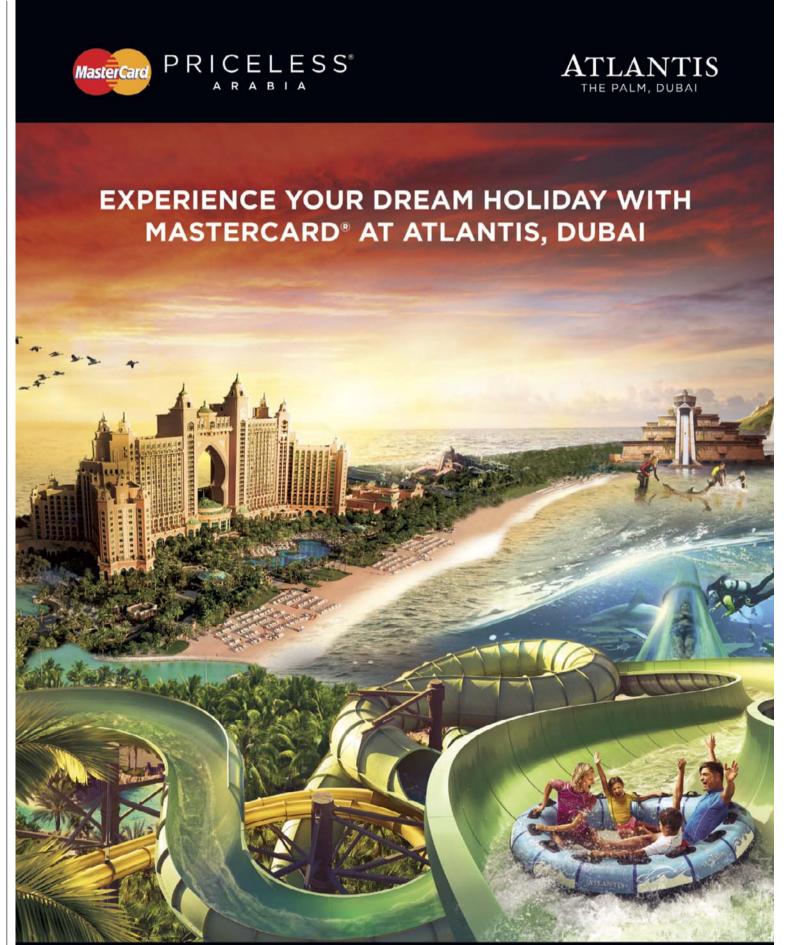
Kuwait's foreign policy will remain committed to non-interference in other countries' affairs, solving conflicts peacefully with an emphasis GCC countries' security was integrated, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh added. Kuwait is committed to good neighborliness, supporting freedom, justice, peace and human rights, His Highness the Prime Minister said in a speech at the inauguration of the 4th term

of the 14th legislative term of the National Assembly. He said Kuwait believed that security of

the Gulf Cooperation Council countries was integrated, and the GCC member states shared responsibility of preserving security and stability in the region. His Highness the Prime Minister commended Saudi Arabia's positive role in supporting just causes and its attempt to maintain peace and stability in the area. Saudi Arabia is leading an Arab coalition that aimed at protecting legitimacv in Yemen in the wake of the coup d'etat carried out by the Houthis and former president Ali Abdullah Saleh's forces against President Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi. The objective of the coalition is to restore the legitimate leadership in Yemen and help the Yemeni people. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Kuwait's Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Sabah attends the opening ceremony of the new legislative year at the National Assembly in Kuwait City yesterday. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat





KUWAIT: Kuwaiti Social Affairs and Labor Minister Hind Al-Subaih looks on during a parliament session at the National Assembly in Kuwait City yesterday. Kuwaiti MP Mohammad Tana filed a request to grill Minister of Social Affairs and Labor Hind Al-Subaih over alleged financial and administrative violations. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

KUWAIT REITERATES SOLIDARITY WITH SAUDI ARABIA IN COUNTERING TERROR

KUWAIT: Deputy Premier and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah has reiterated Kuwait's full solidarity with Saudi Arabia in countering terrorist threats and actions endangering the Kingdom's security and stability. The Interior Minister made his remarks yesterday in a cable of condolences he sent to his Saudi counterpart Prince Muhammad Bin Nayif bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud. In the cable, Sheikh Mohammad condemned the recent heinous terrorist explosion that targeted a mosque in Najran, which killed two worshipers and wounded several others.

He prayed to Allah Almighty to bestow his mercy upon the deceased, grant the injured with speedy recovery, and preserve the King, government, and people of Saudi Arabia from all types of harm.

Two people were killed and several others were injured when a suicide bomber blew himself up inside a mosque in the Saudi southern city of Najran on Monday.

According to the Saudi Interior Ministry, the suicide bomber, who was wearing an explosive belt, entered Al-Mashhad Mosque in the Dahdha neighborhood while worshippers were

leaving after performing Maghreb (sunset) prayers.

Egypt on track

In another development, Kuwaiti Information Minister said Egypt is well on its way to follow a course of security, stability, and prosperity having completed the first stage of its parliamentary elections. In a statement to the Middle East News Agency (MENA), Kuwait's Minister of Information and State Minister for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah said Egypt is the heart of the Arab world and is vital to its stability, especially as the region is undergoing painful changes, ranging from conflagrations of internal strife to waves of terrorism. Egypt, he stressed, is a major element of support to the security and stability of the GCC region and is an active partner in the growth and development of Kuwait, going back many decades. He reviewed the history of bilateral relations in numerous fields, particularly in those of health, education, and media. He called for more cooperation between the two countries as both work for peace, growth, development, and stability. — Agencies

PAAAFR BANS ANIMAL IMPORTS FROM SAUDI, OTHER COUNTRIES

KUWAIT: The Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAAFR) has banned the importation of ruminants from Saudi Arabia due to foot and mouth disease. These include cattle, sheep, goats, deer, giraffes, antelopes, and camels. The decision also includes a temporary banning importation of all live birds from Portugal due to West Nile fever as well as all species of ruminants from France and Canada banned due to the emergence of bluetongue disease, Deputy Director of PAAAFR Hanadi Bastaki said in a statement.

The decision also temporarily banned

the importation of Equidae family from the Republic of Panama due to inflammation of the brain and spinal cord disease as the import of all ruminants from Slovenia banned due to the spread of mad cow disease, Bastaki added. Bastaki stressed the need that all animals shall be subject to conditions and regulations issued by the Animal Health Department of PAAAFR and according to the procedures of the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), the Veterinary Quarantine in the GCC as well as procedures prescribed by regulation quarantine system in Kuwait. — KUNA

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DIRECT FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN KUWAIT SOARS

PIA: Investments compatible with national legislations, accounting standards

KUWAIT: The recently implemented foreign direct investment law has amply succeeded in attracting a number of foreign projects from well-heeled international companies, said Sheikh Meshal Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Chief of Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority yesterday. Kuwait has been fortunate in promoting itself as a to-go-for investment center for direct foreign investment (DFI) ever since the adoption of the law no.116 for the year 2013 regarding easing regulations for DFI in the country, he said a forum discussing investments in Kuwait.

Right after the official implementation of the law last December, bids from foreign companies, wishing to set up business in Kuwait, tumbled in an unprecedented manner, he said as he emphasized that the welcoming mat was rolled out by both the private and public sectors for this much-awaited law. Chief among objectives for the adoption of this law, said Sheikh Mishal, is seeking out alternative sources of income, besides the income from oil, noting that the success

of the new law is due in a great part to its overcoming negative aspects that speckled the old law prior to the 116 for 2013 one. In enticing DFI in Kuwait, a number of criteria has been set by Kuwait Direct



Sheikh Meshal Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah **Chief of Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority.**

Investment Promotion Authority, mainly that the project to be undertaken by the foreign investor in the country should be of high tech nature, able to generate jobs for young Kuwaitis, adds high value to the national economy, and requires quality in implementation and application, he said."

It is immaterial the number of foreign companies we attract to the Kuwaiti market, as what we seek is reputable and wellanchored companies," he stressed. Among companies of that caliber that are planning to set up business in Kuwait are IBM and Huawei, he said. The forum was attended by representatives from the domestic private sector and those from international foreign companies eager to hear about the benefits of the new FDI

Public Investment Authority

Meanwhile, the Public Investment Authority (PIA) has affirmed that its investments are compatible with national legislations and internationally recognized accounting standards. Concerning recent claims about its investment office in London, the authority said in a press statement yesterday it has a professional team of experts and staff, like that at global institutions, either in its offices in Kuwait or overseas. The authority expressed its pride in real estate through restructuring its portfolio which had a positive effect on the public funds, noting that all measures have been taken in accordance with administrative and legal frameworks.

It accepts willingly any constructive criticism serving the public interest, it said, adding that it doesn't reject any investigations by the Public Prosecution regarding this file. The PIA said it is supervised by the State Audit Bureau which has a tightly and regulatory series, and two other professional offices in the world. The PIA, thence, urged the Public Prosecution to take action against anybody who could press baseless accusations and claims against it. It voiced its full confidence in fair judiciary, stressing that all Kuwaiti people are proud of it. The authority noted that ungrounded claims about its activities will have harmful effects on its international reputation. —Agencies



In brief



Acting Managing Director for Finance Mohammed Al-Farhoud seen with Export-Import Bank of Korea representative during signing ceremony.—KUNA

the Export-Import Bank of Korea, also known as Korea Eximbank, have signed in Seoul, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) worth \$5 billion. According to the MoU, Eximbank will contribute \$5 billion as a total to finance capital projects for KPC and subsidiaries in oil production, refining and transport as well as petrochemical industries, including the Clean Fuel project, the KPC said in a statement yesterday. It added that a high-profile delegation represented the KPC in the MoU, led by Managing Director for Planning and Acting Managing Director for Finance Mohammed Al-Farhoud.

KPC and Korea's Eximbank ink MoU worth \$5 billion

KUWAIT: The Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) and

KUWAITI ARRESTED WITH UNLICENSED FIREARMS

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Weapons detectives arrested a citizen with unlicensed firearms and ammunition. Officials found two firearms in a cupboard and material suspected to be hashish, along with 75 bottles of liquor.

Jordanian dies

Foul odor led to the discovery of the body of 61-yearold Jordanian in a Hawally flat. Firemen were called to break the door.



4-vehicle collision

A car flipped over and a woman was trapped on King Fahd highway near Sabah Al-Salem after a four-vehicle collision. The woman was freed and taken by paramedics to hospital.

Residency violators

Residency Affairs Detectives carried out a campaign resulting in the arrest of 32 Asian and African workers of a cleaning company in Jahra governorate in violation of residency law. Detectives called those who harbored them and charged them.

Inspection campaign

Assisted by security forces, Farwaniya municipality launched a wide scale inspection campaign on various garages, restaurants, grocery stores, photo studios and readymade garment stores in Jleeb. The campaign resulted in closing down 13 stores for various violations as well as arresting violators and referring them to relevant authori-



KUWAIT BLASTS ISRAEL AS A ROGUE COUNTRY

KUWAIT RALLIES WORLD SUPPORT FOR UNSC BID

NEW YORK: The Permanent Mission of the State of Kuwait to the United Nations on Monday condemned Israel as roque country for trifling with all international laws and the UN resolutions. The policies of the Israeli occupation authorities negatively impact on the social and economic rights of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories, according to a statement read by Abrar Abdullatif Jarraq on behalf of the mission during a meeting by the Second Committee of the UN General Assembly.

The meeting discusses the item on "Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources." Jarraq expressed Kuwait's appreciation of the efforts of UN Secretary General Bank Ki-moon and the report of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN-ESCWA) on the living conditions of the Palestinian people.

Systematic violations

The report traces Israel's systematic violations of the international laws including the destruction of the infrastructure and principals of development in the occupied Palestinian territories as well as demolition of Palestinian homes, she pointed out. Last year the Israeli occupation authorities destroyed Palestinian educational facilities and have confiscated more than one billion sq. meters of Palestinian farmland since the start of the occupation, she said, citing the report.

The illegal Jewish settlement expansions continued hectically to the extent that 40 percent of the West Bank area became under the control of Israeli municipal councils, Jarraq went on. Israel continued hampering the socio-economic development and usurping the natural resources in the occupied territories through its racist and discriminatory policies that hindered the Palestinians' access to fresh water. The constraints placed by the Israeli occupation authorities on Palestinian economic activities left the Palestinian territories virtually isolated from the rest of the world.

The racist policies of the Israeli authorities deprived Palestinians of their religious rights enshrined in the Fourth Geneva Convention and other international legal instruments, she added. On behalf of Kuwait, Jarraq renewed the call for lifting the siege on Gaza Strip, providing international protection for the Palestinian people and preparing the ground for Palestinian statehood and an ultimate end to the Israeli occupation. Kuwait has pledged \$200 million to the post-war rehabilitation of Gaza Strip, she said, urging the international community to follow suit and shoulder its responsibility towards the Palestinians besieged in the

Coalition meeting

In another development, the 7th meeting of chiefs of staff of members of the US-led coalition against ISIL kicked off on Monday, with Kuwait's Lt Gen Mohammad Al-Khedher participating. Some 100 representative from 30 member countries of the coalition are to review and coordinate efforts, as well as discuss latest developments in terms of fighting ISIL (Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant), said a statement by the Spanish ministry of defense. The tow-day meeting would also focus on security strategies and terrorist threats, as well as exchanging views on how to address the situation in Iraq and Syria, the statement added. The last meeting was held in Doha, Qatar, while the previous ones were hosted by Saudi Arabia, Jordan, the US, Germany and France.

Security Council bid

Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah stated late Monday that Kuwait is intensifying efforts to rally world's support for its nomination to a non-permanent member seat in the UN Security Council elections of 2018. Kuwait's preparations for the UNSC elections are on full swing at different levels and in all the world continents, Al-Jarallah told reporters following his participation in a celebration of the 70th anniversary of launching UN charter. He went on to say that if elected, Kuwait would do its utmost to serve international causes during its two-year tenure. On the various calls for reforming the UN charter, Al-Jarallah expressed Kuwait's support to the initiatives and proposals to upgrade the charter to help boost the UN role in resolving international disputes. He also announced that the British capital of London would play host for the fourth international aid pledging conference for Syria. — Agencies

GCC EYING UNIFIED INSURANCE SYSTEM

DOHA: The 15th meeting for the GCC pension and social security institutes was held yesterday to look into means to unify insurance systems in the region's countries. Qatar Minister of Administrative Development Dr Issa Al-Nuaimi said during the meeting that it was important to develop a system that would protect social security and insurance for GCC states citizens. Sustaining economic development and protecting GCC citizens from unemployment and poverty are mutual goals that governments should strive to achieve, said the minister, affirming that further developing social security and insurance in the goals. On his part, President of Qatar's General Retirement and Social Insurance Authority Turki bin Mohammad Al-Kater said that implementing a unified system to protect insurance and pension in the region was a tough task due to the difference of pension and social security laws in the region. He affirmed that the meeting will look into common grounds in the GCC that will enable the establishment of a unified system.

Violations in Yemen

Meanwhile, the Secretary General of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Abdullatif Al-Zayani has received a

tions in Yemen. The report was handed by head of the committee to probe the claims Dr Hadi Al-Yami. It is believed to have covered and documented any allegations of such violations in Aden, Yemen since January 2011. The committee, consisting of senior judges, lawyers and human rights experts, is entitled to collect information and evidence, and make the necessary legal measures regarding the claims. It was formed upon a decree by Yemeni President Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi on September 7, and is authorized to complete its mandate in one year renewable for another year in case there is a similar

Environment Protection Society organizes photo shooting event

KWUAIT: Kuwait **Environment Protection** Society (KEPS) yesterday announced the launching of a marine organisms photo shooting and documenting field program at Kuwait's shores for professional and mature photographers to be presented at the KEPS 11th wildlife photography contest. The head of wildlife protection committee in KEPS Dr Manaf Bahbahani Head of wildlife protecsaid in remarks to KUNA tion committee in KEPS that the committee is will- Dr Manaf Bahbahani ing to organize an openday for the photogra-



phers who are willing to take part in the competition to be held next Saturday, including a trip to Kuwait towers. The trip will include scientific and anatomical explanation about the marine organisms in the country including fish, prawns, birds and sponge besides others, he said. Experts, researchers and academics from Kuwait University (KU), Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR), and Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAAFR) will offer a scientific and educating presentation to the participants, he added.



KRCS distributes food aid to Yemeni refugees in Somalia

KUWAIT: The Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) distributed yesterday food aid to Yemeni refugee families in Puntland State in Somalia. The Kuwaiti team distributed 2,300 food packages to Yemeni families in Basaso refugee camp, KRSC Head of the aid delegation to Somalia Abdulrahman Al-Oun said in a statement. Al-Oun said the food aid campaign covered as well Ain Taher refugee camp, Klipir camp, Laiyaho camp, Lalah Karen camp, adding that those refugees in these camps need more exerted efforts from all humanitarian international organizations. Al-Oun thanked Puntland officials and people for their hospitality and setting up those temporary camps for desperate Yemeni refugees fleeing the war in Yemen. The Kuwaiti official added around 10,000 food packages will be distributed in the future to Yemeni refugees in various Somali regions.

report on alleged human rights violaregion were keys to achieve these decree. — Agencies

KUWAIT: Zain, the leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, recently organized an awareness event at Mall 360 as part of its annual breast cancer awareness campaign, which aimed at raising awareness about breast cancer through promoting the importance of early detection. Zain took the opportunity to gather its partners from various leading medical institutions in its pink corner at Mall 360, which saw the attendance of Kuwait Cancer Control Center's Director Dr Ahmad Al Awadhi and Head of the Breast Imaging Unit at Al Sabah Hospital Dr Noor Al Huda Karmani, who answered visitors' questions and informed the crowd on the importance of early detection.

Waleed Al Khashti, Zain Kuwait's Corporate Communications and Relations Director said: "Zain's solid Corporate Social Responsibility and Sustainability strategies primarily focus on the wellbeing of the entire nation. For that reason, we maintained our support to all kinds of initiatives that spread awareness and help make a difference." Al Khashti added: "This year's breast cancer awareness campaign consisted of several strategic phases, including the distribution of awareness messages through the media and the highly acclaimed TVC that received overwhelming feedback on social media channels, in addition to the recently held interactive event at Mall 360."

"During this year's campaign, Zain further strengthened its partnership with Breast Care Kuwait for the eighth consecutive year. In addition, we undertook many new strategic partnerships with leading healthcare providers including Fatima Clinic, Al Sidra Association for Psychological Care of Cancer Patients, and the Ministry of Health's Kuwait Cancer Control Center. These partnerships enriched our efforts to inform the public through the existing expertise of such leading medical organizations" Al Khashti concluded.



THE 6TH MUSLIM WORLD BIZ KICKS OFF IN KUALA LUMPUR

World Biz 2015, the leading trade exhibition and conference in the Muslim World, kicked off in Kuala Lumpur vesterday under the theme "reaching a golden age of industry". The international Islamic exhibition has previously achieved positive

member-states of the Organizations of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), said Malaysian Minister in the Prime Minister's Department of Islamic Affairs Jamil Baharom.

Over 320 commercial companies and organizations from 49 countries

KUWAIT RECORDS REMARKABLE SUCCESS AT EXPO MILAN 2015

Italy Sheikh Ali Khaled Al-Jaber Al-Sabah yesterday applauded remarkable success of Kuwait's participation in Expo Milan 2015 and the role it played in reflecting the country's civil image to the world. The diplomat added in remarks to KUNA that the Kuwaiti pavilion gained the admiration of the Expo's visitors, beside those interested in architecture art, as being the most beautiful pavilion which witnessed a high turnout of visitors - receiving great media and official care. This international merit to Kuwait is achieved upon the instructions of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, which also contributed to the prominent position of Kuwait in a world of globalization and open communi-

Kuwait's bright image represented in one of the largest Expo's exhibitions, among other 145 countries, forming 97 percent of the world population in 54 pavilions, supported with strong investments for a period of six months is "inimitable investment" in the field of media and public relations, he affirmed. The participation of world leaders, interna-

MILAN: Kuwait's Ambassador to tional senior officials, and the unprecedented attendance of United Nations (UN) and its main organizations, besides major international institutions in the Expo which witnessed holding international conferences on a number of global challenges resulted recom-

mendations adopted by the inter-

national community in the field of

sustainable development and cul-

tural heritage, he said.

Through his position as a diplomat he monitored the effect of the fruitful Kuwaiti participation in the Expo, through the appreciation of political, economic and media figures. The Kuwaiti participation also contributed in enhancing and boosting the Kuwait-Italian bilateral ties, as the Italian government thanked Kuwait for its contribution in the success of Expo Milan, he said. The Ambassador congratulated His Highness the Amir and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Kuwait's government, official and private institutions and people on the success of the Kuwaiti participation in the Expo. — KUNA

KUALA LUMPUR: The 6th Muslim results in developing commerce in are participating in the event in the sectors of tourism, travelling, infrastructure, real estate, banking, finance, food, education cosmetics, Islamic fashion and investment, he added. On his part, Kuwaiti Ambassador to Malaysia Saad Al-Asousi noted that Kuwait is participating in the event for the second time, with ten companies from both the private and the public sector. The event provides Kuwaiti businessmen with an opportunity for marketing their country's products, while also sharing experience with their Malaysian counterparts, said the ambassador.

> Al-Asousi also mentioned the honoring of Kuwaiti businessman Fawzi Mohammad Abdulmohsen Al-Kharafi, who was awarded the "Jewels of Muslim World Award" at the opening of the conference, in recognition of his efforts in the field. Meanwhile, CEO of Mohammed Abdulmohsin Al-Kharafi and Sons Company (MAK Group) Hussam Fawzi Al-Kharafi, who received the award on behalf of his father, said he was eager to create partnerships with Malaysian businessmen, noting that most of MAK's commercial relations in Asia are focused in India at the moment.

> The Muslim World Biz, held from October 27 to 30, has generated over \$300 million in investments over the years. With quality trade buyers and exhibitors from both Muslim and Non-Muslim countries, it is the ideal opportunity to expand to over 40 countries worldwide and target the affluent Muslim trade and industry sector. The exhibition provides an ideal platform for exhibitors from all over the world to connect with over 500 private and government sector from more than 30 Muslim countries and tap into the Muslim market. — KUNA



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EQUATE RECOGNIZES FORMER VP MOHAMMAD AL BENALI

KUWAIT: EQUATE Petrochemical Company, Kuwait's first international joint-venture in this industry, hosted a celebration to recognize its former Vice President for Technical Services Mohammad Al Benali. Al Benali's contribution to Kuwait's petrochemical industry commenced during 1984 at Petrochemical Industries Company (PIC) before he was selected as the Information Technology (IT) Project Manager for the establishment of EQUATE.

Being one of the key individuals since EQUATE's founding in 1995 and serving as VP Technical services during 2009-2015, Al Benali played a critical role in several achievements relevant to strategic planning, technology improvement, IT, procurement, Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), sustainability, Research & Development (R&D), Code of Business Conduct (COBC), industrial operations, plant expansions, as well as other fields.

EQUATE President & CEO Mohammad Husain said, "Al Benali's positive impact at EQUATE, especially our human resources, deserves endless gratitude and cannot be described with words. His ethical conduct, outstanding professionalism, world-class achievements, vast expertise and exemplary leadership have truly made him one of our main 'Partners in Success.'

Al Benali has been instrumental in achieving EQUATE's Mission, Vision & Values at every level and with all stakeholders, such as shareholders, customers, public bodies, private organizations, civic entities, and most important of all our employees and contractors who have interacted with him. EQUATE's overall achievements in sustainability relevant to CSR are a result of Al Benali's efforts, passion and vision. Al Benali is an exceptional colleague and a true friend, not to mention being viewed as a brother or a father figure to many who have worked with him." The celebration was attended by board members of EQUATE and other Greater EQUATE companies, as well as several of the company's current and previous leaders and employ-

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



and Qurain Petrochemical Industries Company (QPIC).

Commencing production in 1997, EQUATE is currently the owner and singleoperator of several fully integrated worldclass petrochemical units, within the Greater EQUATE joint-venture, that annually produce over 5 million tons of the highest quality grades of Ethylene, Polyethylene (PE), Ethylene Glycol (EG), Polypropylene (PP), Styrene Monomer (SM), Paraxylene (PX), Heavy Aromatics (HA) and Benzene (BZ). The products are marketed throughout the Middle East, Asia, Africa and Europe.

Alongside with being a leading industrial organization, EQUATE dedicates its utmost commitment and care to overall sustainability wherever it operates in cooperation with public and private bodies, including employees, the society and customers, in all relevant fields, such as human development, environment, education, health and public awareness.



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KUWAIT: Photo shows Kuwaiti traditional coffee pot 'Al-Dallah' which is always present at the 'diwaniahs'. It is a symbol of Kuwait generosity and hospitality. —KUNA

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Al-Anbaa

RAY OF HOPE

By Nermin Al-Houti

olitical pressure, deteriorating economy and accumulation of social problems, be they domestic or foreign, on our societies, makes one look for a glimpse of hope; to look at things with optimism and be able to see the future with hope and optimism. Abrar Faisal Al-Masoud is the first Kuwaiti, rather Gulf national, who signed a memorandum of understanding with the US State Department within the framework of a world program that supports future works. This program will allow many Kuwaiti and Gulf youth to train and develop ideas in the region. This agreement is a fort for youth ideas, and a camp that supports the development of their small projects and works on developing and executing them in reality. This is a ray of light in a place full of darkness. Abrar bears an honorable load at the scientific and practical levels, which distinguishes her by her penetration of the First World through gathering the ideas of youth and carrying out a full study. Its results were honorable, through which she was able to convince the US to sign up to her initiative and support her project. Abrar was able to link the First and the Third Worlds, and became the first of her kind when she made the First World say: This is Kuwait and these are Kuwait youth. In conclusion: "Kuwait's youth and its status, and defending and protecting it, is the responsibility of its people and their efforts," said the Amir of hearts Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, may Allah bestow his mercy on him. — Translated by Kuwait Times



Report

EGYPTIANS SCUFFLE WITH POLICE

KUWAIT: Egyptians who had gathered at Green Island to be transported to their embassy to cast their votes got involved in a fight. A policeman attempted to break up the fight and organize traffic, but one of the transport supervisors refused to obey instructions and insulted the policeman, so he asked for backup. When an officer approached the supervisor, who is an embassy employee, he was pushed back to the patrol car. The people that were fighting each other then turned on the police cars and threw water bottles and soda cans at them. Interior Ministry Assistant Undersecretary for General Security Abdelfattah Al-Ali went to the scene and found the supervisor did not have authorization from the embassy. Meanwhile, those who started the fight fled the scene.

Thief asked for password

A thief who stole a phone of a citizen in London was able to find her local number in Kuwait and sent her a message asking her to give him the password to be able to use the stolen phone. The woman, who got a replacement SIM card, ignored him, so he started sending her messages from two Egyptian numbers. The woman went to Adailiya police station and filed a complaint, and electronic crimes detectives are working on the case.

KD 4,250 cheque destroyed

An owner of a cleaning company accused an official at a security company of tearing a KD 4,250 cheque at the company premises. The cleaning company owner went to Nugra police station and lodged a complaint. He said a dispute took place while signing a contract, and the cheque was torn.

Online theft

A thief withdrew KD 620 from the account of a Syrian through the Internet, so filed a complaint at Salmiya police station. The Syrian said he received an SMS telling him about the withdrawal of KD 620 in two transactions, so he called the bank and suspended the account. Criminal detectives are investigating.



ASAR - AL RUWAYEH & PARTNERS ORGANIZES A SEMINAR ON PROMOTION OF DIRECT INVESTMENT

Partners (ASAR) - Kuwait's leading corporate, commercial and finance law firm, hosted a leading seminar on the Promotion of Direct Investment in the State of Kuwait. The seminar was held yesterday at the JW Marriot Hotel in Kuwait City with the presence of KDIPA's Director General, Sheikh Dr Meshaal Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, senior officials from KDIPA and ASAR partners and lawyers, who shared significant insights on the technical aspects of Law No 116 of 2013 (Regarding the Promotion of Direct Investment in the State of Kuwait) and its executive regulations (the "Direct Investment Law").

The seminar was specifically designed and organized by ASAR to shed light on the considerable incentives under the Direct Investment Law and practical issues currently facing investors in the course of the KDIPA application process and thereafter. Moreover, the seminar also addressed the various exemptions available to investors under the Direct Investment Law with regards to foreign ownership restrictions (which allow foreign investors to own up to 100% of the shares in a Kuwait incorporated company), partial and full custom duties exemptions, and Kuwait income tax exemptions for a period of up to 10 years.

Additionally, the seminar featured key note speeches by KDIPA's Sheikh Dr Meshaal Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah along with other senior KDIPA officials including, Sheikh Abdullah Sabah Al Sabah - Head of Licensing and Registration at KDIPA, highlighting the authority's role, in being the applicable Kuwaiti regulator under whose purview the Foreign Direct Investment Law falls. Sam Habbas,

KUWAIT: ASAR-Al Ruwayeh & Senior Partner at ASAR - Al Ruwayeh & Partners (ASAR) - Kuwait's leading corporate, commercial and finance law firm, hosted a leading seminar on the Promotion of Direct Investment in the State of Kuwait. The seminar was held yesterday at the JW Marriot Hotel in Kuwait City with the pressult of the pressul

We have been working closely with KDIPA to attract foreign investment in Kuwait, and to assist investors in establishing Kuwaiti owned entities under the Direct Investment Law, and today's seminar has played a major role in outlining significant milestones and key regulatory frameworks. It is of prime importance to have these types of platforms organized among the regulatory authorities, industry experts and other key market players to exchange ideas on how to enhance the efficiency, reliability and transparency of the investment market landscape in Kuwait."

With dedicated offices in Kuwait and Bahrain coupled with its associated offices and relationships, ASAR provides clients across an extensive range of industry sectors with comprehensive legal advice and strategic support for their business activities in Kuwait, across member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and beyond.

The firm has been consistently rated as the leading corporate, commercial and finance law firm in Kuwait by reputable legal guides such as the Chambers Global Guide, International Financial Law Review (IFLR) and the Legal 500. In October 2014 ASAR won the "IFLR National Law Firm of the Year Award" for the 6th consecutive year and the "Project Finance Deal of the Year Award". In addition, ASAR also won the prestigious "2014 Commercial Litigation Law Firm of the Year" and the "2014 Best Banking and Finance Legal Team -Kuwait" awards from Acquisition International Magazine in 2014. ASAR lawyers also received multiple awards under different categories in the Fourth Edition of "Best Lawyers" in Kuwait.



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Al-Anbaa

FLYING COWS

By Saad Al-Motesh

used to disbelieve the story about the teacher who asked his students about 'animals' that can fly and was shocked when one of them said that an elephant could fly. When he tried to explain that it could not, the student insisted! "Who is the idiot who told so?" the teacher asked the student, to get a very shocking answer - that it was the president. "Well, an elephant can fly but not too high above the ground," the teacher said with a smile clouded with terror. (End of story.)

Well, I used to think this story was just a joke, but many Twitter users have been insisting that so many other animals, including ruminants, can also fly and even do some acrobatics in the sky while flying. Fanciers, especially those raising pigeons, usually whistle and clap their hands to make their birds fly, and this is what happens on Twitter, where you can have the majority of your followers fly by simply posting a tweet of a rumor. You will immediately find many flying around with this rumor the way elephants fly!

Therefore, I do urge the bricks company to manufacture an edgeless type that does not tear pockets if we keep them as weights preventing us from flying or floating around with each and every rumor and false piece of information as a folkloric saying has always and wisely advised us to 'load our pockets with rocks'!

— Translated by Kuwait Times

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Al-Anbaa

DON'T BE TOO OPTIMISTIC

By Saleh Al-Shayeji

forty, fifty or even more years, circulating on social media networks. We then immediately start comparing our present to the times those photos were taken to come up with a conclusion that is, unfortunately, always in favor of the past. By this, I am not speaking about Kuwait alone. Unfortunately, this applies to most Arab countries seen in the photos that clearly declare their past superiority to their present. It even goes beyond Arab countries in including some afflicted Muslim countries such as Afghanistan, where photos of the 1950s show a great deal of elegance and beauty Afghans used to enjoy then compared to the daily killings, terrorism and devastation that never knocks any doors. The same applies for Iran and Pakistan as well.

The reason for such regression in favor of the past is very well known to us all, and our governments know it even better than we do. However, no one dares to declare or mention it so that we can start solving problems and try to catch up with the 'past'. My readers might probably be wondering why I am saying this now. Well, with all self-confidence, I can say that I, as well, do not dare mention the reason, and if I had the guts and actually brought such reasons to public, I might be subjecting both myself and my newspaper to jeopardy!

I believe that such regression will continue and expand further and further to reach societies that are probably experiencing welfare, progress and development at the time being. Optimism in this regard is more like false pregnancy. It is a mere illusion and mirage spread around by people who do not realize the danger in feeling optimistic about bringing a corpse back to life.

We grew richer. Our pockets are overfilled with money, but our minds are almost entirely hollow and empty. We are less aware and appreciative of the values of virtue and beauty. We are clinging more to evil and ugliness. Beauty is no longer appreciated. We actually detest and disrespect it. There is no beauty in souls or minds as those minds are more concerned with destruction rather than with construction. We have substituted love with hatred and repulsion. We have been enviously fighting each other and boasting about all the blood we have been shedding, as if we came to this life to kill and be killed. Don't be too optimistic. — Translated by Kuwait Times

Kuwait Times International

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2015

EGYPTIANS RETURN TO VOTE AS ELECTION RUN-OFF BEGINS

US warship sails near **Chinese man-made** islands in Spratlys

AFGHAN-PAKISTAN QUAKE TOLL TOPS 350

HUNT FOR SURVIVORS CONTINUES, COMMUNICATION SYSTEM DISRUPTED

ISLAMABAD: Rescuers were yesterday picking their way in the Hindu Kush mountain range, which lies near the juncthrough rugged terrain and pockets of Taleban insurgency in tion of the Eurasian and Indian tectonic plates. the search for survivors after a massive quake hit Pakistan and Afghanistan, killing more than 350 people.

The toll was expected to rise as search teams reach remote areas that were cut off by Monday's powerful 7.5 magnitude quake, which triggered landslides and stampedes as it toppled buildings and severed communication lines. A police official in the northwestern Pakistani city of Peshawar told AFP they had not been able to get in touch with authorities in the district of Kohistan in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to see how its population of nearly half a million people had fared.

"There is no way to communicate with the officials in Kohistan, the communication system has been disrupted and roads blocked so we cannot say anything about the damage there," the official told AFP.

Authorities were also still struggling to ascertain the damage in the northern district of Chitral, where a local official said the quake had damaged the water supply system. "Around 80,000 people don't have access to clean drinking water and it's our top priority to restore the water supply," he said. In other remote areas residents-including children and the elderly-were helping with relief work, many of them digging through rubble for survivors.

The bulk of the casualties recorded so far were in Pakistan, where 241 people were killed, including 196 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, and more than 1,600 injured, disaster management authorities said. Pakistan army helicopters were evacuating victims yesterday to the provincial capital Peshawar and Rawalpindi, which borders Islamabad. The military has also sent medical teams, tents and rations to affected areas.

'Doomsday repeated'

For many, Monday's quake brought back traumatic memories of a 7.6 magnitude quake that struck in October 2005, killing more than 75,000 people and displacing some 3.5 million. Muzaffarabad resident Shehnaz Rasheed, 34, whose



SHANGLA: A Pakistani boy holds his young brother on his back next to collapsed houses in the quake-hit village of Gandao around 20 kilometers from Shangla in Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province yesterday. Rescuers were picking their way through rugged terrain and pockets of Taleban insurgency in the search for survivors after a massive quake hit Pakistan and Afghanistan, killing more than 350 people. — AFP

daughter was killed in the 2005 disaster, said that as the quake struck she feared "doomsday was being repeated".

"I ran towards my children's school leaving everything behind-I did not even close the doors of my house and did not care for anything on the road," she told AFP, explaining she was frantic to reach her two sons so she could "die together with them if we have to die".

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif returned to Pakistan Tuesday after a visit to the US and said the government would announce a disaster relief package.

State media later reported he had flown to Shangla in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa-believed to be one of the worst-hit districts with 49 reported dead so far-where he promised survivors "ample compensation so that they can rebuild better homes". Two hundred rescuers have been deployed to the district. Afghan officials said at least 115 people were confirmed dead and hundreds more injured, with casualties reported from around half a dozen of the country's 34 provinces, and some 7,000 homes reported damaged. The government has implored aid agencies for assistance. But large swathes of Badakhshan, the remote province where the epicentre is located, and other quake-hit areas are effectively controlled by the Taleban, posing a huge challenge to any official aid

The militants yesterday urged charity organisations not to hold back in delivering aid, and vowed their fighters would provide "complete help" in the affected areas.

'They could not even talk'

In one of the most horrifying incidents to emerge so far, a dozen Afghan schoolgirls were trampled to death as they rushed to escape their classrooms in remote northern Takhar province when the quake struck.

Bystanders rushed the dazed and terrified survivors to hospital, many lying limp in the arms of their rescuers, as doctors tried reviving some of them by pumping their chests.

"When the relatives of the dead students came to collect their bodies, they were so distressed that they could not even talk to authorities to record their names," said Hafizullah Safai, head of the Takhar health department.

Several historic buildings were damaged in Peshawar, including the Bala Hissar fort which houses the Frontier Corps and overlooks the city, and the 17th-century Mohabbat Khan mosque. "A whole side of the Bala Hissar fort and a minaret of the Mohabbat Khan mosque collapsed during the tremor. The mosque has also developed some cracks," Khyber Pakhtunkhwa information minister Mushtaq Ahmad Ghani told AFP. The quake was centred near Jurm in northeast Afghanistan, 250 kilometres (160 miles) from the capital Kabul and at a depth of 213.5 kilometres, the US Geological Survey said. Afghanistan is frequently hit by earthquakes, especially

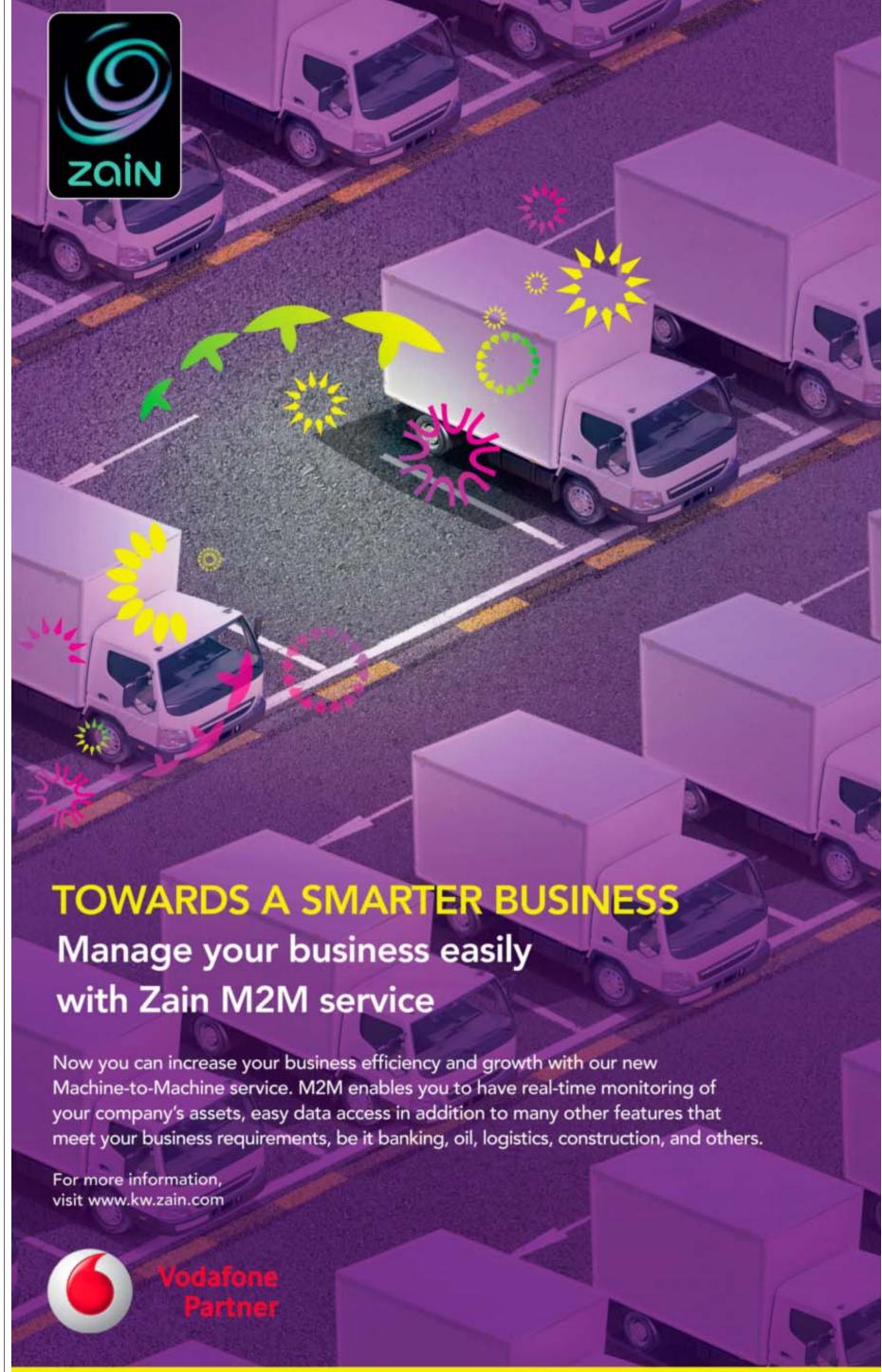
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killed more than 8,900 people. Also yesterday the Pakistan military said seven of its soldiers had been killed in heavy countries, much of which had been affected by Monday's In Nepal a quake in April and a strong aftershock in May

cross-border fire from Afghanistan, drawing attention to the

A Wonderful World

Page 8



In regime-held Syria, Russian strikes bring new hope

DAMASCUS: Just a few weeks ago, eco-afraid and frustrated, and I planned with my nomics student Firas Kiwani was planning to leave his home in the Syrian capital Damascus, convinced there was no future in his war-torn country.

But the launch last month of a Russian air campaign in support of the Syrian government has changed the 20-year-old's

"The situation now is much better, and I've put the idea of leaving on hold until I see what happens on the ground," he tells AFP, sitting in a Damascus cafe with his friends.

Russia's decision to begin air strikes on September 30 has been criticised by Syria's opposition and its international backers. They accuse Moscow of seeking to bolster President Bashar al-Assad's embattled regime rather than target jihadists, and of killing civilians in strikes on rebel-held areas.

But for many in Damascus and other government-held parts of Syria, the intervention is a welcome relief. "I used to feel

friends to leave," Kiwani says.

"But with the start of the Russian strikes, the Syrian army has begun to advance again, and that's a good thing." Kiwani's renewed optimism is shared by many in government-held Damascus, who express relief at Moscow's decision to intervene after more than four years of conflict.

Before the intervention, Syria's army had suffered a series of reversals, with even Assad acknowledging the "fatigue" of his

Many feel Moscow has now shifted the momentum, and in the cafes, squares, and parks of Damascus, men, young and old, discuss the war and details of the newest Russian warplanes.

The 'Sukhoi storm'

Khaled Labwani, 48, refers to the Russian intervention as the "Sukhoi storm," after the Sukhoi fighter jets employed by the Russian

He spends his days playing cards with his friends in a cafe near the parliament building in central Damascus, after losing his job, as well as his home, in the city of

Arbin lies on the outskirts of Damascus in the rebel-held Eastern Ghouta region, a frequent target of government air strikes as well as a source of opposition fire on the

Labwani is happy to see Moscow intervene on the government's side in the conflict, which began with anti-regime demonstrations in March 2011. "It strengthens the power of the state against the militants," he says, taking a puff on a water pipe.

But unlike some, he does not care for the affectionate nickname "Abu Ali" that some pro-government Syrians have given Russia's President Vladimir Putin. "I refuse to call Russian President Putin 'Abu Ali' like my friends, because Russia intervened for its own interests," he says.

At another Damascus cafe, Mohamed

Wassim al-Khalidi, in his 30s, credits Russia's intervention with injecting new life into Syrian regime troops.

"The Russian intervention came at the right time, particularly as the Syrian army had gotten tired," he says. "There had been no major progress by the army before the Russian intervention," he adds.

"But today we're hearing on the news that the army is entering Daraya (southwest of Damascus), Homs and Aleppo."

'The Russian choice is best'

The intervention has renewed interest in the latest developments on the ground in daily news broadcasts and on the front pages of Syria's newspapers. And when residents of the capital hear a plane overhead, debate often begins over whether it is Russian or Syrian.

For all the enthusiasm, some residents expressed concern over why Russia might be intervening. "A borrowed robe won't keep you warm," says lawyer Anas Judeh,

quoting a Syrian proverb. "Russia's military cooperation is necessary today to bolster the Syrian state, but the problem will come if there is no political investment in the future, in which case we'll just have other battles," the 40-year-old says.

He says he sees Syria's conflict as a proxy war for global powers. "The real conflict is not over Syria, but for hegemony, it is essentially a conflict between America and Russia but it is playing out today on Syrian soil." Other Syrians say they are unconcerned by Russia's potential ulterior motives.

At the Hamidiyeh market in central Damascus, 23-year-old Abdel Rahman, an economics student, mans his father's household appliances store. "It's natural for any country to have strategic interests involved before it gives military support to another country," he says at the central Damascus market. "We're not in the best position on the ground, and we don't have many choices, but the Russian choice is the best one we have." — AFP



SANAA: A group of Yemeni children wave their national flag as they gather in front of the United Nations (UN) office during a protest demanding their right to return to school and calling for an end to the military operations carried out by the Saudi-led coalition on Yemen, in the capital Sanaa yesterday. — AFP

YEMEN HOSPITAL HIT BY SAUDI-LED AIR STRIKE

Concern over escalating civilian death toll in Yemen war

DUBAI: A Yemeni hospital run by medical aid group Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) was bombed in a Saudi-led air strike, wrecking the facility and wounding several people, the hospital director said yesterday.

A Saudi-led Arab coalition intervened in Yemen's civil war in March to try to restore its government after its toppling by Houthi forces but the civilian death toll has escalated since then, alarming the United Nations and human rights groups.

'The MSF facility in Saada, (north) Yemen was hit by several air strikes last night with patients and staff inside the facility," Medecins sans

Frontieres said in a tweet. Yemen's state news agency Saba, run by the Iran-allied Houthis whom the Arab coalition is fighting, quoted the Heedan hospital director as saving several people were injured in the attack, which occurred in Houthi-controlled north

"The air raids resulted in the destruction of the entire hospital with all that was inside devices and medical supplies - and the moderate wounding of several people," Ali Mughli said.

Saba said other air strikes hit a nearby girls school and damaged several civilian homes. It was not immediately possible to confirm that report, and a coalition spokesman was not immediately available for comment.

MSF HOSPITAL BOMBED

An MSF hospital was bombed in an American air strike in Kunduz in northern Afghanistan on Oct. 3, killing 22 people including 12 MSF staff.

US President Barack Obama apologized for the attack, but MSF continues to call for an independent humanitarian commission to investigate what it calls a war crime.

"International humanitarian law is not about "mistakes". It is about intention, facts and why ... It is precisely because attacking hospitals in war zones is prohibited that we expected to be protected," MSF director Joanne Liu said this month.

Seven months of air strikes in Yemen by Saudi Arabia and other U.S.-allied Gulf Arab countries have yet to loosen the Houthis' grip on the capital Sanaa and make headway toward restoring the now Saudi-based Yemeni government to

The United States and Britain are supporting the coalition with intelligence and both are longtime arms suppliers to their Gulf Arab allies.

Human rights groups have voiced concern at the mounting death toll from aerial bombing and ground fighting raging across Yemen. Amnesty International has recommended an arms embargo on coalition states, citing repeated bombing of Yemeni civilians.

In a separate bombing on Monday, residents reported that a coalition air strike killed Haradh hospital director Yasser Wathab and two people he was travelling with in a car in the northwestern province of Hajja. They said the group were en route to treat patients killed by an earlier air

And the Saudi civil defence ministry said on its Twitter account that several shells fired from Houthi-held north Yemen over the border into the Saudi city of Najran killed two foreign residents and wounding a Saudi citizen.

More than 5,600 people have died in Yemen's conflict and shuttle diplomacy by a United Nations envoy has yet to secure a political solution or reduce the intensity of combat. — Reuters

EGYPTIANS RETURN TO VOTE AS ELECTION RUN-OFF BEGINS

CAIRO: Egyptians returned to polling stations yesterday as a first round run-off got underway in a parliamentary vote expected to elect lawmakers firmly backing President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi.

Turnout for the first round of voting held in 14 of Egypt's 27 provinces last week was just 26.6 percent and there was no immediate sign that more voters were casting their ballots yesterday.

One polling station in the capital's central district of Dokki saw 20 people vote in the hour after polling opened at 9:00 am (0700 GMT), a polling officer said.

Among voters who had turned out were government employees, retired bureaucrats and ex-servicemen, an AFP correspondent reported. The previous general election held in late 2011, months after the ouster of longtime leader Hosni Mubarak, saw a turnout of 62 percent in the first round.

The subsequent parliament, dominated by Islamists led by the Muslim Brotherhood, was dissolved in June 2012, days before the election of Mohamed Morsi as the country's first freely elected civilian leader.

Morsi was deposed a year later by then army chief Sisi after mass street protests against his sole year in power. Sisi himself was elected president in May 2014 after he brutally crushed all forms of opposition-Islamist supporters of the Brotherhood as well as several secularists

The current election is widely anticipat-

ed to vote in lawmakers firmly backing Sisi in the absence of any opposition. While the Muslim Brotherhood, the country's main opposition group for decades, has been banned from competing after it was declared a "terrorist group," several secular parties are either boycotting the vote or are badly represented.

A government crackdown targeting Morsi's supporters after his ouster has left hundreds dead in street clashes with security forces, while tens of thousands more have been jailed.

Hundreds including Morsi have been sentenced to death after speedy mass trials, which have been denounced by the United Nations. Protests by secular and liberal youth movements, who led the uprising against Mubarak, have also been severely repressed. Several leaders of these movements have been jailed.

Sisi's supporters expect the new 596member parliament to rubber-stamp his decisions, while experts say it will largely work on its own agenda rather than building a country plagued by corruption and an ailing economy.

"People are disappointed after so much political turmoil. The political system must take steps to encourage voting," engineer Abdel Rahman Suweid said after casting his vote in Dokki. Only four candidates were elected in the first round of voting. The second round across 13 remaining provinces will be held on November 22-23. A run-off, if necessary, will be held on December 1-2. — AFP



CAIRO: An Egyptian woman casts her ballot at a polling station in Cairo's Aguza district, as voters returned to polling stations yesterday for a first round run-off in a parliamentary vote expected to elect lawmakers firmly backing President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi. Turnout for the first round of voting held in 14 of Egypt's 27 provinces last week was just 26.6 percent and there was no immediate sign that more voters were casting their ballots yesterday. — AFP

NETANYAHU MOVES TO DAMPEN INFLAMMATORY AL-AQSA TALK



RAMALLAH: Palestinian protesters throw stones towards Israeli security orces during clashes at the northern entrance of the West Bank town of Al-Bireh, on the northern outskirts of Ramallah, in the West Bank, yesterday. Stabbings and violent protests have become daily occurrences since simmering tensions over the status of the Al-Aqsa mosque compound in Jerusalem's Old City boiled over in early October, leaving scores dead. — AFP

JERUSALEM: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu scrambled yesterday to contain inflammatory rhetoric from his government over Jerusalem's Al-Aqsa mosque compound, at the heart of a wave of deadly Palestinian

With efforts to defuse tensions already strained, deputy foreign minister Tzipi Hotovely stoked Palestinian fears by saying it was her "dream to see the Israeli flag flying" over the holy site, which is sacred to both Muslims and Jews.

"We should raise the flag, this is Israel's capital and it is the holiest place to the Jewish people," she said in excerpts from a TV interview to be broadcast yesterday. Netanyahu's office reacted swiftly with a statement late Monday recalling his promise to maintain the status quo which allows Muslims to pray at the site, and Jews to visit but not pray there.

"Prime Minister Netanyahu made it clear that he expects all members of the government to act accordingly," his office said in a statement. Palestinians accuse Israel of seeking to allow Jewish prayer at the hilltop siteknown to Jews as Temple Mount-in Jerusalem's walled Old City.

An increase in Jewish visitors to the site, some of whom secretly pray there despite it being forbidden, and inflammatory statements by politicians, have fuelled tensions.

Clashes at the mosque compound in east Jerusalem, a Palestinian area annexed by Israel in 1967, spiralled into a wave of stabbing attacks and shootings that have left nine Israelis dead since October 1.

'Flamethrower and gasoline'

Yeserday, a 76-year-old Israeli man who was shot in the head and stabbed in the chest in an attack on a Jerusalem bus on October 13 succumbed to his wounds, according to the Hadassah hospital.

Anti-Israeli attacks and protests have seen 56 Palestinians and one Israeli Arab shot dead since October 1. An Israeli Jew and an Eritrean have also been killed after being mistaken for attackers. Hotovely, from Netanyahu's rightwing Likud party, told Knesset TV that Jews should be allowed to pray at Al-Aqsa, but later issued a statement saying: "My personal opinions are not government policy."

The deputy minister had been due to address the Jerusalem Press Club on Wednesday but the briefing was cancelled "due to unforeseen circumstances".

The surge in violence has prompted an intense diplomatic drive to douse tensions that many fear herald a third Palestinian intifada. An editorial in Israeli daily Maariv said that Netanyahu and the international community were doing everything "to try to cram the genie back into the bottle".

"And then along came Tzipi Hotovely... with a flamethrower and a can of gasoline, she set everything ablaze." Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas met European Union foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini late Monday in Brussels in the latest effort to calm the crisis.

Abbas repeated his criticism of what he said was Israel's "non-respect" for the rules at the Al-Aqsa mosque compound. Netanyahu, who has vowed not to change the status quo, has accused Abbas of inciting the violence by making such accusations.

"The situation in Palestine is extremely serious and grave and may even deteriorate. This is my fear," Abbas said. "The main reason is the feeling of disappointment (among) the young generation," who feel there is "no hope," Abbas

Dispute on cameras

Many of the youths leading the unrest were born under Israeli occupation and see no way out, with a moribund peace process offering them little hope of achieving their dream of a Palestinian state.

A flurry of diplomatic activity last week saw meetings between US Secretary of State John Kerry with Netanyahu in Berlin, before he flew to Amman to meet Abbas and King Abdullah II. The result was an agreement to install cameras at the Al-Aqsa compound, which Netanyahu said would serve to "refute the claim Israel is violating the status quo (and) to show where the provocations are really coming from." However the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) rejected the idea as an effort to allow Israel to exercise more control over the site which it will use "against the

The plan immediately ran into trouble when a team sent by the Jordanian-run trust which administers the site to install the cameras was stopped by Israeli police. Amman has retained custodial rights over the holy sitesannexed along with the rest of east Jerusalembut Israel controls access. — AFP



MARACAIBO: Lilian Tintori (R), wife of jailed Venezuelan opposition leader Leopoldo Lopez, speaks during rally in Maracaibo, Zulia state, Venezuela. A Venezuelan prosecutor who called the conviction and imprisonment of Lopez a "farce" has been fired, the country's attorney general said Monday. — AFP

PROSECUTOR IN TRIAL OF VENEZUELA LEADER GIVES NEW DETAILS

CARACAS: A Venezuelan prosecutor who helped convict opposition leader Leopoldo Lopez is saying that the government had long plotted Lopez's arrest.

Prosecutor Franklin Nieves, who reportedly is now seeking asylum in the United States, said in a video posted Monday on the Venezuelan news website La Patilla that superiors in the prosecutor's office had given him orders to have Lopez arrested days before the Caracas protest - and the alleged crime - took place.

Nieves said orders went out to arrest Lopez at an earlier scheduled protest, but Lopez did not appear so the plan was dropped. Nieves fled Venezuela and apologized last week for his role in what he called a sham trial. Lopez was convicted in September of inciting violence during a 2014 anti-government protest in Caracas and received the maximum sentence, about 14 years. Lopez insisted that he never called for violence, but prosecutors argued that violence was implicit in his calls for the res-

ignation of President Nicolas Maduro. Lopez was mayor of an upscale neighborhood in Caracas, and has for years been one of the primary leaders of the hardline opposition to the country's socialist administration.

Nieves has promised to reveal more evidence that Lopez was railroaded. In an interview published Monday, he told the Wall Street Journal that he is in Miami and is seeking asylum with his wife and two daughters.

Venezuela's chief prosecutor, Luisa Ortega Diaz, on Monday denied that Nieves was pressured to go after Lopez, and rejected calls to annul Lopez's sentence. She said Nieves had caved in to foreign interests.

"We at the prosecutors' office we don't put pressure on anyone," she said in a televised interview.

Twenty members of Congress have called for sanctions against Nieves and four other Venezuelan officials involved in Lopez's trial. The request came in a bipartisan letter sent to Secretary of State John Kerry and Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew.

This week, some of those same Congress members are using Nieves testimony to renew their calls for sanctions on Venezuelan officials. — AP

FAMILY CONFIRMS FIRST RUSSIAN MILITARY FATALITY IN SYRIA

Parents say their son flew to Syria on Sept 14

GRECHANAYA BALKA: The parents of the first Russian serviceman confirmed dead in four weeks of air strikes in Syria said yesterday they did not believe the military's account that their 19-year-old son had hanged himself.

In an interview with Reuters at their home in southern Russia, Alexander and Svetlana Kostenko said their son, Vadim, had sounded cheerful over the phone as recently as Saturday, the day he died while working at an air base on the Syrian coast.

"I will never believe this version (suicide)," said Svetlana, who was wearing a black head scarf. "We spoke every day by phone for half an hour. (On Saturday) he was cheerful, happy, and he laughed," she said. Alexander, Vadim's father, speaking in a low voice, agreed: "We were told he had hanged himself because of a girl. He would never have done it. I know my son really well." Kostenko was one of the Russian air force's support staff. He signed a contract on June 20 and was dispatched to Syria by plane on Sept. 14, two weeks before the Kremlin's air campaign began, his father said. He said they had only discovered Vadim was in Syria when he was already there.

Interfax news agency quoted a source in the defence ministry's press service confirming the death. "A contract serviceman stationed at the Hmeimim airbase (in Latakia) as a technician committed suicide while he was resting after duty," the source told Interfax.

"According to preliminary information, in particular the analysis of text messages in his phone, the reason for the death of the contract serviceman is problems in his personal relationship with a girl," the source said.

The ministry did not respond to written questions from Reuters. Opinion polls show strong public support at home for the Kremlin's air campaign in support of the government of President Bashar al-Assad; one survey put support above 70 percent. If the air force suffers serious fatalities, sentiment could change toward the mission, Moscow's first major combat outside the frontiers of the former Soviet Union since the disastrous Soviet campaign in Afghanistan in the 1980s.

Kostenko's death was first flagged by Conflict Intelligence Team (CIT), a group of bloggers led by Ruslan Leviev who have previously worked to uncover



DAMASCUS: Piture shows a Syrian man in Damascus holding an edition of Syrian al-Thawra (The Revolution) newspaper displaying a picture of President Bashar al-Assad with his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin during the former's visit to Moscow. Russia's decision to begin air strikes has been criticised by Syria's opposition and its international backers, but for many in the Syrian capital and other government-held parts of Syria, the intervention is a welcome relief. — AFP

information about Russian military deaths in Ukraine, where Russia denies its troops are fighting despite what Western countries say is overwhelming evidence.

WOULD-BE PILOT

A Reuters reporter was told she could not enter the base of the air force unit, in Primorsko-Akhtarsk, where Kostenko served, and where CIT says Sukhoi-25 jets operational in Syria are usually based. When asked if it was true that a serviceman from the base had died in Syria, an officer leaving the base yesterday morning, who declined to give his name, said: "Yes, I heard about that." He refused to provide any more details.

Standing in front of their house in the village of Grechanaya Balka in southern Russia as hens clucked around them, the Kostenkos said their son's battalion commander had broken the bad news personally, telling them Vadim had hanged himself on Saturday, Oct. 24. — Reuters

BRITAIN TO KEEP TROOPS IN AFGHANISTAN INTO 2016

LONDON: Britain will keep its current level of 450 troops on non-combat missions in Afghanistan through 2016, Defence Secretary Michael Fallon said in a written statement to parliament yester-

The announcement comes after the United States earlier this month announced that thousands of its troops would stay in Afghanistan longer than promised following intense recent fighting.

"Both the US and our own decisions underline NATO's continued commitment to training and assisting Afghan forces as they grow stronger," Fallon said. "We have now concluded that we should maintain the scale of the UK's current military mission in the country in 2016, to help build

a secure and stable Afghanistan," he added.
Fallon explained that British troops were involved in training Afghan army officers, building capacity in Afghan security ministries and supporting NATO operations in Kabul. Afghan President Ashraf Ghani welcomed Britain's announcement.

International help for the Afghan army "augments the commitment and effectiveness of these forces to fulfil their grand mission, and further boosts their morale," he said in a statement.

"The government of Afghanistan thanks its international partners like Britain for their assistance," he said. The last British combat troops in Afghanistan were airlifted out of Camp Bastion, a sprawling base located in the southern Helmand province, last October.

The pull-out formally ended a mission that lasted longer than World War II and cost 453 lives. Britain had previously said it would keep noncombat troops in Kabul through 2015 at least. President Barack Obama has said the US will maintain its current force of 9,800 in the country through 2016, going back on a campaign promise to end the war in Afghanistan after acknowledging that Afghan forces were not ready to stand alone.

After that, rather than go down to a normal embassy presence as had been planned, the United States will leave a force of 5,500 troops in place to train Afghan forces and conduct counter-terrorism missions.

US-backed forces ousted the Taliban government from Kabul in 2001. At the height of its deployment, US had around 100,000 troops in Afghanistan.

Emboldened by their recent three-day occupation of Kunduz, the first Afghan city to fall to the Taliban since their 2001 ouster from power, insurgents have made brazen attempts to overrun several other provincial centres in recent weeks.

Obama and Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif last week issued a joint call for the Taliban to return to

peace negotiations with the Afghan government. — AFP

PORTUGAL PRESIDENT ACCEPTS NEW MINORITY GOVERNMENT

LISBON: Portugese President Anibal Cavaco Silva accepted yesterday the line-up of a new minority government formed by premier Pedro Passos Coelho, setting the countdown for it to win approval of the opposition-dominated parliament or fall next month. The presidency said in a statement that the new ministers of the centre-right government, most of whom have served in the previous administration, will be sworn in on Friday. Under Portuguese law, the new government has to present its programme to parliament 10 days after taking over. If it isrejected, the government will fall.

Portugal's main opposition Socialists last week pledged to topple the centre-right minority government with a noconfidence motion. Passos Coelho was named prime minister on Thursday after his coalition won the most votes in the national election on Oct. 4 but lost its majority in parliament, which swung to leftist parties. The Socialists have been negotiating a coalition agreement with the Left Bloc and the Communists and all three parties have criticised the president for naming Passos Coelho as prime minister, calling it a waste of time. Passos Coelho's Social Democrats have in the past few days called for renewed dialogue with the Socialists. Paulo Portas, leader of the junior ruling coalition partner CDS-PP, will stay on as deputy prime minister in the new government.

Maria Luis Albuquerque who has served as finance minister since mid-2013, will keep the portfolio in the new cabinet, along with most other ministers.

The political stand-off has prompted concerns that the economy's recovery, after a debt crisis and an international bailout, could stumble. But, so far, bond market investors have focussed instead on the likelihood of more quantitative easing from the European Central Bank that have kept bond yields low. Benchmark 10-year bond yields were little changed at 2.45 percent on Tuesday. — Reuters









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FRENCH PILOTS UNDER DRUG SENTENCES FLEE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

PARIS: Two French pilots sentenced to 20 years in jail in the Dominican Republic for cocaine trafficking have managed to get out of the country and return home, their lawyer said in Paris on Monday. Pascal Fauret, 55, and co-pilot Bruno Odos, whose age was not given, were among four Frenchmen handed 20-year terms in Santo Domingo in August in a case dubbed "Air Cocaine" in France.

But on Tuesday, they were back with their families in France, after slipping out of the Caribbean nation and travelling to the Franco-Dutch island of Saint Martin by

boat before flying on to Martinique and then on to France, a source told AFP.

"They are in France not to flee justice but to seek justice," their lawyer Jean Reinhart told AFP. "They are not escapees, because they were not in prison," he added, explaining that the pair were not being held in detention, though they were also not authorised to leave the Dominican Republic, pending a judicial appeal. Exactly how they managed to leave the Dominican Republic remains shrouded in mystery.

Aymeric Chauprade, a European MP for

France's far-right National Front (FN) who claims to have supported the men, said he had dined with the pilots on October 17 in a hotel in the Dominican Republic. "They were determined to leave," he said.

At least one of the two pilots was expected to give a press conference at 2:00pm (1300 GMT) yesterday.

26 cocaine-filled suitcases

They were arrested in March 2013 along with two other men, Nicolas Pisapia and Alain Castany-as they were about to take off from the Dominican resort of

Punta Cana. Authorities said they were preparing to leave on a mid-size Dassault Falcon 50 jet with 26 suitcases containing 680 kilogrammes (1,500 pounds) of cocaine. All four, who were in custody for 15 months while their case was being heard, have protested their innocence. Pisapia and Castany are still in the country.

At their trial, defence lawyers argued there was no proof the men knew the drugs were on the plane. Fauret and Odos "left the territory of a country where justice does not exist", said their lawyer, "They are not trying to evade justice," he insisted. "The first thing they did upon their return was to write to the magistrate" in charge of their case in France.

The aunt of Fauret's wife Sabine said from the pilot's home near the central city of Lyon: "I am delighted that the pilots, who are innocent, can be questioned in France and not in a so-called republic where justice does not exist."

Four Dominican locals have also been jailed for sentences ranging between five and 10 years in connection with the

CONGO VOTES BY LANDSLIDE TO ALLOW THIRD PRESIDENTIAL TERM

SASSOU NGUESSO IN POWER FOR 31 OF LAST 36 YEARS

BRAZZAVILLE: Voters in Congo Republic have overwhemingly backed a change in the constitution that will allow President Denis Sassou Nguesso to run for a third consecutive term, the results of a referendum showed yester-

Sassou Nguesso has ruled the oilproducing nation for 31 of the last 36 years and the constitutional change makes it possible for the 71-year-old to win a further five-year mandate at an election due next year.

More than 92 percent of voters in Sunday's referendum supported the change and turnout stood at 72 percent of the more than 1.8 million registered voters, according to figures from the electoral commission.

More than 1.2 million people voted in favour of the change, while around 102,000 rejected it, the commission said. The turnout figure was immediately disputed by the opposition, which had called for a boycott of the referen-

Sassou Nguesso ruled the Central African country from 1979 until 1992, when he was defeated in a presidential election. His rule resumed five years later after his forces defeated the thenpresident in a brief civil war. He is the latest African president to try to prolong his grip on power by changing the constitution. Several such initiatives have provoked violence, and four died in Congo last week when security forces opened fire on protesters.

Last October, Burkina Faso's leader of 27 years was toppled by protests and the president of Burundi won a third term in July amid violent protests. Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo have also sought constitutional change.

Stability

Western governments are torn between endorsing veteran African leaders who often represent stability or pressing for term limits for the sake of greater democracy. The dilemma is exacerbated when leaders use constitutional democratic means that the West has advocated for Africa to prolong their rule.

Congo is a former French colony and France's President Francois Hollande said last week that Sassou Nguesso had the right to consult his people on the issue. African leaders have often criticised what they see as meddling by foreign governments who express views on their internal politics.

A victory for Congo's government in Sunday's referendum was never in serious doubt, given the opposition boycott. But attention had focused on turnout, with the opposition hoping that low participation in the vote would undermine its credibility.

Senior opposition leader Pascal Tsaty Mabiala, secretary of the Pan-African Union for Social Democracy party, said on Tuesday that authorities had exaggerated the turnout figure. "It (the result) is not legitimate. It is not credible. There is no way there could have been 70 percent turnout. For us, this result is a fantasy," he said. — Reuters



BRAZZAVILLE: Congolese President Denis Sassou Nguesso talks to the media after voting in Brazzaville. Voters in Congo Republic have overwhemingly backed a change in the constitution that will allow President Denis Sassou Nguesso to run for a third consecutive term, the results of a referendum showed yesterday. — AFP

CLINGING ONTO POWER IN AFRICA

tions to change the cap set on presidential mandates. The latest example is veteran Congo ruler Denis Sassou Nguesso, whose government yesterday claimed a landslide victory in a referendum on changes to the constitution that would make him eligible to contest elections next year, extending his three-decade stay in power.

Here is a range of precedents over the past 15 years:

BURUNDI: After a constitutional row, Pierre Nkurunziza won a highly controversial third term in July, 2015, in polls boycotted by the opposition and denounced by the United Nations as neither free nor fair. His reelection bid sparked an attempted coup by rebel generals and months of civil unrest that sent tens of thousands fleeing the country.

BURKINA FASO: In October 2014, the announcement that long-serving president Blaise Compaore sought to extend his rule beyond 30 years brought hundreds of thousands of protesters onto the streets. Compaore was forced to stand down. On September 17, 2015, power was seized by an aide to Compaore, but the coup failed a week later.

PARIS: Since African nations won DJIBOUTI: In April 2010, Djibouti's Gnassingbe Eyadema, in power since 1999, to run for a third term.

> ALGERIA: In November 2008, the parliament quashed the limit on the number of presidential terms to two, voting for a revision of the constitution. President Abdelaziz Bouteflika, in power since 1999, was then reelected in 2009 and again in 2014.

CAMEROON: In April 2008, parliament revised the constitution, scrapping the limit on the number of presidential terms. Paul Biya, who had been in power since 1982, was elected to a sixth term in October 2011.

UGANDA: In July 2005, a constitutional reform scrapped restrictions on the number of presidential terms. Yoweri Museveni, in power since 1986, was re-elected in 2006, and again in 2011.

CHAD: In June 2005, a constitutional revision was adopted after a disputed referendum abolished a limit of two five-year terms. Idriss Deby Itno, in power since 1990, was re-elected in 2006 and again in 2011.

TOGO: In December 2002, a constitutional amendment paved the way for

independence, many leaders have parliament approved a constitutional 1967, to seek another term in 2003. In tried, often successfully, to stay in amendment allowing President February 2005, after his death, a constitutional revision by parliament allowed his son, Faure Gnassingbe, favoured by the army, to be sworn in as president. However, under pressure from the international community, he was forced to step down. He was later declared winner of a regular presidential election.

> **ZIMBABWE:** A new constitution adopted in 2013 allowed President Robert Mugabe, in power since 1980, to stand in an election, which he won.

> ANGOLA: The adoption in January 2010 of a constitutional amendment providing for the election of a president by indirect suffrage, by parliamentarians, allowed head of state Jose Eduardo dos Santos, in power since 1979, to be sworn in in 2012 after his party's victory in legislative

> A number of African leaders, including the presidents of RWANDA, Paul Kagame, and the DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO, Joseph Kabila, are suspected by opposition parties of seeking to modify or get round their countries' constitutions to seek another term. Some heads of state have modified the constitution to impose single-round presidential votes, as in GABON in 2003. — AFP

RUSSIA MILITARY ANALYZING SYRIA BOMBING ALLEGATIONS

ussian Ministry of Defence comments on publications appeared in a number of Anglophone media, which quote some "doctors" of the "Syrian American Medical Society" concerning Syrian civilians who had been killed by air strikes of the Russian aircraft carried out against a "hospital" in Sarmin settlement on October 20.

Russian Defence Ministry is carefully monitoring and analyzing such stove piping. First, it is necessary to tell about the Syrian American Medical Society. This organization, which is registered in Illinois American state, has as much do with both medicine and doctors as ISIS has to do with the International Scout

It is to be added that starting from its foundation in 2012, the organization was mainly used for publishing so-called "evidence" of using chemical weapons

against the Syrian opposition. Therefore, the "agency" laid low after

everybody learnt that all the "evidence" was a lie.

The real intended aim of such institutions is providing anonymous stove piping for further coverage by the assigned

Pay attention to the fact that such agencies, which are famous for accusing the Russian aviation group of bombing of civilians just a week before the start of the operation in Syria, are working according to the same rules.

It is to be stressed that before eliminating terrorists' objects, the information is being checked for more than one day and through several intelligence chan-

Only after having checked all the information and got a hundred percent certainty concerning the targets, the aviation performs a strike against the ISIS infrastructure using precision munitions.

Russian Embassy, Kuwait.

TURKEY ROUNDS UP MORE IS SUSPECTS

ANKARA: Turkey pressed on with its "war on terror" yesterday, just five days before the country goes to the polls, detaining dozens of Islamic State suspects in massive police raids and hitting Kurdish rebels across the border in Syria. President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has been playing the security card in the run-up to Sunday's vote with tensions running high over the renewed Turkish conflict and a massive bomb attack blamed on IS jihadists.

Around 200 Turkish police launched a dawn swoop on suspected IS hideouts in the conservative central Anatolian city of Konya, detaining 30 people including one woman, Dogan news agency said.

Backed up by helicopters, counter-terrorism police also raided addresses in three districts of Istanbul, detaining 21 suspected jihadists, including seven children, Dogan added. Another 20 were arrested in a similar operation in the town of Kocaeli, east of Istanbul, it said.

Rebels from the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) were also targeted in raids in the eastern town of Elazig, with 13 arrests, Dogan said.

The cross-country raids followed a gun battle in a similar operation Monday in the main Kurdish majority city of Diyarbakir which left two policemen and seven IS suspects dead. It was the first such shootout on Turkish soil since Ankara joined the US-led coalition against the extremist group earlier this year.

Fears of large-scale attack

Meanwhile the Turkish army said security forces had detained 17 foreign jihadists as they attempted to cross into Syria from the border region of Kilis on Monday.

Turkey has been on the hunt for IS extremists since the twin bombings on a peace rally in Ankara on October 10 that killed 102 people and wounded 500 more, the worst such attack in the country's history.

Erdogan, an increasingly polarising figure in Turkey, on Monday vowed to press ahead with operations against all "terrorists" including Islamic State and the outlawed PKK.

Media reports at the weekend said security forces feared an IS cell was plotting large-scale attacks to disrupt the election. Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu also confirmed Monday that

the military had struck Kurdish fighters across the border in northern Syria.

In an interview with pro-government A Haber television, Davutoglu said Turkey had warned members of the Democratic Union Party (PYD) not to cross to the west of the Euphrates river and if they did, Turkey would attack. "We struck twice," he said, without giving any further details.

Ceasefire shattered

Ankara regards the PYD as the Syrian offshoot of the PKK, which resumed deadly attacks against Turkish forces in July after a bomb attack in a Kurdish majority town near the Syrian border that killed 34 activists.

Turkey responded by launching an air war against PKK bases in northern Iraq, shattering a delicate 2013 ceasefire and hopes of an end to a conflict that has raged for three decades.

Davutoglu's comments came after Syrian Kurdish fighters accused the Turkish military of attacking their positions near Tal Abyad, where the Kurds expelled the Islamic State group after fierce clashes in June.

Kurdish fighters known as the YPG control large parts of northern Syria on the Turkish border, where they have for months engaged in bitter fighting with IS. The Kurds in Syria last week said they had incorporated Tal Abyad into their "autonomous administration" in the north of the country.

Alarmed by the growing strength of Syrian Kurds, Turkey fears they could eventually create an independent state to threaten Ankara. With Kurds making up 20 percent of Turkey's population, its ultimate nightmare would be Turkish Kurds cooperating with their Syrian brethren in search of autonomy on both sides.

Ankara has warned Syrian Kurds to stay away from any attempts to create a "de facto situation" in Syria. Long criticised by its Western allies for not doing enough to stem the rise of the extremist jihadist group, Turkey launched air strikes against IS targets in Syria after a deadly bombing on a border town in July.

But most of the firepower was concentrated on PKK fighters based in northern Iraq, rupturing the truce between Ankara and the rebels. — AFP



ZANZIBAR: Stone Town residents sits under campaign posters for opposition presidential candidate and Secretary General of the Civic United Front (CUF) party Maalim Seif Sharif Hamad yesterday in Zanzibar, two-days following the archipelago's general election. Votes were being counted Monday 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. — AFP

MINISTERS LOSE SEATS AS TANZANIA COUNTS POLLS

DAR ES SALAAM: Tanzania's ruling party presidential candidate took an early lead yesterday as election officials counted votes for a second day, while several key ministers lost their seats. The polls are expected to be Tanzania's tightest election race ever, with the governing party facing the first major challenge to its dominance in decades. Amid growing tension, the election commission has called for calm and warned only it can declare results. "People should ignore announcements by other institutions and individuals," National Electoral Commission (NEC) head Damian Lubuva told reporters. The opposition Chadema party has alleged rigging in Sunday's presidential, general and local elections.

In Zanzibar, the semi-autonomous archipelago which also voted for its own leader, the main opposition presidential candidate declared himself the winner on Monday, ahead of any official announcement of results. Police on the Indian Ocean islands fired tear gas to break up crowds, while foreign embassies warned visitors to the popular tourist destination to avoid large crowds.

Zanzibar police chief Hamdan Omar said they had had "problems with some groups attempting to organise illegal demonstrations", and were "investigating reports" people had been shot and wounded in clashes on Monday.

Magufuli takes early lead

In the national presidential race, John Magufuli of the long-ruling Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM) is seen as the narrow favourite to beat ex-prime minister Edward Lowassa, a CCM stalwart who recently defected to Chadema, which is heading a coalition of opposition parties. With just 10 percent of districts counted, Magufuli took an early lead, winning over 455,454 votes compared to Lowassa's 308,240 votes, from 27 out of 260 constituencies.

Agriculture minister Stephen Wasira-a veteran CCM politician of over three decades-lost his seat to Chadema. "This shows the potential of our young candidates-Wasira had been minister and in parliament for over 30 years but he lost to a young lady, Ester Bulaya," said top Chadema official John Mrema. Other ousted CCM heavyweights include investment minister Christopher Chiza, deputy health minister Stephen Kebwe and deputy education minister Anna Kilango.

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.

African Union Commission chief Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma praised Tanzania for the conduct of the elections, but also warned candidates to put "their country above all other interests" as results are announced.

Opposition claim Zanzibar win

"Let election officials in the districts announce the results of parliamentary and civic polls, while the NEC will release results in the presidential election," the NEC's Lubuva added. "If this is not controlled it can trigger confusion and public 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. — AFP



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AQUINO REJECTS PERMANENT REFUGEES FROM AUSTRALIA

accept any refugees sent by Australia if they are expected to live in the Southeast Asian nation permanently, President Benigno Aquino said yesterday. Aguino said he was "seriously considering" an Australian government proposal to accept some refugees but only if they were to transit in the Philippines before moving to another country. "If this proposed agreement is not transitory in

MANILA: The Philippines will not nature... we feel we are not in a capacity at this point in time to afford permanent residency to these people," Aquino told reporters.

"Australia can recognise that we do have a significantly bigger population than they do. We have challenges to meeting the needs of our people right now. We would want to assist but there are limitations." The Australian government said on October 9 it was in talks with the

Philippines to send refugees to the nation of 100 million people, roughly one quarter of whom live in deep poverty.

This came after a front-page report in Australia's The Daily Telegraph said both countries' foreign ministers had agreed to the Philippines accepting refugees for resettlement in exchange for Aus\$150 million (US\$109 million). The Australian government has not disclosed details of the proposal and

Aquino did not elaborate yesterday.

However, Philippine foreign affairs spokesman Charles Jose told AFP the Australian government had proposed a permanent transfer of refugees. Under Australia's hardline policy to stop asylum-seeker boats reaching its shores, those arriving by sea are denied resettlement in Australia even if found to be genuine refugees.

They are sent to much-criticised camps on the Pacific nations of Nauru

and Papua New Guinea, and in recent months Australia has been seeking new countries in which to resettle the refugees.

Most recently it struck a deal with Cambodia to accept refugees in exchange for millions of dollars in aid. However, only four refugees have taken up the offer to resettle in impoverished Cambodia, with that deal strongly criticised by rights groups. — AFP



ARTIFICIAL ISLANDS: China slams US warship sail-by near artificial islands In this March 12, 2015 US Navy handout photo, the guided-missile detroyer USS Lassen (DDG 82) is underway in formation with the Republic of Korea patrol craft Sokcho (PCC 778) during exercise Foal Eagle 2015. The United States defied China yesterday by sending a warship close to artificial islands the rising Asian power is building in disputed waters, prompting Beijing to furiously denounce what it called a threat to its sovereignty. — AFP

US WARSHIP SAILS NEAR CHINESE MAN-MADE ISLANDS IN SPRATLYS

US DEFENSE OFFICIAL SAYS SUCH PATROLS WILL BE REGULAR

WASHINGTON/BEIJING: The US Navy sent a guidedmissile destroyer close to China's man-made islands in the disputed South China Sea yesterday, US defense officials said, a move that could heighten tensions over the strategic waterway.

The patrol represents the most serious US challenge to 12-nautical-mile territorial limits China asserts around the islands and is sure to anger Beijing, which said last month it would never allow any country to violate its territory in the Spratly archipelago, where seven outposts have been built

One US defense official said the USS Lassen sailed within 12 nautical miles of Subi Reef. A second official said the patrol, which lasted a few hours, also included

Mischief Reef. The second official said the mission would be the start of a series of challenges to China's territorial

claims in one of the world's busiest sea lanes. China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi said Beijing was trying to verify if the US ship had entered the 12-mile

"If true, we advise the US to think twice before acting, not act blindly or make trouble out of nothing,"

the Foreign Ministry quoted Wang as saying. The Chinese Embassy in Washington said the concept of freedom of navigation should not be used as an excuse for muscle flexing.

The second US official earlier said the ship would likely be accompanied by a US Navy P-8A surveillance plane and possibly a P-3 surveillance plane, which have been conducting regular missions in the region.

Additional patrols would follow in the coming weeks and could also be conducted around features that Vietnam and the Philippines have built up in the Spratlys, the official said.

"This is something that will be a regular occurrence, not a one-off event," said the official. "It's not something that's unique to China."

White House spokesman Josh Earnest referred questions on any specific operations to the Pentagon but said the United States had made clear to China the importance of free flow of commerce in the South

"There are billions of dollars of commerce that float rough that region of the world" Farnest told a news briefing. The United States had not conducted a patrol within 12 miles of the features since China began building the reefs up at the end of 2013. The US Navy last went within 12 miles of Chinese-claimed territory in the Spratlys in 2012.

The decision to go ahead follows months of deliberation and risks upsetting already strained ties with China, the world's second-biggest economy, with which US business and economic interests are deeply intertwined. China claims most of the South China Sea, through which more than \$5 trillion of world trade passes every year. Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei, the Philippines and Taiwan have rival claims.

Euan Graham, director of the International Security Program at the Lowy Institute in Sydney, said while there was likely to be a strong vocal reaction from China, its military response could be muted.

"I would expect it would be diplomatically shrill in its reaction. China has also in some ways backed itself into a corner by saying it will exert its sovereignty over the Spratlys," Graham said.

The patrol could prompt China to do more to exert its sovereignty in the region through further reclamations and greater militarization, he added.

Competing claims

Both Subi and Mischief Reefs were submerged at high tide before China began a massive dredging project to turn them into islands in 2014.

Under the U.N. Convention on the Law of the Sea, 12-nautical mile limits cannot be set around manmade islands built on previously submerged reefs.

Washington worries that China has built up its outposts with the aim of extending its military reach in the South China Sea. China says they will have mainly civilian uses as well as undefined defense purposes.

The patrol comes just weeks ahead of a series of Asia-Pacific summits President Barack Obama and Chinese President Xi Jinping are expected to attend in the second half of November.

Xi surprised US officials after a meeting with Obama in Washington last month by saying that China had "no intention to militarize" the islands.

Even before that, however, satellite photographs had shown the construction of three military-length airstrips by China in the Spratlys, including one each on Subi and Mischief reefs.

Some US officials have said that the plan for patrols was aimed in part at testing Xi's statement on militarization. In May, the Chinese navy issued eight warnings to the crew of a US P8-A Poseidon surveillance aircraft that flew near the artificial islands but not within the 12-mile limit, reported CNN, which was aboard the US aircraft. Pentagon officials say the United States regularly conducts freedom-of-navigation operations around the world to challenge excessive maritime claims. In early September, China sent naval vessels within 12 miles of the Aleutian Islands off Alaska. China said they were there as part of a routine drill following exercises with Russia. — Reutes

VP'S ARREST HIGHLIGHTS MALDIVES' DEMOCRACY

MALE: An explosion last month aboard the presidential boat set the Maldives on course for its latest political shakeup, with the vice president arrested on suspicion of high treason for allegedly plotting to assassinate the country's leader.

Lawmakers are gathering support for impeaching Vice President Ahmed Adeeb. But his arrest was not unusual for the Indian Ocean archipelago, best known for its palm-fringed beaches but riven by political power struggles since becoming a democracy only seven years ago.

Here's a look at the latest on the Maldives' political battles:

THE MALDIVES TODAY

A British colony until 1965, the Maldives endured decades of autocratic governance punctuated by coups until protests forced the country to hold its first elections in 2008. Its 350,000 population, relatively young and mostly Sunni Muslim, has embraced political activism. Protest rallies are common, political parties proliferate and election turnout is high. The nation is a top tourist destination facing modern challenges including corruption, unemployment, drug addiction and Islamic

People on the low-lying archipelago, meanwhile, are alarmed by the risk of rising seas inundating its lucrative resorts and farmlands as climate change triggers temperature changes worldwide. The country's first elected president, Mohamed Nasheed, drew global attention for donning scuba equipment and holding a Cabinet meeting on the ocean floor.

THE BOAT BLAST INVESTIGATION

On Sept. 28, an explosion tore through a boat carrying President Yameen Abdul Gayoom and his wife from the airport on an island adjacent to the capital. Gayoom was unhurt, and his wife along with a government officer and body guard were injured.

Suspicion fell almost immediately on 33-yearold Vice President Adeeb, appointed only in July after lawmakers loyal to Gayoom impeached Adeeb's predecessor and reduced the minimum presidential age to 30 from 35. The promotion put Adeeb next in line for the presidency. He was also given influence exceeding that of his elder colleagues, including heading the country's economic council, while keeping the important tourism portfolio. Adeeb formerly had a reputation for enlisting Maldivian gangs to disrupt opposition demonstrations. And before investigators had even ruled out mechanical failure as the cause of the explosion, many were questioning why Adeeb had not gone to the airport to receive the president and travel back with him on the boat. Adeeb said he had been ill.

It wasn't clear that Adeeb was a real suspect, however, until he went to Beijing and police began raiding the offices and homes of his associates. Gayoom's office ceased reporting on Adeeb's meetings in China midway through the trip, fueling rumors that the president himself had lost trust in his deputy. Gayoom also fired the defense minister and police commissioner, both Adeeb allies. Adeeb, insisting he is innocent, returned to the country on Saturday and was immediately arrested at the airport. The home minister said Adeeb would be charged with "high treason" - an offense that is not in the Maldives penal code but refers to acts against the state by high officials.

MALDIVIAN REACTION

Adeeb's downfall - after such a rapid ascent wasn't a big surprise among Maldivians who saw his ambition as a liability under the highly suspicious Gayoom.

It was also hardly novel. The reformist Nasheed was hugely popular when elected to be the country's first president, after 30 years of autocracy under Gayoom's half-brother. But within three years, Nasheed was forced to resign amid widespread public protests after he ordered a judge be arrested. Nasheed then lost a widely disputed 2013 election won by Gayoom. Nasheed is now serving 13 years behind bars after being convicted in a highly criticized trial of committing terrorism by ordering the judge be fired.

Also jailed this year was Gayoom's former defense minister, Mohamed Nazim, who is serving an 11-year sentence for possessing a firearm.

Adeeb's arrest has sparked almost no public protest or complaint, which is somewhat unusual, especially given Adeeb's popularity among youths. On the day of his arrest, a small group of youth supporters rallied in the capital, but police quickly cracked down and temporarily detained 17 people.

WHAT'S NEXT?

The investigation is expected to develop over veeks if not months. A court has approved Adeeb's detention for 15 days of police questioning while police search the homes and businesses of his friends and family. Lawmakers are collecting signatures to begin impeachment proceedings; nothing has been said about potential replacements. Adeeb has said he will appeal his detention, but court rulings often favor the Gayoom family in a judicial system that has not been updated since the country became a democracy. — AP



MALE: In this Nov. 17, 2013 file photo, Maldives' new President Yaamin Abdul Gayoom addresses the nation after being sworn in during his inauguration in Male, Maldives. On Sept. 28, 2015, an explosion tore through a boat carrying Gayoom and his wife from the country's airport, on an island adjacent to the capital, which has set the Maldives on course for its latest political shakeup, with the Vice President Ahmed Adeeb arrested over the weekend on suspicion of high treason for allegedly plotting to assassinate the country's leader. — AP

INDIA REELS IN AILING GANGSTER TO HUNT DOWN 'MOST-WANTED MAN

NEW DELHI: India's national security manage ties with strategic partners such adviser devised a plan to secure the arrest of a fugitive Mumbai gangster in Indonesia as part of a strategy to hunt down India's most-wanted man, Dawood Ibrahim, police and home ministry

sources told Reuters. Superspy Ajit Doval, who is reputed to have handled Rajendra Nikalje - also known as Chhota Rajan - as a security asset in the past, wants to bring him in from the cold to help target Ibrahim who is reportedly living in Pakistan. India accuses Ibrahim of masterminding a dozen bombings and grenade attacks in Mumbai in March 1993, killing 257 people and wounding more than 700 in the deadliest such attack in the nation's his-

tory.

"The government is committed to bringing back Dawood and we will deploy every strategy to deport him," Kiren Rijiju, junior home minister, told reporters on Tuesday after Rajan was held a day earlier on the Indonesian resort island of Bali. Doval, 70, a decorated former police and intelligence officer with a track record of daring counterinsurgency missions, has exceptional influence in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's

He has claimed effective control over foreign policy towards India's neighbours, sources say, sidelining a diplomatic establishment that has been left to as the United States.

With the division of labour comes a cloak-and-dagger approach and a fixation with settling scores that could have regional security implications. India hanged one of the Mumbai bombers in July, 22 years after the attacks. Officials in India's home ministry and Central Bureau of Investigation, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Doval had played a key role in orchestrating the arrest of Rajan. Rajan and Ibrahim once worked together carrying out murders, extortion and smuggling weapons in Ibrahim's organisation, known as D Company.

The pair fell out over Ibrahim's alleged involvement in the Mumbai blasts and



BALI: IDenpasar police general crime chief Reinhard Habonaran Nainggolan shows to the press a picture of Indian Rajendra Sadashiv Nikalje at Denpasar police station on Bali island yesterday. The Indian fugitive wanted over a series of murders in his country has been arrested in Indonesia after decades on the run, police said. — AFP

then fought a bloody battle for control of the underworld of the financial capital - a milieu where gangsters, politicians and Bollywood stars mix freely. India and the United States accuse Dawood of financing Islamist militant groups, including al Qaeda and Lashkar-e-Taiba. The US Treasury has frozen his assets, and accuses him of drug running to Europe.

Indian authorities say they have shared evidence of Ibrahim's whereabouts with Pakistan, which rejects suggestions that he is living there.

Smile please

Indonesian police released a photo of the diminutive Rajan - his nickname means "little" - dressed in a white polo shirt, smiling at the camera and guarded by a single officer. Rajan, 55, had been living incognito in Australia but, fearing his enemies would find him and kill him, was able to fly to Bali where he was arrested without putting up resistance, according to news reports.

Doval was involved along with two of Rajan's men in a botched operation in 2005 to assassinate Ibrahim at his daughter's wedding in Dubai, former home secretary R.K. Singh told a television channel in August. Doval has previously denied the incident and said he was watching television at his home. He did not respond to requests for comment on this story. — Reuters

TAIWAN MILITARY SAYS CHINA PREPARING FOR POSSIBLE ATTACK

TAIPEI: China is actively building up its armed forces and they would be strong enough by 2020 to launch an invasion of Taiwan, a military report said yesterday.

Despite closer political ties China is "continuing to accumulate large-scale war capabilities, with the threat of a cross-strait military conflict continuing to exist", according to the island's 2015 National Defence Report.

The mainland's annual military spending has grown on average by double-digit rates over the past decade, second only to the United States, it said. The biennial report published by the defence ministry said China was strengthening its naval and air forces in the region to deter foreign forces

from intervening in any invasion. "China believes foreign interference would be its biggest concern if it attacks Taiwan," it said. China and Taiwan split at the end of a civil war in 1949. Relations have warmed since current Taiwanese president Ma Ying-jeou of the China-friendly Kuomintang party came to power in 2008. But China still sees Taiwan as a breakaway territory and refuses to renounce the use of force should it declare formal independence. The defence ministry said there was a risk of Taiwan letting its guard down because of increased economic and cultural exchanges in recent years. "Overall (China) is diversifying its Taiwan strategy, forging positive developments in the cross-strait situation, giving them an advantage for any future attacks on Taiwan," its report said.

Taiwan will elect a new president in January, with the candidate of the pro-independence opposition Democratic Progressive Party, Tsai Ing-wen, tipped to

She has pledged to maintain the status quo if she wins but some analysts have questioned whether cross-strait peace could be maintained. The defence ministry report also questioned China's reported military spending, which it said was significantly understated. The actual budget is estimated to be two to three times the reported figure, putting it on par with the US and Russia, it said. The US is Taiwan's main ally and sells weapons to the island, a source of discontent for China. — AFP

AS IRANIAN DEATHS IN SYRIA RISE, DEBATE OPENS AT HOME

TEHRAN: A spike in the number of Iranian military officers killed in Syria has started a rare debate back home about the country's increased efforts to prop up President Bashar Al-Assad. In Tehran, where war dead are revered and remembered in giant public murals, newly erected memorials are a sign of the human cost that Iran is paying in Syria, amid worries of what is to come. Though not comparable to the 1980-1988 war with Iraq - in which hundreds of thousands of Iranians were killed - the Islamic republic's role in Syrian hotspots such as Aleppo has intensified.

The past two weeks have seen the deaths there of one of Iran's best known generals, Hossein Hamedani, two colonels and nine other members of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC). The mounting toll has followed Russia's launch of an air campaign in support of Assad that has coincided with an escalation in the ground war. The confluence of events has for the first time in Iran led some to openly question the country's four-year involvement in Syria, with concerns aired on social media.

"We shouldn't lose our commanders so easily. This is a mistake that we also often made during the imposed war," said one online post following confirmation of the two colonels' deaths, comparing them to those who fell in the conflict against Saddam Hussein. "The fact that our generals are being martyred shows that they are right in the middle of the battle," another said on Instagram after some of the IRGC deaths emerged via the photosharing service.

Iran's ties with Syria are deep - Assad's late father, more help. — AFP

Hafez, when president sided with Iran against Saddam. Tehran has provided the current leader with military and financial aid against Western- and Gulf-backed rebel fighters since the unrest broke out in 2011. Diplomatic efforts to end the civil war are stalemated, with Russia and Iran sticking with Assad while the United States and Saudi Arabia insist he must agree to step down, even if not immediately.

Many of those taking to social media defend Iran's military action in Syria as necessary to stop the Islamic State jihadist group. But others caution that were IS to reach Iran's borders, the country's best commanders would no longer be alive to lead the fight. Giant posters of Hamedani, a veteran of the Iran-Iraq war who had conducted 80 missions in Syria, and others killed there dominate squares, bridges and other prominent places in Tehran. Iran says its military role is advisory.

But as the fighting against IS and anti-Assad rebel forces has intensified so has Iran's casualties. It has become impossible for the IRGC to shield them. In an admission of the difficulties, the IRGC's deputy commander gave an extensive interview on state television on Monday night, in what appeared to be an effort to address public concern. "They must visit the scene... and must get to know the realities on the ground in order to be able to advise. They cannot sit in rooms and help the Syrian army," said Brigadier General Hossein Salami. "Our presence increased in quantity and quality. Our number of martyrs is not high, but compared to before it is more noticeable," he said, conceding that Syria had asked for



A Palestinian youth practices parkour in front of the Dome of the Rock in the Al-Aqsa mosque compound in Jerusalem's Old City yesterday. — AFP

23 EXPATS TO BE DEPORTED FOR PUBLIC BRAWL

Continued from Page 1

Citing a security source, Al-Anbaa newspaper reported yesterday that the interior ministry had begun procedures to cancel the men's residency permits and deport them. Their families were also to be deported. Kuwait deports thousands of foreigners every year for a variety of offences, from brawling to traffic violations to failing to renew residency permits. Human rights groups have criticized the state's policy of deporting expats without trial.

The measure against the 23 came after Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Khaled Al-Sabah ordered the arrest of the foreigners involved in the brawl. A short video of the incident was posted on the Internet on Sunday, showing a group of men carrying sticks and chasing a man. The man was wearing Kuwaiti national dress, but the ministry official said he was in fact one of the Syrians who was to be deported. The official provided no further information on the incident, including on the causes of the brawl.

The Cabinet in its weekly meeting Monday praised "decisive security measures" taken against a group of expatriates involved in the incident. The men are being deported without a trial or a court order, under powers legally accorded to the interior ministry. Kuwait is home to 2.9 million foreigners, mostly from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, the Philippines, Egypt and Syria, as well as 1.3 million native Kuwaitis. — AFP

AMIR OPENS ASSEMBLY TERM, URGES SPENDING...

Continued from Page 1

The Amir urged the government and the Assembly to set an example by reducing spending and stopping squandering of public funds.

The Amir recalled the terrorist attack on the Shiite mosque in Ramadan, describing it a flagrant crime which was executed without mercy toward the worshippers who were kneeling in prayers. "However, the solidarity of our people foiled the plot against us and manifested the most wonderful picture of national unity," the Amir said. Sheikh Sabah stressed that homeland security and the citizens' safety "should be our top priority". To safeguard national unity "we will never allow seditions and spread of hatred or fomenting hateful sectarianism or exploiting tribal, racial or class strifes," Sheikh Sabah said.

Kuwait's security is an integral part of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) security and a "threat to any GCC member is also a threat to Kuwait's security," the Amir said. The Amir praised and declared the country's support for the Saudi-led campaign in Yemen for protecting the security of Saudi Arabia and legitimacy in Yemen.

Assembly speaker Marzouk Al-Ghanem called on the Kuwaiti people to unite around the country's leadership saving that through unity and cooperation with the leadership, Kuwaitis have managed to defeat terrorism. Through national unity, Kuwaiti people will foil any attempt by terror groups to infiltrate into the country, the speaker said. The speaker also praised the Kuwaiti people's reaction in denouncing all acts and attempts to spread fear in the country, affirming that the Kuwaiti people will defeat terror. Ghanem praised the achievements of the current Assembly, saying it has proved to be the most successful in the history of parliaments in Kuwait. He said the Assembly has endorsed 49 legislations in many fields.

Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah reaffirmed that the government will not tolerate any attempt to undermine internal security and called for the need to implement austerity measures to cut spending. "Our national unity is a shield against anyone attempting to undermine the security of this society, while security forces will deal with all possibilities," the premier said. He said the government, in its quest to fighting and eliminating terrorism, started activation of a number of "important laws" like the DNA testing, installation of surveillance cameras and collection of unlicensed weapons.

The prime minister said that maintaining the level of social prosperity requires increasing efforts, cutting spending and properly investing resources. He said reforms requires the cooperation of the people to achieve the goals of the development plan, adding that 80 percent of last year's development plan objectives were achieved, up from 56 percent in the previous year.

After the opening ceremony, the Assembly elected MP Adel Al-Khorafi as the Assembly secretary and MP Abdullah Al-Tameemi as its supervisor. Later, the Assembly began debating a grilling against Minister of Social Áffairs and Labor and State Minister for Development and Planning Hind Al-Subaih over alleged administrative and financial irregularities. The grilling debate however ended without filing a no-confidence motion as the Assembly approved a number of non-binding recommendations for the minister to rectify alleged violations within three months.

MP Mohammad Tana, who filed the request, accused the minister of committing a large number of violations at several departments under the ministry. He said she appointed a new head of the authority for the disabled although he is facing a trial for sexual harassment, because he is from her group. He also charged that a large number of expatriates have been appointed in the authority to the extent that the percentage of Kuwaiti employees dropped from 90 percent to 80 percent.

Tana mentioned names of several expatriates he claimed have been appointed in the authority in violation of the law, although they are not qualified for the jobs. The lawmaker also claimed that the new director of the manpower authority was appointed to the post although he was away from his job in the ministry since 2000. He also accused the minister of appointing a large number of her relatives and for awarding contracts to companies owned by her relatives. Tana charged that the Islamic Islah Society, affiliated to the Muslim Brotherhood, has been sending charity funds to terrorists in Syria. Tana also spoke about alleged violations at cooperative societies and the ministry's care homes.

But Subaih categorically denied the allegations, saying that most of the accusations are without any proof or unfounded fabrications. She defended the appointments she made and also said she has carried out a large number of reforms in the ministry, firing three assistant undersecretaries for violations. The minister also defended her policies at the manpower authority and the actions she had already cracked down on visa traders, saying she has referred a large number of suspects to court. Subaih challenged Tana to provide any evidence of the allegations that her appointments at the authority for the disabled caused a loss of KD 50 million.

The grilling was unprecedented in Kuwait's 53 years of parliamentary life, since it was submitted before the term opened for the first time ever and was debated on the opening day of the new term, also for the first time ever. Following the grilling debate, the Assembly began the election of its permanent committees.

KUWAIT AIRWAYS SEEKS PARTNERS AS EXPANSION..

Continued from Page 1

With an expanding fleet, the carrier has recently added 50 flights. It now has about 32 aircraft and is looking at long-haul destinations on all continents as part of its growth plan. Al-Awadhi also said the expansion of the flight network might include routes that will not go through Kuwait but fly between other countries, a practice which requires so-called fifth-freedom rights. "From 2018 it will be long-haul point-to-point ... if you have the right freedoms, it doesn't have to be from the Kuwaiti market,"

Kuwaiti authorities will next month negotiate bilateral agreements for new routes the airline will launch, he said. Limited capacity at Kuwait International Airport has been a challenge for the carrier and its plans but the national carrier will move to a dedicated terminal by April 2017 to support its growth over the next five years, Awadhi said.

Kuwait announced plans for a KD 1.312 billion (\$4.4 billion) terminal that would lift airport capacity to 25 million passengers annually, but it has been hit by delays after a retendering process. Construction of the dedicated Kuwait Airways terminal, with a capacity of four to six million passengers a year will start next month. A long-debated privatization plan stalled after the government revised plans that would have allowed a strategic investor to buy up to 35 percent of the airline. Parliament is expected to vote in the coming months on the new plan under which the government would retain 75 percent with the rest for Kuwaiti citizens, airline employees and retirees. — Reuters

IOC BANS KUWAIT, PAYS SLAMS 'PLOT'

Continued from Page 1

It said an Oct 27 deadline was set at this month's meeting "to resolve the issues at hand or, at least, freeze the application of the conflictive provisions of the sports legislation until a reasonable and mutually acceptable solution could be found".

But with the government of Kuwait not taking any action, the IOC proceeded with the suspension. The move means Kuwait is barred from taking part in "any activity connected with the Olympic Movement or exercise any right conferred upon it by the Olympic Charter or the IOC". All IOC funding to the Kuwait body is cut off, while the IOC said it "reserves the right to take further measures" regarding the participation of Kuwaiti athletes in the Olympics and Olympic-related events.

PAYS rejected the IOC's "unjust" suspension of KOC, which it said was a decision that was "plotted inside Kuwait" and aimed at undermining Kuwait's sovereignty. The authority's board members, in a statement, held the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA), KOC and the local sport clubs supporting them responsible for the suspension of Kuwait sport. The complaints of OCA, KOC and allied clubs to the international sport organizations triggered conflicts between Kuwait and these organizations, it added.

PAYS "condemns this unjust decision which was plotted inside Kuwait and executed abroad", and was based on what the IOC claimed was the "contradiction of the laws of the state of Kuwait with the Olympic Charter". The suspension decision, said the board members, was jeopardizing the rights of Kuwaiti youth and undermined Kuwait's rights

to maintain its sovereignty and independence of its laws, as well as to control the state from abroad. The authority, blaming OCA, KOC and the local clubs

supporting them, said Kuwait did not spare any effort to support sport and athletes. Kuwait, said the board members, provided a headquarters for OCA and supported its sportsman to occupy senior sport positions, including presidency posts. Those sport officials should have defended the Kuwaiti sport, said the authority, but rather collaborated with the international organizations in suspending sport in Kuwait, "thus undermining the independence of Kuwait and its laws". PAYS said it would continue its staunch defense of sport in Kuwait. It said this would be an opportunity to address all problems marring most games in order to put the Kuwaiti sport movement on the right

If the suspension is not lifted before the Olympics in Rio, Kuwaiti athletes would be barred from representing their country at the games. The IOC would consider giving them special dispensation to compete as individuals under the Olympic flag. "The IOC hopes that all concerned parties will soon reach a satisfactory solution to rectify this very unfortunate situation in the interest of the Olympic Movement in Kuwait and the athletes' participation in the numerous international sporting events coming up, in particular the Olympic Games Rio de Janeiro 2016," the statement said.

Kuwait was also banned in 2010 over a similar dispute but was reinstated before the 2012 London Olympics. The country's football federation was also banned by soccer's governing body FIFA earlier this month over government interference in the running of the Kuwait FA. — Agencies



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Focus

MEETINGS AND MORE MEETINGS YIELD NO SYRIA SOLUTION

By Matthew Lee

nother meeting in another luxury hotel in another European city oozing with diplomatic history. Such is the state of the international effort to revive a peace plan for Syria. The effort fell short again on Friday, as top diplomats from the United States, Russia, Saudi Arabia and Turkey met in Vienna to toss around ideas on how to restart talks on a political transition in Syria. They failed to agree on any concrete steps other than to meet again, probably this week. Other interested nations may participate in the new meeting, likely in Vienna, but there was no consensus on which nations should attend because some oppose a role for Iran, while others support it.

And after years of on-and-off talks, the four countries - along with other players - remain deeply divided on the most contentious issue: the future of Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad. Diplomats speak of a changed dynamic in Syria and elsewhere that could finally break the impasse. They say it would be irresponsible not to test it. Given the catastrophe that Syria has become, they should be given credit for pursuing a diplomatic solution. Yet they have been there multiple times before and multiple meetings have produced no result.

"There are going to be more of these discussions as there needs to be," State Department spokesman John Kirby told reporters on Monday. "While each one on its own is important, as the next one will be, there will be one after that, and probably one after that, and who knows how many more until we really reach the ultimate goal here."

Friday's meeting in the Austrian capital was the latest in a series of unsuccessful attempts to resuscitate the 2012 Geneva Communique, which called for the formation of a transitional government in Syria that would oversee free and fair elections as part of a broader political transition. Yet in the 40 months since the communique was signed, there has been no movement toward implementing it.

In Syria, in those 40 months, the Islamic State has overshadowed the rebels who first opposed Assad, setting up the capital of its aspirational caliphate in the northern Syria city of Raqqa and making the situation on the ground far more combustible. The death toll has climbed over a quarter-million and world powers are competing dangerously for prominence in the skies above. A Defense Department program to train and equip moderate rebels to combat the Islamic State was a failure and CIA-backed rebels fighting Assad are now under attack by Russian bombers.

Diplomats, despite several large conferences in Switzerland and smaller meetings around Europe and New York, have been unable to move beyond the communique's requirement that the transition government be chosen by "mutual consent" of the current government led by Assad, and its political foes. Mutual consent was the formula devised by the US and Russia that allowed them to claim success in Geneva but essentially guaranteed stalemate in the actual process of creating an interim administration as Assad refuses to go and the opposition refuses to accept him.

Hopes dashed

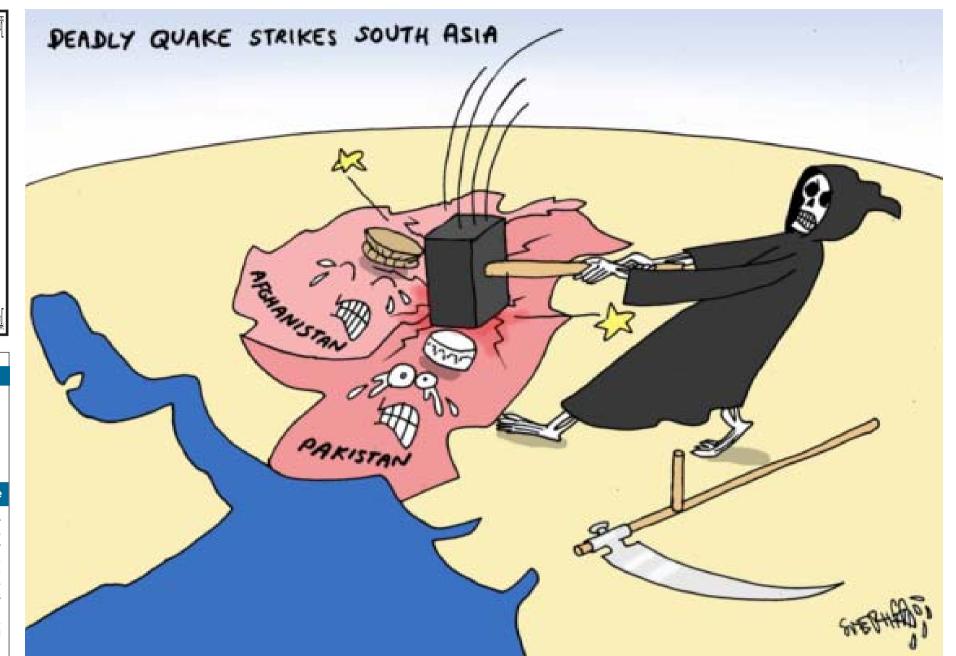
Since then, with the exception of one important agreement reached in Geneva in 2013 that got Assad to get rid of his declared chemical weapons stockpile, international diplomacy has come up short. An attempt in Montreux, Switzerland, in January and February 2014 collapsed when the Syrian delegation refused to discuss Assad and branded the opposition terrorists. On several occasions, American officials have pointed hopefully to Assad's weakening position and apparent softening in Russia's stance on Assad only to have those hopes dashed by Russian consistency on the matter.

The conclusion of the Iran nuclear deal, in Vienna in July, brought hopes in Washington and elsewhere that a renewed diplomatic push might actually finally achieve results in Syria. Shortly after the deal was struck, US Secretary of State John Kerry met with Saudi Foreign Minister Adel Al-Jubeir and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov in Qatar to compare notes on what else might be possible to achieve. The US and allies like Saudi Arabia, Turkey and much of Europe are united in insisting that Assad must step down for a credible transition to occur. Russia and Iran maintain they're neutral on Assad and that it's up to the Syrian people to decide their leaders. Yet, Tehran and Moscow have thrown military might into assisting Damascus.

In Vienna last week, Kerry and Lavrov acknowledged the others' sharply conflicting views on Assad. "It is clear that Russia and Iran are supportive of Assad, and certainly publicly have argued that it is important for Assad to be there for the stability of the country," Kerry said. Others, however, "understand that Assad creates an impossible dynamic for peace - that you can't make peace, even if you wanted to, with Assad there."

Lavrov, meanwhile, accused the US and its allies of being "obsessed" with Assad and noted what had happened when authoritarian rulers like Muammar Gaddafi and Saddam Hussein were ousted. "If we count on changing the regime and especially if we focus narrowly on a concrete figure, we've already seen that in Iraq and in Libya and we know what this ended up in ... a grave crisis in those countries," Lavrov said. —AP

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OPEN SECTARIANISM FRIGHTENS SAUDI SHIITES

By Angus McDowall

When the gunshots rang out, Ali, a 26-year-old Saudi Arabian Shiite, thought they were fireworks. But when he saw people running, he knew militant Sunnis were attacking his minority community again. Minutes later, five of his neighbours lay dead. The Oct 16 shooting was the fourth attack by Islamic State jihadists against Saudi Shiites within 12 months, leaving 40 dead and unnerving a community whose position in an ultra-strict Sunni kingdom has rarely felt so precarious.

The fate of Saudi Arabia's 2 million or so Shiites is closely watched because of Riyadh's intimate involvement in the region's sectarian conflict through its rivalry with Iran and the teachings of its influential clergy that Shiism is heretical. Saudi Shiites have long complained of discrimination, but they are now subject to violent attack and, adding to their unease, fear that another 16 young men will be added to the list of seven facing beheading for joining protests in 2011-12.

The Saudi government denies discrimination and says those convicted in the protests committed deadly violence. Families of the protesters say the demonstrations were peaceful acts against discrimination and in favour of democ racy. What many people in the Shiite-majority Eastern Province district of Qatif say is that an atmosphere of tolerance for sectarianism, visible in comments by Sunni clergy, in school textbooks and online, is feeding the danger they now face. Days after the most recent attack, Ali traced the gunman's route along a main road and down a dusty alleyway, towards where Shiites were commemorating the runup to Ashoura, the annual ritual honouring the martyrdom of the Prophet Muhammad's (PBUH) grandson Hussein, central to the Shiite calendar. "Here on the corner, he shot Ayman Al-Ajmi and Ali Aseri. There in the empty lot he shot Abdullah Al-Jassim. This is where Doctor Buthaina Al-Abad was running with her children. He shot her in the heart," he said, describing the gunman's trail of bloodshed.

For, Shiites the annual commemoration of the seventh

century death of Hussein in the battle of Karbala in Iraq, which fell on Saturday, is the moment when their role as a minority is most keenly felt. To the beat of a drum and the wailing laments of a religious leader, a hundred or so men in the nearby Qatif village of Al-Qudeih, site of a suicide bombing in May that killed 23, whipped their backs with chains on Saturday until the blood flowed.

Incitement

"This is a small Karbala. We are attacked, the same as in Karbala, just like Imam Hussein," said Ali al-Rabeh, a retired worker at the state oil company Aramco. Saudi social media messages on the Internet contain increasingly open incitement against Shiites, which has worsened since Saudi Arabia began leading a military campaign against members of a Shiite militia in neighbouring Yemen this year. Although the Saudi government says it does not tolerate extremism, senior state-employed Sunni clerics often decry the sect's practices as heretical, and newspapers publish tales of Shiite violence against Sunnis in neighbouring states.

The government won praise from some Saudi Shiites for quickly responding to the attacks by invoking national unity, sending senior princes to attend funerals and boosting security at the sect's holy places alongside local volunteers. It also arrested a cleric last year for a social media post revelling in the death of Shiites in Yemen. But Shiites say the authorities should do more to curb such dangerous speech. Supporters of the ruling Al Saud family say they are constrained by the ultraconservative beliefs of most Saudis, followers of the rigid Wahhabi Sunni school founded on a mission to purge Islam of incorrect belief - Shiism included.

Reuters was allowed to visit Qatif only with Saudi government officials, and the interviews in this article took place in their presence. Across Qatif, mourning flags in black, green, red, white or gold fluttered from rooftops, men wore black robes or t-shirts and the melancholy sound of chanted laments echoed from mosque loudspeakers. Such displays are anathema to many Sunnis, particularly Wahhabis, who

regard Shiite veneration for Hussein as bordering on polytheism and view denunciations of the ruler who had him killed as slander against an early Muslim leader they admire.

Militant Attacks

A widely circulated clip on YouTube this year showed Saudi Arabia's Grand Mufti Sheikh Abdulaziz Al-Sheikh, the top Wahhabi authority, describe such funeral processions as "innovation", a Muslim legal term to describe deviant religious practices. His comments caused dismay in Qatif. In a country where blasphemy and apostasy can be punished by death, such accusations of religious deviance might inspire attacks by militants, Shiites argue. "If we live in a more tolerant society, then we can understand each other and know what's going on more evenly. But here everyone looks at each other with suspicion," said Jafar Al-Shayab, a Shiite community leader in Qatif.

Some Shiites believe the Al Saud family's need to appease its Wahhabi constituency, combined with the clerical control of the judiciary, is what led to the death sentences against a cleric and six young men and upheld by appeals courts this year. They were convicted after protests in which over 20 Shiites and a policeman were killed, most in what the government described as "exchanges of fire" after police were attacked, but which activists said included shootings of peaceful demonstrators. The government has stressed in statements that the judiciary is independent.

In Qatif, people are worried that the demonstrators, two of whom were only 17 at the time of the protests, could be beheaded at any time. They are then sentenced to have their bodies displayed as a warning to the public. But few Saudi political analysts expect those sentences to be carried out, seeing them instead as a stern warning to Shiites not to take to the streets again, and a sop to Sunnis angry over the detention of thousands of suspected militants. "They should just sit with us and see. I don't know why they hate the Shia. Shia don't do anything to them, but they just hate," said Ahmed, a 27-year-old airport worker, as the boom of drums and crash of chains on skin resounded around him. — Reuters

POETS LATEST TO BE SNARED IN IRAN CRACKDOWN

By Jon Gambrell

wo Iranian poets jailed for their work and sentenced to 99 lashes apiece for shaking hands with members of the opposite sex are the latest targets in a crackdown that analysts say pits hard-liners against those offering new glimpses of life in the Islamic Republic. The sentences follow a pattern of arrests and convictions targeting activists, journalists and artists that has served as a grim backdrop to President Hassan Rouhani's efforts to soften the country's image and improve relations with the West, including through the landmark nuclear agreement reached last summer. Hardliners in the police, judiciary and military view any rapprochement with the West as a threat to the Islamic Republic and a sign of moral decay. Rights groups and analysts say those targeted in the ongoing crackdown on expression in Iran also serve as pawns in the hard-liners' struggle with moderates ahead of February's parliamentary elections.

"I think people thought with the nuclear deal, there would be sort of a bit of a thaw as well or a bit of an opening up," said Karin Deutsch Karlekar, the director of Free Expression Programs at PEN America, an organization promoting literature and freedom of speech. "I think the judiciary is sort of pushing back and trying to make clear that there isn't going to be that opening people were hoping for"

Fatemeh Ekhtesari, a practicing obstetrician, and Mehdi Mousavi, a trained doctor who teaches literature and poetry, were first arrested in December 2013, months after Rouhani took office. Earlier this month, Ekhtesari received an 111/2-year prison sentence, while Mousavi got nine years on charges ranging from propaganda against the state to "insulting sanctities," as well as the lashings, according to PEN.

Iran always has restricted the arts, but both writers previously had published books of poetry with the permission of government censors. Karlekar said the judiciary was waiting for a case where it could "make a demonstration and send a message by giving a very, very harsh sentence."

Neither Iranian officials nor state media have commented on the poets' sentences, the latest in a series of similar cases. One of Iran's best-known human rights activists, Narges Mohammadi, was arrested in May and remains in custody. Perhaps the best-known case outside of Iran is that of Washington Post journalist Jason Rezaian, a dual US-Iranian citizen who has been detained in Iran for 14 months and was recently convicted on charges that include espionage. He reportedly faces up to 20 years in prison. The US government, the Post and rights groups have criticized Iran's handling of the case and called for his release.

At the end of last year, at least 30 journalists were held in Iranian prisons, including Rezaian, according the New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists. Others have been detained since, and in August state media accused a senior Wall Street

Journal reporter who once served as a correspondent in Iran of conspiring against the government. The Journal called the claims "completely false, outlandish and irresponsible".

Sherif Mansour, the Middle East and North Africa program coordinator for the Committee to Protect Journalists, said reporters often get targeted because they are "much easier to frame" as spies. "There is a fine line that people ... in democratic societies are accustomed to. The role of the journalist is to gather information, including those related to public officials," Mansour said. "What they are trying in Iran is to blur that line."

The crackdown has targeted artists as well. In May 2014, authorities arrested a group of young Iranian men and women for a video of them dancing to Pharrell Williams' song "Happy." While the arrests drew widespread criticism, including from the musician himself, those involved each received suspended sentences of six months in jail and 91 lashes.

In June, a court handed cartoonist Atena Farghadani a 12year, nine-month sentence, in part for depicting Iranian parliament members as monkeys, cows and other animals. The cartoon was criticizing a draft law restricting contraception and criminalizing voluntary sterilization, according to Amnesty International. This month, a court sentenced award-winning Iranian filmmaker Keywan Karimi to six years in prison and to 223 lashes over his films, which authorities also said were "insulting sanctities."

The crackdown represents the "continuation of the paranoia that the intelligence services and the judiciary has been having all along," said Haleh Esfandiari, an Iranian-American dual national who was detained by Iranian authorities in 2007. "They are now trying to frighten a lot of people who are inside Iran - (aid groups), journalists, poets, bloggers, Internet users. They are trying to warn them that, 'Make sure you think twice if a foreigner gets in touch with you and reaches out to you," said Esfandiari, a fellow at the Washington-based Wilson Center. "They are scared of the possibility of a soft revolution."

Mousavi and Ekhtesari may have been targeted because their work is known abroad. Both are self-described "postmodern Ghazal" poets who seek to revive the traditional Persian love sonnet by applying it to contemporary political and social issues. One Mousavi poem, entitled "Scared of...," touches on the paranoia felt by many today in Iran. "What if there's a microphone in my clothes? What if this text message is being registered? What if my cry over the phone is being recorded?" — AP



Iranian filmmaker Keywan Karimi (second left), cameraman Arasto Givi and assistant director Fateme Hafezi work on a scene of a film titled "Writing on the City" in Tehran. — AP

MOURINHO TARNISHING **EPL IMAGE - HACKETT**

LONDON: Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho's constant spats with referees are tarnishing the image of the Premier League, according to the former general manager of Professional Game Match Officials Limited (PGMOL) Keith Hackett.

The Football Association (FA) has charged Mourinho with misconduct for comments made to Jon Moss that resulted in the Portuguese being sent to the stands during Saturday's 2-1 defeat at West Ham United.

Chelsea's under-fire boss is also appealing against a 50,000 pounds (\$76,655) fine and a suspended one-match stadium ban after he said referees were "afraid" to award his team penalties following the home defeat by Southampton earlier this month. "Sadly the image of the Premier League is being tarnished by the actions of the manager of Chelsea," Hackett wrote in a blog on you-arethe-ref.com. "He appears to be one very unhappy person who, frankly, is using referees as a scapegoat for the poor performances of his team. Moss was appointed to what appears to be a poisoned chalice when it comes to Chelsea, not the easiest team to control.—Reuters

AFC TO PROBE FRIENDLY FIXTURE IN INDONESIA

INDONESIA: The Asian Football Confederation will investigate how Indonesia, banned by world soccer's governing body FIFA, staged a friendly between domestic club Persib and the Malaysia All Stars on Saturday. Persib won the televised fixture in Bandung 4-1 but the AFC's acting general secretary Windsor John said it should not have taken place while Indonesia serve out a suspension for government interference in their local football association.

"Many seem to be in the dark. I was later told the Malaysian team were on a holiday," John told the Malay Mail. "Once a national FA is suspended, no such activities can take place. We will investigate this matter further."

Indonesia were banned by FIFA in May after repeated warnings from the world governing body about political interference. They were kicked out of the joint World Cup and Asian Cup qualifying campaign as a result of the suspension.—Reuters

KENYAN RUNNERS CAUGHT CHEATING IN MARATHON

NAIROBI: Kenyan athletics officials intercepted a runner who cheated his way into second position to win prize money during a weekend marathon in the capital Nairobi.

Julius Njogu attempted to trick his way into the money bracket during the Standard Chartered Nairobi International marathon on Sunday, but officials on the route stopped him at the finish line, race director Ibrahim Hussein said.

Hussein said yesterday the 30-year-old Njogu and three others emerged from a thicket where they were hiding six kilometres from the finish line.

"They did it so foolishly because from where they joined the runners, it was easy to pick them out because we had analysed the race and had many times identified the lead group," said Hussein, a former three-time New York City and Honolulu Marathon champion.

"There was not going to be a big difference among the top 13 lead runners and we knew them having followed them in the lead car throughout the route."—Reuters

Hussein said the other three athletes

CARDINALS SHOOT DOWN RAVENS

GLENDALE: Chris Johnson rolled his er to do that was Edgerrin James in way to a big play and Joe Flacco couldn't quite respond with one of his own as the Arizona Cardinals escaped with a 26-18 victory over the luckless Baltimore Ravens on Monday night. Johnson rushed for 122 yards, 62 on a play where he rolled over the belly of a big defender and kept on running to set up a field goal.

Baltimore (1-6) drove to the 4 in the final seconds before Tony Jefferson's interception deep in the end zone clinched the victory for National Football Conference West-leading Arizona (5-2).

"A lot of things happened during the game," Cardinals coach Bruce Arians said. "Good, bad and one ugly one, but we finished and made a great play at the end." Arizona led 26-10 before Asa Jackson's blocked a punt to set up Joe Flacco's 1-yard touchdown pass to Kyle Juszczyk. The 2-point conversion pass to Nick Boyle made it an eight-point game with 4:26 to play.

Baltimore got the ball back and Flacco quickly moved the team downfield before the final ill-fated throw. "The punt block and all of a sudden you let them in," Arizona's Carson Palmer said, "but that's what you want on 'Monday Night Football.' We made it a game at the

The eight-point loss was the most one-sided of the season for the Ravens. Johnson also ran 26 yards for a touchdown. The 30-year-old running back, signed late in training camp after recovering from a gunshot wound during the offseason, topped 100 yards for the third time this season and didn't even play in the fourth quarter. The last Arizona play-

Palmer completed 20 of 29 passes for 275 vards and two touchdowns. Flacco was 26 for 40 for 252 yards, with a touchdown and that one interception. The Ravens' Justin Forsett had a 14-yard touchdown run but finished with only 36 yards in 12 carries.

A 26-10 lead seemed comfortable before Bryant burst up the middle to block Drew Butler's punt to set up the final Ravens touchdown.

The play of the night came in the third quarter, when Johnson hit the line and was pulled down, but he came to rest on the belly of 6-foot-1, 335-pound Brandon Williams. Johnson's knee or elbow didn't touch, so he alertly got up and kept running to the 4. The play set up Chandler Catanzaro's second 21-yard field goal, making it a two-possession game at 20-10. After Arizona scored again, Catanzaro's try for the conversion bounced off the right upright and was no good, setting the stage for the tight finish.

The only turnover of night, before Jefferson's interception, led to a touchdown that put the Cardinals up 14-10 at the half and Arizona never trailed again. Baltimore, leading 10-7, forced a punt late in the second quarter. Justin Bethel, a Pro Bowl player on special teams the last two years, stripped the ball from punt returner Jeremy Ross' hands and recovered at the Ravens 25. Penalties gave Arizona a series of chances inside the 5 and, finally, Palmer threw 3 yards to Michael Floyd for the score to put Arizona up 10-7 with 1:01 left in the half.—AP

CHICAGO: Blackhawks center Artem Anisimov (left) and Anaheim Ducks center Ryan Kesler (right) battle for a loose puck during the first period of an NHL hockey game. —AP

BLACKHAWKS BEAT DUCKS IN OT

CHICAGO: Jonathan Toews scored 51 seconds into overtime and Corey Crawford made 39 saves as the Chicago Blackhawks beat the Anaheim Ducks 1-0 on Monday night in a rematch of last season's Western Conference

Crawford earned his second straight shutout and No. 14 for his career as the Blackhawks closed out a perfect 4-0 homestand. They also beat Tampa Bay 1-0 in overtime on Saturday night on Toews' first goal of the season.

Taking advantage of the open ice for the NHL's new 3-on-3 overtime, Toews skated in and beat Frederik Andersen over his left shoulder. The Ducks were shut out for the second

straight game and became the first NHL team since the New York Americans in 1930-31 to be shut out five times in their first eight games of the season. Andersen finished with 23 stops.

Islanders goalie Jaroslav Halak stopped 29 shots for his second shutout in three starts and Frans Nielsen scored twice as New York cruised past the Calgary Flames 4-0.

Mikhail Grabovski and Cal Clutterbuck also scored, and Kyle Okposo and Nikolay Kulemin each had two assists. Halak, making his fourth start, also had a shutout at Columbus last Tuesday.

The Flames, coming off a 4-1 defeat at the New York Rangers the previous night, lost for the seventh time in nine games this season.

In Toronto, Max Domi and Shane Doan had power-play goals in the first period as the

Arizona Coyotes held on to edge the Maple dating back to last season. Mike Smith made 24 Leafs 4-3. Kyle Chipchura added a power-play goal in the third for the Coyotes (5-3-1), while Klas Dahlbeck also scored for Phoenix, which topped the Leafs (1-5-2) for a third straight time

saves. Shawn Matthias, James van Riemsdyk and Morgan Rielly had the Toronto goals while James Reimer made 20 saves for his first regulation loss of the season. —AP

NHL Results/Standings

NY Islanders 4, Calgary 0; Arizona 4, Toronto 3; Chicago 1, Anaheim 0 (OT).

	Western	Con	feren	ce			Tampa Bay	5	2	2	27	24	12	
	Centra	al Div	ision				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			_	_				
Chicago	6	3	0	19	16	12	Boston	3	3	1	27	29	7	
Winnipeg	5	2	1	28	21	11	Toronto	1	5	2	19	28	4	
St. Louis	5	2	1	23	20	11	Buffalo	2	6	0	16	26	4	
Minnesota	5	2	1	24	22	11	ı	Metropo	litan [Divisi	on			
Colorado	2	4	1	19	21	5	NY Rangers	6	2	2	28	20	14	
	Pacifi	c Div	ision						_	_				
Arizona	5	3	1	27	22	11	NY Islanders	6	2	1	31	22	13	
Los Angeles	5	3	0	16	17	10	Washington	6	1	0	29	18	12	
San Jose	5	3	0	23	18	10	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	
Anaheim	1	5	2	6	21	4	Carolina	2	6	0	14	25	4	
Calgary	2	7	0	16	35	4		_	-	_				
	Eastern	Conf	eren	ce			Columbus	1	8	0	19	40	2	
Atlantic Division							Note: Overtime I	osses (O	ΓL) are	wor	th on	e poin	t in the	,
Montreal	9	0	0	35	12	18	standings and are	e not incl	uded	in the	loss	colum	n (L)	

NFL Standings

American Football Conference						National Football Conference								
AFC East							NFC East							
	w	L	T	OTL	PF	PA PCT	NY Giants	4	3	0	0	166	156 .571	
New England	6	0	0	0	213	1261.000	Washington	3	4	0	1	148	168 .429	
NY Jets	4	2	0	0	152	105 .667	Philadelphia	3	4	0	0	160	137 .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			NFC	: No	rth			
		AF	. No	rth			Green Bay	6	0	0	0	164	1011.000	
Cincinnati	6	0	0	0	182	1221.000	Minnesota	4	2	0	-		102 .667	
Pittsburgh	4	3	0	1	158	131 .571	Chicago	2	4	0	1		179 .333	
Cleveland	2	5	0	1	147	182 .286	Detroit	1	6	0	0		200 .143	
Baltimore	1	6	0	1	161	188 .143	Detroit		NFC	-	•	133	200.143	
		AFC	So	uth			- H							
Indianapolis	3	4	0	0	147	174 .429	Carolina	6	0	0	0		1101.000	
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 West								NF	C We	st				
Denver	6	0	0	0	139	1021.000	Arizona	5	2	0	0	229	133 .714	
Oakland	3	3	0	0	144	153 .500	St. Louis	3	3	0	0	108	119 .500	
Kansas City	2	5	0	0	150	172 .286	Seattle	3	4	0	2	154	128 .429	
San Diogo	2	_	0	0	165	100 206	Can Erancisco	2	_	0	0	102	100 206	



GLENDALE: Arizona Cardinals wide receiver John Brown (12) scores a touchdown as Baltimore Ravens cornerback Jimmy Smith (22) defends during the second half of an NFL football game. —AP

HAMILTON: IT'S PARTY TIME TO THE END OF THE YEAR **AUSTIN:** Lewis Hamilton celebrated in true him victory, was encapsulated by an incident have been enjoying this year like it was my last. before the podium when Hamilton tossed him a It really has been unbelievable." cap and had it thrown back at him. Asked to define whether he was having fun

Texan fashion after winning his third Formula One world title and the party could go on to the end of the year. "I plan the next couple of months to be party time," the Briton had declared before joining his Mercedes team mates at the original Pete's Dueling piano bar in Austin's historic East Sixth Street.

The establishment describes itself as a "a singalong, clap-along, drink-along, have-one-helluva-good-time-along bar" and Hamilton was in the mood.

"My mum's 60th is coming up, I've got friends" events coming up, more races to win, got the team after-year party, the Stars and Cars...Jeez, man. I've got to get some good sleep because there's going to be a lot of partying as far as I'm concerned," he said.

The party was also to celebrate Mercedes retaining their constructors' title and Hamilton's team mate Nico Rosberg, almost motionless on the podium a few hours earlier, was even more

Mercedes posted a picture on their Twitter account of the German belting out Bon Jovi's "Livin' on a Prayer" on stage, with the comment 'Sing it out Boy, you've got to see what tomorrow brings."

Hamilton, who will be racing again in Mexico this weekend and has already developed a taste for Tequila, said he could appreciate just how much steam Rosberg had to let off after another tough year.

Rosberg's frustration with his race, in which he came out worse in a first corner clash with Hamilton and then made a late error that cost

"I literally said 'here you go mate' and then it came back at me. I can understand in many respects how it is," said Hamilton. "It's the worst thing to be my team mate,"

added the champion, who has won 10 races this year to Rosberg's three. Last year the balance was 11 to Hamilton and five to Rosberg.

"I don't think I can enjoy it any more than I have been. I have been enjoying this year like, if only you knew," Hamilton said of his season. "I

like a playboy or a rockstar, he smiled: "Both. Both, definitely. "It is just work hard play hard," Hamilton, who was interviewed on the Austin podium by singer Elton John, said of an approach that has made him a regular in the celebrity gossip pages with regular visits to America's east and west coasts. "I have just struck a real nice balance. At some points you are like it is really on the limit and then I get in the car and I drive the way that I do."—Reuters



 $\textbf{AUSTIN: Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton, of Britain celebrates in this file photo.} \\ \textbf{-AP}$

ROSSI VOWS TO FIGHT SPANISH IN VALENCIA

ROME: A groundswell of support for come second to clinch the title. under-fire Italian rider Valentino Rossi has led the championship leader to vow to fight on in the season's final race, the MotoGP of Valencia, on November 8.

The swashbuckling nine-time world champion was sanctioned in Malaysia on Sunday for kicking defending champion Marc Marquez off his bike.

That means he has to start the race from the back of the grid and, should his chief rival Jorge Lorenzo win, Rossi must

But Rossi insists he is the victim of a Spanish plot. Claiming that Marquez, out of the running after a broken wrist during the season, had achieved his aim of hassling him with his "dirty game", helping his compatriot Jorge Lorenzo get the upper hand in the battle for the 2015

But on Italian social media, sports stars have leapt to Rossi's support. The veteran speed king had allowed doubts

to linger over his participation at Valencia with his comments over a Spanish plot against him. "Reading all your messages has allowed me to overcome my bitterness and anger and today, we'll be starting work on Valencia! Thanks for all your support," Rossi wrote

on Twitter. Italian Rugby Union International Mirco Bergamasco said on his Twitter account it had been a dubious move from Rossi, but suggested he'd taken pleasure from watching the incident as Marquez got what was coming.

Inter Milan coach Roberto Mancini wrote on his Twitter account: "A thought for Valentino Rossi. I hope he wins the title." Prime Minister Matteo Renzi even called him from Latin America to encourage him. Meanwhile Yamaha have launched an appeal on the grid decision. The championship is not over yet but this sanction cut me off by the legs," said Rossi. He called the punishment unfair,

saying Marquez is "making me lose the championship". Spain's Dani Pedrosa cruised to victory in Malaysia while Lorenzo, who is aiming for his third MotoGP crown, seized second place, followed by Rossi. Lorenzo and Rossi have a history of tense relations, which erupted again following the Sepang clash.

The Spaniard said the popular Rossi should have been punished even more severely but that his superstar status shielded him. —AFP





PALMAS: A Brazilian Kayapo Indian takes part in the bow and arrow competition at the World Indigenous Games.—AP

PALMAS: An Indian from the United States takes part in the spear throwing competition at the World Indigenous Games. —AP

CULTURAL SHARING TRUMPS SPORTS AT WORLD INDIGENOUS GAMES

PALMAS: Supersized Maori from New Zealand, diminutive Aeta from the Philippines and native peoples of all shapes and sizes in between tested their mettle at the first World Indigenous Games, a chaotic, kaleidoscopic celebration of first peoples from around the globe. Organizers billed the nine-day event as a sort of indigenous Olympics.

But for many of the nearly 2,000 participants from some 20 countries who converged last week on host city Palmas, a remote agricultural outpost in Brazil's scorched heartland, the sports themselves took a back seat to what they said really matters - cross-cultural sharing and learning.

"This restores your faith in humanity," said Lamarr Oksasikewiyin, a 46-yearold schoolteacher from the Nehiyaw people of Canada's Saskatchewan province, as he followed round one of the spear-throwing competition. "An elder once told me that our culture will save us. I think this is what he meant." Despite the obvious differences between participants - Brazil's Tapirape wore only body paint and tiny loincloths while the sole Russian delegate was covered in Siberian furs in defiance of the sweltering tropical heat - the commonalities that unite indigenous people from around the globe are palpable, Oksasikewiyin said. From Ethiopia to Ecuador, first peoples worldwide are still reeling from the lingering effects of colonialism and fighting to preserve their cultures and lands, he said. "We see we're all in the same boat," he shouted over the roar of spectators cheering a particularly impressive spear toss. "Being here, all together, it becomes so clear."

The event, which kicked off Friday, comes one year after Brazil played host to soccer's World Cup and ahead of next year's Olympics in Rio de Janeiro. The indigenous event's hypnotic opening ceremony swirled with eye-popping feather headdresses, sumptuous silk robes, buttery suede dresses and revealing loincloths as the 40-odd delegations melted into one chanting, dancing, pulsating mass of humanity. The far-flung cultural mash-ups multiplied over the following days.

Mongolian archers in velvet mantles traded tips with their feather-crowned brethren, the Xerente people, reputed to be among Brazil's most-skilled archers. A knot of Tarahumara women from northern Mexico haggled mercilessly over the price of a gourd-andpalm leaf headdress with an equally hard-nosed group of artisan women

from the Amazonian state of Para. The Games are the biggest thing ever to roll into the sleepy town of Palmas during its short 27-year history as the capital of Brazil's newest state of Tocantins. Non-indigenous locals got in on the action, too, filling the bleachers and swarming the handicraft fair. And everyone snapped endless selfies.

Still, the Games have been hampered by technical glitches and allegations of mismanagement. On opening day, construction workers were still busily working on the installations. The sporting events got off to a late start after a wall in the cafeteria collapsed, slightly injuring several workers and leaving many without breakfast and unable to compete on Saturday.

The debut competitions were pushed back to Sunday, which saw a surprise upset in the blistering tug-ofwar event: New Zealand's fierce Maori warriors lost a battle of the titans against the fridge-sized Bakairi people of central Brazil. The Javae women, also from central Brazil, made short shrift of the Mexican women, in their Crayolahued circle skirts, and a hefty combined U.S-Philippines team outweighed the forest-dwelling Macuxi people.

Native Brazilians representing around two dozen of the country's more than 300 tribes make up the lion's share of participants at the Games - and their problems have taken center stage

at the event. Small but boisterous protests against a proposed constitutional amendment that would give a Brazilian Congress largely dominated by the agricultural lobby the right to demarcate indigenous lands erupted at the opening ceremony, where embattled President Dilma Rousseff was booed. The proposal could come up for

an initial vote this week. "It would be a disaster for us," said protester Merong Tapurama, of the Pataxo Ha-Ha-Hae people, adding that he saw the Games themselves as a bid to paper over the dire reality of Brazil's beleaguered indigenous people.

Estimated at between 3 million to 5 million in pre-Columbian times, Brazil's indigenous population is now under a million people, making up just 0.5 percent of the country's 200 million inhabitants. They continue to suffer from racism, poor education and health care. and remain locked in sometimesbloody battles with loggers, miners, cattle-grazers and soy farmers intent on pushing them off ancestral lands.

"It's great that the world is getting to see our culture, see how rich it is," said Timbira Pataxo, who travelled from Bahia state to sell knickknacks at the entrance to the Games. "But the world also needs to know about the real existential threats we face."—AP

favorite in the \$1 million Juvenile Turf; Liam's Map is the even-money favorite for

the \$1 million Dirt Mile; and Harmonize is

the 7-2 favorite for the \$1 million Juvenile

Fillies. Among Saturday's other races,

Cavorting is the 3-1 favorite in the \$1 mil-

lion Filly & Mare Sprint; Ireland-bred

Legatissimo is the 8-5 favorite in the \$2 mil-

lion Filly & Mare Turf; Private Zone is the 5-2

favorite in the \$1.5 million Sprint; Britain-

bred Make Believe is the 3-1 favorite in the

\$2 million Mile; and Britain-bred Golden

Horn is the 4-5 favorite in the \$3 million

PIONEER SPIRIT TOUGHENS CHEIKA'S WCUP CAMPAIGN

TEDDINGTON: Michael Cheika's father was his harshest critic as a rugby player but his courage in leaving Lebanon for a new life in Australia has been an example in hauling the Wallabies to the World Cup final.

The Australia coach told AFP in an interview that he hopes he has given this "no fear factor" to his players going into the fiery atmosphere of Saturday's encounter with arch-rivals New Zealand.

Cheika's father Joseph left Lebanon for Australia in 1950 and his mother followed 10 years later. "I think everyone is inspired by their parents," said 48-year-old Cheika."There you have someone who left his country with nothing and then rocked up in another country-and it was seven days on an aeroplane way back then-and then said 'right okay I've got to start from nothing,' after being dropped off in Redfern Park (in Sydney).

"Well that sort of no fear factor is something I have realsucceeded in passing that on to the lads."

Cheika, the only coach to have won the Northern and Southern Hemisphere continental club trophies with Irish province Leinster and NSW Waratahs respectively, said there is a touch of Lebanon in the cultures in the Australia

Cheika-who once had to pick out potential greyhound winners for a Sydney newspaper because the professional tipster was on strike-remarked a few years ago how Lebanon was one of the rare places where there was such a crossover of cultures and churches could be found beside mosques. "Well it (the squad) is certainly a diverse bunch of cultures no doubt about that," said Cheika, who has a Zimbabwean in David Pocock, his captain Stephen Moore was born in Saudi Arabia of Irish parentage and several Pacific Islanders including Papua New Guinea-born scrumhalf Will Genia.

"That is what Australia is, we're all from different lands really originally. "There are a few originals (several generations of Australian ancestors) in there and each one respects the other and is working hard for the other and to make a better place and that is very much the way Australia has been built."

Cheika, who was a no-nonsense No 8 for Sydney side Randwick but unlike luminaries such as 1991 World Cup winners Simon Poidevin and David Campese was never capped, said that when he took over from Ewen McKenzie one year ago it was a struggle to rebuild squad morale.

Physical and psychological work "go hand in hand," said Cheika. "Nothing binds a team together mentally more than working hard, sweating a little, spilling a bit of blood together. And that builds a bit of respect from one to the other when they see their team-mates doing that.

"There is a fair bit of mental preparation as well. "I think that at this level the top two inches are very very important and a lot of this is done before you even go out there.

"We've got to make sure we work on that on a day-today basis." Cheika, who also had a spell running a fashion company, laughed at suggestions he had been like Yul Brynner and Lee Marvin in Hollywood classics "The Magnificent Seven" and "The Dirty Dozen" in leaving no stone unturned since he took over to lure back the best talent playing abroad.

He got the Australian Rugby Union to change the rules so players abroad with over 60 caps-Toulon duo Matt Giteau and Drew Mitchell-became eligible again. He encouraged locks Dean Mumm and Kane Douglas, who did not have enough caps, to return to Australia to fight for

"I think we made a plan of what we thought to make the game stronger and to play good rugby and also to get the supporters to buy back into the code. "For them to enjoy the way we play, not necessarily always winning even if you want to all the time.

"Also to play a style we feel is the Australian way of playing but try to do it well not just because it is the Australian way. "But also be adaptable so when the style doesn't work you've got to be able to find a way that does."

Cheika has said at times he regretted having left to play abroad himself rather than fight for a Test place. But on the flip-side he had taken a lot from his bohemian wanderings.

"It has been a big part of my life no doubt about it," said Cheika. "Learning about different people, different experiences, different cultures and how to fit in and get the best out of people and out of myself in that environment. "I would never change that part of my life."—AFP

AMERICAN PHAROAH FAVORITE FOR BREEDERS' **CUP CLASSIC**

American Pharoah was made the early 6-5 favorite Monday in a field of 10 for the \$5 million Breeders' Cup Classic, the last race of his career.

The colt will break from the No. 4 post on Saturday at Keeneland. He is 6 for 7 this year, and is coming off a loss in the Travers two months ago.

Beholder drew the far outside post and is the 3-1 second choice for the 1 1/4-mile race against male horses. Kentucky basketball coach John Calipari pulled the numbered pills that decided the positions at the draw. Beholder and American Pharoah are both based at Santa Anita, where her trainer Richard Mandella was tempted to get a jump on the highly anticipated showdown.

"I wanted to say to Bob, 'Let's just spin them once around and see what happens." he said. Tonalist, the 2014 Belmont Stakes winner, and Honor Code are the co-third choices at 6-1. Tonalist, who ended California Chrome's Triple Crown bid last year, drew the No. 1 post, while Honor Code is in the No. 9 position. American Pharoah is scheduled to arrive in Kentucky on Tuesday from Santa Anita, along with his trainer Bob Baffert.

"I'm happy with the post," Baffert said by phone. "The most important thing is the horse is doing really well." American Pharoah was timed in 46.20 seconds for a half-mile workout Monday.

"He wanted to do more," Baffert said. "He looks great. We're really getting excited." After the Classic, the colt is set to begin a stud career in nearby Versailles. Already in Lexington is American Pharoah's jockey, Victor Espinoza. "I'm confident," he said. "The last time I saw him work out I was very impressed." Travers winner Keen Ice drew the No. 2 post and is 12-1 on the morning line odds. Frosted, third in the Travers, will

break from the No. 3 post and is 15-1. Jerry Crawford, president of Donegal

predicted his horse will win. "We're very positive and bullish," he said. "We'll have a little bit of that 12-1, thank you very much." Also in the Classic field are Ireland-bred Gleneagles, Effinex, Smooth Roller and

Wedding Toast is the slight 4-1 favorite for the \$2 million Distaff, one of four Breeders' Cup races on Friday. She will break from the No. 7 post in the full field of 14 going 1 1/8 miles.

Sheer Drama is the 9-2 second choice. Defending champion Untapable and Stopchargingmaria are the co-third choices

Untapable returns with a different jockey. Rosie Napravnik rode her to victory last year at Santa Anita and then retired. She's been replaced by John Velazquez, who is 1 for 6 with the 4-year-old filly since then. Nyquist drew post position 13 in a field of 14 and is listed at 9-2 odds for the \$2 million Juvenile. A victory would position the undefeated 2-year-old as the early favorite for next year's Kentucky Derby. The colt is 4-0 and faces his toughest challenge yet on Saturday with an outside post and the biggest field he's run against.

Nyquist is ridden by Mario Gutierrez, trained by Doug O'Neill and owned by J. Paul Reddam. The trio teamed with I'll Have Another to win the 2012 Kentucky Derby and Preakness. That colt's Triple Crown bid derailed when he was retired the day

before the Belmont because of an injury. The Juvenile, to be run Saturday on the second of two days of racing during the 32st Breeders' Cup, includes two entries each from O'Neill and Keith Desormeaux, who trains Exaggerator and Swipe. O'Neill's other horse is 12-1 shot Ralis, also owned by Reddam.

The other undefeated colt in the Juvenile is Canada-based 15-1 shot Riker, also 4-0 for trainer Nicholas Gonzalez. It will races at Woodbine, which has a synthetic surface similar to the one Keeneland used to have. He drew the No. 2 post.

Desormeaux and his brother-jockey Kent teamed to win last year's Juvenile Texas Red, but the colt never made the Triple Crown trail because of injury. Kent Desormeaux will ride 6-1 shot Exaggerator for his brother.

In the \$1 million Turf Sprint on Saturday, Undrafted is the 4-1 favorite owned by former NFL star receiver Wes Welker.

In Friday's races, Cymric is the 7-2



Turf. —AP

HOT SPRINGS: In this Saturday, April 11, 2015 file photo, American Pharoah and jockey Victor Espinoza (6) run down the stretch to win the \$1 million Arkansas Derby horse race. —AP



SAN ANTONIO: This Dec. 12, 2014, file photo shows Los Angeles Lakers' Kobe Bryant (24) celebrating after he scored against the San Antonio Spurs during the second half of an NBA basketball game. —AP



SAN ANTONIO: this Dec. 19, 2014, file photo shows San Antonio Spurs forward Tim Duncan shooting against Portland Trail Blazers center Joel Freeland (left) during a NBA basketball game. —AP

KOBE BRYANT HEADS GROUP OF AGING, 37-PLUS EX-ALL-STARS

NEW YORK: Kobe Bryant is still a Los Angeles Laker. NBA fans are anxiously waiting to see what he has left and wondering if this is his last year. It's probably not wise to count him out just yet - or any of the seven former All-Stars who are at least 37 years old and expected to contribute on the court this year as the NBA tips off the 2015-16 season late yesterday.

Bryant, the 13th pick in the 1996 draft, is back after missing much of last season with a shoulder injury. He joins Tim Duncan, Dirk Nowitzki, Kevin Garnett, Manu Ginobili, Paul Pierce and Vince Carter - all drafted between 1995 and 1999. That matches the most former All-Stars at least 37-years old to secure roster spots to start the season since the 2004-2005 campaign, according to STATS.

Between them, they have 80 All-Star appearances, 17 NBA titles, five MVP awards and seven finals MVP awards. They enter this season with varying roles:

Kobe Bryant, Los Angeles Lakers

This could be Bryant's final season, depending on how it unfolds. Part of his role will be to mentor D'Angelo Russell, Julius Randle and Jordan Clarkson. Passing the torch and passing up shots are two different things, though. Bryant is the No. 3 scorer in NBA history for a reason. In the 35 games he played last season, his shot attempts per 48 minutes were the third-highest of his career. Lakers coach Byron Scott likely will limit his minutes at times and rest him in some back-to-backs, but when he's on the floor, odds are Bryant will be looking to score.

Tim Duncan, San Antonio Spurs

Duncan will turn 40 in April. Old Man River Walk is still a starter, but his minutes will likely be limited again. The Spurs added All-Star LaMarcus Aldridge and 35-year-old former All-Star David West, which should help preserve

Duncan for another championship run. He still has great moments, but at this stage, he's OK with giving up some floor time to be a significant factor in the playoffs.

Kevin Garnett, Minnesota Timberwolves

Garnett's focus is to set the tone and help No. 1 overall draft pick Karl-Anthony Towns develop. The 39-year-old Garnett can still play - his rebounds per 48 minutes last season were similar to those he posted in his prime. He started all 47 games he played last season and averaged 20 minutes a contest. He started every game this preseason, but never played more than 17 minutes.

Dirk Nowitzki, Dallas Mavericks

Nowitzki was the Mavs' No. 2 scorer last year. Since the top scorer from that team, Monta Ellis, now plays for the Indiana Pacers, Dirk will still carry quite a bit of the load. The Mavericks added Deron Williams and Wesley Matthews in the offseason to help with the scoring, and Chandler Parsons' role will expand in his second year with the team. Nowitzki, 37, averaged just under 30 minutes per game last season. Coach Rick Carlisle wants to trim that to about 26 per contest.

Paul Pierce, Los Angeles Clippers

Pierce, who just turned 38, brings his usual air of confidence to a team that hasn't quite gotten over the hump. The clutch shooter who won a title with Boston in 2008 has plenty of talent around him, so he won't be counted on to make all the big shots. He started 73 games for Washington last season, but he came off the bench in all but one preseason game this season with the Clippers. But if he's on the floor, and gets the opportunity at the end of the game, look for Pierce to take the shot.

Vince Carter, Memphis Grizzlies

The days of Vinsanity and the routine highflying dunks have passed, and the 38-year-old Carter has settled into a role as a perimetershooting reserve. Last year, an ankle injury kept him out of training camp and he had a foot injury during the season. He started just once last year and played 16.5 minutes per game. He comes into this season healthy, but newly acquired Matt Barnes, a slightly younger perimeter shooter, could cut into his minutes.

Manu Ginobili, San Antonio Spurs

Ginobili benefits from having been a sixth man for so many years. He has only started 10 regular-season games the past four seasons and hasn't played more than 24 minutes a contest since the 2010-11 campaign. It's perfect fit for the Spurs, so expect a similar role this year for the 38-year-old wing from Argentina.—AP

US MEN SOLID IN WORLD GYMNASTICS QUALIFYING

GLASGOW: Alex Naddour watched his buddies labor through one skittish pommel horse routine after another, none with any particular degree of precision or artistry. The good vibes surrounding the somewhat patchwork U.S. men's gymnastics team were gone. The seemingly comfy spot in the team finals and the automatic spot in next summer's Olympics suddenly didn't quite feel so comfy.

Naddour, the rare American who seems to actually enjoy the 45 seconds of lactic acid torture that is the pommel horse,

smiled. This is kind of his thing.

"Some guys when they feel the pressure, they get tight," Naddour said. "For me, I look at each guy in the eyes and I tell myself I'm not going to mess up, I'm going to do it for all these guys right here."

Sliding from one side of the horse to the other with a controlled flair rare for an American, Naddour calmly put together a routine that cemented a trip to Rio next August and allowed the U.S. men's pro-

gram to exhale.

The six-man group missing Olympic veterans Sam Mikulak, Jake Dalton and John Orozco finished qualifying in fifth place with a total of 350.322. The Americans will be joined in the finals and by Japan, China, Britain, Russia, Switzerland, Brazil and South Korea. The U.S. officially moved on after Naddour posted a passport-punching 15.266 on pommels, the final routine on the final rotation that capped an uneven but gritty performance.

"I love a good fight," Chris Brooks said. Good thing, because the U.S. was in one for much of the afternoon. Rising star Donnell Whittenburg battled a cold and a series of wobbles, including a memorable brawl with the parallel bars where his massive arms nearly turned one of the poles into splinters as he tried to hold on. The resilient Brooks, added to the team when Mikulak sprained an ankle a few weeks ago, tried to ignore the searing pain in his left shoulder when not serving as the de facto cheerleader. Danell Leyva, a bronze medalist in the all-around at the 2012 Olympics, showed extended flashes of the brilliance that has appeared only occasionally since his triumph in London three years ago while earning a spot in the allaround final.

It wasn't perfect and it wasn't always pretty. That can wait until Rio. This was about survival for a team minus some vital parts from the group that captured bronze at worlds a year ago. Yet the U.S. survived to remain firmly in the pack behind front-

runners China and Japan.

The top of the podium is likely out of reach. That third step, however, remains in sight. Three days after a sloppy training session, one that included Paul Ruggeri laughing in frustration during his floor exercise, the US regrouped.

They've been doing this long enough to know the difference between a tough day and a bad one. It's why national team coordinator Kevin Mazeika didn't feel the need for a pep talk.

"They do their best gymnastics when they're not too tight," Mazeika said. "I don't micromanage that. I let them be themselves." The Americans looked loose, breezing through still rings and vault before things started to get shaky. Brooks' bum shoulder kept him from making the lift he needed on parallel bars, and his 12.933 put the U.S. in the need of a big score to offset it.

Enter Leyva was the world champion in the event back in 2011, when he was a teenager. Not anymore. The 23-year-old remains a work in progress, but his athletically aggressive set produced a 15.633. Twenty minutes later Leyva was at it again, soaring over the high bar in what is the gymnastics version of the half-pipe, a series of turns and daring flips that seems to connect with Leyva's inner showman. He drilled his landing and received a massive hug from stepfather and coach Yin

Leyva's 15.566 was the highest of the meet and the highlight of an all-around total that put him fourth overall and placed him in the premier group with Japan's incomparable Koehi Uchimura for the all-around finals on Friday.

"It wasn't the best and that's what I needed," Leyva said. "I need to have something to look forward to. I need to know I didn't do my best."

A sentiment echoed by the rest of a team that will have to find a way past Russia and the rapidly improving Brits if it wants to find its way onto the medal stand Wednesday. It's telling that the group which has spoken incessantly about its depth since London needed it more than ever. The highest U.S. score on each event was spread among five different gymnasts, and Leyva, Naddour, Whittenburg, Brooks and Brandon Wynn all advanced to at least one event final. The chase for individual glory can wait. For now they'll settle for a mix of relief and guarded optimism. "We did our job today, we're going to Rio," Whittenburg said. "But we still have more jobs ahead of us." —AP



KANSAS CITY: Ground crew prepare Citi Field ahead of the Major League Baseball World Series between the New York Mets and the Kansas City Royals.—AP

TITLE-STARVED TEAMS OFFER GRIPPING WORLD SERIES CLASH

KANSAS CITY: The Kansas City Royals and New York Mets get set to battle in the 111th World Series starting on Tuesday in a best-of-seven clash with intriguing match-ups between teams aching to end long title droughts.

Showdowns abound with the Mets' young, fireballing starting pitchers going against a battling Royals team that have been the hardest to strike out in Major League Baseball.

Kansas City will pit their relentless hit and run, pressure offense against a Mets attack that features the hottest hitter on the planet in Daniel Murphy, who along with other slugging New Yorkers will test their power in spacious Kauffman Stadium.

What the two teams have in common is a fierce desire to end decades of frustration by hoisting the championship trophy, with oddsmakers making Kansas City a narrow favorite.

The Royals are in the World Series for a second consecutive season after last year ending a 29-year postseason drought only to fall painfully shy of beating the San Francisco Giants.

The last Mets' appearance in the Fall Classic came in 2000 when they lost in five games to the crosstown rival Yankees. Kansas City last reached the MLB winner's circle in 1985, while the Mets have not won since 1986. Those Royals, led on

the field by Hall of Fame third baseman George Brett, were a perennial contender. Those 1980s Mets were a powerhouse built around young stars Doc Gooden and Darryl Strawberry.

Kansas City came agonizingly close last year, pushing the Giants to a Game Seven at home before going down to defeat against valiant emergency reliever Madison Bumgarner with the tying run on third in the bottom of the ninth.

"I think it was a driving force for all of these guys back in spring training, knowing that we wanted to get back to that situation and get that one more run," Royals leftfielder Alex Gordon said at a workout in advance of the Series.

CONTRASTING STYLES

The Mets' success starts with their young pitchers - Noah Syndergaard, who hits 100 miles per hour with his fastball, Matt Harvey, who throws in the high 90s, the moving 96 from Jacob deGrom and all the strikeouts they log.

They combine that sizzle with curves and change-ups that can buckle the knees of batters braced for high heat. "We're going to strike people out," said Mets manager Terry Collins.

Power pitching has been combined with power at the plate by the Mets, who have soared this postseason with the home run surge by the

astonishing Daniel Murphy. Murphy, who hit a modest, career-high 14 homers this season, carries an MLB record of six home runs in six straight games into the World Series and is backed by power-hitting Yoenis Cespedes and Lucas Duda in the Mets' batting order.

The Royals' pitching edge comes from a deep bullpen anchored by closer Wade Davis and flamethrowing set-up man Kelvin Herrera, who routinely reaches 100 mph himself, that preserves late-inning leads like clockwork.

Then again, the Mets never trailed once during their four-game sweep of the Cubs in the NL Championship Series. Kansas City relies on a different type of attack, standing second from last in the American League with 139 home runs, but

second best in stolen bases with 107.

The Royals, including Lorenzo Cain and Alcides Escobar, AL Championship Series MVPs the last two years, make the most consistent contact in the majors. The pennant-clinching run against Toronto demonstrated their resourcefulness as Cain raced from first base all the way home on a single by Eric Hosmer down the right-field line. "It was an unconventional way to score a run, but that was Royals baseball," said Kansas City manager Ned Yost. "We did it on speed and athleticism."—Reuters









CRICKETERS FIND SAUDI SOLACE RIYADH: Even the best groundkeeper's skills would be which each team contributed to and will go towards their

lost on this grassless pitch in the Saudi capital Riyadh where Asian expats make the most of an improvised version of cricket. "This ground is full of stones and everything," said Kiran

ping mall's parking lot for his team's slow run buildup on the first day of a tournament. There are no carefully manicured grass pitches for cricketers in this city carved out of the desert. In Riyadh,

Ravi, 26, from India, blaming the sandy lot beside a shop-

there is hardly any grass at all. The players make do with what they have: lots of asphalt or, in this case, the dangerous rock-strewn sand beside Granada Mall and the multi-lane roads that sur-

Millions of expatriate workers from cricket-mad South Asia work in Saudi Arabia. For the talented players among them, Ravi's Warriors and other teams offer a chance to relax, even without a normal pitch. "You don't find anything like entertainment" in the ultra-conservative Islamic kingdom, said team-mate Vasant Warrier, 36.

He was seated on the back of a pickup truck, marking off the runs for his team on a scoresheet. "We play cards. We play cricket. Sometimes we play football."

For Fazeel Mihar, 27, who belongs to a team of Sri Lankans, the Rising Stars, cricket is a chance to "release the tension". Mihar, who played under-19 cricket in his homeland, works as a household driver and would be back on the job after Friday's match, toiling until the wee hours of Saturday. Other players work in everything from juice production to sales and logistics. Friday, the Muslim weekend, is their day off-and their match day.

The 10-over contest between the Warriors and Rising Stars was well under way by 7:00 am before the worst of Riyadh's 40 Centigrade (104 Fahrenheit) heat bore down them.

A second tournament match was being held at the same time on a neighbouring rough ground outside the mall's Debenhams department stor

A total of 16 teams, with mostly Indians and Pakistanis, were in competition for prize money of 1,200 riyals (\$320),

While the ground may not impress, the Warriors' uniforms do. A stylised lion adorns the blue caps which they paid for themselves. Matching jerseys bear each man's

CRICKET'S 'REAL SPIRIT'

Players ask visiting family and friends to bring bats from India because those available locally are not of the best quality. The ball, normally used for tennis, looks authentic enough after it is bound in red tape. "It will give speed and swing," Ravi said, explaining that a conventional stitched cricket ball can't be used on the hard Riyadh

The wicket itself is an uneven-edged strip of concrete, with mats laid down on the rough ground around the

There can be no dramatic diving catches on this surface where the fielders, their faces beaded in sweat, throw up puffs of dust as they run.

"Here in Saudi Arabia we lack grounds," said Ravi, a player since his high school days in the Saudi capital. In neighbouring Qatar, where South Asian labourers make up a much higher proportion of the population, cricketers have it better.

Their Asian Town stadium is a green oasis that seats 14,000. Warrier, a 14-year veteran of Riyadh cricket, said the city's burgeoning construction projects have eaten away at space for the game. In any case, Saudis prefer football.

India and Pakistan, major contributors to the Saudi workforce, are fierce opponents both in politics and international cricket. Such rivalries are put aside on the predominantly-Indian Warriors side, which includes some Pakistanis in what Ravi calls "the real spirit of cricket." On match day, the Warriors were all out for 79, sending the raucous Rising Stars in to bat. Mohammed Halfees, 27, who had taken four wickets, rested his scoresheet on a bat to record the fours an sixes that quickly pushed the Stars to a six-wicket victory on the stony ground. —AFP



SAUDI ARABIA: A picture taken September 12, 2015 shows an Asian expat working in Saudi Arabia bowling as he plays cricket during a competition. —AFP

Matches on TV (Local Timings)

	00			
	ENGLISH LEAGUE C	CUP	Frosinone v Carpi	22:45
	Man City v Crystal	22:45	beIN SPORTS	
	beIN SPORTS 1 HD		Sassuolo v Juventus	22:45
	Liverpool v Bournemouth	22:45	beIN SPORTS 3 HD	
	beIN SPORTS 11 HD			
	Southampton v Aston Villa	22:45	FRENCH LEAGUE C	UP
	beIN SPORTS		Ajaccio v Guingamp	20:30
	Man United v Middlesbrough	23:00	beIN SPORTS 5 HD	
beIN SPORTS 12 HD			Dijon v Reims	22:00
			beIN SPORTS	
	TALLAN IFACUE		Peronnas v Nantes	23:00
	ITALIAN LEAGUE		beIN SPORTS	
	Milan v Chievo	22:45	Caen v Nice	23:00
	beIN SPORTS 5 HD		beIN SPORTS	
	Atalanta v Lazio	22:45	Lille v Troyes	23:00
	beIN SPORTS		beIN SPORTS	
	Roma v Udinese	22:45	Lorient v Montpellier	23:00
	beIN SPORTS 8 HD		beIN SPORTS	
	Torino v Genoa	22:45	Toulouse v Auxerre	23:00
	beIN SPORTS		beIN SPORTS	
	Napoli v Palermo	22:453		
	beIN SPORTS		SPANISH LEAGUI	Ē
	Hellas v Fiorentina	22:45	Villanovense V Barcelona	22:30

MISHRA GETS BAIL AFTER ARREST IN ASSAULT CASE

MUMBAI: India leg-spinner Amit Mishra was arrested by police and then released on bail in Bengaluru yesterday in connection with a complaint of assault filed by a woman.

The 32-year-old featured in four of the five one-day internationals against South Africa that concluded on Sunday and is also part of the squad for the first two tests of a four-match series against the same opponents starting next

The complaint was registered during the last

week of September when Mishra was with the Indian team in Bengaluru for a training camp ahead of the series against South Africa.

The woman, who is reportedly a friend of the cricketer, alleged Mishra assaulted her in his hotel room. "We guestioned him for two to twoand-half hours today and then he was arrested," Sandeep Patil, Bengaluru's deputy commissioner of police, central division, told Reuters.

"He was later granted bail as it's a bailable offence. "We will have to gather more evidence now before we file the charge sheet against him." Patil said there was no restriction on Mishra playing for India and it was up to the Indian cricket board (BCCI) to decide if they want to include him in the team. Calls and messages to Mishra, who has played 16 tests and 31 ODIs for India, went unanswered while the BCCI was yet to make any comment on the incident. The first test between India and South Africa will be played in the Northern Indian city of Mohali from Nov. 5.—Reuters



BANGALORE: Indian cricketer Amit Mishra (center) is mobbed by the media as he comes out of a police station. Mishra was arrested on October 27 and later released on bail for allegedly assaulting a filmmaker in his hotel room, a police official said.—AFP

TENDULKAR, WARNE BAT FOR CRICKET OLYMPIC COMEBACK

DUBAI: Former Australia spinner Shane Warne and India batting great Sachin Tendulkar have joined the chorus clamoring for cricket to become an Olympic sport, the BBC reported.

belN SPORTS 6 HD

The International Cricket Council (ICC) is scheduled to meet the International Olympic Committee (IOC) next month to discuss a possible bid, with the Twenty20 format of the game most likely to be discussed. Cricket has not featured in the Olympics since 1900, when Great Britain took on France in Paris, and the ICC has resisted attempts to include it in the Games in the past over fears that this might dilute existing competitions such as the 50-over World Cup and World Twenty20.

beIN SPORTS 2 HD

"I'd love to see it as an Olympic sport and, who knows, down the track it might be," the BBC quoted Warne as saying. "I think it's a great idea and I reckon T20 is the best format for it," former India batsman and test cricket's all-time leading run-scorer Tendulkar said. "It's the most acceptable format for people who don't have any

knowledge about cricket or the ones who need an introduction to cricket. "The game is over in three hours and it's like any sport- you go to a stadium and after three hours you get back to

your work," the former India captain added. The duo are captaining rival teams in a series of three Twenty20 All Star matches in the United States in November as part of an attempt to raise

cricket's profile around the globe. Their backing for an Olympic bid will increase the pressure on the ICC to reverse its resistance

to the idea. The Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) in July urged the sport's ruling body to try to get the game's Twenty20 international format into the Olympics. The MCC, founded in 1787 and the owner of the Lord's ground where it is based, was formerly the governing body of world cricket and is the quardian of the laws of the game.

Warne said he was in favor of the Twenty20 format for the Olympics, but is open to the idea of indoor cricket being chosen as well. "If it advertises the game of cricket and the skill and

athleticism that are involved in a game of cricket then great," he said. "I haven't seen a game of indoor cricket for a long time so I don't know how good indoor cricket is at the moment. But the last time I saw it, it was fantastic-so hopefully they have grown a different skill for it. "Ideally, I'd stick to Twenty20 because it's over in three hours, it's easy to organise and you play two or three games a day. I'd include the associate nations because it's helping spread the word of cricket."—Reuters

SUAREZ SUCCEEDS IN SUPPRESSING HIS IMPULSES AT BARCA

BARCELONA: Wearing the burgundy- - had created the widespread perception and-blue of Barcelona, Luis Suarez has succeeded in suppressing his violent impulses while maintaining his magnificence in front of goal.

The Spanish club can only hope that the rehabilitated Uruguayan is here to stay because he has become irreplaceable for Barcelona coach Luis Enrique, especially in the absence of the injured Lionel Messi. Suarez was the most maligned player on the planet when he arrived in disgrace at Barcelona after being slapped with a four-month ban and expulsion from the World Cup for biting Italy defender Giorgio Chiellini.

Despite his otherwise soft-spoken and even friendly demeanor off the field, Suarez's third multi-match ban for sinking his teeth into an opponent - to go with another suspension for racial abuse

that he was incorrigible and that it was only a matter of time before he added another incident to his growing record of misdemeanors.

But Suarez, who has received therapy, has since done what he can to restart his career in Spain. He has helped Barcelona win four trophies while avoiding any outbreaks of rage or knee-jerk overreactions after brushes with opposing defenders that can trigger his worst responses.

Suarez celebrated his anniversary on Sunday by scoring a hat trick to rally Barcelona past Eibar for a 3-1 win that kept the defending champions level on points with league leader Real Madrid.

Those were Suarez's 33rd, 34th and 35th goals in 57 appearances since Barcelona jeopardized its motto of being "more than a club" by signing the volatile striker. With Messi out with a leftknee ligament tear, Suarez and Neymar have kept the team in contention. Suarez also scored to complete a 2-1 comeback over Bayer Leverkusen in the Champions League. He leads the team with 10 goals overall this campaign.

"He is unstoppable," Barcelona coach Luis Enrique said. "He is a fundamental player for us and does not have a substi-

Barcelona's decision to overlook a reputation left in tatters by the World Cup biting ban was considered cynical by many, but the 28-year-old Suarez said what he needed to after leaving Liverpool and arriving at Camp Nou last year. After apologizing, he publicly pledged that he would not bite again, and said that he was receiving "professional" help to control his emotions.

Suarez seems right at home in Barcelona. He was already well acquainted with Mediterranean city, regularly visiting his wife's family in the area, and communication with his teammates, coaches and staff was easier in his native

Perhaps more importantly, he knew his place on the team. No longer would he be the No. 1 option in attack like at Liverpool, when he led the Premier League in scoring with 31 goals. At Barcelona, Suarez immediately took a supporting role behind Messi.

He certainly rose to the occasion in the biggest matches last season, scoring in the 2-1 win over Madrid that helped Barcelona reclaim the league title, and then adding Barcelona's second goal in its 3-1 win over Juventus in the Champions League final.

He also appears to have developed a technique for avoiding trouble: Just walk away. Against Eibar, Suarez fell to the ground entangled with a defender. Once on their feet they jawed at each other, but at the point where it could have gotten ugly, Suarez turned away.

Ironically, given Messi's tax fraud case and the lawsuit over Neymar's contract, Suarez is the only one of the three stars not to taint Barcelona's reputation.

He still has a long way to go to prove he has exorcised all his demons, and he will need to finish out the remaining years of his career on his absolute best behavior to leave behind an evenly mildly positive legacy. Until then, there is always the lingering worry that one stiff knock or naughty word from an adversary and it could all unravel. —AP



BELGRADE: Athletic Bilbao's Benat Etxebarria celebrates his goal in this file photo. —AFP

BILBAO BLANK SPORTING 3-0

BILBAO: Aritz Aduriz continued his superb start to the season by scoring two goals in his 400th topflight appearance to lead Athletic Bilbao to a 3-0 win over Sporting Gijon on Monday. The 34-yearold striker, who recently signed a contract extension through 2017, is enjoying a fruitful spell in front of goal.

His tally of 14 goals in all competitions this season sees him top the overall scoring charts in Spain, and his brace moved him to within one of the league's top scorer Neymar's eight goals.

"We played a serious match and had our scoring touch at the right moments," said Aduriz. "We knew how important it was to get the three points playing at home." The win moved the Basque club into 12th place in the Spanish league, further clear of the relegation zone while Sporting fell to 17th. Speedy forward Inaki Williams crossed for Markel Susaeta to finish off a great buildup instigated by Raul Garcia's key pass that sent Williams clear in the 29th minute.

Williams was involved in the second, earning his side a penalty after he was tripped by Omar Mascarell. Aduriz scored at the second attempt after goalkeeper Alberto Garcia's parried his spot kick three minutes before halftime.

Williams then played Aduriz through only for him to fire off the woodwork, but Aduriz didn't miss on the break in the 67th when he drilled in a deflected shot.

Real Madrid leads the league on goal difference, ahead of second-placed Barcelona, also on 21 points. Atletico Madrid in third place, trails the pair by two points.—AP

BARCELONA LOOK TO YOUTH

FOR COPA DEL REY CLASH

MADRID: Copa del Rey holders Barcelona begin their defence of the trophy when they go to third-tier Villanovense for the first leg of their last-32 tie today.

The match has been brought forward from the first midweek in December because of Barcelona's involvement in the Club World Cup in Japan at the end of the year, and so the Catalans make the trip to the small town of Villanueva de la Serena while the rest of La Liga enjoys a midweek off. Still without the injured Lionel Messi, Barca coach Luis Enrique has also opted to rest the likes of Neymar, Luis Suarez, Gerard Pique, Sergio Busquets and Claudio Bravo for the game against opponents from the region of Extremadura in western Spain.

As a result, four players from Barca's B team, who like Villanovense compete in the Second Division B, have been promoted to the first team. Midfielders Sergi Samper and Gerard Gumbau, both 20 and who have already featured for the first team, are included along with attacking duo Aitor Cantalapiedra and Wilfrid Kaptoum, both aged 19. A slip-up would not be disastrous for Barca with the second leg to be played on December 2 at the Camp Nou, but Luis Enrique is prevented by competition rules from fielding too many reserve players. "We are limited because we must always have seven first-team players on the field," he acknowledged. "I would have liked to rely on more young players and give more of a rest to others."—AFP

CANDIDATES WAIT FOR FIFA TO VALIDATE PRESIDENTIAL BIDS

LAUSANNE: The eight candidates to succeed Sepp Blatter as FIFA president were still waiting to have their bids validated by the electoral committee of world football's governing body yesterday after the deadline for hopefuls to come forward passed.

FIFA's electoral committee was set to meet yesterday to study each bid and the integrity of the those running, but the official list of candidates for the February 26 election may not be made public until today, a source close to FIFA

Meanwhile, one of the contenders, Shaikh Salman bin Ebrahim al Khalifa of Bahrain moved to deny claims he had been involved in the torture of footballers.

And another hopeful, the 62-year-old South African anti-apartheid campaigner Tokyo Sexwale, launched his campaign as he promised to bring "transparency and accountability" to the scandal-tainted governing body of world

Sexwale and the Bahraini royal Sheikh Salman, the head of the Asian Football Confederation, confirmed their bids on Monday as UEFA General Secretary Gianni Infantino also entered the running to blow the race wide

The 49-year-old Sheikh Salman can expect widespread support from the vast Asian Confederation, but he has already had to defend himself against criticism by human rights campaigners who have accused him of involvement in the arrest and torture of footballers when he was head of the Bahrain Football Association. "These are false, nasty lies that have been repeated again and again in the past and the present," he told the BBC in an

"I cannot deny something that I haven't done. "Such accusations are not just damaging,

it's really hurting. Some people have agenda on their table."

Sheikh Salman was head of the Bahrain FA in 2011 when scores of people were killed as security forces in the country put down mass Shialed protests calling for reforms. Rights groups say he helped identify players involved in the protests and did nothing to protect them from

Sexwale, who was once jailed alongside



BAHRAIN: In this Thursday, April 30, 2015 file photo, Asian Football Confederation President Sheikh Salman bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa leaves the AFC Congress in Manama. —AP

Nelson Mandela, serving 13 years of an 18-year sentence on Robben Island on terrorism charges, vowed to "follow the money" to rid football's ruling body of corruption after recent

"What has been broken in FIFA is the ability to follow money," he told a press conference. "It is about good financial management, control systems, making sure things are done and there is a lot of transparency and accountability.

"That is what I would like to bring to FIFA," added Sexwale, now a politician and millionaire businessman who serves on FIFA's anti-racism and anti-discrimination committee.

Infantino's decision to stand, and the backing he has received from UEFA, has cast doubt over Michel Platini's campaign to replace his former ally Blatter, who announced in June that he would step down just days after being re-elected for a fifth term.

The UEFA president is currently serving a 90day ban as investigations continue into a 1.8 million euro (\$2 million) payment received from FIFA in 2011 without a written contract.

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

But Swiss lawyer Infantino's announcement casts doubt over Platini's support within UEFA and poses the question as to whether Infantino is being presented as a Plan B in case the former France star is prevented from standing.

FIFA's electoral committee must judge the integrity of all candidates, meaning Platini's bid could be compromised by his ban. 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 previous election in May this year and can boast that he took the veteran Swiss to a second round of voting before with-

Then there is 57-year-old French former diplomat Jerome Champagne, who spent 11 years working for FIFA between 1999 and 2010. Unlike his previous bid in May, he has managed to get the necessary five signatures from national associations. David Nakhid, the former Trinidad and Tobago captain, and Liberian FA chief Musa Bility have also entered the race.—AFP

ROMA OUT TO TAKE CHARGE ATOP PACKED SERIE A PACK

MILAN: Roma will seek to succeed where both Fiorentina and Inter Milan have failed by entrenching themselves at the top of Serie A when they go in search of a fifth consecutive win at home to Udinese yesterday. Goals from Mohamed Salah and Gervinho in a 2-1 win over Fiorentina at the weekend fired Rudi Garcia's men to the top of Serie A for the first time this

season to underline their title credentials. After a middling start, Roma have hit their stride but Frenchman Garcia played down any premature talk of the Giallorossi landing their first scudetto since 2001 when Fabio Capello

was in charge. "We can't be favourites now just because we're in first place. Not so long ago we were all rubbish, from the players to the coach and even the sporting director," Garcia told media after his side's victory saw them replace Fiorentina at the summit.

"We just keep doing our job and right now

we're first after a quarter of the season. I don't need to tell my players they need to keep their feet on the ground.

"We believe in ourselves if we stick together and show humility, but there's a long way to go," he added. However, Garcia will be without suspended midfield general Daniele de Rossi as well as leading scorer Salah, who was sent off towards the end of Sunday's victory in Florence.

Napoli are up to second having also reeled off four straight wins, the latest a Gonzalo Higuain-inspired 1-0 victory at Chievo, but the Argentine said he and his team-mates weren't looking too far ahead. "We are sending a message to ourselves. We're focusing only on what we do and not looking at what the other teams are doing," Higuain told Sky Sport Italia.

"It's a very balanced league and there are several teams bunched together with a very long way to go," added the Argentina striker, the league's joint-top scorer this term with seven goals. Back-to-back defeats have dropped Fiorentina from first to third but a trip to winless Verona will give La Viola a chance to rediscover the form that enabled Paulo Sousa's men to begin the season with six wins in seven match-

Inter Milan's title challenge has also lost steam with Roberto Mancini's men winless in their last four outings, but the Nerazzurri will strive to get back on track yesterday when they travel to 18th-placed Bologna. Fifth-placed Lazio, one of four teams just two points behind leaders Roma, head to Atalanta vying for a fifth win in six, while AC Milan, who recorded a first win in four after beating Sassuolo 2-1 on Sunday, are at home to Chievo. Struggling champions Juventus appear to be finally finding some form with seven points from their last three matches. Massimiliano Allegri's 12thplaced side will aim to continue their resurgence when they travel to Sassuolo. —AFP



RIO DE JANEIRO: A Brazilian Parisi Indian plays traditional head football during the World Indigenous Games, in Palmas, Brazil. The event, which comes one year after Brazil played host to soccer's World Cup and ahead of next year's Olympics . —AP

On stony ground: Asian cricketers find Saudi solace



Candidates wait for FIFA to validate presidential bids



WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2015

Kobe Bryant Heads Group of Aging, 37-plus ex-All-Stars

SHARAPOVA FLOORS HA

SINGAPORE: Maria Sharapova emphatically declared her return to form after months of injury problems yesterday as she beat top seed Simona Halep 6-4, 6-4 at the WTA finals in Singapore.

Sharapova showed few signs of rust or fitness problems but she had to overcome a determined fightback from the world number two before finally closing out the victory.

The Russian, who had not completed a match since July when she arrived at the eight-player season finale, now tops Red Group after also beating Agnieszka Radwanska.

Earlier Flavia Pennetta upset Radwanska 7-6 (7/5), 6-4 with Red Group now set to go down to the wire in Thursday's final round-robin matches.

"It definitely got really tough and I guess those are the moments that you just have to get through when you haven't played for a long time," Sharapova said of her match against

"Especially against the number two player in the world these matches don't come easy. It definitely showed until the end."

The five-time Grand Slam-winner broke at the crucial moment for a one-set lead when Halep, serving to stay in the first set, made her first two double faults.

She grabbed a double break to go 5-1 up in the second set before Romania's Halep belatedly rediscovered her mojo, dragging it back to 5-4 in an inspired spell.

But Sharapova, after a stern talking-to by her coach, then brought up two match points on Halep's serve and she finished it with a firm backhand into the corner. Sharapova's sixth straight win over Halep

comes after leg and forearm problems had largely kept her sidelined since her Wimbledon semi-finals loss to Serena Williams.

In the other Red Group match yesterday, US Open champion Pennetta kept her hopes of one last title alive with her win over Radwanska.

The 33-year-old, who announced her retirement moments after winning her first Grand Slam title last month, swept past the Pole with a display of controlled aggression.

The Italian, who could have been eliminated yesterday, said she was enjoying every moment on the court after declaring her retirement plans. "It's the last tournament of the year. It's the last moment, it's special to me," she said. "Here it's like you're playing the final of a Grand Slam every match, so you try your best."

Victory at the glitzy season climax would be a fairytale farewell for Pennetta, who has held open the door to returning for next year's Olympics.

But she will first have to find a way past Sharapova, who looks in determined mood as she bids to regain a title she last won aged 17 on debut in 2004. On that occasion, the Russian won the final against Williams, this year's defending champion and world number one who has opted not to play in Singapore.

In White Group, Spain's freshly anointed world number three Garbine Muguruza also looked a major threat when she crushed Lucie Safarova in her first match on Monday. — AFP

NADAL AVOIDS ANOTHER UPSET

BASEL: Rafael Nadal rallied from the depths to narrowly prevent a repeat of one his worst career losses as he beat Lukas Rosol 1-6, 7-5, 7-6 (7/4) at the Swiss Indoors on Monday.

Three years ago, the then number 69 journeyman famously upset world number two Nadal in the 2012 Wimbledon second round.

This time. Nadal had to make numerous recoveries, the last from 4-2 down in the final-set tiebreaker, before finally prevailing.

"I thought I was out of here," said Nadal after his narrow first-round escape. "It was the first match on indoor hardcourt for me in almost a year. "He's tough to play, he came to the court with big confidence. He was trying to hit the ball hard on every shot. "I had a tough time adjusting. I just tried to survive the second set and wait for my opportiunities. I'm very happy to have survived and still be playing."

World number seven Nadal escaped a repeat disappointment after losing in the first round here 12 years ago to countryman Feliciano Lopez. He made a dismal start as he lost the opening set in just 23 minutes. The third seed, whose game looked a shambles through much of the first two sets, finally came to life in the nick of time, breaking Rosol with the Czech leading 5-4 and serving for the match.

Nadal, whose first forehand winner only came in the first game of the second set, found a backhand winner down the line to break for 5-5.

The former world number one and 14-time Grand Slam winner then seized the momentum with a break in the final game on a third match point as his nervous opponent double-faulted. Nadal found his form, breaking Rosol for 2-0 and saving a pair of break points for a 3-0 lead.

But he lost the momentum and the set went into a tiebreaker, which the Czech led 4-2. Nadal slowly reeled in the potential spoiler, claiming a match point at 5-4 and finishing it off seconds later. "I was only thinking about trying to find a way to win the next point," Nadal said, adding that he has come back a lot of times in tough situations, but this year has been different.

"I've lost matches that I was winning. But the last few weeks have helped for building the confidence. And the crowd support was very important for me.'

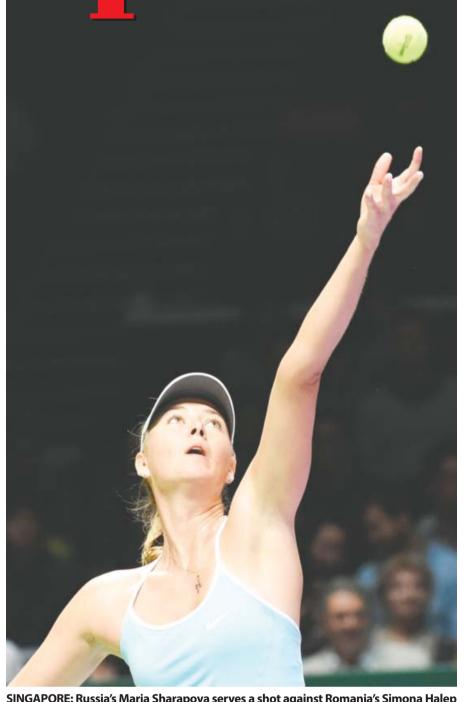
Nadal has already qualified for the eight-man World Tour Finals next month, but was carrying solid momentum from a Beijing final and Shanghai semi-final into the European indoors swing which ends next week at Paris Bercv.

Since his Wimbledon loss, Nadal had beaten Rosoal twice in 2014 — including a revenge win in July at Wimbledon in the second round.

Defending champion Roger Federer, who is chasing a seventh title in his homeland, has reached 11 finals in Basel and has a record of 56-9. He opens his bid for more home success on Tuesday when he faces Kazakh outsider Mikhail Kukushkin while compatriot and second seed Stan Wawrinka is also in the field and plays Croatian big-server Ivo Karlovic.

In the first round on a quiet opening day, Adrian Mannarino beat Serb Viktor Troicki 4-6, 7-5, 7-6 (7/3) while Dominic Thiem of Austria put out Dutch qualifier Robin Haase 0-6, 7-6 (7/5), 7-5.

Swiss wild card Henri Laaksonen lost in the Basel first round for the third time without a win, going down to American Donald Young 2-6, 6-3, 6-4. — AFP



SINGAPORE: Russia's Maria Sharapova serves a shot against Romania's Simona Halep during their women's singles round robin tennis match at the WTA Finals. — AFP



BUSINES SINES

Ford Explorer passes milestone with sale of 7 millionth vehicle

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Indian Property Mela 2015 on October 30-31

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Honda opens two new showrooms in Al-Rai

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KUWAIT REAL ESTATE SECTOR FALLS FOR SEASONAL REASONS

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KUWAIT: The Ooredoo Kuwait headquarters building.

Ooredoo Kuwait posts KD 547.9m revenue in 9 months

Customer numbers increased by 7.5% • Growth Delivered in Q3 revenue, EBITDA and Net Profit

Company (NMTC) (Ooredoo) yesterday announced its financial results for the nine months of 2015:

Financial Highlights:

• Total customer base increased to 23.9 million at the close of nine months of 2015, versus 22.3 million for the same period in 2014, amounting to growth of 7.5 percent.

• Positive trend delivering growth in Revenue, EBITDA and net profit in the third quarter of

• Revenues for nine months of 2015 stood at KD547.9 million (\$1,812.8 million), compared with KD565.5 million (\$1,961.7 million) for the same period in 2014, a decrease of 3.1 percent. However, in local currency terms, Ooredoo Kuwait, Ooredoo Algeria and Ooredoo Maldives have posted revenue growth.

• EBITDA for nine months of 2015 was KD192.1 million (\$635.7 million), compared to EBITDA of KD203.4 million (\$705.7 million) for the same period in 2014.

• The consolidated net profit for the period was impacted by adverse currency movements in Tunisia (-10 percent YoY) and Algeria (-14 percent YoY) and foreign exchange losses of KD12.6million (\$ 41.7 million) mainly from Algeria. The consolidated net profit for nine months of 2015 was KD33.9 million (\$112.1 million), compared to net profit for the same period in 2014 of KD58.7 million (\$203.6 million).

• Net profit attributable to NMTC in nine months of 2015 was KD 28.1 million (\$93.0 million) compared with a Net attributable profit of KD 45.7 million (\$158.7 million) for the same period of 2014. Excluding the adverse impact of Foreign currency losses, Net Profit to NMTC would have been KD 36.6 million (\$121.1 million) compared to KD 49.0 million (\$169.9 million) in nine months of 2014. Additionally, nine months of 2014 included one-off gains from discontin-

ued business amounting to KD 3.6 million. • The consolidated earnings per share was 56.1fils (\$18.6 cents), compared to 91.3fils (\$31.7cents) per share earned for the same period last year.

Sheikh Saud Bin Nasser Al-Thani, Chairman of the Board, commented:

"Ooredoo Kuwait and its operations (Algeria, Palastine, Maldives, Tunisia and Oman) has delivered strong performance in Q3 2015 recording growth in revenue, EBITDA and Net Income compared to Q3 2014 amid adverse currency movements in some of our markets in 2015.

We continued to grow our customer base through the successful execution of our strategy. Our number of customers reached 23.9 million

KUWAIT: National Mobile Telecommunications as of Q3 2015, an increase of 7.5 percent compared to the same period last year.

> We continued our network investments across our footprint to ensure our customers have the best customer experience. Our data leadership in Algeria continues to attract new customers, and we have maintained our leadership in Tunisia. Our LTE-A network in Kuwait differentiates Ooredoo's offer through the quality and speed of our services.

> The shift to an increasingly digital world offers significant opportunity for Ooredoo to develop and capture new sources of revenue by delivering innovative and ubiquitous services. Our data centric strategy will deliver long term value for both our customers and shareholders."

Review of operations: The Group's operational performance can be summarized as follows:

Ooredoo - Kuwait: Ooredoo's customer base in Kuwait was 2.4 million at the end of nine months of 2015, a decrease of 1.5 percent on the same period in 2014. Revenues for nine months of 2015 were KD 139.1 million (\$460.1 million), an increase of 11.1 percent compared to 2014 of KD 125.1 million (\$434.1 million). EBITDA was KD 34.5 million (\$114.2 million) versus EBITDA for nine months of 2014 of KD 26.4 million (USD 91.6 million), an increase by 30.9 percent. Net Profit was at KWD 8.6 million (\$28.6 million), compared to KD 5.4 million (\$18.6 million) for the same period in 2014.

Ooredoo - Tunisia: Ooredoo's Tunisia customer base at the end of nine months of 2015 was 7.5



Chairman Saud Bin Naser Al-Thani

million customers. During nine months of 2015, the Tunisian Dinar deprecated by 10 percent compared to 2014, which has significantly impacted the results shown in Kuwaiti dinar Revenues for nine months of 2015 were KD116.6 million (\$385.8 million), compared to revenues for the same period in 2014 of KD138.2million (\$ 479.3 million). EBITDA was KD51.6 million (\$170.8 million) compared to KD66.3 million (\$230.0 million) for the same period last year representing a decrease of 22.1 percent. The net profit decreased to KD12.5million (\$41.2 million) a decrease of 36.6 percent when compared with KD19.6 million (\$68.1 million) for the same period in 2014. The Net Attributable Profit to Ooredoo for nine months of 2015 was KD9.3 million (\$ 30.9 million), compared to KD14.7 million (\$51.1 million) for the same period in 2014.

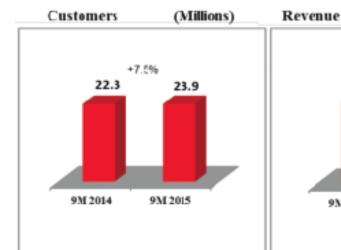
Ooredoo - Algeria: Ooredoo's customer base in Algeria at the end of nine months of 2015 was 13.1 million customers, an increase of 14.1 perDinar depreciated by 14 percent over nine months of 2014 which has significantly impacted the results shown in Kuwaiti dinar. Revenues for nine months of 2015 were KD255.8 million (\$846.4 million), a decrease of 6.0 percent compared with revenues of KD272.2 million (\$944.2 million) for the same period in 2014. EBITDA for nine months of 2015 was KD96.2 million (\$318.3 million), a decrease of 9.3 percent on KD106.0 million (\$367.9 million) for the same period in 2014. The total Net Profit for nine months 2015 was KD15.7 million (\$51.9 million) compared to a total Net Profit of KD34.5 million (\$119.6 million) for the same period in 2014. The Net Attributable profit to Ooredoo for nine months 2015 was KD11.1 million (\$36.9 million) compared to a Net Attributable Profit of KWD24.5 million (USD 84.9 million) for the same period in 2014. Excluding the losses caused by depreciation of DZD, the Attributable Net Profit to Ooredoo would be KD 19.1 million (\$63.2 million).

cent. During nine months of 2015, the Algerian

Wataniya - Palestine: The total customer base for Wataniya Mobile Palestine at the end of nine months of 2015 was 0.7 million, an increase of 7.7 percent from the same period of 2014. Revenues for nine months of 2015 were KD19.1 million (\$63.2 million), an increase of 4.0 percent compared to the revenues of KD18.4million (\$63.7 million) for the same period in 2014. EBIT-DA for nine months of 2015 was KD3.4 million (\$11.1 million) an increase of 18.7 percent, compared to an EBITDA of KD2.8 million (\$9.8 million). The total net loss for nine months of 2015 was KD2.5 million (\$8.2 million) compared to a total net loss of KD3.0 million (\$10.5 million). The net attributable Loss for the nine months of 2015 stood at KD1.2 million (\$4.0 million) compared to a net attributable loss of KD1.5 million (\$5.1 million) for the same period in 2014.

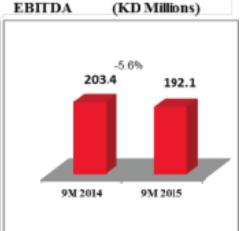
Ooredoo - Maldives: Maldives total customer base at the end of nine months of 2015 was 0.3 million, an increase of 18.3 percent from the same period of 2014. Revenues for nine months of 2015 were KD17.3 million (\$57.2 million), an increase of 52.2 percent, compared to KD11.4 million (\$39.4 million) for the same period 2014. EBITDA for the nine months of 2015 was KD8.0 million (\$26.4 million) an increase of 127.0 percent, compared to an EBITDA of KD3.5 million (\$12.2 million). The net attributable profit for nine months of 2015 was KD3.7 million (\$12.2 million) compared to the net attributable profit of KD0.2 million (\$0.9 million) for the same period in 2014.

• The KD to USD conversion rate used for nine months of 2015 is 0.30224 and for nine months of 2014 is 0.28826.





(KD Millions)







in brief

QATAR'S EZDAN HOLDING Q3 **NET PROFIT RISES 22.6%**

DUBAI: Qatar's Ezdan Holding, a real estate developer, reported a 22.6 percent rise in third-quarter net profit yesterday, according to a company statement. Ezdan, founded and chaired by members of the ruling Al-Thani family, made 364 million rivals (\$99.98 million) in the three months to Sept. 30, the statement said. This compared with 296.9 million riyals a year earlier. The company made a profit of 1.2 billion rivals in the first nine months of 2015, according to a bourse filing, up from 1 billion riyals in the corresponding period of last year.

Egyptian pound steady at dollar sale

CAIRO: The Egyptian pound was stable at a dollar sale yesterday as the central bank sold \$37.8 million at a cut-off price of 7.9301 pounds per dollar, but weakened on the parallel market. The official cut-off price was unchanged from Sunday's dollar sale but one trader said the dollar changed hands at 8.30 pounds in the parallel market yesterday compared with 8.25 pounds to the dollar on Sunday. Egypt announced last Wednesday that central bank governor Hesham Ramez will be replaced by senior banker Tarek Amer, in a move welcomed by traders who expect a new approach to help ease the country's currency crisis.

UAE's First Gulf Bank Q3 net profit dips 0.4%

DUBAI: First Gulf Bank, the third-largest lender by assets in the United Arab Emirates, posted a 0.4 percent dip in third quarter net profit, broadly in line with estimates. FGB made a net profit of 1.42 billion dirhams (\$386.62 million) for the three months which ended on Sept. 30 compared to 1.43 billion a year earlier, it said in an emailed statement yesterday. Four analysts polled by Reuters this month forecast an average net profit of 1.51 billion dirhams.

Govt approves Oman Air restructuring

MUSCAT: Oman's government has approved a restructuring of loss-making Oman Air, including the creation of subsidiaries and ventures to handle some businesses, the state carrier said yesterday. The government will take an additional 138.1 million rials (\$359 million) worth of shares in the airline in exchange for a cash injection which occurred last year, raising the company's paid-up capital to 684.2 million rials. Oman Air plans to create a cargo handling venture with a Singaporean partner, which it did not name. The venture will be 67 percent owned by Oman Air and start operations in the coming months, an official of the airline said. "The other two areas are catering and ground handling activities. So far, the company is not looking for partners in these two new entities, which would be fullyowned subsidiaries of Oman Air," the official said. Oman has a fleet of about 37 planes, according to its website.

Dubai's Majid Al-Futtaim launches \$500m sukuk

DUBAI: Dubai-based retail and leisure developer Majid Al Futtaim has launched a \$500 million, ten-year sukuk issue at the tight end of its previous guidance, a document from lead arrangers showed yesterday. Final pricing was set at 255 basis points over midswaps, at the lower end of previous guidance of 260 plus or minus 5 bps. Initial guidance was given in the area of 270 bps over. The firm, which owns received orders in excess of \$1.5 billion from investors. The wakala sukuk, in which one party acts as an agent managing assets for another, will price later in the day. Abu Dhabi Islamic Bank, Dubai Islamic Bank, HSBC, National Bank Of Abu Dhabi and Standard Chartered arranged the sukuk.

FORD EXPLORER PASSES MILESTONE WITH SALE OF 7 MILLIONTH VEHICLE

More than 100,000 Explorers sold in ME since 1992

DUBAI: Ford has announced a big milestone for the popular Ford Explorer, having now sold more than 7 million vehicles worldwide since the Explorer's launch in 1990, making it one of the most popular vehicles ever built. In the Middle East the Explorer has also proved to be popular, with more than 100,000 vehicles sold here since it arrived in 1992.

"Explorer changed the way the world thought about the family hauler - adventure became something you could put in your driveway," said Craig Patterson, Ford Explorer Marketing Manager. "Explorer helped the family vehicle become an emotional purchase rather than a necessity. It's no surprise it's been the best-selling SÚV in the US for a quarter century."

Ford Explorer hit the market at a time when US buyers were obsessed with minivans, offering hauling capability not found









in most vehicles, and a design that captured the imagination of a generation.

Locally, the Explorer has been gaining traction as an adventure vehicle capable of excelling in the desert, thanks to a fully independent sport-tuned suspension with an upgraded front strut tower support, and wider wheels for top-of-the-line performance. The highly capable Terrain Management System, with specific sand setting, allows aggressive wheel spin, and inspires the spirit of adventure.

With a choice of two engines, the 3.5L Ti-VCT or the 3.5L EcoBoost V6,the new 2016 Ford Explorer features cutting-edge technology including hands-free lift gate, enhanced active park assist with pull out assist, perpendicular park aid and side park sensors. Both variations of the new 2016 Ford Explorer are now available in showrooms across the Middle East and Africa.

BP QUARTERLY PROFITS FALL ON TUMBLING OIL

LONDON: BP profits collapsed in the third quarter as oil prices halved on back of the stubborn global supply glut, forcing the British energy giant to scale back investment and sell more assets.

The company, which was ravaged by the catastrophic 2010 Gulf of Mexico oil spill, added that it would manage both its US commitments and a prolonged period of low oil prices. Net profit dived 64 percent to \$46 million (42 million euros) in the three months through September, compared with \$1.29 billion a year earlier, BP said in a statement. Profit adjusted to reflect the value change in oil inventories sank 40 percent to \$1.82 billion from \$3.04 billion. That however beat market expectations of \$1.26 billion and sent BP's share price higher. The group lowered its fullyear 2015 capital-spending forecast to \$19 billion. The company had invested \$23 billion in 2014. Capital expenditure was then predicted to drop to a range between \$17 billion-19 billion per year through to 2017.

New low-price environment

"Last year, we acted decisively to reset BP for a sustained period of lower oil prices and the results are coming through well," said chief executive Bob Dudley. "We are now in action to rebalance our financial framework in this new price environment." With oil prices plunging on the back of a global glut, energy majors like BP and Anglo-Dutch rival Shell have been slashing investment and jobs. Brent oil prices averaged \$50.47 per barrel in the third quarter, down more than 50 percent from \$101.93 a year earlier, according to the group.BP has meanwhile been forced to sell off bil-

lions of dollars of assets to meet the cleanup bill for the devastating Gulf of Mexico oil disaster.

The energy giant added yesterday that it would sell another \$3.0 billion-5.0 billion of assets in 2016, before returning to a rate of about \$2.0 billion-3.0 billion of annual sales in subsequent years.

"Divestment proceeds are expected to provide flexibility to help manage both continuing oil price volatility and BP's commitments in the US," the company added. BP took another \$426-million charge for the US oil disaster in the third quarter, taking its total charge to \$55 billion. The group added its current divestment program was "nearing completion".

In October 2013, BP had unveiled plans to sell another \$10 billion of assets, having already offloaded \$38 billion.

Record disaster damages

The company will meanwhile pay a record \$20.8 billion to settle US government claims for damages stemming from the deadly 2010 Gulf of Mexico oil spill, US Attorney General Loretta Lynch said earlier this month. An explosion on the Deepwater Horizon rig killed 11 men off the coast of Louisiana and unleashed 134 million gallons of oil into Gulf waters.

It took 87 days to cap BP's runaway well-some 5,000 feet (1,500 meters) below sea level-and the oil slick stretched to the size of the state of Virginia.

In early afternoon trade, BP shares rose 0.20 percent to 281.15 pence, bucking the broader market. London's FTSE 100 index, on which the group is listed, fell 0.44 percent to 6,388.91 points. — AFP

OIL PRICES FALL AS GLUT **WORRIES WORSEN**

LONDON: Oil prices fell yesterday, extending losses into a third week, on worries over a supply glut and with US inventory data expected to show another increase in crude stocks. Brent for December delivery had fallen 30 cents to \$47.24 a barrel by 1150 GMT, after settling the previous session down 45 cents. US crude dropped 55 cents to \$43.43 a barrel, having touched a nineweek low of \$43.20 earlier yesterday.

An expected further build in US crude stocks and a glut of refined products again raised concerns of an oversupplied market. "We expect that the focus of the oil markets is rapidly shifting to the surplus of refined products," analysts at Jefferies wrote, adding that the bearish mood was aggravated by dropping refining profitability while demand growth slowed.

US production cuts - from a peak of around 9.6 million barrels a day to around 9.1 million - and optimism over demand have failed to translate into higher prices, said Ric Spooner, chief market analyst at Sydney's CMC

US commercial crude stockpiles are expected to have risen for a fifth straight week, by an average of 3 million barrels to 479.6 million, in the week ended Oct. 23, a Reuters survey showed. While stocks of distillates, which include diesel and jet fuel, were seen falling by 2 million barrels, storage utilisation for distillates in the United States and Europe is nearing historic highs, Goldman Sachs said on Monday.

Also weighing on prices was news that US congressional leaders had pro-

posed to sell 58 million barrels of oil from US emergency reserves to help pay for a budget deal, although the sales would happen only between fiscal years 2018 and 2025.

Longer-term, non-OPEC supply could fall next year for the first time since 2008 as deep cuts in capital expenditure by publicly traded companies lead to a 700,000 barrels-per-day fall in production to 52.7 million bpd, Jefferies added.

Analysts from the Energy Aspects think-tank added that some 5 million bpd of projects, which were meant to be completed from 2017-19, had been delayed or cancelled: "All of this will start to show up in steep declines in 2017 supplies."

Investors await the outcomes of key policy talks this week, including a US Federal Reserve meeting that starts later yesterday and China's fifth plenum, a meeting of the Communist Party's central committee, that began on Monday.

Oil prices could get support from short-covering if investors think the Fed will take a dovish view towards interest rates at its meeting, Spooner said. "The Fed and a weaker dollar could save the day, as could improved supply statistics. That could still mean that this downswing might turn out to be a correction of the latest rally, not the beginning of a major move lower," Spooner said in a blog post.

China's plenum is expected to set a 7 percent annual growth target in its 13th five-year plan, a blueprint for economic and social development between 2016 and 2020. — Reuters

LOAN GROWTH, LOWER PROVISIONS LIFT EMIRATES NBD'S Q3 PROFIT

DUBAI: Emirates NBD (ENBD), Dubai's largest lender, posted a 7 percent rise in third-quarter net profit yesterday, with earnings boosted by higher net interest income and lower provisions for bad loans.

The lender, 55.6 percent-owned by state fund Investment Corporation of Dubai, made a net profit of 1.67 billion dirhams (\$454.71 million) in the three months to Sept. 30, compared to 1.56 billion dirhams in the same period in 2014, the company said in a state-

An average of four analysts polled by

Reuters forecast the bank to make a net profit of 1.60 billion dirhams for the third quarter. ENBD has reaped the benefits of a robust Dubai economy in recent years as the emirate has made progress in resolving its debt woes. But pressure from lower oil prices has squeezed deposits across the banking system in recent months and generally lifted the sector's loan-to-deposit ratio.

Despite the trickier operating environment, the bank's provisions for bad loans dropped to 822 million dirhams in the third quarter, compared with 1.2 billion dirhams in

the year earlier period. Bad loans dropped to 20.3 billion dirhams at Sept. 30, down from 20.6 billion dirhams at the end of June 30. Net interest income improved by 5 percent to 2.6 billion dirhams at the end of September, from the same period of last year, as loan growth offset a dip in margins.

Lower volumes of investment and property sales and lower income from foreign exchange and derivatives meant non-interest income fell 27 percent on an annual basis to 1.0 billion dirhams.

For the nine-month period, net profit rose

to 4.99 billion dirhams, up from 3.91 billion dirhams in the year earlier period, according to the statement. Loans and advances stood at 261.6 billion dirhams at the end of September, up from 247.7 billion dirhams at the same point last year.

A significant amount of the bank's provisioning in recent quarters has been towards boosting its bad loans coverage ratio, which improved to 115.3 percent at the end of September, up from 70.3 percent at the same

point of 2014. Meanwhile, deposits increased 8 percent over the same period, standing at 269.3 billion dirhams on Sept 30.

The bank took advantage of stronger market conditions earlier this years to issue 9.5 billion dirhams of term debt in the first three quarters of 2015. In a separate emailed statement, a spokesman for the bank said it had no need to access capital markets for the foreseeable future. "We continuously evaluate opportunities to raise term funding, but would only do so if and when the time is right for investors and for the bank," the spokesman added. — Reuters

EXCHANGE RATES

1.417

153.670

427.950

ASIAN COUNTRIES ASIAN COUNTRIES 2.517 Japanese Yen Indian Rupees Pakistani Rupees 2.904 Srilankan Rupees 2.159 Nepali Rupees Singapore Dollar 218.660 Hongkong Dolla 39.161 Bangladesh Taka Philippine Peso 6.507 Thai Baht 8.567 **GCC COUNTRIES** Saudi Riyal 80.977 Qatari Riyal 83.413 Omani Riyal Bahraini Dinar **UAE** Dirham 82.675 **ARAB COUNTRIES** Egyptian Pound - Cash 39.800 Egyptian Pound - Transfer 37.842

Yemen Riyal/for 1000

Lebanese Lira/for 1000

Tunisian Dinar

Jordanian Dinar

Morocco Dirham

AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

FUDODEAN A AMERICAN COUNTRIES

EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES							
303.500							
337.340							
467.690							
231.330							
104.940							
310.960							
221.100							
302.300							

	GOLD	
20 gram		236.38
10 gram		120.88
5 gram		61.13

UAE EXCHANGE CENTRE WIJ

CURRENCIES TELEX TRANSFER PER 10	
Australian Dollar 210.32 Canadian Dollar 235.65 Swiss Franc 320.95 Euro 345.92 US Dollar 302.70 Sterling Pound 470.95 Japanese Yen 2.57 Bangladesh Taka 3.886 Indian Rupee 4.659 Sri Lankan Rupee 2.159 Nepali Rupee 2.922 Pakistani Rupee 2.899 UAE Dirhams 0.08236 Bahraini Dinar 0.8044 Egyptian Pound 0.03855 Jordanian Dinar 0.4305 Omani Riyal 0.7860	6

DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

Rate for Transfer	Selling Rate
US Dollar	302.750
Canadian Dollar	234.300
Sterling Pound	469.260
Euro	344.035
Swiss Frank	290.555
Bahrain Dinar	803.530
UAE Dirhams	82.725
Qatari Riyals	90.700
Saudi Riyals	81.460

Jordanian Dinar	426.60
Egyptian Pound	37.593
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.153
Indian Rupees	4.659
Pakistani Rupees	2.897
Bangladesh Taka	3.883
Philippines Pesso	6.548
Cyprus pound	576.64
Japanese Yen	3.530
Syrian Pound	2.600
Nepalese Rupees	3.905
Malaysian Ringgit	72.000
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	47.945
Thai Bhat	9.515
Turkish Lira	104.19

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY

COUNTRY	SELL CASH	SELLDRAFT
	Europe	
British Pound	0.458889	0.467889
Czech Korune	0.004360	0.016360
Danish Krone	0.040903	0.045903
Euro	0.329988	0.337988
Norwegian Krone	0.032290	0.037490
Romanian Leu	0.075553	0.075553
Slovakia	0.009058	0.019058
Swedish Krona	0.031633	0.036633
Swiss Franc	0.302570	0.312770
Turkish Lira	0.099705	0.110005
	Australasia	
Australian Dollar	0.211500	0.223000
New Zealand Dollar	0.199450	0.208950
	America	
Canadian Dollar	0.224969	0.233469
US Dollars	0.299400	0.303900

0.299900	0.303900
Asia	
0.003497	0.004097
0.046487	0.049987
0.037070	0.039820
0.004393	0.004783
0.000018	0.000024
0.002430	0.002610
0.002980	0.002980
0.000258	0.000273
0.068354	0.074354
0.002907	0.003077
0.002798	0.003078
0.006446	0.006726
0.000064	0.000070
0.214623	0.220623
0.016192	0.024692
0.001866	0.002446
0.009226	0.009406
0.008215	0.008765
Arab	
0.797619	0.805619
0.037922	0.040752
0.000084	0.000085
0.000200	0.000260
0.424068	0.431568
1.000000	1.000000
0.000151	0.000251
0.020559	0.044559
0.001253	0.001888
0.781891	0.787571
0.082653	0.083866
0.080297	0.080997
0.001286	0.001506
0.149097	0.157097
	Asia 0.003497 0.046487 0.037070 0.004393 0.000018 0.002430 0.002980 0.000258 0.068354 0.002907 0.002798 0.006446 0.00064 0.214623 0.016192 0.001866 0.009226 0.008215 Arab 0.797619 0.037922 0.00084 0.000200 0.424068 1.000000 0.0424068 1.000000 0.000151 0.020559 0.001253 0.781891 0.082653 0.080297 0.001286

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Turkish Lira

UAE Dirhams

Yemeni Riyal





'Indian Property Mela 2015' on October 30-31

KUWAIT: Kuwait Times, in association with Aashiaana, a leading property portal in Kuwait, will be organizing the much-awaited 'India Property Mela 2015' on October 30 and 31 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Kuwait.

The two-day 'Property Mela' will be the ideal opportunity for NRIs looking to invest in Indian real estate, as they would have access to meet and interact with top Indian property developers and gain first-hand information on current and upcoming real estate projects across India.

Hundreds of projects, including from 15 top Indian developers, ranging from affordable apartments to luxury villas will be on offer at the Property Mela. Developers will be highlighting real estate in cities across India and will be presenting special offers on limited properties during the two-day show.

Leading developers at the Property Mela 2015 include the likes of Lodha, Kanakia, Mahindra Lifespaces, Hubtown, Vaishnavi, Propshell, KoltePatil, Nahar's and Supertech. The builders and developers will be showcasing their properties in Mumbai, Navi Mumbai, Pune, Thane, Nagpur, Ahmedabad, Gurgaon, Noida, Goa, Hyderabad, Bangalore and Chennai, among other places.

A house is usually a person's biggest investment. In case the person is not in a position to buy, renting is the next best option. But, in India, renting can be a nightmare as weak implementation of regulations means the renter is often at the mercy of the owner. In case the own-



er does anything wrong, it is next to impossible for the renter to seek redress. Under these circumstances, most people prefer to save money and buy their own homes. Increasingly, people are also looking at realty as a lucrative invest-

The real estate industry in India has once again turned into a rewarding market, surpassing many other industries in terms of growth, in the first half of 2015. Revival of the real-estate industry into one of the most vibrant and dynamic sectors of the Indian economy can be attributed to several factors.

Some of the reasons for the recent boom in this industry include, the new real-estate policies introduced by the government, the liberalized lending regulations of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the huge demand for affordable housing in cities and entry of many new real-estate developers to the sector. But, underlining all this demand for realestate is the realization that the Indian economy is on a growth trajectory and investment in realty is one of the best ways to share in this progress and development.

Industry analysts see the recent rise in residential demand in cities as something not very surprising. In the last decade there has been a huge migration of rural people to urban areas, both in search of better employment opportunities and living conditions. A recent survey on the Indian property market revealed that in many states there is a huge pent up demand for affordable housing units, especially from lowerand middle-income groups.

Increasing connectivity between suburbs and large metropolitan cities has also made living in new satellite cities attractive to many people. This has led to a huge expansion and investment by realty builders developing properties, including affordable housing, on the outskirts of major cities.

In response to this demand for affordable residences, the Reserve Bank of

India (RBI) is now encouraging commercial banks to provide loans up to 90 percent for properties that cost up to Rs30 lakhs. Earlier, this facility was available only when the cost of the property was up to Rs20 lakhs. The RBI is also initiating policies that allow major banks to reduce interest rates on home loans. The central bank has noted that in the case of 'individual housing loans' that fall under the category of Rs30 lakh, the loan value ratio is now up to 90 percent; for properties above 30 lakhs the ratio is now up to 80 percent and for those above Rs75 lakh, the ratio comes to 75

Experts believe that in the future, more and more satellite cities will be developed and they will continue to hold potential for investors, as well as provide affordable housing to those in need. Given the growth potential of these new satellite cities, and the fact that real estate investments generally have higher returns compared to other asset classes, investors will be welladvised to invest a portion of their savings in these properties, as the yield will likely be significantly higher over a period of time.

With developers providing a wide range of offerings, from luxury villas to mid-range and affordable apartments, and given other favorable increments taking place in the real estate market, this is the right time to make property investments in India and there is no better venue to explore this rewarding market than the Indian Property Mela 2015.



ERFURT: Uwe Schneider, counterfeit money expert of the German Federal Bank, presents the new twenty euro banknotes during a press conference at a branch office of the German Federal Bank in Erfurt, central Germany, yesterday. — AP

SAUDI TUMBLES AS ENERGY PRICE RISES CONSIDERED

MIDEAST STOCK MARKETS

DUBAI: Saudi Arabia's stock market fell sharply yesterday after the oil minister said the government was considering whether to raise domestic energy prices, a reform that could initially at least hurt consumer spending and corporate profits.

Asked on the sidelines of a mining conference if he expected domestic energy prices to increase in the near term, Ali Al-Naimi said: "What you are asking is: is it under study? And the answer is yes."

Naimi did not give any details of the possible changes, which could form part of a major tightening of fiscal policy next year as the government reduces a budget deficit estimated at well over \$100 billion in 2015. In the past, officials have spoken privately of the possibility of cutting price subsidies for gasoline, other fuels, electricity and the gas feedstock used by Saudi petrochemical producers. But Naimi's remarks were the first public confirmation from such a senior official that such measures were being studied.

The Saudi stock index sank 3.0 percent to 7,098 points, close to technical support at its August low of 6,921 points. Turnover rose as the market dropped, a negative technical signal. The petrochemical sector index slid 3.4 percent as the top producer, Saudi Basic Industries, fell 2.1 percent. But stocks dropped across the board, with miner Ma'aden slipping 5.3 percent, Al-Rajhi Bank losing 2.8 percent, and Knowledge

Economic City, a developer of industrial zones, plunging 10 percent.

Most other Gulf markets were also soft because of weak oil prices and global equities. Dubai's index fell 1.0 percent to 3,518 points, testing technical support around 3,500 points, from which it bounced three times in September.

Second-tier property developer Deyaar fell 3.2 percent after reporting a 38 percent slump in profit. Peer Union Properties dropped 4.0 percent. Abu Dhabi dropped 0.5 percent although some blue chips were strong, with Aldar Properties up 1.8 percent. Qatar, seen as a defensive market because of high dividend yields and the government's comfortable fiscal position, once again outperformed most of the region, with its index edging down just 0.1 percent. Qatari German Co for Medical Devices soared 9.9 percent in its heaviest trade since June. Earlier this week it reported a nine-month net loss of 9.4 million riyals (\$2.6 million) against a year-ago loss of 9.9 million rivals.

In Egypt, the index dropped 0.6 percent with activity still focusing on real estate developer Amer Group, down 5.4 percent, and its spin-off Porto Group, which surged

in early trade but closed flat. GB Auto climbed 2.1 percent after it said it had signed an agreement with China's Chery International to distribute Chery cars in Egypt. — Reuters

RATE HIKE NOT EXPECTED AS FED OPENS POLICY MEETING

WASHINGTON: With the US economy showing signs of slower growth, the Federal Reserve was expected to again put off raising interest rates as it opened a two-day policy meeting yesterday.

But Fed Chair Janet Yellen was tasked with bringing the members of the Federal Open Market Committee in line around a clear message, after a divide opened over the past month that has sowed confusion in markets. Few analysts believed that the FOMC will raise the benchmark federal funds rate when the meeting ends on Wednesday, even though it has remained at an extraordinarily low near zero percent since the end of 2008.

After the September meeting, Yellen said she expected to begin what would be a slow series of increases by year-end, if the US economy continued to show strength.

But since then the key points of data, on output, hiring, wages and inflation, have all appeared weaker, in part because of the downturn in global economic activity.

And with central banks in China and Europe headed in the direction of more easing and deflationary pressures all around, many economists and the debt markets are now betting that the first rate increase in more than nine years will not happen until next year, with March the consensus view.

That will buy some more time for emergingmarket countries and their businesses to prepare better for a long-expected and challenging tightening of US monetary policy.

"The chances of a rate hike announcement at October's FOMC meeting are slim to none," said Kim Fraser of Spanish bank BBVA. "Throughout the past few months, the US economy has been hit hard by weakness abroad, with many exportoriented industries reporting a significant drop in production," she said.

The meeting takes place as third-quarter growth appears likely to be only around 1.6 percent, much lower than the hot 3.9 percent pace of the second quarter.

Strong dollar a problem

US exports and inflation have looked weaker; more doubts have arisen over China's ability to beat back a sharp downturn; and the powerful US job creation machine of the past two years has ratcheted back into second gear. Analysts said they expect the FOMC to "mark down" its assessment of the economy in its policy statement, after displaying consistent confidence since the beginning of the year.

But, with markets on edge over any signal from the Fed, the onus is on the FOMC to clear up perceptions that its policy is drifting.

Weeks after Yellen said in September that she expected a rate rise this year, two members of the Fed board of governors publicly declared themselves in favor of waiting.

Both said the jobs market still showed too much slack, and inflation was too weak, to begin tightening monetary policy now. Fed Governor Lael Brainard said in a speech that the downside risks to the economy "make a strong case for continuing to carefully nurture the US



The US Federal Reserve building in Washington, DC. The Federal Reserve is expected to again delay raising interest rates when it began a two-day policy meeting yesterday. — AFP

recovery and argue against prematurely taking away the support that has been so critical to its vitality." While it appeared as a public split, their views also came after several data releases showed hiring and US output lower than expected, and China's growth outlook weakened. The other problem is that the dollar has been stronger than US economists would like, and that has taken a toll on US exports, a key

reason why economic growth slowed in the third quarter.

If the Fed does increase rates now, the dollar would likely strengthen. "The FOMC cited the strong dollar as a drag on net exports in the minutes to their September meeting, and also pointed out that the strong dollar holds down US inflation," said economist William Adams at

UK ECONOMY SLOWS IN Q3 ON MANUFACTURING SLUMP

LONDON: Britain's economic growth slowed in which represents 10 percent of the economy, is the third quarter, official data showed yesterday, hit by shrinking construction and manufacturing activity as well as global economic strains. Gross domestic product (GDP) — the value of all goods and services produced in the economy-expanded by 0.5 percent between July and September, the Office for National Statistics said in an initial estimate. That was a slightly lower rate than market expectations for 0.6-percent quarter-onquarter expansion, and followed growth of 0.7 percent in April through June.

The nation's powerhouse services sector grew by a solid 0.7 percent, but this was partially offset by a 2.2-percent drop in construction output. Manufacturing meanwhile slid by 0.3 percent but mining and quarrying activity rose 2.4 percent. "The signs have been there for some timethe UK economy has been losing momentum," said Hargreaves Lansdown economist Ben Brettell. "Weaker construction and manufacturing output are the primary reasons for the slowdown, which could prompt concerns that the UK economy's reliance on the services sector is increasing further." "The manufacturing sector,

battling twin headwinds of a stronger pound and weaker demand from abroad as the global economy falters." Sanjiv Shah, chief investment officer at Sun Global Investments, added: "These figures add to the view that the global slowdown will increasingly affect the UK economy in the next few months". In response to the Q3 slowdown, Britain's Conservative finance minister George Osborne warned there were more "tough decisions" required to keep the economy on track. "There are clear global risks and there is still much more to do to fix our economy," said the chancellor of the exchequer, who will deliver

an autumn budget update next month. "In the Autumn Statement we will take more steps to ensure we feel the recovery right across our country, make the long-term investments for the future and, crucially, continue to make the tough decisions required so that Britain lives within its means," Osborne said. Meanwhile, analysts said Tuesday's data would ease pressure on the Bank of England to raise interest rates from their current 0.50-percent record-low level any time soon. —AFP





Honda's car showroom in Al Rai next to Safat Alghanim

HONDA Opens Two New Showrooms in Al Rai

Ighanim Industries, one of the largest, privately owned companies in the Gulf region, has furthered its expansion plans by opening a brand new Honda showroom as well as another new showroom that is exclusively for Honda motorcycles and power products. The inauguration of the new showroom took place from 6 - 8 PM on October 19, 2015, marking the fruitful partnership between Alghanim Industries and Honda.



Chairman of Alghanim Industries Kutayba Yusuf Alghanim

The highly-anticipated evening was attended by Honda Motors Company's management including Mr. Yusuke Hori, the Operating Officer / Head of Regional Unit - Africa & Middle East of Honda Motor Company and Shunichi Uchida, Director of Honda Motor Company - Africa & Middle East, VIP clients as well as Omar Kutayba Alghanim, CEO of Alghanim Industries who commented on the unveiling of the new Honda showroom, saying, "Since its founding in 1946, Honda has become an iconic brand that continues to push the envelope on engineering and creativity; it also sets the performance bar high for automakers worldwide. Honda is also the world's largest manufacturer of motorcycles - a title it has held since 1959. Alghanim Industries is incredibly proud to align with such an admired and beloved brand: our partnership began in 2013, and we are deeply honored to serve as Honda's exclusive dealer in Kuwait.

Alghanim continued, "We have been investing in the global auto business for decades; it's one of the oldest and most successful parts of our business portfolio, in fact. And we intend on continuing to actively grow our auto presence across the GCC by partnering with world-class organizations like Honda. We are excited at what the future holds and will continue to deliver on our promise of placing our customers at the center of our businesses."

Located at Alghanim Industries' Safat Facility which occupies an area of nearly 9,000 square meters, the new Honda showroom embodies Alghanim Industries' steadfast commitment and true portrayal of the Honda brand, starting from the showroom's design and layout to the customer-centric services that are at the core of the brand's success. The showroom is proudly considered the largest in the MENA region, boasting three distinctive floors and a service center.

The Operating Officer / Head of Regional Unit - Africa & Middle East of Honda Motor Company, Yusuke Hori, commented on Alghanim Industries during the grand opening saying: "It is a leading company of automobile industries in Kuwait, and I am very pleased to be with the best partner for this auspicious occasion today. We ranked Kuwait as priority market as high as Saudi Arabia and UAE in the Middle East region. Since 1968, we have been trying to enhance our presence in this market."

Hori continued by saying, "In 2013, Honda started partnership with one of the best companies in Customer Satisfaction, and we appreciate their efforts which help us enhance our presence in Kuwait, and now, many customers enjoy our products. To further enhance customers' experience, our partner built new showroom at the best location. This showroom has the cutting-edge Sales, After Sales, and parts function. In addition, Alghanim built the best ever Motorcycle facility. Now, we can give you the best experience of all product-line, Motorcycle, Automobile, and Power Products. Honda's fundamental belief is 'The Three Joys' - The Joy of Buying, The Joy of Selling, and the Joy of Creating. I am very sure that our best partner, Alghanim can realize these Three Joys through providing the best service with the latest facility."

Before the attendees were taken on a tour of the new showroom, they were entertained by professional London-based acrobats and stunt performers who wowed them with breathtaking routines. Following the performances, the attendees walked through the spacious two-floor showroom, admiringly observing the modern, Louvre-esque facade, luxurious high ceilings,



Omar Kutayba Alghanim and Yusuke Hori cutting the ribbon in the new showroom

large waiting areas as well as a children play area that is naturally lit by three skylights, bringing the warmth of the sun all the way down to the showroom's ground garage at the lower level.

The showroom is the first in the region to incorporate a new wall fabric technology that features moving images, an element that reflects Alghanim Industries' keenness to highlight Honda's commitment to newness and innovation. Alluding to the corporation's transparency, the new Honda showroom features glass flooring at the showroom level that displays the service garage at the lower level, as well as a spacious, clean

and brightly lit area that is equipped with a service lounge that provides customers a chance to observe their vehicles' maintenance process. Customers can also take in the panoramic view overlooking the showroom and service garage from the glass, state-of-the-art elevator.

Honda offers varied products that are catered to different audiences. To better serve individuals who are more interested in Honda's motorcycles and power products, Alghanim Industries built a brand new showroom that is solely designated for Honda motorcycles and power products. The new showroom displays the





A tour of the service center



The acrobats' live performance during the ceremony

Omar Kutayba Alghanim and Yusuke Hori at the new showroom



Motorcycles showroom from the outside



Motorcycles showroom from the inside



Omar Kutayba Alghanim and Yusuke Hori at Kuwait Riders motorcycles showroom

same modern, contemporary exterior design as well as an uplifting interior that mirrors the youthful spirit of the showroom's main customers. Adding to the futuristic edge is a spaceship-like area designed for selling motorcycle gears and accessories in addition to a modern lounge area where customers can relax and enjoy complimentary services and renowned hospitality.

complimentary services and renowned hospitality.
Winner of the Top Safety Pick Plus Rating in 2015, the all-new 2016 Honda Pilot has been redesigned for the modern family who values convenience and safety done in style. Equipped with remote start and with a capacity to seat eight passengers in addition to its new aerodynamic styling that augments the SUV's sharp appeal, the new Honda Pilot provides the perfect level of comfort with its heated and ventilated front and rear seats.

For three years running, Honda has been awarded the Kelly Blue Book Award for Best Overall Brand, securing the highest average scores among all 12 Brand watch factors, including affordability, "cool" factor, driving comfort, driving performance, durability and reliability, exterior styling, fuel efficiency, interior layout, prestige and sophistication, reputation, ruggedness and safety. Strong consumer perception of the Accord, Civic, CR-V and Odyssey helped drive Honda's success in once again earning the top honor among all automakers. In addition to its Best Overall Brand win, this year Honda also recaptures Best Value Brand for 2015, which it won three previous times from 2011 - 2013.

While it has accomplished numerous milestones since its partnership, Alghanim Industries will continue to uphold Honda's vision: to make dreams come true. Whether that entails an extraordinarily designed showroom, a superior and highly motivating working envi-



Omar Kutayba Alghanim speaking during the opening ceremony

ronment or surpassing customers' satisfaction, Alghanim Industries is committed to achieving it all with and for Honda. Experience the new Honda showroom during the weekdays from 8:30 AM until 10 PM and 9:30 AM until 10 PM on Fridays.



Checking out the power products in the motorcycle showroom





QNB SHOWCASES ITS EDGE E-BANKING SOLUTIONS

CASH MANAGEMENT SEMINAR HELD FOR CORPORATE CLIENTS

KUWAIT: QNB, the leading financial institution in the Middle East and North Africa held a cash management seminar for its top corporate clients. The seminar focused on QNB's leading e-Business Online Banking services.

Organized by QNB's Corporate Banking Division, the seminar showcased the corporate banking solutions, such as E-Channels (SWIFT for corporates, and e-business - corporate online), automated cheque solutions and electronic cheques clearing system (ECC) Service, etc. These products and solutions allow corporate clients to perform all their transactions with bank remotely and efficiently while maintaining maximum security.

The initiative is part of a continuous effort to inform clients about cash management and transaction banking products and services offered by the bank. QNB Global Cash Management -part of QNB's Corporate Banking Division-offers a full spectrum of corporate business trans-



action services and continues to develop technologically advanced services that meet corporate clients demands.

The seminar was followed by a discussion with top corporate officials in Kuwait about their cash management and transaction banking requirements and needs. Such events enable QNB to get important feedback from its Clients in order to improve its services and ensure all products and services meet and exceed clients' needs.

The Global Cash Management and Transaction Service covers corporate receivables, payables management and liquidity through industry standard channels. QNB Group currently operates in more than 27 countries across 3 continents providing a comprehensive range of advanced products and services. The Group has more than 15,000 employees operating through more than 635 locations, with an ATM network of more than 1,350 machines.



STOCKS RALLY STALLS AS INVESTORS EYE FED, BOJ, APPLE

LONDON: World stocks and the dollar dipped yesterday, as investors locked in some of the sharp gains seen over the last month ahead of the Federal Reserve's policy meeting and results from gadget giant Apple. European shares opened down 0.5 percent for second day running as a profit warning from the world's largest chemicals firm, BASF, added to the cautious mood.

In Asia, a jump in the safe-haven yen sent Tokyo's Nikkei tumbling, while China's bourses dived 2 percent before recovering in another volatile session. The euro remained firmly on the back foot after the European Central Bank's chief economist said there were "no taboos" as the ECB seeks ways to push up inflation, though another drop in oil highlighted the challenge it faces.

"We are in a situation where the timeframe for achieving the inflation objective risks once again to be moved back," the ECB's Peter Praet said. "The Governing Council has given a very strong message: it is ready to draw the consequences of its assessment of the monetary policy stance."

But the most pressing topic for traders was the message that will come out of a two-day meeting of the Federal Reserve which starts later. Markets are pricing in only around a 7 percent chance the US central bank will hike rates this week, but will be watching be for clues to whether "lift-off" could come at its next meeting in December.

After rising 3 percent over the last two weeks despite diminishing expectations of a rate hike in 2015, the dollar tracked world shares lower to fall for a second day against the other main global currencies. HSBC currency strategist Dominic Bunning said markets were in a holding pattern ahead of the Fed and Friday's Bank of Japan meeting, which could bring more stimulus, and that the current risk-off mood would unlikely to

last. "Classic risk assets are all slightly softer but it's not been an aggressive move," he said. "I don't think the positioning is there to see these massive spikes in emerging market selling and related safe-haven strength," he added. The euro fell 0.6 percent to 133.03 yen, its weakest since early September. The dollar also fell 0.6 percent to 120.43 yen, having hit 121.60 on Friday.

APPLE EYED

Apple will announce results later, with investors anxious to hear how many new phones it has been selling and its assessment of the world economy given the breadth of demand for its technology products. The world's largest chemical firm, BASF, whose products range from car coatings to mining acids, blamed the pressures facing major emerging markets like China and Brazil for the profit warning that knocked its shares 3 percent lower.

"We experienced a pronounced summer Iull and no volume momentum in September. Maior markets like Brazil are in a recession, or face lower growth rates, such as China," Chief Executive Kurt Bock said. MSCI's main emerging markets stock index was on course for its fifth fall in six days. Russian Finance Minister Anton Siluanov meanwhile said he saw risks the country's Reserve Fund would be exhausted by the end of next year if oil prices stay at their current level. Commodity markets continue to be dogged by concerns over plentiful supplies and weak demand, with oil prices extending losses into a third week. US crude was down 1 percent at \$43.45 a barrel, while Brent fell as low \$47.17 a barrel before a minor rebound in early European trading.

Metals had more shine. Three-month copper was up a touch at \$5,226 a tonne, while gold climbed to \$1,164.31 an ounce after three days of falls. — Reuters

KUWAIT REAL ESTATE SECTOR FALLS FOR SEASONAL REASONS

KUWAIT REAL ESTATE MARKET Q3 REPORT

KUWAIT: The 3rd Quarter Real Estate Report issued by Kuwait International Bank indicated that Kuwait real estate market indicators slumped down for seasonal reasons and partially for global economic developments. The total sales dropped approximately by 29 percent realizing only Kuwaiti Dinar 685 million (contracts and power of attorneys). This has come as a result of a drop in the count of total deals concluded in the market to 1180 only compared to 1660 deals during Q2 of 2015. The average deal value in Q3 2015 maintained the same level recorded for the previous quarter that is around KD 581 thousand per deal. However, it is worth to mention that a large portion of this drop is due to seasonal reasons as these data coincided with summer holidays, the holy month of Ramadan, Eid Al-Fitr and Eid Al-Adha in the same current quarter, the matter which contributed in the market overall slump.

Having compared this quarter performance with the corresponding quarter in 2014, the total sales dropped by 28 percent and the count of deals went also down by approx. 42 percent. However, the average deal value increased by approx. 23 percent on annual basis. Thus, the market levels are still far away from the levels recorded for the same period last year. The real estate market sales in the first nine months of the year amounted to KD2.6 billion, ie 53.6 percent of total sales of 2014 and 72 percent of sales for the same period in 2014. The total count of deals concluded during the first nine month of this year is 4596 deals, i.e. 56 percent of total deals recorded in 2014 and 75 percent of deals registered during the same period last year. The average deal value for the first nine months is still below the recorded average deal value during 2014.

Market performance by sector

Having reviewed the real estate performance by sector, the residential and investment sectors' sales bounced back, while the commercial sector's sales rose. As such, the residential sector sales amounted to KD277 million only, decreasing by 33 percent quarterly and annually alike. The residential sector recorded 760 deals, slumping down by 34 percent quarterly and by more than 53 percent on annual basis. In Q3 of 2015, the average deal value in the residential sector amounted to KD 365 thousand, recording an increase by 2.4 percent quarterly and 43 percent on annual bases.

The investment sector's sales dropped by 35 percent quarterly and by more than 43 percent annually, realizing KD273 million. The total count of deals recorded in the investment sector during the current quarter reached 373 deals only, which is a drop by 19 percent q/q. However, the count of deals in this sector remained higher than the count registered for the same period of 2014 by 3.6 percent. The average deal value in the sector amounted to KD734 thousand decreasing by 20 percent quarterly and by more than 44 percent on annual bases.

Unlike the slumping-trend witnessed at the aforementioned two sectors, the commercial sector sales improved realizing KD 112 million, with an increase of "10 percent" q/q. The commercial sales level in this quarter is higher by more than two times the levels recorded for the same period in 2014. In turn, the deals count bounced back q/q by 9 percent with 29" deals only. Yet still higher than the deals count recorded for Q3 of 2014 which was 12 deals only. The average deal value in the commercial sector increased by 21 percent q/q and 36

Kuwaiti Real Estate Market Main Indicators for Period (Q3/2014 – Q3/2015)

Residential Investment Commercial Warehouse Coastal Crafts Sho

Q3-2014	Residential	Investment	Commercial	Warehouse	Coastal	Crafts	Showrooms	Totals & Quarter Avg*
Sector Total Deals Value (KD.Million)	415	474	34	6	5	18	1	953
Sector Total Deals Count	1620	360	12	5	1	24	1	2023
Sector Average Deal Value (KD.Thousand)	256	1317	2851	1200	5050	739	1100	*471
Q4-2014	Residential	Investment	Commercial	Warehouse	Coastal	Crafts	Showrooms	Totals & Quarter Avg*
Sector Total Deals Value (KD.Million)	553.0	403.0	252.0	7.7	7.2	8.0	0	1224
	1761	358	39	2	4	5	0	2169
Sector Average Deal Value (KD.Thousand)	314	1126	6462	3850	1800	160	0	*564
Q1-2015	Residential	Investment	Commercial	Warehouse	Coastal	Crafts	Showrooms	Totals & Quarter Avg*
Sector Total Deals Value (KD Million)	480.0	352.6	91.5	5.9	13.0	12.8	0	956
Sector Total Deals Count	1372	347	16	4	3	14	0	1756
Sector Average Deal Value (KD.Thousand)	350	1016	5721	1487	4348	916	0	*544
Q2-2015	Residential	Investment	Commercial	Warehouse	Coastal	Crafts	Showrooms	Totals & Quarter Avg*
Sector Total Deals Value (KD Million)	410.3	422.1	102.5	10.0	13.0	8.1	0	966
Sector Total Deals Count	1151	462	32	7	-1	7	0	1660
Sector Average Deal Value (KD.Thousand)	357	914	3204	1426	13000	1161	0	*582
Q3-2015	Residential	Investment	Commercial	Warehouse	Coastal	Crafts	Showrooms	Totals & Quarter Avg*
Sector Total Deals Value (KD.Million)	277.4	273.8	112.4	5.5	0.0	9.4	7	685
Sector Total Deals Count	760	373	29	4	0	12	2	1180
Sector Average Deal Value (KD Thousand)	365	734	3979	1363	0	794	3450	*581

Source: Economic Research & Translation Un

percent y/y, realizing KD 3.9 million average deal values. As for the other sectors, the warehouse sector sales decreased to KD5.5 million, while the crafts sector sales increased to KD9.4 million. The showrooms sector recorded only two deals for a total value of approx. KD 6.9 million. Nevertheless. Having reviewed the promotional share of the main sectors to total market sales, the investment sector share bounced back to 40 percent only of the total market sales. While the residential sector share retreated to nearly 40.5 percent. On the other hand commercial sector share rose up to 16.4 percent. However, the other sectors share realized to 3.2 percent of the market sales during Q3 2015.

Geographical performance

Having analyzed Q3 2015 data, it is established that Hawally governorate acquired the largest share of total sales with more than 29.4 percent, i.e. KD "185" million. Al-Ahmadi Governorate came the second with 21 percent of the market total sales that is KD 134 million. Lastly, Al-Jahra total sales amounted to approx KD 29 million only. Based on an analysis of market performance according to geographical areas, it can be noticed that Salmiya came first with 13 percent of total market sales i.e. KD 83 million whereas Mahboula was the second with approx. 6.5 percent of the total market sales. Nevertheless, Mahboula was the first in terms of count of deals with 19 percent of total.

Variant Changes in prices

Having perused the price levels in the three main sectors (residential, investment and commercial), it was obvious that prices were relatively stable in the residential sector while the average squared meter price in the investment and commercial sectors retreated. The fluctuation of prices is also attributable to the Governorate and the geographical area, whereby, the residential sector prices dropped at Al-Jahra, Farwaniya and Hawally governorates, while Al-Ahmadi governorate recorded minor drawback.

On the contrary, the residential real estate prices at Capital and Mubarak Al-Kabeer Governorates increased. The noticeable drawback of investment real estate average prices at Ahmadi Governorate led to declined average price rate in this sector in general. In addition, the fallback of commercial sector prices at Farwaniya Governorate lead the overall

decline in the Commercial sector average prices. It should be notes that the estimated price levels do not take into account the individual specifications of each property.

Fallback

The fallback of Kuwait real estate indicators is attributable to seasonal and other economic reasons. The 3rd guarter of 2015witnessed several global economic developments and challenges. The market encountered a severe slump in oil and primary commodities' prices for several consecutive months; China devalued its currency by 2 percent. The matter which was followed by indications of slowdown in the Chinese economy, thus casted shadows on the performance of global money markets; the oil prices dropped to their minimal levels for the last six years continuously till end of September. This has caused temporary fear overwhelming the global money markets as well as losses by tens of billions of dollars on a day called the Black Monday (24/8/2015) before being recovered gradually.

During this period of increased concerns from the impact of the Chinese economy slowdown on the recovery of truly fragile international economy, the Federal Reserve Board decided to defer any measures pertinent to raising interest rates waiting for potential positive indications on the performance of the US economy. This has relatively and indirectly affected the performance of the local real estate market as the global economic developments always have an impact on the local economy outlook, particularly with respect to the crude oil prices.

The prevailing trend in the market represented by a drawback in both the count of deals and the total sales volume still exist while the average deal value proportionally maintained the same level, with a varying price levels due to the nature of property specifications and their detailed geographical locations. However, the average price levels are still below the prices recorded by the end of 2014. The market performance is expected to maintain its current levels till end of 2015 unless an international positive economic development emerged to positively reflect on the local market performance in the short run, in a way that mitigate the sentiment effect prevailing in the market.

STRONG SALES LIFT US HOME PRICES 5.1%

WASHINGTON: Solid sales pushed up US home prices at a steady pace in August from a year earlier, a sign that the housing market is improving despite a slowdown in the overall economy. The Standard & Poor's/Case-Shiller 20-city home price index rose 5.1 percent in the 12 months ending in August, according to figures released yesterday. That's up from a 4.9 percent pace in July.

Home prices have risen at a 5 percent pace for most of this year, which economists see as more sustainable than last year's double-digit gains. Three years of solid hiring and histori-



cally low mortgage rates have enabled more Americans to buy homes. That's lifted sales of existing homes nearly 9 percent in the past year. San Francisco and Denver both reported annual price gains of 10.7 percent, the largest of any city. Portland, Oregon's annual gain of 9.4 percent was the third largest.

9.4 percent was the third largest.
On a month-over-month basis, the 20-city price index climbed 0.4 percent in August from July. Eighteen of 20 cities said prices increased. Prices slipped 0.1 percent in San Francisco and were unchanged in Charlotte, North Carolina. The Case-Shiller index covers

roughly half of US homes. The index measures prices compared with those in January 2000 and creates a three-month moving average. The August figures are the latest available. Sales of existing homes jumped 4.7 percent in September to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 5.55 million. That's a reassuring sign that the housing sector has so far been insulated from weaker growth overseas that is slowing growth in the US manufacturing and energy sectors.

Yet overall the housing market's health is mixed. New home sales plunged in September to their lowest level since November 2014 and remain far below their long-run average. The construction of new homes rose at a healthy pace in September and is up 12 percent so far this year compared with 2014. But the bulk of the growth has been fueled by condominiums and apartment buildings. Single-family home construction was flat in September.

That reflects a greater preference for renting rather than home-buying since the Great Recession, which has pushed the percentage of Americans who own homes to a 48-year low of 63.4 percent.

More single-family home building is needed to boost overall supplies, hold down price gains and give potential buyers more choices. The number of existing homes for sales has fallen 3.1 percent in the past 12 months. In September, the number of available homes was equal to just 4.8 months' of sales, below the six months that is typical of a balanced market.Low mortgage rates are helping would-be buyers. The average rate on a 30-year fixed mortgage fell to 3.79 percent last week, its 13th straight week below 4 percent. — AP

ETIHAD AIRWAYS TO COMMENCE A380 SERVICES TO MELBOURNE IN JUNE 2016

ABU DHABI: Etihad Airways, the national airline of the United Arab Emirates will commence daily A380 services between Abu Dhabi and Melbourne on 1 June 2016. The flagship superjumbo will operate flights EY460/461, one of the airline's twice daily Abu Dhabi-Melbourne services. It will replace one of the three-class Boeing 777-300ER aircraft currently deployed on the route.

It will also bring to Melbourne The Residence by EtihadTM, the airline's luxurious private three-room suite in the sky, as well as ground breaking product and service innovations in all cabins. Etihad Airways' double daily service from Melbourne provides travellers from Victoria access to more than 900 weekly connections in 50 markets across the Gulf region, the Middle East, Africa and Europe.

James Hogan, Etihad Airways' President and Chief Executive Officer, said: "The launch of A380 services to Melbourne is good news for travellers on the very popular route.

"From June next year, guests on our Abu Dhabi-Melbourne A380 flights will discover what travellers the world over are talking about - the superior level of luxury, comfort, service, and inflight technology that is redefining luxury air travel and transforming the flying experience.

"What's more, the A380 service from Melbourne will connect seamlessly in Abu Dhabi to the A380 to London, offering our London-bound guests the convenience and class-leading comfort of an all-A380 service all the way."

The new A380 will increase the total number of two-way seats on the Melbourne-Abu Dhabi route by 26 per cent to more than 11,500 seats per week. Hogan added: "Melbourne is an important point on our global network, and our Abu Dhabi to Melbourne services continue to generate very high seat load factors on a year round basis. "After just three months of operations, demand for our second daily service is already exceeding our expectations.

"Deploying the 496-seat A380 to Melbourne will enable us to accelerate our growth in the Victorian market by providing additional capacity, particularly in business class, where demand for scate continually outstrips supply"

seats continually outstrips supply."

Victorian Minister for Tourism and Major

Events, The Hon. John Eren, MP, said: "Etihad's decision is good news for Victoria's visitor economy and further proof we're headed in the right direction. It means more visitors from all over the world will see for themselves everything we offer.

"Victoria has a positive relationship with Etihad Airways and, through our partnership marketing efforts in the key markets of UK and Europe, more visitors can experience Melbourne and regional Victoria's award-winning tourism attractions and nature-based experiences."

Within Australia and to New Zealand, Etihad Airways codeshares on Virgin Australia and Air New Zealand flights from Melbourne to Adelaide, Auckland, Brisbane, Cairns, Canberra, Christchurch, Coffs Harbour, Darwin, Gold Coast, Hamilton Island, Hobart, Kalgoorlie, Launceston, Mildura, Newcastle, Perth, Queenstown, Sunshine Coast, Sydney, and Wellington. Etihad Airways commenced services to Melbourne on 29 March 2009. It added a second daily service to the route on 1 August 2015. It is the only airline offering double daily non-stop services between Melbourne and the United Arab Emirates.

CAR DESIGNER WARNS ON GOOGLE GAME CHANGER

TOKYO: The days of cheap and cheerful cars like the Honda Civic and Toyota Corolla may be numbered as technology firms Google and Apple muscle into the auto industry, and change the way people own and drive cars. That's the warning from Ken Okuyama, high-end Japanese designer of the Ferrari F60 Enzo and Porsche Boxster, who says game-changing self-drive technology could threaten Japan's position as a major car producer. "If they don't watch out, they risk becoming just suppliers to those (tech) companies," Okuyama told Reuters in an interview at his industrial design studio in the Japanese capital ahead of this week's Tokyo Motor Show.

Okuyama, who made his mark at Italy's fabled Pininfarina studio and also redesigned the Chevrolet Camaro and Corvette, says taking on Google and Apple will be the ultimate test for Toyota and other mainstream automakers. As writing code becomes as vital to car making as engineering, Japanese automakers are under pressure to show they can compete with the tech giants.

Google's fleet of self-driving cars includes a modified version of Toyota's Lexus sport utility vehicles, in addition to the pod-like, driverless Google Car prototype, both of

which are being road-tested in the United States. Apple could roll out a self-driving vehicle in 2019. Honda, which yesterday said it was developing a new automatic setting to be used in congested traffic, and technology to preprogramme cars to drive automatically, acknowledged the potential threat from tech firms in the future.

"At this point, whether Google or Apple can come up with a car is unclear," said Koichi Fukuo, president of research and development at Honda. "But they are spending aggressively to recruit people to achieve that and in that sense ... we can't rule out the possibility they may eventually become a competitor."

Market to Split

As cars become more automated, Okuyama predicts the auto market over time may split into two camps: vehicles that simply fulfil public transportation needs such as self-driving taxis serviced by ride-hailing applications; and super-luxury cars that will be trophy items for the wealthy. As a result, he says, car ownership will decline, decreasing demand for affordable, traditional cars like Honda's hugely popular Civic models.

"Automakers have used existing technology and road infrastructure to create cars which have an emotional connection with drivers. This is how they have been adding value to their products," Okuyama said. "But cars have become commodity products, and, as such, they have to become more functional and even more affordable," he said, foreseeing a future where stripped down, minimalist 'commodity' cars would share the roads with luxury vehicles.

While this market polarisation could be years away, Okuyama says Japanese automakers must focus even more on finding ways for cars to benefit from advanced technologies - an area where he says they have lagged for years. "Self-driving cars will eventually become commonplace ... as a result, carmakers will have to sell not only the hardware, but also the overall system to run the cars," he said. "Companies like Mercedes and Toyota are looking at this, but Google is ahead in this game."

To be sure, Japanese automakers are starting to show off their own automated driving capability, with Toyota this month unveiling automatic lane changing and merging functions on a Tokyo highway. The world's

largest car maker plans to market its first self-driving car in 2020. Honda and Nissan have also set 2020, the year of the Tokyo Olympics, as a target date to bring advanced self-driving cars to the market. Most automakers have focused on developing automated driving functions, such as automatic braking systems, parking and lane-changing capabilities which drivers can switch on or off.

Google and ZMP, a Tokyo-based robotics start-up which plans to introduce a robot taxi service in time for the Olympics, are taking automated driving a step further, developing cars with no steering wheel or pedals taking humans out of the driving equation altogether. Since returning to Japan in 2007 and starting his own design firm, Okuyama, 56, has focused on urban planning and public transportation projects, giving a facelift to some of Japan's 'bullet' trains and designing a concept line of farm equipment. But slick, fast luxury cars remain close to his heart, and the high-tech sports cars Okuyama now designs for his own brand sit firmly in trophy car territory. A bespoke model he plans to unveil at the Tokyo show clocks in at a cool \$1.3 million. — Reuters

IT DEPTS FACE OBSTACLES TO USER MOBILITY FEARING DATA BREACHES

DUBAI: Organizations are challenged to meet demands for greater mobility as 98 percent of IT departments in the Middle East still restrict users from accessing sensitive corporate data and resources from mobile devices. This is according to a recent global survey of 900 IT decision makers by Gemalto, the world leader in digital security. Despite almost all organizations (98 percent) having users who require mobile or remote access, 100 percent of IT departments in the region are facing obstacles to increased user mobility in their organization, the primary being security concerns.

The 2015 Global Authentication and Identity Access Management Index reveals that all respondents from the Middle East (100 percent) are concerned that their organization will be breached or hacked as a result of credential theft or compromise. This is exacerbated by the rise in mobile end points within organizations, as most organizations reported to have, on average, three mobile end points per user and managing three sets of credentials per user. Additionally, on average, almost one out of every five (18.66 percent) IT support tickets are resulting from lost or forgotten usernames and passwords.

In an effort to overcome the security challenges around mobility, all IT departments in the Middle East region plan to implement two-factor authentication for access to cloud applications. Currently, 18 percent of users use twofactor authentication, this is expected to rise to 31 percent of users in two years. Almost three quarters (74 percent) already use two-factor authentication to secure external users' access to resources, indicating the varied use of the technology. All respondents currently have at least one application protected by two-factor authentication, with cloud applications, web portals and VPNs among the top three apps protect-

As IT continues to look to two-factor authentication to deal with the credentials crunch, the vast majority (98 percent) of respondents are seeking to do this by using cloud-based authentication-as-a-service and managing their organization's two-factor authentication centrally. By having the ability to implement uniform policies that address security threats in a consistent way, two-factor authentication can at the same time streamline access to numerous applications. In addition, cloud efficiencies are a critical factor in being able to deploy two-factor authentication across multiple use cases and implement solutions quickly and efficiently. Indeed, 98 percent of respondents view cloud delivery as a key consideration in the purchasing process of a strong authentication solu-



VROUWENPOLDER, NETHERLANDS: A file photo taken on Dec 6, 2013 shows the Eastern Scheldt storm surge barrier

GOING DUTCH TO HELP CONQUER RISING SEAS

ZEELAND, NETHERLANDS: Had nature been left to take its course much of the Netherlands would be a muddy swamp and the tiny coastal nation would never have risen to be the eurozone's fifth largest economy. More than half of the country's 17 million people live in low-lying at risk areas, but thanks to hard work, perseverance and a lot of technical savvy they snuggle safely behind an ingenious network of 17,500 km of dykes, dunes and barrages.

After struggling against the seas for hundreds of years, the Netherlands prides itself on being the "safest delta" on the planet and now exports its expertise around the world. As water levels rise thanks to climate change and turbulent weather patterns unleash fierce storms, Dutch know-how in protecting low-lying areas has turned the country into the leader in its field. "It's thanks to our history," Infrastructure Minister Melanie Schultz van Haegen told AFP. "We have been battling for centuries to hold back the seas." Just like the legend of the boy who stuck his finger in crumbling dyke, necessity has been the mother of invention. Dutch companies now account for some 40 percent of the global dredging business open to international competition. "Water is not so much a threat, but an asset. It can bridge economy and ecology," said Henk Ovink, the country's special representative on water issues. More than 70 percent of the country's gross domestic product is produced on land at risk of flooding. Amsterdam's sprawling Schiphol airport - the fifth busiest in Europe - should by rights be a playground for fish.

Floods Trauma

The turning point for the Netherlands came in 1953 when devastating floods swept in from the North Sea killing 1,835 people and leaving 72,000 homeless in the southwest. Traumatised and shocked, the Dutch decided the only way forward was to improve their sea defences. "Now Holland's level of protection is 100 to a 1,000 times better than most other countries," said Bart Schultz, a researcher at the UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education based in Delft.

The Eastern Scheldt storm surge barrier is a gargantuan construction stretching an impressive nine kilometres between the southern islands of Schouwen-Duiveland and Noord-Beveland. Thanks to a series of massive sluice gates it can completely close off the mouth of the estuary, preventing the

unpredictable North Sea from surging through. But simpler solutions also work. A huge maninaugurated in Dec 2011 just south of The Hague. Like a pregnant belly it juts out into the sea from the beach, and swept by the winds and tides protects the beautiful dunes behind from erosion. According to the UN's Intergovernment Panel on Climate Change, the oceans rose some 19 cm from 1901 to 2010. They predict sea levels will now rise from 26 to 82 cm by 2100 compared with the end of the 20th century.

Deltas at Risk

And the world's burgeoning and resource-rich delta zones where some 10 percent of the world's

population lives are at the greatest risk, according to the Delta Alliance organisation. It's here that Dutch technology has proved so valuable. Some 2,500 Dutch firms work in the water industry, doing some made sand bank, bigger than 200 football fields, was 17 billion euros of business every year, said Lennart Silvis, director of the Netherlands Water Partnership. After Hurricane Katrina ripped through New Orleans in August 2005, the Netherlands played a huge role in reconstructing the city's sea defences. That led to an increased cooperation with the United States, and when Hurricane Sandy hit New York and Jersey in 2012, Dutch help was again called upon. "There is often huge interest after a disaster. But we would like to see greater preventative work which will help protect people in the long term," said Schultz van Haegen. — AFP

THE NETHERLANDS: THE SAFEST DELTA IN THE WORLD

THE HAGUE: Anti-storm barriers, 17,500 kilometres and are the among the first traces of man's attempt (10,800 miles) of dykes and dunes and a spirit of constant innovation to hold back the seas. These are some of the key ingredients which allow the Netherlands to boast that it is the "world's safest

GEOGRAPHY

The Netherlands is essentially a large delta traversed by three major rivers-the Rhine, the Schelde and the Maas-which all flow out into the North Sea. Some 26 percent of country lies below sea-level, including Schipol airport Europe's fifth busiest air hub. And about 60 percent of the territory is classified as at risk from flooding. More than half of the nation's 17 million people live in these at-risk lowlying areas, where 70 percent of the country's gross domestic product is produced.

POLDERS AND TERPS

In the battle to keep the tides at bay, Holland is dotted with hundreds of artificial earth mounds, called terps, on which the Dutch have built homes, farms and even whole villages.

Some of these terps date back as far as 500 BC,

to conquer the seas. About 18 percent of the country's territory also stretches across polders swathes of reclaimed land encased and protected from the waves by a series of dykes.

STORM BARRIERS AND THE DELTA PLAN

After a catastrophic flood in 1953 left almost 2,000 people dead, the Netherlands put in place the so-called "Delta Plan" to secure those areas most at risk. Back then, sea defences were overwhelmed and dykes crumbled in the face of heavy storms, deluging large swathes of the southern province of Zeeland.

Several storm surge barriers were built and are used to seal off estuary mouths during heavy weather.

The most impressive of these is the famous Eastern Scheldt storm surge barrier, opened in 1986 and which this year served as the finish line for the Tour de France's first stage. Almost nine kilometres (five miles) in length, this barrier has 64 metal "doors"-each around 42 metres wide-which can be closed when the land is threatened by rising tides or storm surges. — AFP

HUAWEI BRINGS FLAGSHIP HONOR 7 TO MIDDLE EAST

DUBAI: Huawei Honor, the number one smartphone e-brand brought Honor 7 to the Middle East on Oct 12 as part of its hugely successful global rollout. Having already made waves around the world after reaching more than 9 million pre-orders and selling out in just one day in Europe, Honor 7 will help catapult the Honor brand to achieve \$5 billion by the end of this year. Honor is already on track to achieve its target of 10 percent market share in online phone sales in the Middle East this year and will be looking to secure this further with the launch of Honor 7, as well as solidify its game-changing status in the market.

Chris Sun Baigong, Vice President of Huawei Honor in the Middle East, commented: "After all the global hype regarding the Honor 7, we are delighted to announce that it is now in the Middle East. Based on the huge wave of anticipation and subsequent sell-out success. we have high expectations of the Honor 7 in this region."

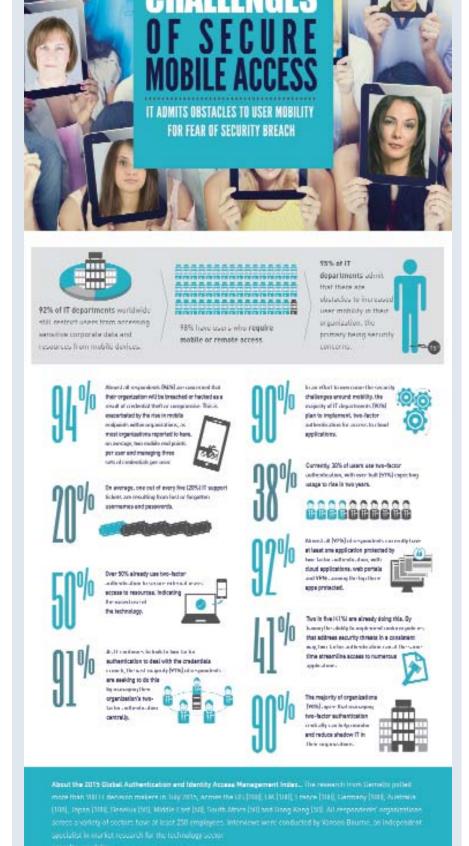
As part of its brave global roll out, Honor brought world-record breaking,

champion slackliner Andy 'Sketchy' Lewis to Dubai to take part in the launch event. Andy also revealed plans of his next world record slacklining attempt. where he will walk across a slack rope



between two nail-bitingly high points in Dubai, in partnership with Honor. Kept well under wraps but months in the planning, Andy will work with Honor to scope out some of the most iconic buildings in the city during his visit next month.

Lewis commented, "I am absolutely thrilled to come to Dubai to mark the Honor 7 launch! It was an awe-inspiring event in itself, and I am anxious to start scoping out how I may be able to realize my own goal of becoming a worldrecord holder in the Middle East. I feel privileged to be working with Honor as I have dreamed to create history in this spectacular region. I feel grateful to have such an innovative partner to help make it happen and this will be a truly monumental and unforgettable achievement." The launch event took place at Art Sawa in Al Ouoz on Oct 12.



TALKS ON CLIMATE DEAL HEAT UP OVER BILL FOR GLOBAL WARMING

BONN: The trillion-dollar question of who should pay for global warming is coming to a head in talks on an international climate pact, as developing countries worry they won't get enough money to tackle the problem. With just five weeks left before a UN climate summit in Paris, developing countries closed ranks at weeklong talks that ended Friday in Bonn and called on wealthy nations to make firm financial commitments to help them fight and adapt to climate change.

The Paris summit "will be judged by what is contained in the core agreement on finance. For us, that will be the yardstick for success," said Nozipho Mxakato-Diseko of South Africa, who chairs a developing country bloc of 134

In testy exchanges with the Algerian and US diplomats leading the climate talks, Mxakato-Diseko complained that a draft deal they produced was "lopsided" in favor of developed countries. She even drew an analogy to apartheid. Western delegates said they were disappointed by the characterization of the talks as a rich poor struggle over responsibilities to address climate change.

"We strongly oppose that division," Netherlands climate envoy Michel Rentenaar told The Associated Press. "If there is a division, it's perhaps between those who want an ambitious accord and those who don't."

The slow pace in Bonn contrasted with the momentum outside the UN talks. Leaders of the Group of Seven wealthy economies this year endorsed "deep cuts" in climate-warming greenhouse gases, top polluters China and the US deepened their cooperation on climate issues and Pope Francis called fighting climate change a moral imperative.

Yet delegates said it wasn't surprising that negotiations on the Paris agreement would get stuck on money - always a stumbling block in the UN talks - and that it probably would be one of the last issues to get untangled. The Paris deal is likely to have some provisions on financing projects to fight global warming for

poor countries. The question is how specific they will be.

"Some people just want to plant a few seeds and some want the rosebush in full bloom," said Alden Meyer, an observer of the talks from the Union of Concerned Scientists.

Developed countries have agreed to boost the flow of climate finance to \$100 billion annually by 2020, but are reluctant to make firm commitments beyond that, partly because of budget uncertainties. They also want to expand the pool of donors to include China and other emerging economies.

European Union negotiator Sarah Blau said that was already happening outside the negotiations, pointing to a recent US-China announcement where Beijing pledged \$3.1 billion in climate finance to poor countries. The UN talks, she said, are "somehow detached from what's happening really on the ground."

The money is used in two ways. First, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by helping developing countries switch from high-polluting fossil fuels to wind, solar and other renewable sources of energy. Second, to help the most vulnerable countries including small island nations adapt to climate change by building barriers against rising seas or developing drought-resilient crops.

Climate finance is hard to measure because there are no common standards on what to count. A recent report by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development estimated climate finance flows reached \$62 billion in 2014, which developed countries took as a sign they were well on track toward the \$100 billion. Mxakato-Diseko dismissed those figures as unreliable "because we don't know what methodology was used, the veracity thereof, the credibility thereof."

Coalescing around the finance issue, developing countries appeared more united in Bonn than at previous talks this year and collectively rejected a 20-page draft agreement they said didn't address their concerns. Amendments were made to the text, adding many competing options but few compromises. When the conference had ended Friday, the agreement had swelled to 55 pages.

"The bad news is that it is no longer a concise text," UN climate chief Christiana Figueres said. US climate envoy Todd Stern called the growing text "fully to be expected" and said negotiators would have to refine it in Paris. "It's what we have and we'll go to work," Stern told reporters. A deal in the French capital would be the first asking all countries to take action to reduce emissions. The previous agreement, the 1997 Kyoto Protocol, only required emissions targets from developing countries. This time more than 150 countries have announced emissions targets for after 2020, when the Paris deal would take effect.

However, all commitments are voluntary so far. European attempts to make them compulsory in the agreement face stiff resistance from the Obama administration, which needs to submit any internationally binding targets to a skeptical Senate for approval. —AP

OLD DRUG MAY HELP KEEP

ALZHEIMER'S PATIENTS OUT

OF NURSING HOMES



BUENOS AIRES: Cattle farmer Juan Carlos Eiras (right) speaks on the mobile phone as the cattle eat a meal prepared with wheat, corn, sorghum, soy and other grains in a feedlot farm near Pipinas, some 160 km south Buenos Aires. — AFP

AUSTRALIA: LINKING SAUSAGES TO TOBACCO RISK 'A FARCE'

IARC issues report after analyzing 800 studies

SYDNEY: One of the world's top meat exporters Australia yesterday ridiculed a landmark UN report linking sausages and ham to cancer, saying it was "a farce" to suggest they could be as lethal as cigarettes. The World Health Organization's International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) analyzed 800 studies from around the world and found that processed meats such as sausages, ham, and hot dogs cause bowel cancer, and red meat "probably" does too.

It placed processed meat into its Group 1 category of carcinogens. Other substances in the group include alcohol, asbestos and tobacco. "No, it shouldn't be compared to cigarettes and obviously that makes the whole thing a farce-comparing sausages to cigarettes," Australian Agriculture Minister Barnaby Joyce told national radio. "I don't think that we should get too excited that if you have a sausage you're going to die of bowel cancer because you're not. You just don't want to live on sausages." The Australian meat industry's research and development corporation, Meat and Livestock Australia, said "promoting red meat as part of a healthy, balanced diet is important".

"Red meat such as beef and lamb is a critical, natural source of iron and zinc, vitamin B12 and omega-3 essential nutrients needed to keep the body and brain functioning well," it said in a statement.

Australians are among the biggest consumers of meat in the world. They also have the eighth highest incidence of colorectal cancer globally, according to the World Cancer Research Fund.

Cancer Council Australia estimates that red and processed meats are associated with around one in six bowel cancers diagnosed in the country.

Back to a cave

Meat producers elsewhere were also skeptical of the report with the North American Meat Institute (NAMI) saying IARC "tortured the data to ensure a specific outcome".

NAMI vice president Betsy Booren pointed to the high consumption of processed meats as part of the Mediterranean diet, yet "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".

In Hong Kong, where bowel cancer is the number two top-killing tumour, the food industry blasted the findings as "too rash" saying they failed to specify what kind of preservatives and additives in processed meat are carcinogenic. "They should explain if some processed food does not contain these kinds of additives, the risk of causing cancer would be lower," Simon Wong Ka-wo, chairman of the Chamber of Food and Beverage Industry, told the South China Morning Post.

Australia's Joyce said "the biggest thing is to make sure you get a balanced diet" as it was impossible for humans to avoid every cancer causing toxin in modern day life. "If you got everything that the World Health Organization said was carcinogenic and took it out of your daily requirements, well you are kind of heading back to a cave," he said.

"If you're going to avoid everything that has any correlation with cancer whatsoever-don't walk outside, don't walk down the streets in Sydney, there's going to be very little in life that you do in the end." The IARC evaluation revealed "strong mechanistic evidence supporting a carcinogenic effect" for red meat consumptionmainly for cancer of the colon and rectum, but also the pancreas and prostate, said the agency based in Lyon, France. As for processed meat, including hot dogs, sausages, corned beef, dried meat like beef jerky or South African biltong, canned meat or meat-based sauces, there was "sufficient evidence in humans that the consumption of processed meat causes colorectal

not slow the disease process itself. It is currently only approved for mildwas a secondary analysis, other experts to-moderate disease, so patients often said the results should be viewed as stop taking it when they deteriorate. exploratory. But Robert Howard of University Drug companies including Eli Lilly, College London, who led a publicly Biogen and Roche are working to develfunded study of the drug, said it was

time to reconsider this. "People will look at our trial and it progress is proving slow. — Reuters

LONDON: A cheap off-patent drug that

relieves some symptoms of Alzheimer's

disease may also help keep people at an

advanced stage of the illness out of

showed that withdrawing the common-

ly used drug donepezil in moderate-tosevere patients doubled their risk of

moving into nursing care within a year,

although it made no difference during

and Pfizer as Aricept and now available

generically for just over 20 pounds (\$30)

a year, works by raising the levels of

chemicals within the brain that allow nerve cells to communicate. Like other

existing Alzheimer's treatments, it can-

Donepezil, originally sold by Eisai

the following three years.

Research published yesterday

nursing homes, at least for a while.

will make them think that these drugs have more to offer in severe Alzheimer's disease than perhaps was previously thought," he told reporters.

The new study is important, he believes, because it shows how a drug could change lives by keeping sufferers at home, thereby saving on residential dementia care that costs more than 30,000 pounds a year. "We are all impatient for the advent of true diseasemodifying drugs that can slow or halt the Alzheimer's process, but donepezil is available right now and at modest cost," Howard said.

The new findings, published in the journal Lancet Neurology, are a followup of trial data after donepezil modestly improved cognitive scores in advanced Alzheimer's patients in 2012. Because it

op true disease-modifying drugs for the memory-robbing disease, although

BRAZILIANS HAVE A BEEF WITH UN MEAT WARNING

IARC WARNING A HARD SELL, SAY BEEF-EATERS

RIO DE JANEIRO: At Rio de Janeiro's famed wouldn't look out of place in a natural history Churrascaria Palace restaurant, the sizzling of steaks, the swish of carving knives and sighs of satisfied diners drowned out a UN warning Monday that meat can cause cancer. Finishing an all-you-can-eat lunch, Gilson Gregoris, 59, said not even the United Nations could change his favorite menu.

"I eat meat almost every day," the systems analyst said. "I know it's not good. But it's good!" Gregoris added, smacking his lips as he repeated the word. Brazilians are convinced carnivores. They eat almost three times as much meat as average European Union residents, according to OECD figures from 2014, while the huge country is also a leading producer of beef and other livestock.

"We have always known that eating too much red meat is bad for you. The secret is the Mediterranean diet ... we should eat a little of everything," she said at the nutrition-themed Expo World's Fair in Milan.

The much-touted Mediterranean diet calls for a balance of healthy fats such as olive oil, non-starchy vegetables such as broccoli, carbohydrates such as pasta, and proteins such as

Passion and moderation

The Churrascaria Palace, opened just off Copacabana beach in 1951, is a temple to this love affair. Everything, down to the white table cloths, murals and light piano music, is preserved as it was six decades ago-even some of the staff have worked there for

decades. In the kitchen, there has been equally little surrender to modern sensitivities. Waiters in elegant black outfits file in and out with giant skewers of beef steak, lamb and chicken or pushing a trolley bearing a set of ribs that

October at the restaurant has been declared "Festival of exotic meats" month. Owner Antonio Saraiva, 46, says that even if he also offers fish and salads, there's no need to apologize for meat. "Meat is very important on the Brazilian's menu," he said, expounding passionately on the hidden intricacies of the cuisine, such as the search for new cuts and tastes concocted from crossbreeding cattle. "Everything in excess is not good. If this was a cafeteria where the same group of people ate the same thing every day it wouldn't be any good," Saraiva added.

"But most nutritionists say that red meat once or twice a week has a variety of benefits. I think that like fried food or seafood or any food, everything must be balanced."

The latest scientific gloom on meat diets is

just a fad, according to this restaurateur. "Everyone knows that research into food is something that changes a great deal as time goes by," he said. "Recently you had research in Brazil portraying the egg as a villain; today, you'll have the egg presented as beneficial. They presented wine like something very bad, but today they'll say that wine drunk in small quantities one or two glasses a day-is

beneficial," he said. Across Rio in the teeming streets around the Central train station, barbecue enthusiasts at the other end of the economic scale also said that no amount of warnings will change habits.

"At any get together of Brazilians, the principal food will be meat, that's a certainty," said Cesar Gabriel, 22, who grabbed a kebab from a street vendor before catching a bus home from work as a nurse. Changing "is not an easy thing," he added. — AFP

NO PROSCIUTTO PANIC, PLEASE: ITALIAN PRODUCERS RESPOND TO WHO MEAT ALARM

ROME: The home of Parma ham, trumpeting the benefits of a traditional Mediterranean diet, is urging consumers not to get into a prosciutto panic after a warning that processed meat can cause cancer. Italian food and farming groups responded indignantly to the World Health Organization (WHO) report that put cured meats, such as ham, sausage and salami, together with

asbestos and tobacco on a list of carcinogens. "No to meat terrorism, the Italian stuff is the healthiest," agricultural association Coldiretti said in a statement, crediting the country's diet for one of the highest life expectancies in the world - 80 years for men and 85 for women. The WHO said each 50-gram (1.76 oz) portion of processed meat - usually beef or pork which has been transformed through processes like salting and smoking - increased the risk of colorectal cancer by 18 percent. Italians on average eat a lot less than that, according to the National Meat and Charcuterie Association, which estimates consumption at 25 grams of processed meat a day.

Coldiretti also underlines the non-health aspects of issue, noting the meat industry in Italy generates 32 billion euros (\$35 billion) a year in sales and provides work for 180,000 people. Health Ministry Beatrice Lorenzin



BUENOS AIRES: Employees slaughter bovines at the workers' cooperative meat processing plant Yaguane, in the Argentine province of Buenos Aires. —AFP

said the government was looking into the WHO report, but said people shouldn't be afraid of the findings, which also pointed to "limited evidence" that unprocessed beef, lamb and pork caused cancer.

So the warning from the International Agency for Research on Cancer-saying that processed meats like sausages sharply increase colorectal cancer risks and that red meat "probably" also poses a risk-is a hard sell. Walk around Rio de Janeiro or most any Brazilian town on a Friday night and you're never far from the whiff of a barbecue, either at a sidewalk cafe or at impromptu roasts held in squares and quiet residential streets.

"It's a Brazilian tradition," said David Campos, a 43year-old agronomist dining with Gregoris.

Viviane Escaleira, 44, added: "We grow up eating it."

ANTIPASTO

The WHO report was splashed across the front pages of Italian newspapers on Tuesday - as elsewhere in the world - and alarmed producers of Italian prosciutto, a thinly-sliced, dry-cured raw ham considered such a delicacy it is often served alone and unseasoned as an "antipasto" before a main meal.

"We might suffer an economic hit," Nicola Levoni, whose family company has been producing ham, salami and mortadella sausage in northern Italy for four generations, told La Repubblica newspaper.

"At the moment there's a risk that someone standing in front of a greengrocer and a butcher's shop will only go into the former, but they should be shopping in both, because our meat is good," Levoni said.

Some reports suggested fear had already spread among consumers. The head of FIESA Confesercenti, an association of nutrition specialists, was quoted on Tuesday as saying that red meat sales had already started to fall at traditional butchers'. "Confusion reigns. People are bewildered and are going straight to the sellers to ask them to explain," FIESA Confesercenti head Gian Paolo Angelotti told AGI news agency. The health ministry has asked the national Commission for Food Safety to look into the matter. — Reuters

NESTLE RESTARTS MAGGI NOODLE PRODUCTION IN INDIA

MUMBAI: Nestle said yesterday it had restarted production of Maggi noodles in India after a government ban was overturned, in a major step towards getting the hugely popular brand back on shelves. "We have resumed manufacturing of Maggi Noodles at three of our plants, at Nanjangud (Karnataka), Moga (Punjab) and Bicholim (Goa)," the Swiss food giant said in a statement.

India's food safety watchdog slapped a nationwide ban on the noodles in June, saying lead levels exceeded statutory limits. But the Bombay High Court, the highest court in the western city now known as Mumbai, overturned the ruling two months later, calling it "arbitrary" and ordered fresh tests. Earlier this month Nestle said the laboratory tests had found that Maggi noodles were safe to eat. In its statement to the Bombay Stock Exchange yesterday, Nestle's Indian arm added that fresh samples from the newly produced batches will be sent for testing. "We shall commence sale only after the samples are cleared by these laboratories," it said.

Although it's not clear when the noodles will be back in Indian shops, an official at the company told AFP on condition of anonymity that the testing process would take a few weeks. Nestle had sold the product for over three decades in India, and had 80 percent of the country's instant noodle market before the ban. Nestle's Indian arm has estimated that its run-in with Indian regulators will cost the company 3.2 billion rupees (\$50 million). The company has always maintained the product was safe to eat, and has continued to sell it in other countries. — AFP

OBAMA ADMINISTRATION UNVEILS HEALTH CARE PREMIUMS FOR 2016

WASHINGTON: When consumers turn on their laptops and tablets Monday morning, they should be able to check premiums for 2016 under President Barack Obama's health care law.

Rates are going up in many parts of the country as a new sign-up season starts Nov. 1. But people have options if they shop around, and an upgraded government website will help them compare costs and benefits. HealthCare.gov and state-run insurance markets are entering their third year, offering tax-payer-subsidized private coverage. That's helped cut the share of Americans who are uninsured to about 9 percent, a historical low. Still, the many moving parts of the Affordable Care Act don't always click smoothly, and people are divided about the law.

A look at what's new for 2016:

AVERAGE PREMIUM? NO SUCH THING

Independent experts are forecasting bigger premium increases in 2016 than last year, averaging from the high single digits to the teens. Next week the government will release a master file that researchers use to piece together national trends. Averages won't tell the story, because health care is local. Premiums can vary widely from state to state, and within a state. Most states won't be like Minnesota, where all five carriers selling individual policies on the insurance exchange have posted double-digit increases, from 14 percent to 49 percent.

They're not likely to be like southern California either, where officials forecast an average rise of 1.8 percent for consumers who stay with their current plan.

For more than 8 in 10 customers, premium increases will be cushioned by taxpayer subsidies. That will absorb most of the cost, but it still may pay to shop around.

NEW HELP FIGURING OUT COSTS

Too many consumers look only at the monthly premium when picking a plan. They shouldn't. Other costs can be just as important. These include the deductible - the amount individuals must pay each year before their plan kicks in - and cost-sharing or copays for medical services. Trying to demystify the process, HealthCare.gov will feature a new calculator that estimates total costs based on a consumer's expected medical needs. Tip: Even if people use the calculator, the website will still rank options starting with the lowest premium plan. Look below that figure for total costs. Patients who need medical follow-up for ongoing health issues may come out ahead by paying a higher monthly premium for a plan that has lower out-of-pocket costs. Instead of picking a plan at the "bronze" coverage level, they might look at "silver," which also offers subsidies for cost sharing, based on the consumer's income

SMOOTHER RENEWALS?

As before, returning customers who don't want to make any changes will get automatically reenrolled. That process will be smoother this year, insurers say, because the government has better information to update subsidies for customers who just want to keep the same plan.

Tip: Returning customers must make sure to file a tax return. Those who got subsidies in 2014 could lose their financial assistance next year if they have not filed.

SOME NEW FEATURES STILL IN TESTING

Consumer advocates have been clamoring for an upgrade that allows patients to easily search for insurance plans that their doctor participates in. That's coming, but it may not be ready by Nov. 1, the date when consumers can start signing up.

Administration officials say the doctor lookup - as well as a prescription drug finder - are in final testing. They want to be sure the information is accurate before flipping the switch.

Tip: Trust but verify. Call doctors and insurers to check doctor and hospital listings.

PENALTY PERIL

The tax penalty for people remaining uninsured in 2016 is no slap on the wrist. It's high enough to cover several weeks of groceries.

The fine will rise to the greater of either \$695 or 2.5 percent of taxable income. That's for someone without coverage for a full 12 months. This year the comparable numbers are \$325 or 2 percent of income, whichever is greater. Several organizations, from TurboTax to the nonpartisan Tax Policy Center, will be offering online tax penalty calculators. That can put a dollar figure on the trade-offs for those who are on the fence about signing up.

WEBSITE UPGRADES

Changes include new privacy protections. A "privacy manager" will let consumers opt out of embedded connections to third-party websites. If customers have enabled the "Do Not Track" setting on their browsers, the government will automatically honor their preferences. In another improvement, consumers will get real-time reminders to enter Social Security numbers and key details from immigration documents. That can head off major problems later on by helping the government quickly verify a person's identity.

Officials say a maddening glitch that resulted in some customers getting locked out of their accounts has been fixed. Call center operators can now help reset passwords for consumers who no longer have access to the email address they used to set up their HealthCare.gov accounts.

anncare.gov accounts. The federal website will serve 38 states. — AP



MANILA: Cyclist Jack Yabut stops on his bike at a street in Manila in this picture taken on October 7, 2015. Yabut is on a perilous and likely futile crusade to help the Philippine capital beat "Carmageddon", but if he fails he will at least have saved himself a lot of time. — AFP

CYCLISTS BATTLE PHILIPPINE CAPITAL'S 'CARMAGEDDON'

MANILA: Cyclist Jack Yabut is on a perilous and likely futile crusade to help the Philippine capital beat "Carmageddon", but even if his campaign fails-he will have saved time on his own commute.

Traffic in the megacity of 12 million people has reached crisis levels this year, as record car sales have added to long-term problems of decrepit railways, a stunted road network and a law-of-the-jungle driving culture. In response to the worsening traffic, President Benigno Aquino recently deployed extra police to some of Manila's worst choke points with orders for them to force recalcitrant drivers to obey laws.

But, with relatively little infrastructure spending underway, Aquino has been widely seen as otherwise helpless in trying to ease what enraged commuters and the national press have branded "Carmageddon". Cycling has barely featured in the discussion of remedies but Yabut, part of a growing community of daredevil bike riding advocates, believes that is a mistake.

"Cycling offers an immediate solution to the traffic and pollution problems," Yabut, 55, told AFP after dodging trucks and buses while riding along EDSA, one of the city's most important and gridlocked roads. While commuters in cars or on over-crowded buses regularly spend more than two hours travelling just 15 kilometres (nine miles) along EDSA and its arteries, Yabut does that in under 30 minutes. "It seems crazy to me to be stuck in traffic when you can cycle so much more quickly." But, for most drivers, cyclists such as Yabut are the crazy ones.

Killer roads

Cycling fatalities are common, and tens of thousands of people have signed online petitions calling for authorities to improve road safety conditions for bike riders. "It is very dangerous," acknowledged Yabut, a father-of-two and president of cycling advocacy group The Firefly Brigade.

Advocates are lobbying for bike lanes, which are nearly non-existent, as well as to educate drivers that cyclists have the right to share the roads.

"Opening bike lanes is one part of it. But the bigger effort is changing people's perceptions and attitudes," Yabut said. Among the dangers, cyclists have to negotiate mini-bus "jeepneys" and buses that randomly stop in the middle of roads for passengers, or sweep out suddenly into lanes meant for oncoming traffic.

Most drivers also routinely ignore pedestrian crossings and block intersections at traffic lights, while indi-

cators are rarely used and poorly enforced emission standards mean badly polluting vehicles roam free.

One of the chief strategists for the capital's transport network, Emerson Carlos, said cyclists should be an important part of the traffic solution. But, in a candid interview, he said there were few

But, in a candid interview, he said there were few options for them and the ideal of bikes sharing the road with vehicles was unwise. "It is not safe for cyclists to share the roads with motor vehicles," said Carlos, the Metro Manila Development Authority's assistant general manager for operations. He said city authorities were trying to establish bike lanes but only on footpaths where there were already many other obstacles, such as

electric poles, illegally parked cars and pedestrians.

"The problem is cyclists were an afterthought. We can't move the electric poles," he said.

Urban dreams

Meanwhile, Carlos and other city planners appear focused on much bigger problems. With a fast-growing middle class, the Philippines is in the midst of an unprecedented car-buying frenzy.

An extra 600,000 new vehicles are expected to hit the capital's roads this year, taking the total to three million, according to Carlos. "Where are all those cars going to go? We already don't have enough roads," Carlos said. Global road navigation app Waze recently reported that Manila had the world's worst traffic, based on a survey of its users and its own data. Carlos lamented the lack of other

options for commuters, citing figures showing the city's rail network was much smaller than in Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur and other Southeast Asian capitals."It's pathetic," he said of the rail network. "We need an efficient, safe and comfortable mass transport system."

A "Dream Plan" recently adopted by the government to fix the urban chaos envisages 65 billion dollars of infrastructure spending over the next 15 years, which would include building a subway system.

But, in a nation bedevilled by government corruption and a chaotic democracy that has seen similar strategies collapse, most people expect the plan will remain a dream. With few other solutions, cycling offers the opportunity for quick and cheap "big wins" in the traffic war, according to Julia Nebrija, another bike riding advocate and a prominent urban planner.

"It's not rocket science. And it will have a big impact," she said, citing measures such as creating cycling lanes on major roads that have the space, building bike racks at transport hubs and installing showers at offices. Nebrija and Yabut said one district in the capital had successfully started to introduce a bike network, proving it was possible.

In the meantime, Yabut intends to continue riding with an almost missionary zeal, hoping that his high-stakes, traffic-beating exploits will inspire others. "We need people to be role models... to be crazy enough to bicycle, so that motorists and pedestrians will be encouraged to bicycle too," he said. — AFP

DOMINICAN WORKERS BATTLE DENGUE FEVER

SANTO DOMINGO, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC: Dominican health officials say that public workers will fan out across the Caribbean country to spray insecticides and instruct citizens how best to avoid contracting dengue fever. On Monday, Health Minister Altagracia Guzman said the effort comes amid an uptick of the mosquito-borne illness. Besides spraying, workers will teach people how to destroy mosquito breeding areas around their communities.

So far this year, there have been 98 deaths and over 8,500 reported cases. That's nearly double the 52 dengue deaths reported during the same period in 2014.

Among the victims is local TV presenter Juan Luis Reynoso. He died over the weekend following health complications caused by dengue. Dengue's symptoms include severe muscle and joint pain, high fever and rash. Its most acute forms can cause internal bleeding and death. — AP



Flamingos are led from an island to their wintering grounds on a sunny autumnal yesterday at the zoo in Gelsenkirchen, Germany. — AP



Kuwait - Times
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AWL says Fight Like a Girl



















KUWAIT: The American Women's League organized a Pretty in Pink awareness celebration, Fight Like a Girl, at the Regency hotel in Bida'a. The well attended event aimed to raise breast cancer awareness and honor those who have battled the disease or lost loved ones to it. US Ambassador Douglas A Silliman and his wife, Catherine, who serves as an honorary president and patron attended. The AWL board members include Lynda Van Greenstone, President; Heather Kaczmarek, Vice President; Nadiyeh Mayyahi, Secretary; Tara Rogers, Treasurer; Deborah B. Al-Qanai, Honorary Board Member and Maxine Al-Refai, Honorary Board Member.

AUK PROF DISCUSSES EFFECTIVENESS OF IS APPLICATIONS IN A NEW BOOK

rofessor Ahmad A Rabaa'i, Chair of Computer Science and Information Systems at the American University of Kuwait (AUK) and Assistant **Professor of Information** Systems, has released a book titled 'Evaluating the Success of Large-Scale Information Systems Applications', in which he discusses the effectiveness

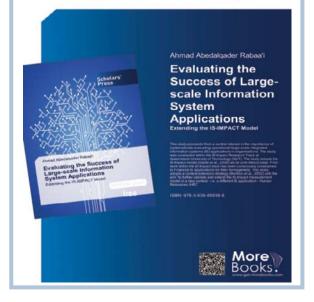


and success of Information System (IS) applications. Published by Scholars' Press, the book stems from a central interest in the importance of systematically evaluating operational large-scale integrated IS applications in organizations and addresses often debated concepts in the field of Information Systems. Research and studies for this book were conducted at the IS-Impact Research Track at Queensland University of Technology (QUT), Australia, where the IS-Impact model served as the core theory. Introduced by Gable et al in 2008, the IS-Impact model attempts to measure and evaluate the effectiveness (or impact) of IS applications and their ability to offer solutions within organizations from a user's perspective.

In addition to publishing his first book, Rabaa'i has published over 25 peer-reviewed articles in conferences and journals including the Asia Pacific Journal of Information Systems and the International Journal of Business Information Systems. The American University of Kuwait is an independent, private, equal opportunity, and co-educational liberal arts institution of higher education. The educational, cultural and administrative structure, methods and standards of AUK are based on the American model of higher learning. The language of instruction is English.

Scholars' Press ===

www.scholars-press.com







MCDONALD'S FLYING START TRIATHLON

ore than 300 participants took part in this year's edition of the McDonald's Flying Start Triathlon which took place this past Friday, October 23rd at Marina Mall. The race was open to all participants, and offered two race distances: Sprint (with 750m swimming, 20km cycling and 5km running) and Olympic (with 1500 m swimming, 40 km cycling and 10km running). Participants were able to enter as individuals or in teams of three to cover the three separate legs of the race; first leg being the swimming lap at Marina Mall, second being the cycling from Marina Mall to Green Island and back, and finally the running from Marina Mall to the Scientific Center and back.

In the Olympic Individual category Mohammed Al Qais came in first place completing the race in 1:59:43,69, followed by Mikel Calahorra in second place with a time of 2:02:45,14 and Hamad Almansoori in third place with a time of 2:02:53,68. Whilst in the Sprint Individual race, Abdulla Attiya bagged first place clocking in at 1:04:36.5, with Mohammed Al Mubarak nabbing second place with 1:09:58.6 and Talal Almayahi coming in third with

Whilst in the individual female races, Renata Hoppova once again came in first place in the Olympic category, completing the race with a time of 2:13:49,74. In the same category, Abigail Bartholomew ranked second with her time of 2:24:45,92 and Molly McDaniel rounded up the top three with her time of 2:42:20,51. In the Sprint category, first place went to Sameera Al Bitar who had a time of 1:11:48.6, followed by Noura AlHajeri in second place with 1:24:35.5 and Tania Davies in third with her time of 1:26:04.9.

As for the team races, Abdo came in first



in the Olympic category completing the race in 01:53:16,8, with TEAM ALPHA coming in second with their time of 01:57:04,4 and Dreams rounding up the top three spots with a time of 02:14:42,5. In the Sprint Team race, the top spot went to no limit and their time of 1:05:33.8, followed by Al Mansoori with a time of 1:07:42.7and then The Blue Birds with a time of 1:16:01.9.

"I would like to commend every single person who took part in the Triathlon, and I especially would like to congratulate all the winners on their impressive achievements, because this race was truly a challenge not to be reckoned with," said Sherif Coutry, Marketing Director at McDonald's Kuwait. "We are thrilled by the incredible turnout

for this year's race, and I would like to thank everyone involved in organizing this race for their hard work and dedication which helped make it such a success.

I only hope that this race raises awareness about the importance of sports, helping to motivate people across Kuwait to be more active and encouraging them to incorporate sports and physical activity into their everyday lives." The Triathlon was organized based on the highest international standards for races, and it used a state-of-the-art system which allowed for participants to be tracked using a magnetic chip, which measured distance and speed

in order to ensure fair and accurate results. First launched in 2010, the Flying Start

Triathlon was expanded into an annual event with the help of the sponsorship from McDonald's Kuwait, quickly becoming an eagerly awaited yearly event for sports and exercise enthusiasts. Coutry further added "As a brand, McDonald's has always been committed to raising awareness of the importance of sports in people's daily lives, and we are staunch advocates of adopting an active and balanced lifestyle. This is why we keep on supporting local sports programs and initiatives, including the McDonald's Flying Start Triathlon which continues to be a success year on year."





AUSTRALIAN COLLEGE OF KUWAIT HOLDS GRADUATION CEREMONY



Prof. Mohammad Terro - ACK President



Mr/ Abdullah Al Sharhan - ACK



Chairman

By Faten Omar

nder the patronage of Minister of Education Dr Bader Hamad Al-Essa, the Australian College of Kuwait celebrated the graduation of more than 276 students from various bachelor and diploma programs on Monday at Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel.

ACK was established in 2004 to provide internationally recognized and accredited vocational education and practical training to the business, engineering and aviation sectors. Since then, ACK has grown to become one of the leading educational institutions in Kuwait, strongly contributing to the employment sector and continuing to produce knowledgeable, skilled and professional candidates for Kuwait's growing economy through its diploma and degree programs.

ACK President Prof Mohammad Terro presented the gradu-

ates his warmest wishes for a future full of achievements and success. He added that the Australian College of Kuwait strives to provide an encouraging academic and non-academic educational atmosphere in order to implant values and skills in students so as to develop their personalities and enable them to contribute positively in the development of Kuwait. Moreover, Terro promised to do the best for the continuous development of the college and maintain quality of education in all scientific and practical fields. He also reveal that ACK is coordinating with various industry partners that recruit the graduates to observe and measure their progress at the workplace and establish systems for continuous improvement of educational, scientific and applied outcomes.

In addition, the college started a scholarship program for eligible outstanding students to pursue their postgraduate education aboard. Terro concluded his speech by quoting American politician Newton Baker: "The man who graduates today and stops learning tomorrow is uneducated the day after." Abdullah Abdulmohsen Al-Sharhan, ACK Chairman of Board of Trustees, said. "ACK celebrated its 10th anniversary and a lot has been learnt, but there is much more to learn. Every day brings us new challenges. We aspire continually to raise our standards and ability to provide relevant teaching and training modes that will imbue our graduates with the knowledge, skills and attitudes that will allow them to hit the ground running."

Sharhan advised the graduates that learning is a lifelong process. "The technology of today is worlds away from the technology when I began my career 60 years ago. Progress does not stop nor does it wait! Keeping your skills in line with advancement is the only way to ensure success in your professional life," he said.



ACK Chairman - Abdullah Al Sharhan with Minister Dr/ Bader Al Essa

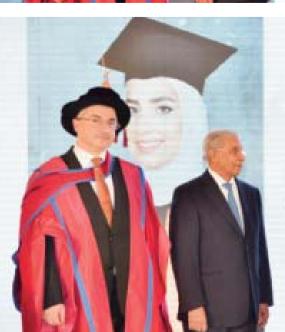
















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TV PROGRAMS

Kuwait 🗻 Times

00:15 Phil Spencer: Secret Agent -Specials

lifestyle

01:05 Rachel Khoo's Kitcher Notebook: Cosmo Cook

01:30 A Taste Of Greenland 02:20 The Planners

03:15 Antiques Roadshow Come Dine With Me

04:30 Bargain Hunt 05:20 The Planners 06:10 A Taste Of Greenland

07:05 Come Dine With Me 07:30 The Good Cook

Antiques Roadshow 08:50 Come Dine With Me

09:15 Phil Spencer: Secret Agent Specials

10:05 Rachel Khoo's Kitcher Notebook: Cosmo Cook

10:30 A Taste Of Greenland 11:25 The Planners

12:15 Antiques Roadshow Antiques Roadshow

14:00 Phil Spencer: Secret Agent Specials

14:50 Rachel Khoo's Kitchen Notebook: Cosmo Cook

15:15 Bargain Hunt 16:10 Antiques Roadshow 17:00 Antiques Roadshow

18:45 The Good Cook 19:10 Fantasy Homes By The Sea 19:55 Rachel Khoo's Kitchen

Notebook: Cosmo Cook 20:20 Masterchef: The **Professionals**

17:50 Bargain Hunt

21:15 A Taste Of Greenland 22:05 Antiques Roadshow

23:00 Come Dine With Me



00:20 Fast N' Loud 01:10 Marooned With Ed Stafford 02:00 Kings Of The Wild 02:50 River Monsters

03:40 Container Wars Garage Gold

04:30 Baggage Battles 05:00 How It's Made: Dream Cars How Do They Do It? 06:00 Yukon Men

06:50 Junkyard Empire Fast N' Loud

08:30 Container Wars 08:55 Garage Gold Baggage Battles

09:45 How It's Made: Dream Cars 10:10 How Do They Do It? Marooned With Ed Stafford

11:25 Kings Of The Wild 12:15 River Monsters

Container Wars 13:30 Garage Gold

13:55 Baggage Battles Yukon Men

15:10 Junkvard Empire 16:00 Fast N' Loud

How It's Made: Dream Cars 17:15 How Do They Do It?

17:40 Dynamo: Magician

18:30 What Happened Next? 18:55 What Happened Next?

19:20 Dual Surviva 20:10 Garage Gold

20:35 Baggage Battles

21:00 Dynamo: Magician

00:00 Stewarts And Hamiltons 00:55 The Grace Helbig Show 01:25 Keeping Up With The

Kardashians 02:20 Giuliana & Bill

03:15 Christina Milian Turned Up 03:40 Christina Milian Turned Up 04:10 E!ES

05:05 E!ES 06:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians 06:55 Kourtney & Kim Take New

07:50 Style Star 08:20 New Money 08:45 New Money

09:15 Giuliana & Bill 10:15 Giuliana & Bill 11:10 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills #RichKids Of Beverly Hills 12:05 The Grace Helbig Show

The Grace Helbig Show Fashion Bloggers 13:05 13:35 Fashion Bloggers

14:05 Dash Dolls 15:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians

16:00 Keeping Up With The

19:00 Dash Dolls 20:00 Fashion Bloggers

21:00 House Of DVF

17:00 Hollywood Cycle 18:00 E! News Fashion Bloggers 20:30

22:00 FI News

23:00 WAGs



00:10 The Chase: Celebrity 01:05 May The Best House Win

02:00 Emmerdale Eggheads Coronation Street 03:25 Doc Martin

04:20 Shetland 05:15 Take On The Twisters 06:10 Who's Doing The Dishes? 07:05 Coronation Street 07:30 Doc Martin

08:25 Shetland 09:20 Who's Doing The Dishes? 10:15 I'm A Celebrity Get Me Out Of Here 11:35 May The Best House Win

12:30 Take On The Twisters 13:25 Emmerdale 13:50 Eggheads 14:20 Coronation Street 14:45 The Chase: Celebrity

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18:20 Take On The Twisters 19:10 Coronation Street Who's Doing The Dishes? The Jonathan Ross Show 21:25 Lewis

22:20 I'm A Celebrity Get Me Out 23:40 Eggheads

> NATIONAL **GEOGRAPHIC** CHANNEL HD 00:10 Yukon River Run

> 01:00 Airport Security: Colombia 02:00 Is It Real? 02:55 Locked Up Abroad Yukon River Run 04:45 Nazi Megastructures

05:40 Caught In The Act 06:35 Megastructures 07:30 Ultimate Airport Dubai 08:25 Somewhere In China 09:20 Nazi Megastructures 10:15 China From Above

11:10 Science Of Stupid 11:35 Science Of Stupid 12:05 The Border 13:00 Somewhere In China 14:00 Ultimate Airport Dubai 15:00 Megacities 16:00 China From Above

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OF FIRST HID COMEDY

00:30 Last Man Standing 01:00 The Nightly Show With Larry Wilmore 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 20:00 The Tonight Show Starring 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 OM FIRST HID

00:00 The Americans Blood & Oil 02:00 Downton Abbey

03:00 Tyrant The Voice 06:00 The Astronaut Wives Club 08:00 Sleepy Hollow

The Voice 11:00 Blood & Oil 12:00 Emmerdale Coronation Street 12:30 13:00 The Fllen DeGeneres Show

14:00 Sleepy Hollow The Astronaut Wives Club 16:00 Emmerdale Coronation Street 16:30

17:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show 18:00 Sleepy Hollow 19:00 20:00 Royal Pains 21:00 Marvel's Agents Of

OM FIRST MORE

00:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show 01:00 Good Morning America 03:00 The Killing 05:00 Good Morning America

Emmerdale Coronation Street The Ellen DeGeneres Show 08:00 10:00 Emmerdale

10:30 Coronation Street The Ellen DeGeneres Show 12:00 Switched At Birth 13:00 Franklin & Bash

Live Good Morning America 16:00 C.S.I. 17:00 Switched At Birth 18:00 Franklin & Bash 19:00 C.S.I.

00:00 Maximum Risk Watchmen 04:30 Outpost: Rise Of The

20:00 Switched At Birth

21:00 Franklin & Bash

06:00 Shaolin 08:15 Clockstoppers 10:00 Mercenaries Getaway 13:45 The Perfect Storm 16:00 Shaolin

Double Take

20:00 Days Of Thunder

22:00 Aeon Flux

OM MOVIES HID

ACTION 02:30 Outpost: Rise Of The Spetsnaz-PG15 04:00 Shaolin-PG15

06:15 Clockstoppers-FAM 08:00 Mercenaries-PG15 10:00 Getaway-PG15 11:45 The Perfect Storm-PG15 14:00 Shaolin-PG15 16:15 Double Take-PG15 18:00 Days Of Thunder-PG15

20:00 Aeon Flux-PG15

22:00 Superfast-PG15

ON MOVIES HID

COMEDY 00:00 Without A Paddle 02:00 Last Vegas 04:00 Problem Child

06:00 Streetdance: All Stars 08:00 Cuban Fury Problem Child 12:00 Last Vegas 14:00 Problem Child 2

16:00 Cuban Fury 18:00 Shanghai Calling 20:00 Think Like A Man Too Without Men

OM MOVIES **DRAMA**

00:45 Romeo & Juliet-PG15 03:00 Decoding Annie Parker-

PG15 05:00 Breathless-PG15 The Wicked Within-PG15 09:00 Peace. Love & Misunderstanding-PG15 11:00 Breathless-PG15 13:00 Step Up Revolution-PG15 15:00 See Girl Run-PG15

17:00 Peace, Love & Misunderstanding-PG15 19:00 Every Day-PG15 21:00 A Walk Among The Tombstones-PG15 23:00 Seven Psychopaths-18

01:00 Seven Days In Utonia 03:00 Casanova 05:00 Inescapable 07:00 Till Human Voices Wake Us The Butler 09:00

11:15 Inescapable 13:00 | Am Ali Serial (Bad) Weddings 16:45 The Butler

19:00 Men Of Honor White Bird In A Blizzard 23:00 The Motel Life

MOVIES HD

01:00 Lords Of London-PG15 03:00 Big Hero 6-PG 04:45 Non-Stop-PG15 06:30 Mandela: Long Walk To Freedom-PG15

09:00 Hercules-PG15 10:45 Rio 2-FAM 12:30 Million Dollar Arm-PG15 14:30 Grudge Match-PG15 16:30 Hercules-PG15 18:15 Boyhood-PG15 21:00 Sunlight Jr.-PG15

23:00 The Hunger Games:

Catching Fire-PG15

08:00 Moomins And The Comet

10:00 Zarafa 11:30 Miffy The Movie 13:00 The Nut Job

18:00 Zarafa 20:00 Hiroku: Defenders Of Gaia

PREMIERE 00:00 Men, Women & Children-18 02:00 Ender's Game-PG15 04:15 Mr. Peabody & Sherman

08:00 Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit-10:00 10 Years-PG15 12:00 Vamps-PG15

14:00 Maleficent-PG PG15 18:00 Sabotage-PG15 20:00 Mental-PG15



03:00 The Longshots 04:45 The Raven 06:45 Struck By Lightning 08:15 Last Orders

12:00 Love And Other Impossible **Pursuits** 13:45 School For Scoundrels 15:30 Thorne: Scaredycat 17:45 Oz The Great And Powerful



00:00 Desperate Housewives 01:00 MasterChef Australia





WITHOUT MEN ON OSN MOVIES HD COMEDY

01:00 Egon And Donci 02:45 Marvel's Doctor Strange 04:30 Christmas Is Here Again 06:00 Rugrats In Paris: The Movie

Chase

14:30 Worms 16:00 Marco Macaco

22:00 Worms 23:30 Marco Macaco

MOVIES

06:15 Robot & Frank-PG15

16:00 Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit-

22:00 The Gambler-18



10:00 Ironclad

20:00 Shanghai

21:45 Death At A Funeral 23:15 Six Days, Seven Nights

02:00 Revenge 18:30 Shipping Wars 03:00 Revenge 19:00 American Pickers 20:00 Storage Wars 20:30 Storage Wars

04:00 Bones 05:00 Scrubs 05:30 Scrubs 06:00 The Simpsons 06:30 The Simpsons

07:00 Lost 08:00 Desperate Housewives 09:00 MasterChef Australia 10:00 Revenge 11:00 Revenge 12:00 Bones

13:00 Scrubs 13:30 Scrubs 14:00 The Simpsons 14:30 The Simpsons 15:00 Lost

16:00 Desperate Housewives 17:00 MasterChef Australia 18:00 Switched At Birth 19:00 The Secret Life Of The American Teenager 20:00 The Secret Life Of The American Teenager 21:00 Melissa & Joey

21:30 Melissa & Joey

22:00 The Simpsons

22:30 The Simpsons 23:00 Lost

00:00 Shipping Wars Shipping Wars 00:30 01:00 Storage Wars Texas 01:30 Storage Wars Texas 02:00 Storage Wars

02:30 Storage Wars 03:00 Shipping Wars 03:30 Shipping Wars 04:00 Storage Wars Texas 04:30 Storage Wars Texas 05:00 Duck Dynasty

05:30 Duck Dynasty 06:00 American Pickers 07:00 Ax Men 08:00 Swamp People 09:00 Mountain Men The Curse Of Oak Island 10:00 11:00 The World Wars

12:00 Tbc 13:00 American Pickers 14:00 Storage Wars 14:30 Storage Wars 15:00 Pawn Stars 15:30 Pawn Stars 16:00 Shipping Wars Shipping Wars

17:00 Storage Wars

17:30 Storage Wars

18:00 Shipping Wars

HISTORY

Gator Boys Zoltan The Wolfman 04:25 05:15 Treehouse Masters: Bionic Shamwari: A Wild Life 06:49 Shamwari: A Wild Life 07:36 Call Of The Wildman

Call Of The Wildman

22:00 Pawn Stars

22:30 Pawn Stars

03:25

07:25

08:55

12:10

Course

15:05

19:30

22:00

23:45

00:45

08:00

13:50

20:15

Specia

00:50

01:45

12:00

13.00

20:50

21:45

22:10

23:00 Swamp People

Flesh + Blood

Captain Jack

Earthbound

Innocent

The Faculty

Creature

Death Rides A Horse

The Haunted Palace

George Washington

The Haunted Palace

Fear The Walking Dead

Fear The Walking Dead

Yours, Mine & Ours (2005)

The Crocodile Hunter: Collision

Dogs 101 Zoltan The Wolfman 09:15 Treehouse Masters: Bionic 10:10 11:05 Tanked Dogs 101 12:00 Bondi Vet

14:45 Zoltan The Wolfman Treehouse Masters: Bionic Treeho 16:35 Tanked Shamwari: A Wild Life 17:55 Shamwari: A Wild Life 18:25 Mermaids: The New Evidence Zoltan The Wolfman

Ten Deadliest Snakes

22:05 Echo And The Elephants Of Amboseli Echo And The Elephants Of 22:30 **Ambosel** Hunt For The Tasmanian Tiger 23:00 Gator Boys Zoltan The Wolfman

Treehouse Masters: Boxtrolls

BBC entertainment

Call Of The Wildman

Call Of The Wildman

Hunt For The Tasmanian Tiger

03:45 Little Britain 04:15 The Weakest Link The Green Balloon Club 05:25 Nuzzle & Scratch: Frock n Roll Nuzzle & Scratch: Frock n Roll 05:45 Jollywobbles The Green Balloon Club 06:10 Nuzzle & Scratch: Frock n Roll 06:35 Nuzzle & Scratch: Frock n Roll 07.15 The Weakest Link 08:00 Absolutely Fabulous The Vicar Of Dibley 09:00 **Fastenders** Call The Midwife 09:30 Pride And Prejudice 11:15 The Weakest Link

Pride And Prejudice 13:55 Absolutely Fabulous 15:20 The Vicar Of Diblev 15:50 Doctors 16:20 Eastenders 16:50 The Weakest Link 17:35 The Vicar Of Diblev Call The Midwif 19:00 Doctors 19:30 Eastenders 20:00 **New Tricks**

New Tricks

Waking The Dead

Waking The Dead

A Young Doctor's Notebook

Absolutely Fabulous

The Vicar Of Dibley

Call The Midwife

POLICE FIGHT **ILLEGAL TV-PIRACY OPERATORS**

OSN AND KUWAIT

SN, the region's leading pay-TV network, joined hands with the Kuwaiti Ministry of Commerce & Industry to tackle TV piracy and distribution of unauthorized TV decoders in the country. Raids were conducted by the Kuwaiti authorities in the commercial centre and satellite market. Dish TV is one of the major piracy concerns in Kuwait with many South Asian expatriates using the service illegally. The raids led to the confiscation of decoders belonging to unlicensed, unauthorized and illegitimate India-based DTH service Dish TV. Police also gathered further evidence by activating the Dish TV smartcards. The shopkeeper was arrested for questioning by the Kuwaiti Crime Investigation Department.

The raids in Kuwait follow widespread success in tackling TV-piracy through a series of raids, fines and convictions in others parts of the GCC. David Butorac, Chief Executive Officer of OSN, said: "The raids demonstrate that the fight against illegal TV-piracy isn't just confined to one or two countries but is a region-wide issue that needs co-operation from a number of agencies and the public at large. As the Kuwaiti authorities have outlined, perpetrators can expect tough penalties for flouting the law as the campaign to stamp out TV-piracy gains momentum

and awareness across the region increases." Omar Al Qahtani, Senior Associate, Al Tamimi & Co Kuwait, said: "Operating Dish TV decoders is forbidden in Kuwait - their content licensing contracts, broadcast license and satellite contracts are limited to its origin in India. We will endeavor to target those who operate outside the law to bring an end to this illegal practice. As a governing authority, we will continue to work with partners such as OSN to protect intellectual property rights and will not tolerate any form of activity that infringes on them. In addition to confiscating illegal decoders and equipment, operating in this illegal trade will lead to the closure of shops and fines being issued."

00:35 Doctors Eastenders Call The Midwife **New Tricks**

The Weakest Link

23:50

Johnny Test 04:20 Grojband Grojband Total Drama World Tour Total Drama World Tour 05:27

Teen Titans Go

The Amazing World Of Gumball 07:00 Uncle Grandpa Adventure Time Teen Titans Go Ninjago: Masters Of Spiniitzu 08:35 Ben 10: Omniverse Ben 10: Omniverse

09:45 Regular Show 10:30 Clarence Dreamworks Dragons: Riders Of

Berk 11:20 Total Drama: Revenge Of The Total Drama World Tour 11:40 12:05 Johnny Test Steven Universe 12:50

13:02 Steven Universe 13:15 Uncle Grandpa 13:40 Regular Show 13:51 Regular Show 14:02 Regular Show Regular Show 14:13 14:25 Adventure Time Adventure Time 14:50 Adventure Time The Amazing World Of Gumball 15:10

Ben 10: Omniverse 16:00 Ben 10: Omniverse Ninjago: Masters Of Spinjitzu Matt Hatter Chronicles 16:45 Teen Titans Go! 17:30 18:20 Clarence 18:31 Clarence The Amazing World Of Gumball 18:40 19:30 Adventure Time

Adventure Time 19:50 Adventure Time 20:15 New Uncle Grandpa Uncle Grandpa 20:27 20:40 Steven Universe 21:00 Regular Show 21:50 Ben 10: Omniverse Ben 10: Omniverse 22:15 22:40 Adventure Time

23:25

00:55

04:45

05:10

Jones

13:00

13:50

14:40

15:05

01:05

02:20

01:20 Total Drama World Tour INVESTIGATION DISCOVERY Deadly Affairs Devil In The Details

Johnny Test

Regular Show

Total Drama World Tour

Who On Earth Did I Marry?

Who On Earth Did I Marry?

I Almost Got Away With It

California Investigator

Nightmare Next Door

Fatal Encounters

The Haunted 06:20 Forensic Detectives True Crime With Aphrodite 07:10 08:00 Nightmare Next Door On The Case With Paula Zahn 08:50 Fatal Encounters 10:30 Murder Shift 11:20 Forensic Detectives True Crime With Aphrodite 12:10

The Will

On The Case With Paula Zahn 16:45 17:35 Murder Shift I Almost Got Away With It 19:15 Forensic Detectives True Crime With Aphrodite 20:05 California Investigator 20:55 The Will 21:20 Who On Earth Did I Marry? 22:35 Who On Earth Did I Marry? Scorned: Crimes Of Passion 23:00 Blood Relatives 00:40 Who On Earth Did I Marry?



The Haunted

Ghost Lab

Who On Earth Did I Marry?

03:10 Deadly Affairs Devil In The Details 04:00 Who On Earth Did I Marry?

Who On Earth Did I Marry? The Haunted 05:30 Forensic Detectives 07:10 True Crime With Aphrodite

Jones Nightmare Next Door On The Case With Paula Zahn 08:50 09:40 Fatal Encounters Murder Shift 11:20 Forensic Detectives 12:10 True Crime With Aphrodite

13:00 The Will 13:50 I Almost Got Away With It California Investigator 15:05 Nightmare Next Door Fatal Encounters 15:55 On The Case With Paula Zahn 17:35 Murder Shift I Almost Got Away With It 18:25

Forensic Detectives

20:05

True Crime With Aphrodite

Jones California Investigator 21:20 The Will Who On Farth Did I Marry? 22:10 Who On Earth Did I Marry? Scorned: Crimes Of Passion Blood Relatives 23:00 23:50 Who On Earth Did I Marry?

01:05 Who On Earth Did I Marry The Haunted 01:30 Ghost Lab DISNED &

03:05 Calimero 03:20 Zou 03:30 Loopdidoo Art Attack 03:45 04:10 Henry Hugglemonster 04:20 Calimero 04:35 Zou 04:45 Loopdidoo

05:35 05:50 Zou 06:00 Loopdidoo Art Attack 06:15 06:35 Henry Hugglemonster Calimero 06:50 07:00 Zou Loopdidoo 07:20 Art Attack 07:35

Calimero

Art Attack

Calimero

Henry Hugglemonster

05:00

05:25

08:00

11:55

12:25

Pirates

12:55

13:10

17:10

17:40

21:05

21:35

08:10 Zou Limon And Oli 08:35 Jake And The Never Land Pirates Sofia The First 08:50 09:20 Doc McStuffins 09:45 Loopdidoo 10:00 Sheriff Callie's Wild West 10:30 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse 11:00 Sofia The First Doc McStuffins 11:30

Miles From Tomorrov

Loopdidoo

Aladdin

Jake And The Never Land

Mickey Mouse Clubhouse

Sheriff Callie's Wild West Sofia The First 14:30 Henry Hugglemonster Doc McStuffins 15:00 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse 15:45 Sofia The First 16:45 Doc McStuffins

Adventures Of The Gummi Bears Chip n Dale Rescue Rangers 18:10 18:40 Jake And The Never Land Pirate 18:55 Cars Toons Miles From Tomorrow 19:00 Sofia The First 19:30 19:55 Doc McStuffins Jake And The Never Land Pirate Sheriff Callie's Wild West 20:45

22:00 Aladdin Adventures Of The Gummi 22:30 23:00 Chip n Dale Rescue Rangers Lilo & Stitch 23:30 00:00 Nina Needs To Go 00:05 Henry Hugglemonste 00:20 Calimero

Sofia The First

Mickey Mouse Clubhouse

00:35 Loopdidoo 00:50 Art Attack 01:05 01:30 Henry Hugglemonster 01:45 Calimero 02:00 Zou Loopdidoo 02:15 02:30 Art Attack

Henry Hugglemonster



WATCHMEN ON OSN MOVIES ACTION



CLASSIFIEDS

Kuwait Times

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2015





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

SHARQIA-1	
AHWAK THE MARTIAN AHWAK AHWAK JUNE THE MARTIAN	11:45 AM 2:00 PM 5:00 PM 7:30 PM 10:00 PM 12:05 AM
SHARQIA-2 HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA2 THE LAST WITCH HUNTER THE LAST WITCH HUNTER HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA2 THE LAST WITCH HUNTER THE LAST WITCH HUNTER THE LAST WITCH HUNTER	11:30 AM 1:30 PM 3:45 PM 6:00 PM 8:00 PM 10:15 PM 12:45 AM
SHARQIA-3 SHAANDAAR WAR PIGS	1:00 PM 1:45 PM
FRI War Pigs Shaandaar War Pigs War Pigs War Pigs	4:00 PM 6:00 PM 9:00 PM 11:00 PM 1:00 AM
MUHALAB-1 War Pigs War Pigs Ahwak War Pigs Ahwak War Pigs War Pigs	11:00 AM 1:30 PM 3:30 PM 6:00 PM 8:00 PM 10:30 PM 12:45 AM
MUHALAB-2 AHWAK SHAANDAAR HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA2 KANCHE HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA2 SHAANDAAR KANCHE MOMENTUM MOMENTUM	11:30 AM 2:00 PM 2:00 PM 4:00 PM 5:00 PM 7:00 PM 10:00 PM 10:00 PM 12:05 AM
MUHALAB-3 THE LAST WITCH HUNTER	12:00 PM 2:30 PM 5:00 PM 7:30 PM 10:00 PM 12:30 AM
FANAR-1 AMERICAN ULTRA AMERICAN ULTRA SHAANDAAR SHAANDAAR SHAANDAAR AMERICAN ULTRA	12:00 PM 2:00 PM 4:00 PM 7:00 PM 10:00 PM 1:00 AM
FANAR-2 AHWAK JUNE AHWAK AHWAK JUNE AHWAK	12:15 PM 2:45 PM 4:45 PM 7:15 PM 9:45 PM 11:45 PM
FANAR-3 HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA2	11:45 AM

THE MARTIAN	1:45 PM	AVENUES-4	
HOTELTRANSYLVANIA2	4:30 PM	SHAANDAAR	12:15 PM
JAZBAA	6:30 PM	THE MARTIAN	3:15 PM
		AHWAK	
KANCHE	6:30 PM	,	6:15 PM
THE MARTIAN	9:30 PM	SHAANDAAR	8:45 PM
KANCHE	9:30 PM	THE MARTIAN	11:45 PM
THE MARTIAN	12:30 AM		
		AVENUES-5	
FANAR-4		THE LAST WITCH HUNTER	11:30 AM
	1.00 DM	THE LAST WITCH HUNTER	2:00 PM
WAR PIGS	1:00 PM		
THE LAST WITCH HUNTER	3:00 PM	THE LAST WITCH HUNTER	4:30 PM
MOMENTUM	5:30 PM	NO FRI	
THE LAST WITCH HUNTER	7:30 PM	HOTELTRANSYLVANIA2	4:30 PM
WAR PIGS	10:00 PM	THE LAST WITCH HUNTER	7:00 PM
THE LAST WITCH HUNTER	12:05 AM	THE LAST WITCH HUNTER	9:30 PM
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WAR PIGS	3:45 PM	THE MARTIAN	3:15 PM
THE LAST WITCH HUNTER	5:45 PM	THE MARTIAN	6:15 PM
WAR PIGS	8:15 PM	THE MARTIAN	9:15 PM
THE LAST WITCH HUNTER	10:15 PM	THE MARTIAN	12:15 AM
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WAR PIGS	12:45 AM		
		360°- 2	
MARINA-1		AMERICAN ULTRA	12:00 PM
THE MARTIAN	12:15 PM	AMERICAN ULTRA	2:30 PM
AHWAK	3:15 PM	AMERICAN ULTRA	4:45 PM
MOMENTUM	5:30 PM	10 ENDRATHUKULLA	7:00 PM
JUNE	7:30 PM	10 ENDRATHUKULLA	10:00 PM
AHWAK	9:30 PM	AMERICAN ULTRA	1:00 AM
MOMENTUM	12:05 AM		
		360°- 3	
MARINA-2		HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA2	1:15 PM
WAR PIGS	12:00 PM	HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA2	3:15 PM
WAR PIGS	2:00 PM	HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA2	5:15 PM
HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA2	4:15 PM	JUNE	7:15 PM
WAR PIGS	6:15 PM	JUNE	9:15 PM
WAR PIGS	8:15 PM	JUNE	11:15 PM
WAR PIGS	10:15 PM	JUNE	1:15 AM
WAR PIGS	12:15 AM		
		AL-KOUT.1	
MARINA-3		THE LAST WITCH HUNTER	12:15 PM
THE LAST WITCH HUNTER	12:00 PM	THE LAST WITCH HUNTER	2:45 PM
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THE LAST WITCH HUNTER	12:30 AM		
THE EXIST WHICH HOWER	12.507111	AL-KOUT.2	
AVENIJES_1		THE LAST WITCH HUNTER	11·30 AM
AVENUES-1	1.00 DM	THE LAST WITCH HUNTER	11:30 AM
SHAANDAAR	1:00 PM	AHWAK	2:00 PM
	4:00 PM	AHWAK HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA2	
SHAANDAAR		AHWAK	2:00 PM
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WAR PIGS

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Modapothula Elamma holder of Indian Passport No. G1689507 has converted Islam by name Shaik Ayesha, address 3/65, K.S Agraharam Chitvel, Kadapa, A.P. (C 5064) 28-10-2015

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)



04:38

05:58

11:32

17:06

18:23

Fajr:

Shorook

Maghrib:

Duhr:

Isha:

12:15 AM

Urgent Opening

A well established and reputed Organization is looking for dynamic Sales Professionals.

Candidates should have charismatic, energetic and enthusiastic personality with a minimum 3-5 years' experience in Technical sales, preferably from glass / construction / **Aluminium** industry sales with a valid Kuwait driving license. Quick learner and relationship building ability and ability to interact and make presentations at all levels and with all nationalities, is a must. Arabic speaking an added advantage.

Email CV to kuwaitee2050@gmail.com

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

A local company is in need of the following personnel for a KOC project:

- 1) Project Manager Civil engineer with minimum 10 years experience in mechanical and pipeline projects in oil & gas Industry
- $2) \ Piping/Pipeline \ Engineer Mechanical$ engineer with minimum 8 years experience in piping and pipeline projects.
- 3) **Safety Engineer** with a minimum 5 years experience in oil & gas industry.
- 4) Site Secretary (male) with a minimum of 5 years experience in a construction firm.

Applicants must be fluent in English and hold both a valid drivers license and transferable residency.

Email cover letter and resume to

info@26febco-kw.com



FOR RENT

- Villa in Abu Al-Hasaniya Area KD 1500 - KD 2000
- Office in Kuwait 150 meters open area

Tel: 69998130



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

Define Property	ı		Arriv	val Flights on Wednesday 28/10/2015		KNE	472	Jeddah	14:35		Depai	ture Flights on Wednesday 28/1	0/2015	SVA	2313	Jeddah	13:10
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Formal Control Contr	ı	ICV		Luxembourg	01:45	UAE	857	Dubai	15:45	THY	773	Istanbul	02:30	CLX	792	Hanoi	14:30
UAL 0.23	ı	PGT	858	Istanbul	02:00	QTR	1072	Doha	16:10	DLH	635	Frankfurt	02:35	IYE	827	Mukalla/Sanaa	14:30
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IRM	ı	FDB		Dubai		FDB	5053	Dubai	20:50	KAC	501	Beirut		IRC	6512		18:20
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Kuwait 🗻 Times

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2015

CROSSWORD 1062

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ACROSS

- 1. The month following October and preceding December.
- 4. British statesman who as Prime Minister bought controlling interest in the Suez Canal and made Queen Victoria the Empress of India (1804-1881).
- 12. A white linen liturgical vestment with
- 15. An extension at the end and at right angles to the main building.
- 16. A graphic symbol consisting of 2 or more letters combined (usually your initials).
- 17. A slippery or viscous liquid or liquefiable
- substance not miscible with water. 18. Small shrubby tree of eastern North America similar to the Judas tree having
- usually pink flowers. 20. Tropical American tree bearing a small edi-
- ble fruit with green leathery skin and sweet juicy translucent pulp. 21. A nucleic acid that transmits genetic infor-
- mation from DNA to the cytoplasm. 22. The basic unit of money in Gambia. 23. Half the width of an em.
- 24. A woman's dress style that imitates the caftan cloaks worn by men in the Near East.
- 26. The fleshy part of the human body that you sit on.
- 29. A sharp abrupt noise as if two objects hit together.
- 30. A structure or object that impedes free movement.
- 34. Wife or mistress of Zeus and mother of Apollo and Artemis in ancient mythology. 35. Either of two large African antelopes of the genus Taurotragus having short spirally
- twisted horns in both sexes. 36. The part of the eye that contains the iris and ciliary body and choroid.
- 38. Waterproofed canvas.
- 42. A nurse who has enough training to be licensed by a state to provide routine care
- 43. A genus with one species that is a rapidly growing climbing vine with tuberous
- 45. A corticosteroid drug (trade names Decadron or Dexamethasone Intensol or Dexone or Hexadrol or Oradexon) used to treat allergies or inflammation.
- 49. Upright deciduous plant with crimson pods and seeds.
- 50. A positively charged electrode by which electrons leave an electrical device.
- 51. Cheese containing a blue mold. 54. Type genus of the Majidae.
- 55. A member of a people of India living in Maharashtra.
- 58. A Loloish language. 60. The network in the reticular formation that
- serves an alerting or arousal function. 61. How a result is obtained or an end is
- achieved. 63. Either of two large muscles of the chest.
- 65. A propeller that rotates to push against air. 68. Atlantic coast round clams with hard
- shells.
- 72. A constellation in the southern hemisphere near Telescopium and Norma. 73. Small buffalo of Mindoro in the
- Philippines. 76. Plant with an elongated head of broad
- stalked leaves resembling celery. 77. A Chadic language spoken in northern
- 78. A city of east central Mexico (west of
- Veracruz).
- 79. On or toward the lee.
- 80. Either extremity of something that has lenath.
- 81. An account describing incidents or events.
- 82. Type genus of the Alcidae comprising solely the razorbill.

DOWN

- 1. A student who studies excessively.
- 2. Evergreen trees and shrubs having oily oneseeded fruits. 3. Large lipoproteins rich in triglycerides.
- 4. A doctor's degree in music.
- 5. A nonmetallic element belonging to the halogens
- 6. A silvery malleable metallic element that resists corrosion.
- 7. English physician who in retirement compiled a well-known thesaurus (1779-
- 8. A yellow pungent volatile oil (trade name Agene) formerly used for bleaching and
- aging flour. 9. Bulky grayish-brown eagle with a short
- wedge-shaped white tail. 10. Concerning those not members of the
- clerav. 11. The striking of one body against another.
- 12. The large trunk artery that carries blood from the left ventricle of the heart to branch arteries.
- 13. lons are accelerated along a linear path by voltage differences on electrodes along the path.
- 14. Of a surface.
- 19. (in Scotland) A child. 25. The floating wreckage of a ship.
- 27. An artificial language intended for interna-
- tional use as an auxiliary language. 28. Pile of waste matter from coal mining etc.
- 31. A town in northern Michigan on an arm of Lake Huron
- 32. A feeling of deep and bitter anger and ill-
- 33. A state in the Rocky Mountains.
- 37. (Akkadian) God of wisdom.
- 39. Essential oil or perfume obtained from flowers.
- 40. Dry red table wine from the Rioja region of northern Spain.
- 41. Either of two muscles of the abdomen and pelvis that flex the trunk and rotate the
- thiah. 44. Military action involving the use of electro-
- magnetic energy to determine or exploit or reduce or prevent hostile use of the electromagnetic spectrum.
- 46. American Revolutionary patriot. 47. Any device that receives a signal or stimulus (as heat or pressure or light or motion
- etc.) and responds to it. 48. A soft gray ductile metallic element used in alloys.
- 52. A gonadotropic hormone that is secreted
- by the anterior pituitary. 53. Not equal in amount.
- 56. The capital and largest city of Zimbabwe. 57. Lacking vigor or energy
- 59. A hospital unit staffed and equipped to
- provide intensive care. 62. Of or relating to or characteristic of Swaziland or its people or their language. 64. The capital and largest city of Yemen.
- 67. The basic unit of money in South Africa. 69. An interior passage or corridor onto which

66. Extremely robust.

- rooms open. 70. An organization of countries formed in 1961 to agree on a common policy for the sale of petroleum.
- 71. (Greek mythology) Goddess of the earth and mother of Cronus and the Titans in ancient mythology.
- 74. Any of various long-tailed rodents similar to but larger than a mouse.
- 75. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.

Yesterday's Solution

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STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

Although everything will likely fit into place, you still must rely on your own initiative if you are driven to finish what you start. Your day may begin slowly, yet like a surfer, you must paddle faster to catch the big wave. Oddly enough, it might be better now for you to just let this one wash over you and not show off with any fancy tricks. Surrender the fight and relax; instead of relentlessly pursuing your goals, kick back and just enjoy floating in the deep blue sea today. Appreciate the view while you have the chance.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

You could grow overly concerned about your appearance today while the reflective Moon hanging in your 1st House of Physicality trines captivating Venus. Although wearing something that makes you feel extra attractive gets the day off to a proper start, remember that looks are only skin-deep. True beauty originates from within, so stay busy cultivating your spiritual side, too. Don't forget your eyes are the windows to your soul. And a smile is only memorable if it comes from 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)

Your true friends will stand by you no matter what, and even rush to your rescue if you need it. Thankfully, you're not looking for anyone to bail you out of a crisis now; it's just that you feel emotionally secure when you know that you can depend on others. But there doesn't have to be a problem for you to call on your friends today. Simply going out to lunch with a couple of casual acquaintances or having a few of your buddies over for dinner could be just the right thing to set your world right.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

The spotlight is following you even if you're not trying to draw attention to your activities. However, your ability to see a task through to completion puts you on a pedestal with your peers since they rely on your sense of duty and generosity of spirit. You have exactly what it takes to get the job done today as long as you don't lose sight of your long-term objectives. Just work hard and your sincere efforts will eventually be appreciated, whether or not anyone is watching now. Striving to be your best self allows your integrity to shine.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

You are dreaming of an exotic place today as a means of escape. Luckily, you might just get to take that trip if you maintain a practical attitude. But since you may choose to embark on a journey of the mind instead, use your time wisely by increasing your global awareness. Grab any opportunity to learn something new about another country you wish to visit someday, even if you can't pack your bags now. A sense of wanderlust blows a fresh breeze of creativity into every corner of your life.

WORD SEARCH

COLLEGE LIFE WORD SEARCH PUZZLE

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ASSIGNMENTS CALCULUS DEAN DORMITORY

ECONOMICS

FRESHMAN **GRAD SCHOOL** GRADES HISTORY

FRATERNITY

HOMEWORK LECTURE HALL LIBRARY LOANS **PLEDGES**

SCHOLARSHIP SORORITY STUDENTS **THESIS**

PROFESSOR

Libra (September 23-October 22)

An intriguing matter lures you into solving a perplexing puzzle, even if it becomes a temporary obsession. Your determination is unshakable now, but you should perform a quick reality check to make sure you aren't sliding off into a world of illusion and fantasy. Although you might try to adopt a rational approach, the Moon's presence in your 8th House of Metamorphosis inspires you to persist until you get to the bottom of what's going on. Don't sell yourself short; there's no reason to end your search until you discover the truth.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

You typically don't mind dealing with emotional complexities because they enable you to get in touch with the deeper meaning of life. However, you're seeking the more obvious answers now instead of the esoteric ones. There's nothing complicated about wanting to snuggle with a loved one or appreciating the blessings of a satisfying meal and a good night's rest. Everything would be so easy if life was always that simple and straightforward. Scorpions love a good mystery more than any other sign; nevertheless, the littlest pleasures can be enough to warm your heart today.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Focusing on your physical health is a smart idea today, even if you are currently feeling as invincible as a superhero with one-too-many superpowers. Fortunately, you can make little improvements to your lifestyle now that create long-lasting consequences. You could try something as simple as making a few small dietary changes or switching up your exercise routine. You don't have to disrupt your entire life; even a minor adjustment will have an enduring positive impact on your future.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

You are probably more preoccupied with the logistics of love today than with the sensitive emotional issues. Paradoxically, this doesn't make you any less of a romantic; it's just that you're temporarily focused on the practical considerations at hand. One strategy is to think about how you could be a better partner or lover now. Then follow up by doing whatever you can to strengthen the bond of your current or potential relationship. It's true, the best things in life are free, but you still must invest your heart if you want love to stay.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

Your active imagination is soaring far above the mundane issues of the real world today. Memories of your childhood flood into your awareness like a rising tide, stimulating an uncomfortable sense of nostalgia. You normally have a rather pragmatic outlook on your past, but everything is seen through a softfocus filter now. Enjoy your flights of fancy, but don't linger too long in the shadows or you might get lost. Traveling back in time can inspire your plans for the future in ways you never imagined.

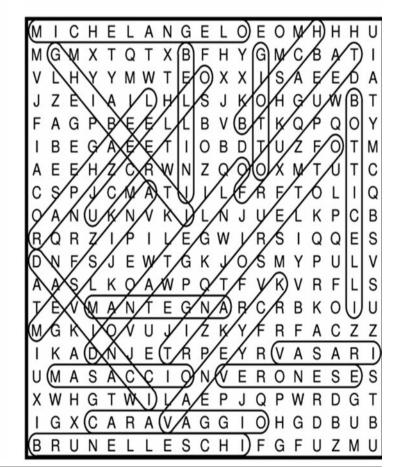


Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Although you wish you could coast through the day, the cosmos has different plans for you. Some of the current distractions come from within, rather than the external world. Your brain might be full even if your calendar is quiet. You may even feel like a stage magician who must juggle one too many balls while trying to keep the rabbit from jumping out of the hat. Act decisively and set a few things aside so everyone can see you perform at your very best.

Yesterday Solution

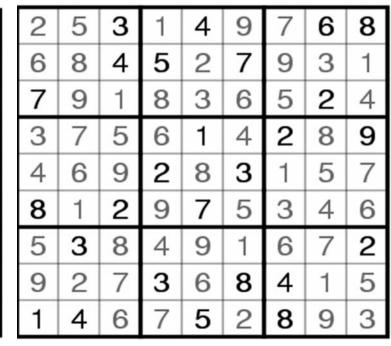
SOLUTION TO RENAISSANCE ART PUZZLE



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Daily SuDoku

Yesterday's Solution



Sabah Hospital

Amiri Hospital

Chest Hospital

Adan Hospital

Ibn Sina Hospital

Al-Razi Hospital

Kaizen center

Rawda

Adaliya

Khaldiya

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

Kaifan

Physiotherapy Hospital

Maternity Hospital

Farwaniya Hospital

Mubarak Al-Kabir Hospital



For labor-related inquiries and complaints:

Clinics

24812000

22450005

24843100

25312700

24849400

24892010

23940620

24840300

24846000

24874330/9

25716707

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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



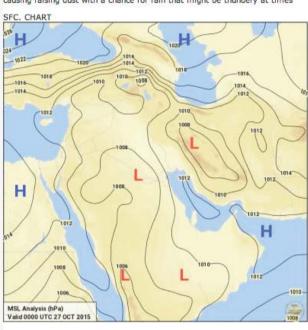
Tel: (+965) 161 Ext: 2627 - 2630 Fax: (+965) 24348714 www.met.gov.kw



Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours Issued 27/10/2015-07:00 LT UTC +3hr

MAX Temperature 36 °C

By Day: Clouds will increase gradually with light to moderate freshening gradually southerly to south easterly wind, with speed of 15 - 40 km/h causing raising dust with a chance for rain that might be thundery later on. By Night: Cloudy with moderate to fresh south easterly wind, with speed of 20 - 40 km/h causing raising dust with a chance for rain that might be thundery at times



Four-Day	Forecas

	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	-		*	*
Expected Weather	unstable + Thunder rain + Dust	unstable + Thunder rain + Dust	partly cloudy + scattered thunder rain	partly cloudy + scattered thunder rain
Min Temp °C	24	24	22	21
Max Temp °C	34	33	34	35
Wind Direction	southerly to south easterly	easterly to south easterly	southerly to south easterly	south easterly
Wind Speed km/h	25 - 45	25 - 45	20 - 40	20 - 40

Warnings NO CURRENT WARNINGS

Station	MIN °C REC	Max °C EXP
KUWAIT CITY	27	35
KUWAIT AIRPORT	24	36
ABDALY	23	38
BUBYAN	27	34
JAHRA	24	38
FAILAKA ISLAND	26	34
SALMIYAH	28	33
AHMADI	27	32
JAL ALIYAH	22	37
QAROH ISLAND	30	31
UMM AL-MARADEM	28	31
NUWAISIB	22	38
WAFRA	23	38
MANAGISH	23	37
SALMY	24	37
MUTRIBA	23	38

Recorde	d Yesterday at Ku	wait Airport
Max Tem	p (°C)	37
Min Tem	o (°C)	21
Max Rel	Hum (%)	82
Min Rel H	lum (%)	18
Max Wind and Direct	d Speed (km/h) ction	36 SE
TOTAL R	AINFALL IN 24 HR	0 mm
*	Sunrise	05:58
0	Sunset	17:07

Libya

Lithuania

00218

00370

Zimbabwe

00263

Prayer Times	
Fajr	04:38
Sunrise	05:58
Zuhr	11:32
Asr	14:42
Sunset	17:07
Isha	18:24

PRIVATE CLINICS

All times are local time (GMT+3) unless otherwise stated

Ophthalmologists				
Dr. Abidallah Al-Mansoor	25622444			
Dr. Samy Al-Rabeea	25752222			
Dr. Masoma Habeeb	25321171			
Dr. Mubarak Al-Ajmy	25739999			
Dr. Mohsen Abel	25757700			
Dr Adnan Hasan Alwayl	25732223			
Dr. Abdallah Al-Baghly	25732223			
Ear, Nose & Throat	(ENT)			
Dr. Ahmed Fouad Mouner	24555050 Ext 510			
Dr. Abdallah Al-Ali	25644660			
Dr. Abd Al-Hameed Al-Taweel	25646478			
Dr. Sanad Al-Fathalah	25311996			
Dr. Mohammad Al-Daaory	25731988			
Dr. Ismail Al-Fodary	22620166			
Dr. Mahmoud Al-Booz	25651426			
General Practition	ners			
General Practition Dr. Mohamme Y Majidi	ners 24555050 Ext 123			
Dr. Mohamme Y Majidi	24555050 Ext 123			
Dr. Mohamme Y Majidi Dr. Yousef Al-Omar	24555050 Ext 123 24719312			
Dr. Mohamme Y Majidi Dr. Yousef Al-Omar Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhazeem	24555050 Ext 123 24719312 23926920			
Dr. Mohamme Y Majidi Dr. Yousef Al-Omar Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhazeem Dr. Kathem Maarafi	24555050 Ext 123 24719312 23926920 25730465			
Dr. Mohamme Y Majidi Dr. Yousef Al-Omar Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhazeem Dr. Kathem Maarafi Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadah	24555050 Ext 123 24719312 23926920 25730465 25655528			
Dr. Mohamme Y Majidi Dr. Yousef Al-Omar Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhazeem Dr. Kathem Maarafi Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadah Dr. Nabeel Al-Ayoobi	24555050 Ext 123 24719312 23926920 25730465 25655528 24577781			
Dr. Mohamme Y Majidi Dr. Yousef Al-Omar Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhazeem Dr. Kathem Maarafi Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadah Dr. Nabeel Al-Ayoobi Dr. Dina Abidallah Al-Refae	24555050 Ext 123 24719312 23926920 25730465 25655528 24577781			
Dr. Mohamme Y Majidi Dr. Yousef Al-Omar Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhazeem Dr. Kathem Maarafi Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadah Dr. Nabeel Al-Ayoobi Dr. Dina Abidallah Al-Refae Urologists	24555050 Ext 123 24719312 23926920 25730465 25655528 24577781 25333501			
Dr. Mohamme Y Majidi Dr. Yousef Al-Omar Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhazeem Dr. Kathem Maarafi Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadah Dr. Nabeel Al-Ayoobi Dr. Dina Abidallah Al-Refae Urologists Dr. Ali Naser Al-Serfy	24555050 Ext 123 24719312 23926920 25730465 25655528 24577781 25333501 22641534 22639955			
Dr. Mohamme Y Majidi Dr. Yousef Al-Omar Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhazeem Dr. Kathem Maarafi Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadah Dr. Nabeel Al-Ayoobi Dr. Dina Abidallah Al-Refae Urologists Dr. Ali Naser Al-Serfy Dr. Fawzi Taher Abul	24555050 Ext 123 24719312 23926920 25730465 25655528 24577781 25333501 22641534 22639955 ii 22616660			

Psychologists

/Psychotherapists

Plastic Surgeons					
Dr. Mohammad Al-Khalaf	22547272				
Dr. Abdal-Redha Lari	22617700				
Dr. Abdel Quttainah	25625030/60				
Family Doctor					
Dr Divya Damodar	23729596/23729581				
Psychiatris	ts				
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				
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Dr. Amer Zawaz Al-Amer	22610044				
Dr. Mohammad Yousef Bash	er 25327148				
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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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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	y			
Dr. Mohammed Salam				
Bern University	23845955			
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Dr Anil Thomas	3729596/3729581			
Dr. Shamah Al-Matar	22641071/2			
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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			

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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				
	Rheumatologists:					
11	Dr. Adel Al-Awadi 25330060					
1						
	Dr. Khaled Al-Jarallah	25722290				
	Dr. Khaled Al-Jarallah Internist, Chest & I					
	Difficultary in Jurumum					
	Internist, Chest & I	Heart 24555050 Ext 210				
	Internist, Chest & F DR.Mohammes Akkad Dr. Mohammad Zubaid MB, ChB, FRCPC, PACC Assistant Professor Of Medicin Head, Division of Cardiology	24555050 Ext 210 ne 25339667				
	Internist, Chest & Internist, Ch	24555050 Ext 210 ne 25339667				

William Schuilenberg, RPC 2290-1677

Zaina Al Zabin, M.Sc. 2290-1677

INTERNAT CALL		10	1
Afghanistan	0093	Luxembourg	00352
Albania Algeria	00355 00213	Macau Macedonia	00853
Andorra	00376	Madagascar	00261
Angola Anguilla	00244 001264	Majorca Malawi	0034 00265
Antiga	001268	Malaysia	0060
Argentina Armenia	0054 00374	Maldives Mali	00960 00223
Australia	0061	Malta	00356
Austria	0043	Marshall Islands	00692
Bahamas Bahrain	001242 00973	Martinique Mauritania	00596 00222
Bangladesh	08800	Mauritius	00230
Barbados Belarus	001246 00375	Mayotte Mexico	00269 0052
Belgium	00375	Micronesia	00691
Belize	00501	Moldova	00373
Benin Bermuda	00229	Monaco Mongolia	00377 00976
Bhutan	00975	Montserrat	001664
Bolivia	00591	Morocco	00212
Bosnia Botswana	00387 00267	Mozambique Myanmar (Burma)	00258 0095
Brazil	0055	Namibia	00264
Brunei	00673	Nepal	00977
Bulgaria Burkina	00359	Netherlands Netherlands Antilles	0031
Burundi	00257	New Caledonia	00687
Cambodia	00855	New Zealand	0064
Cameroon Canada	00237 001	Nicaragua Nigar	00505 00227
Cape Verde	00238	Nigeria	00227
Cayman Islands	001345	Niue	00683
Central African Chad	00236 00235	Norfolk Island N. Ireland (UK)	00672 0044
Chile	0056	North Korea	00850
China	0086 0057	Norway	0047
Colombia Comoros	00269	Oman Pakistan	00968 0092
Congo	00242	Palau	00680
Cook Islands Costa Rica	00682 00506	Panama Papua New Guinea	00507 00675
Croatia	00385	Paraguay	00595
Cuba	0053	Peru	0051
Cyprus (Northern)	00357 0090392	Philippines Poland	0063 0048
Czech Republic	00420	Portugal	00351
Denmark	0045	Puerto Rico	001787
Diego Garcia Djibouti	00246 00253	Qatar Romania	00974 0040
Dominica	001767	Russian Federation	007
Dominican Republic Ecuador	001809 00593	Rwanda Saint Helena	00250 00290
Egypt	0020	Saint Kitts	001869
El Salvador	00503	Saint Lucia	001758
England (UK) Equatorial Guinea	0044 00240	Saint Pierre Saint Vincent	00508 001784
Eritrea	00291	Samoa US	00684
Estonia	00372	Samoa West	00685
Ethiopia Falkland Islands	00251 00500	San Marino Sao Tone	00378 00239
Faroe Islands	00298	Saudi Arabia	00966
Fiji Finland	00679 00358	Scotland (UK) Senegal	0044 00221
France	00338	Seychelles	00221
French Guiana	00594	Sierra Leone	00232
French Polynesia Gabon	00689	Singapore Slovakia	0065 00421
Gambia	00220	Slovenia	00386
Georgia	00995	Solomon Islands	00677
Germany Ghana	0049 00233	Somalia South Africa	00252 0027
Gibraltar	00350	South Korea	0082
Greece Greenland	0030	Spain Sri Lanka	0034 0094
Grenada	00299	Sudan	00249
Guadeloupe	00590	Suriname	00597
Guam Guatemala	001671 00502	Swaziland Sweden	00268 0046
Guinea	00302	Switzerland	0041
Guyana	00592	Syria	00963
Haiti Holland (Netherlands)	00509	Serbia Taiwan	00381
Honduras	00504	Tanzania	00255
Hong Kong	00852	Thailand	0066
Hungary Ibiza (Spain)	0036 0034	Toga Tonga	00228 00676
Iceland	00354	Tokelau	00690
India	0091	Trinidad	001868
Indian Ocean Indonesia	00873 0062	Tunisia Turkey	00216 0090
Iran	0002	Tuvalu	00688
Iraq	00964	Uganda	00256
Ireland Italy	00353	Ukraine United Arab Emirates	00380 00976
Ivory Coast	0039	United Kingdom	00976
Jamaica	001876	Uruguay	00598
Japan Jordan	0081 00962	USA Uzbekistan	001 00998
Kazakhstan	007	Vanuatu	00678
Kenya	00254	Venezuela	00582
Kiribati Kuwait	00686 00965	Vietnam Virgin Islands UK	0084 001284
Kyrgyzstan	00996	Virgin Islands US	001284
Laos	00856	Wales (UK)	0044
Latvia Lebanon	00371 00961	Yemen Yugoslavia	00967 00381
Liberia	00231	Zambia	00260

Music & Movies



(From left) US actor Leonardo DiCaprio, co-chairman of Melco Crown Entertainment James Packer, US film director Martin Scorsese, chief executive officer of Melco Crown Entertainment Lawrence Ho, US actor Robert De Niro and US film director and film producer Brett Ratner pose with performers wearing lion dance costumes during a press conference ahead of the opening of the Studio City casino resort in Macau yesterday. — AFP photos



(From left) US actor Leonardo DiCaprio, US actor Robert De Niro and US film director Martin Scorsese pose during a press conference.

DiCaprio finds joy in Macau project with De Niro, Scorsese

eonardo DiCaprio says being able to work with his two cinematic father figures on a short film commissioned for the opening of a Macau casino resort was "a slice of heaven." He spoke in the Asian gambling hub ahead of yesterday's debut of "The Audition," which also stars Robert De Niro and was directed by Martin Scorsese, who also attended the press briefing. DiCaprio said that "for me the great joy was

finally getting to be on set with both of these guys."

"To be able to have scenes with Bob and being directed by Marty is a small slice of heaven for me as an actor," DiCaprio said. He described the two as like his "fathers in the world of cinema." The 15-minute film's premiere is part of the star-studded lineup to launch Melco Crown Entertainment Ltd's Hollywood-themed Studio City resort in Macau. The casino's

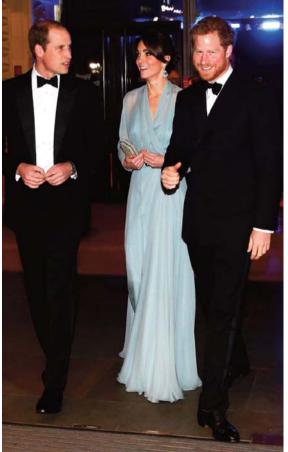
ability to draw such star power attests to the rising influence of the special Chinese region, which has grown into the world's top gambling market.

Scorsese described the film as "reality-based with some humor." The plot has DiCaprio and De Niro invited to Macau by Scorsese to compete for the same part in a movie. Brad Pitt also appears in the film but did not attend the opening.

Scorsese has directed multiple films with DiCaprio or De Niro, but "The Audition" marks the first time the three, along with Pitt, have collaborated. Producer Brett Ratner said he hoped that the short could be turned into a feature film. "It's just a teaser. We come to Macau, Marty comes here, lives at the hotel for three months, six months and we make a big event movie," he said. — AP



French actress Lea Seydoux, British actor Daniel Craig and Italian actress Monica Bellucci pose on arrival for the world premiere of the new James Bond film 'Spectre' at the Royal Albert Hall in London. — AP



(From left) Britain's William, Duke of Cambridge, Britain's Catherine, Duchess of Cambridge and Britain's Prince Harry arrive for the world premiere of the new James Bond film 'Spectre' at the Royal Albert Hall in

Royals and 007 cast give sparkle to 'Spectre world premiere

he new James Bond flick "Spectre" got a royal seal of approval at its world premiere Monday night. Fans who lined the red carpet not only got to see Daniel Craig resplendent in a dark tuxedo and earthy smile - and glamorous co-stars Lea Seydoux and Monica Bellucci, but could also catch a glimpse of Prince William, his wife Kate, and Prince Harry, still sporting a beard. All eyes were on Kate, the Duchess of Cambridge, who was among the last to arrive at the Royal Albert Hall before the film rolled. She chose a light blue Jenny

Packham dress for the event.

The two princes wore tuxedos, which have been something of a Bond trademark since the days when Sean Connery played 007 for the first time in "Dr No" in 1962. The royals, who arrived in a Bentley, were greeted by director Sam Mendes and co-producers Barbara Broccoli and Michael G Wilson. Craig, accompanied by his film star wife Rachel Weisz, patiently posed for dozens of selfies with adoring fans. He told reporters he had "loved every minute" he's spent as Bond and declined to answer questions about whether he would return for a fifth turn as the sexy, world-saving British agent.

Seydoux wore a shimmering gold backless gown for the night that marked her emergence as the latest in a long line of romantic interests for the suave British agent. Bellucci, also a love interest in the film, wore a dark gown with a plunging neckline. Naomie Harris, reprising her role as loyal Miss Moneypenny, wore a low-cut full length orange dress to the premiere. They were joined by Christoph Waltz, the Academy Award winner recruited to play villain Franz Oberhauser, who challenges Bond in a series of exotic locales, and Ben Whishaw, who has an expanded role as the gadget master Q. British critics have praised the film and Craig's performance. — AP

'Spotlight' film illuminates Boston clergy abuse scandal

t was a scandal that shook the Roman Catholic Church to its core: Hundreds of priests molested children for decades and got away with it because church leaders covered it up. More than a decade later, the story of how The Boston Globe exposed the church's secret is being told in "Spotlight," a movie starring Michael Keaton, Rachel McAdams and Mark Ruffalo, set for release in the US Nov 6. In Boston, where the scandal led to the resignation of Cardinal Bernard Law and settlements with hundreds of victims, key figures featured in the film say it captures the shock of the scandal as it unfolded, the pain suffered by the victims and the work done by journalists to bring it to light.

"We obviously stumbled upon something far more extensive and horrifying than we had any right to expect to find," recalled Walter Robinson - played by Michael Keaton - who led the Boston Globe's Spotlight Team, the investigative unit that broke open the scandal with a series of stories in 2002. The stories detailed how church higher-ups - including Law - knew priests were abusing children but moved them from parish to parish instead of removing them. The series won the Pulitzer Prize for public service in 2003.

Other victims

The film shows the anguish of victims as they tell their stories to Globe reporters. Actor Neal Huff plays Phil Saviano, a Boston man who was abused by a priest when he was 11. In one scene, Huff holds a childhood photo. "When you're a poor kid from a poor family and when a priest pays attention to you, it's a big deal. How do you say no to God?" he says. Alexa MacPherson, who was molested and sexually assaulted by a Boston priest for six years, starting at age 3, said she and several other victims plan to go see the movie together so they can support each other.

"I feel like in some ways it will be cathartic and healing, even though it brings stuff to the surface and the forefront," she said. "I feel like you can't ever really heal if you don't bring things to the forefront." For the reporters, the film is a realistic depiction of both the failings and triumphs of journalism. Before the 2002 series, the Globe had written numerous stories about abusive priests but had not delved deeper to report on who within the archdiocese knew what was going on. Shortly before Marty Baron took the helm as editor in 2001, he saw a reference in a Globe column about sealed court files in

the case of John Geoghan, a priest accused of abusing more than 100 children.

His first day on the job, Baron asked Globe staffers if they had tried to get the files unsealed. "There was a sort of silence in the room," he recalled. The Spotlight Team went to work while the Globe's lawyers went to court. A judge eventually unsealed church documents, including priest personnel files containing extensive details on when the archdiocese received sexual abuse allegations against priests and who in the church hierarchy knew. The Globe's explosive series sparked an upheaval in the Boston archdiocese that snowballed as similar revelations came to light about abusive priests around the world.

Aggressive steps

The scandal hit close to home for Globe reporter Matt Carroll when he learned Geoghan lived right around the corner from him. "I had four young kids of my own at that point. ... I put a picture of Geoghan on the refrigerator and I said, 'Look, kids, if you see this guy, run the other way," Carroll said. The movie, directed by Tom McCarthy, has already sparked some Oscar buzz. In its review, Variety compared it to one of the most famous movies about journalists - "All the President's Men." Baron, played by Liev Schreiber, said he hopes the film will send a message about the importance of investigative journalism.

"We need to have local news organizations investigating institutions, individuals with power, holding people accountable," said Baron, now the executive editor of The Washington Post. Spokesman Terrence Donilon said the Archdiocese of Boston has taken aggressive steps to ensure proper screening of priests and continues to focus on helping victims. "We acknowledge the terrible crimes committed by clergy against children and the failure of many leaders within the church to deal appropriately with these crimes," he said. Saviano said more needs to be done. "I'm hoping that the film will serve as an incentive for the Vatican to get more serious about putting measures in place to hold bishops accountable and to protect children," he said. — AP



In this Sept 14, 2015 file photo, from left: Brian d'Arcy James, Liev Schreiber, Rachel McAdams, Mark Ruffalo, and John Slattery pose for photos on the red carpet for the film 'Spotlight,' during the 2015 Toronto International Film Festival. — AP

Winslet to receive Variety Award at British Independent Film Awards

ate Winslet will receive The Variety Award at the Moet British Independent Film Awards ceremony, which takes place on Dec 6. The award recognizes a director, actor, writer or producer who has made a global impact and helped to focus the international spotlight on the UK Previous recipients include Benedict Cumberbatch, Daniel Craig and Helen Mirren. Winslet said: "I am thrilled to be receiving this award, and to be in the company of a whole host of brilliant filmmakers and actors, many of whom I'm lucky enough to call friends and colleagues. It's an honor to be flying the flag for British filmmaking."

Variety executive editor, Steven Gaydos, commented: "From

the beginning of her illustrious film career over 20 years ago, Kate Winslet has never ceased her eagerness to tackle new creative challenges, and to turn those challenges into amazing, lasting performances. Her current film, 'Steve Jobs', is no exception and once again, the awards season conversation is immeasurably enlivened by her presence."

Winslet won both the Academy Award and BAFTA for her portrayal as Hanna Schmitz in "The Reader" in 2008. She also won two Golden Globes that same year for her performance in "The Reader" and in "Revolutionary Road," alongside Leonardo DiCaprio.

Winslet's credits consist of critically and commercially acclaimed work. Some of her most memorable roles have been in "Titanic," "Sense and Sensibility," "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind" and "Little Children." She also won an Emmy for her role in HBO's "Mildred Pierce" in 2010. Nominations for the BIFAs will be announced on Nov 3 and the ceremony will take place on Dec. 6 at Old Billingsgate, London. — Reuters



Honoree Kate Winslet speaks onstage during the 22nd Annual ELLE Women in Hollywood Awards at Four Seasons Hotel Los Angeles at Beverly Hills. — AFP

Music & Movies



In this June 28, 2015 file photo, Ne-Yo performs during a tribute to Smokey Robinson at the BET Awards in Los Angeles. — AP photos



In this Feb 11, 2014 file photo, singer Mary J Blige performs on stage during the entertainment portion of the State Dinner for French President Francois Hollande, center, seated with first lady Michelle Obama, left, and President Barack Obama, on the South Lawn of the White House in Washington.



In this Dec 6, 2013 file photo, entertainer Aretha Franklin sings at the National Christmas Tree lighting ceremony across from the White House in Washington.

Obama puts White House light on diversity in American music

hether belting out lyrics to Al Green's "Let's Stay Together," leading a mournful congregation through "Amazing Grace," or tweeting his Spotify music playlist that includes Stevie Wonder and Nina Simone, President Barack Obama has shown that he's a pretty soulful guy. The president and his wife, Michelle, also have prominently showcased such R&B and soul talent as Patti LaBelle and BB King during state dinners, music history events and the annual Easter Egg Roll.

The latest installment of the PBS series "In Performance at the White House" celebrated the history of American music with performances by Queen Latifah, Smokey Robinson, Usher, Trombone Shorty, and Esperanza Spalding, among others. It is set to air on PBS stations Jan 8. Spalding landed on the first lady's Spotify music playlist. The Grammy Award-winning jazz singer and bassist said the variety of musicians who have performed at the White House conveys a message of inclusion at what the Obamas have long touted as the "People's House."

Selects artists

"It seems like there is a theme of wanting to really support artists who are working hard- not just in their craft- but communicating about the issues of our time," said Spalding, an advocate of human rights issues at the US detention facility at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Spalding, who has trained student musicians at a White House workshop, said the Obamas believe that "just because you're not famous, doesn't mean you're not important. Everybody that is committed to their art" is an important part of American music.

Dalton Delan, an executive producer for "In Performance at the White House," said WETA, the PBS station that serves the Washington, DC, area and produces the series, largely selects artists based on the show's theme, but with administration approval. "Sure, I can suggest a show, but the administration has to feel like coming and attending the show," Delan said. He also consulted with White House social secretary Deesha Dyer on the best hip-hop artists and she suggested female rap

pioneer MC Lyte. The Obamas' musical tastes are reflected in White House entertainment over the years. "Queen of hip hop and soul" Mary J. Blige, R&B crooner John Legend and jazz great Herbie Hancock have entertained dignitaries at Obama state dinners.

National anthem

Pop superstar Beyonce, a favorite of both the president and first lady, is a mainstay at presidential events. She sang at an inaugural ball in 2009 and a state dinner for the Mexican president in 2010, and performed a highly scrutinized rendition of the national anthem at Obama's second inauguration ceremony in 2013. "Queen of Soul" Aretha Franklin has also appeared at several presidential shindigs, including performing "My Country 'Tis of Thee" at Obama's first inauguration ceremony in 2009. Earlier this year, Franklin performed at a White House concert celebrating gospel music and put in a surprise appearance at the Justice Department to help bid farewell to Obama's good friend, then-Attorney General Eric Holder.

President's favorites

Desiree Rogers, the Obamas' first social secretary, said a combination of factors go into choosing entertainment for White House functions, including the first lady's input, the president's favorites and suggestions from White House staff members. "It starts with whatever the event is," Rogers said. For state dinners, Rogers said the White House considers the interests of the country being honored. She said a main goal is to always keep in mind the tastes of the president and first lady "to ensure that it is someone they might enjoy. The Obamas enjoy showcasing diverse American talent."

Lea Berman, who was a social secretary for President George W. Bush, said the entertainer selection process varies with each administration. "Sometimes the Bushes would have suggestions of people they wanted to invite to perform, and sometimes I would come up with a few names for Mrs Bush to consider for an event and she would choose one," Berman said. Berman said many times it's also a matter of availability. "Scheduling conflicts weeded out a number of prospects because big entertainers are so heavily booked months in advance," she said. — AP



In this photo taken Oct 14, 2015, jazz musician Esperanza Spalding, from left, Grammy award-winning blues musician Keb' Mo', and trombone and trumpet player from New Orleans, La, Trombone Shorty, perform during an interactive student workshop with middle school students from the Washington area, in the State Dining Room of the White House in Washington.



In this April 27, 2013 file photo, singer John Legend and his wife, model Chrissy Teigen attend the White House Correspondents' Association Dinner in Washington.

In this Oct 14, 2015 file photo, singer-songwriter Smokey Robinson, right, mentors a group of middle school students from the Washington area during an interactive student workshop in the State Dining Room of the White House in Washington.

After 'Happy,' Pharrell dedicates 'Freedom' to migrants

harrell Williams on Monday dedicated his song "Freedom" to refugees fleeing to Europe, hailing immigrants' contributions around the world. The US pop star, best known for his viral global hit "Happy," on Sunday performed his jazzy new track at the MTV Europe Music Awards in Milan, interjecting the phrase, "Let them in!" Elaborating a day later at a forum in New York, Williams said he did not consider himself an activist but added: "We should use our platforms where we can."

"We have to be open. And it's a tough conversation, but America is built on immigrants. We wouldn't have a country" without them, he said. Asked if the same held true for Europe, which is facing an unprecedented influx of migrants from Syria and other troubled countries, Williams said, "Absolutely." The 42-year-old musician spoke at length on his prolific career at an event of National Public Radio and New York University, whose Tisch School of the Arts has named him artist-in-residence. The video for "Freedom," released in July, is subtle in its political imagery, featuring footage from around the world of places that range from an Asian sweatshop to a slum to India's holy Ganges River.

"Happy" turned into a global ode to joy as fans around the world recorded and shared their own homemade dance videos. Williams-for two decades a songwriter and producer for other artists including Madonna, Britney Spears and Snoop Dogg-said he remained surprised by the massive success of "Happy." Williams had only begun to sing himself on a large scale with French electronic duo Daft Punk's Grammy-winning 2013 album "Random Access Memories." "In 2012, did you guys see me as an artist?" Williams asked the audience. "I never have, this whole time."—AFP



File photo shows US singer Pharrell Williams performing on the Pyramid Stage at the Glastonbury Festival of Music and Performing Arts. — AFP



In this Feb 24, 2013 file photo, singer Adele performs during the Oscars at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles. — AP

Adele producer: Keeping mum about 'Hello' was hard

etting into the studio and writing a potential hit song for Adele sounds hard enough. Now add in keeping mum about the track for a year. That's the challenge Greg Kurstin faced after producing and co-writing "Hello" last year. "I'm not going to lie - it's not easy to hold that information in for that long," the Grammy- and Golden Globe-nominated songwriter-producer said in an interview with The Associated Press. "You kind of want to shout it out, run around in the streets yelling to random strangers what you've just done," he added.

"Hello" was released Friday, and it topped the iTunes singles chart in 85 countries. The music video broke the Vevo record for most views in a day with 27.7 million. "Hello" is Adele's first album single since releasing 2011's "21," her sophomore album that sold more than 11 million units in the United States and won the Grammy Award for album of the year, among other accolades. "I'm still in shock, honestly. ... I was just pretty blown away," Kurstin said of the insta-success of "Hello"

Kurstin, who has worked with Pink, Lily Allen, Katy Perry and Taylor Swift, said he and Adele were supposed to work together on music for "21," but it didn't pan out. On "25," which Adele will release Nov 20, he also contributed to the tracks "Water Under the Bridge" and "Million Years Ago." Kurstin said he felt pressure before meeting with Adele since this was her follow-up to "21."—AP

Prince invites fans to party with him at Paisley Park

Prince seems to be shedding his reclusive reputation and becoming a party animal. In recent weeks the superstar has hosted late-night jam sessions where he serenaded Madonna, celebrated the Minnesota Lynx's WNBA championship and showcased his latest protege, singer Judith Hill. Hundreds of fans descended on suburban Paisley Park Studios on Saturday night, paying \$10 each to hear Prince and his backing band raise the roof until 3 am. "Y'all want to party with me?" Prince asks the crowd at one point. So why the new openness? Prince, of course, isn't talking. "Why is he so friendly? Why is he open now? He's inviting strangers into his house. Why? Why? What's the reason? Let's ask everyone else besides him," Prince - wearing a purple tunic and large gold chain - teased from the darkened stage as he blasted through a funky mix that included oldies by Bill Withers and Sly and the Family Stone and his own songs ("Alphabet St," "Hot

Since Prince wasn't giving interviews that night (he rarely does), here's what fans had to say: "I think he's been open for a while," said Gina Meier, 48, of Richfield, seeing her seventh Prince performance at Paisley Park. "He's done Paisley Park stuff for years. It's like he's brought us into his home." Meier described Paisley Park as "a safe place" for fans, with no drugs or alcohol allowed (Red Bull, juice, water, ginger ale and Coke were for sale).

Feeling fantastic

Fans browsed through Prince T-shirts at the merchandise booth in the lobby, adorned by a large heart-shaped mirror and another mirror with the word "Love." An ATM machine was nearby. For \$40, fans could take a "mini-tour" of Paisley Park, where Prince's gold records are on the walls and the purple motorcycle he rode in his 1984 breakout movie, "Purple Rain," is on display. In between music sets, a DJ spun Prince music as well as R&B hits.

"If you don't leave here feeling fantastic, there's something wrong with you," Meier said. Andy Kiernan, 45, of Minnetonka, who has been at Paisley Park several times, brought a friend to see her first show at the white-walled studio complex bathed in purple lights outside of Minneapolis. "My impression is it's every Prince fan's dream to have the access he allows now," Kiernan said. "I feel this is him opening up a little bit." Longtime Prince fan Mark Anderson, 42, of Eagan brought his 17-year-old son Noah, who was making his second trip to Paisley Park. Anderson said Prince's music "just got with a groove and it just sucks you in. It's mesmerizing."

New album

"Some people think that 'Purple Rain' is his best music," Anderson said. "I just love what he's doing now." Announced on Twitter, the event was to promote Hill and her new album, "Back in Time," co produced by Prince and released just the day before. Wearing a white fringed top, blue jeans and boots, Hill, a former contestant on NBC's "The Voice" and a backup singer to Michael Jackson and Stevie Wonder, played keyboards and soulfully sang her songs such as "Cry, Cry, Cry" and "My People" to warm applause. Hill, a 31-year-old California native, had told an interviewer that working with Prince would be her "dream collaboration." Shortly afterward, she got the call from Prince.

Free-spirited environment

"It's been incredible," Hill told The Associated Press in the Paisley Park studio where her album was recorded - old-school analog - on 2-inch tape. Jam sessions at Paisley Park led to the album, Hill said, citing the studio's "very free-spirited environment." She said Prince "wants to share with the world what goes on here." "He feels he wants to share with everyone," Hill said of Prince's recent open houses.

Back onstage, Prince trades hot licks with 3RDEYEGIRL guitarist Donna Grantis. In a playful mood, Prince invites a fan, dressed in a shiny silver hooded parka, to dance onstage, announcing that he's "Judith's nephew" and "Kenny from 'South Park." Prince keeps the groove going with a James Brown-style funk, a new song he's working on. He leads the party-goers in a call-and-response. Prince thanks the crowd several times for coming. Eventually, nearly five hours after it started, the party ends and fans drift away into the cool autumn air. — AP



In this Feb 4, 2007 file photo, Prince performs during the halftime show at Super Bowl XLI in Miami. — AP



Fashion

Khloe Kardashian debuts shorter hair

hloe Kardashian has cut her hair. The 31-year-old reality TV star has swapped her flowing blonde locks for a trendy lob (long bob) and debuted the look on her hairstylist Jen Atkin's Instagram page. Posting the picture, Jen wrote: " Guess who just joined the# ShortHair DontCare club! Do we like? #LOBS4 LIFE makeup@joycebonelli thx@ traceycunningham1@

believed to have cut around six inches off her hair and added some subtle blonde highlights. Khloe has transformed from her natural brunette locks to a honey blonde but she admitted it took time.

She explained: "People seem to forget that my progression from dark to blonde took time. First I was chocolate brown, and then I added some highlights, then it was my ombre phase and now I oncolourground for ur help!! (sic)" Khloe is am a blonde. Point is listen to the professionals."

And her colorist Tracey Cunningham added: "Khloe is the lightest of the Kardashian sisters, and as a child, she had very light hair. Over the years, she went darker and darker. From the beginning of the transition- from her dark-brown hair to her current blonde - it took three to four months of gradual lightening." — Bang Showbiz

TARIK EDIZ SHINES AT MOSCOW FASHION WEEK









Monica Bellucci finds ageing sexy

onica Bellucci thinks ageing is sexy. The 51-year-old brunette beauty is the oldest ever Bond girl, thanks to her role in upcoming movie 'SPECTRE' and says that there is a certain type of beauty that comes with getting older. She told United Airlines' Rhapsody Magazine: "In Europe, I think we're lucky. Look at Isabelle Huppert, Catherine Deneuve, Charlotte Rampling, Juliette Binoche.

"There are a lot of women getting beautiful roles as they get older, and I think it's right. There's a certain beauty with youth, but there's another one that comes with age. Your soul grows, and that's sexy." This isn't the first time that Monica has spoken about her lack of concern over getting older. She recently told the Daily Mail newspaper: "I've had old people in my life that I really loved - especially women - so I'm not

scared about getting old. It's what's inside that makes us beautiful on the outside." However, she doesn't have an issue with those who have plastic surgery to stave off the ageing process. She said: "Everybody does what she needs. And if you want plastic surgery and then you feel better, why not? There is no law.

"I've nothing against using something to help your beau-

ty - but do it in a good way, with intelligence. I do acupuncture. Because it really helps. It is the opposite of Botox. Botox blocks and acupuncture moves. Botox for some people is really good. For others they have different reactions. I am for freedom." — Bang Showbiz

Fashion

China Fashion Week



























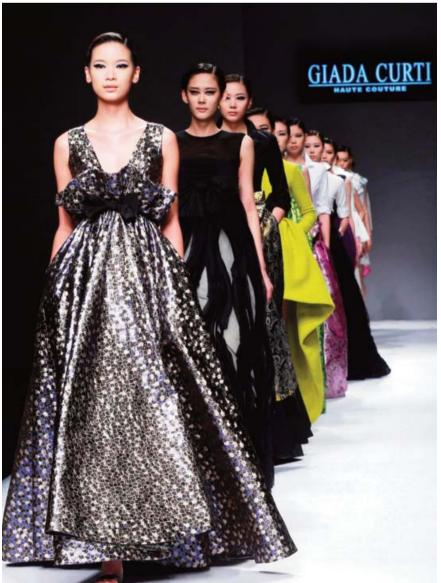












Models parade creations of the Giada Curti Haute Couture Collection designed by Giada Belfiore during the China Fashion Week in Beijing yesterday. The nine-day event kicked off October 25. — AP/AFP photos

Perez creates Mindy-inspired coat collection

alvador Perez is releasing a capsule collection of coats inspired by Mindy Lahiri. The costume designer on Mindy Kaling's 'The Mindy Project' has created six statement them are available to purchase."

Project were the fun coats I couldn't find on the market. The fans have been requesting them for years, so I wanted to make them available to purchase." coats, versions of which will all be worn by the chief character on the Hulu show and sold on Gilt.com. He told Us Weekly: "One of the first things I started making for Mindy on The Mindy

"Gilt really let me design and manufacture the coats the way I make them for the show, with the same lavish fabrics and trim details. I would love to continue making the looks available to

fans." While Mindy's style can be quite over the top, Salvador recommends fans pair the bright coats with more subdued outfits. He explained: "I paired the aqua and gold coat on Mindy with an aqua and gold sari. For Mindy, it was so chic, but I would also pair the aqua and gold coat with a black sweater and jeans. "Since Mindy's a new mom, I think everyone expect-

ed her to be more casual. But Mindy [Kaling] said she wants us to bring the character's fashion game up even more! We love discovering new brands and creating fashion moments on the show. The costumes have become [just as much of] a main character that everyone loves." — Bang Showbiz

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2015

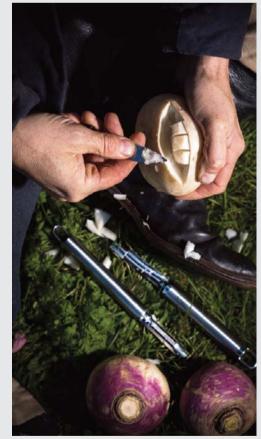
DiCaprio finds joy in Macau project with De Niro, Scorsese

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Japanese toy company Tomy president Harold Meij (center) and employees clad in fancy costumes pose as they gather for the company's Halloween Day event at the Tomy headquarters in Tokyo yesterday. Employees for the Japanese toymaker were allowed to wear their favorite costumes in observance of the holiday. — AFP



A man posing as he carves a turnip into the shape of a face.

Halloween turnips? Britons urged to return to tradition

Pritons should go back to the indigenous tradition of carving turnips instead of pumpkins for Halloween, even though they are harder to cut, the conservation charity English Heritage said on Monday. "English Heritage is calling on people to rediscover the original carved decoration, the humble turnip," the group said in a statement that delved into the British and Irish roots of Halloween revelry. "Long before the pumpkin became the Halloween decoration of choice, people across the British Isles carved scary faces into turnips and placed them near doorways to frighten away evil spirits," it said.

English Heritage said the original "Jack-o'-lantern" came from a folk tale about a man named Jack who was cursed to roam the earth using only a burning coal inside a hollowed-out turnip to light his way. Carved beets and potatoes were also sometimes used. The tradition migrated in the 19th century to the United States, where immigrants found that pumpkinsa native American fruit-were easier to carve.

Britons now mostly carve pumpkins for Halloween even though it is seen as an imported American tradition. Swedes and turnips are still widely used in northern Britain, however, and in Scotland the tradition of "guising"-a form of trick or treating-has also survived. "I don't think turnips are going to replace pumpkins, they are more difficult to carve, but hopefully people will remember the turnip and all our other rich traditions this Halloween," said Michal Carter, an English Heritage historian. Halloween originates from an ancient Celtic festival held around November 1 — a time marking the transition from autumn to winter when the souls of the dead were believed to revisit their homes. — AFP

> A combination of handout pictures released by English Heritage on October 26, 2015 shows carved turnip faces at Dover Castle, southern England ahead of Halloween. — AFP photos



Pumpkins available for Halloween but maybe not Thanksgiving



Children play with pumpkins harvested in Hitachiomiya, northeast of Tokyo, on display for the upcoming Halloween at Yumenoshima Tropical Greenhouse Dome in Tokyo, yesterday. — AP

here should be enough pumpkins for Halloween this year, but that might not be the case for the canned pumpkin used in pies come Thanksgiving, according to crop experts in Illinois, the country's top pumpkin-producing state. "I would not wait until Nov. 20," University of Illinois professor Mohammad Babadoost said, referencing the Nov 26 holiday. "I'd buy it whenever it comes to the store."

whenever it comes to the store."

Large canned-pumpkin manufacturer Libby says yields could be off by as much as a third this year in Illinois, where about 90 percent of the pumpkins grown in the US come from within a 90-mile radius of Peoria. Libby's corporate and brand affairs director Roz O'Hearn said the company, which has had a central Illinois pumpkin-

here should be enough pumpkins for Halloween this year, but that might not be the case for processing plant since 1929, is confident it will have enough pumpkin for autumn holidays.

But, she said, "once we ship the remainder of the 2015 harvest, we'll have no more Libby's pumpkin to sell until harvest 2016." Farmers are blaming record rainfall in June for washing out the crop. Jane Moran, who owns Moran's Orchard in Neoga, said they replanted washed out pumpkin crops and then it rained more so they're buying pumpkins at auction twice a week. "When you deal with Mother Nature, you just have to take it and go on," Moran said. Earlier this year, Illinois Gov Bruce Rauner signed legislation making pumpkin pie the official state pie of Illinois. — AP



An artist in a ghost costume performs on a street of the French Quarter in New Orleans, Louisiana. — AFP